

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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A layman's guide to the Brooktrails/Willits sewer plant lawsuit

Mike A'Dair
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Brooktrails Township and the City of Willits are involved in a cluster of lawsuits focusing on how Willits has run and is running its wastewater treatment plant, and whether Willits and Brooktrails have abided by a series of contractual agreements concerning the plant.

It's a morass of lawsuits: an initial 2010 complaint, an amendment to that complaint, a cross-complaint, an amended cross-complaint, and a

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

Little Lake Fire Chief Carl Magann's report on construction collapse

On Thursday, January 22, around 2:15 pm the volunteers of the Little Lake Fire Protection District were dispatched to a possible Multi-Casualty Incident on East Valley Street in the area of the new construction. Willits Fire Department responded with 2 chief officers, our heavy rescue, and two engines with a total response of 17 firefighters, and additional firefighters arrived on scene via their personal vehicles. To add to the emergency response based on the initial report, Willits Fire requested one rescue and crew from Brooktrails Fire Department, two additional ALS ambulances, plus one air ambulance to our sub-station on Baechtel Road.

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

New faces on retirement board

Ursula Partch
Contributing Reporter

There were several new faces at the Mendocino County Employees' Retirement Association (MCERA) trustee meeting on January 21. New trustees Jerilyn Harris and Supervisor Dan Gjerde were sworn in. Both were appointed to the retirement board by county supervisors at their January 6 meeting.

Some MCERA trustees seemed surprised Supervisor John McCowen was removed from MCERA without advance notice, but Gjerde assured them he

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



Willits bypass falsework collapses

Jennifer Poole
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The noise from the collapse of the falsework of a 120- to 150-foot section of the Willits bypass viaduct where cement was being poured was heard around town Thursday afternoon. Sirens started around 2:15 pm, as police cars, ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene, a span between East Valley and East Commercial where the viaduct crosses Haehl Creek.

Reports on injuries have varied, but one Flatiron Construction worker, briefly trapped by the wreckage, was reported to have moderate to serious injuries, and was airlifted

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



The Aftermath

Photos of the Willits bypass falsework collapse, taken Friday on the ground and Sunday morning from the air. The photo directly above shows the north end of the area that collapsed, with the giant pillars leaning in towards Haehl Creek. Below, a close-up of the cement, rebar, and debris on that north side. Aerial photo, at left, was taken looking north and shows the southern end of the viaduct crossing above Shuster's Transportation. Haehl Creek flows right through the middle of the collapsed area. The on-ground photo at left shows the two big, red boom pumps that were being used to pour the 1,200 cubic yards of concrete planned for that day's pour which, Caltrans' Phil Frisbie said, started at 3 am.

Photos by Maureen Moore

See many more aerial photos online of bypass progress over the last couple of years at:
<http://photographress.zenfolio.com/bypassour>



Cleanup continues at bypass collapse site

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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Cleanup work continues of a Willits bypass framework that collapsed during a concrete pour last Friday, injuring workers. The collapse occurred in a section of the viaduct that will span Haehl Creek.

With the approval of Cal/OSHA inspectors, contractors began cleaning up the collapsed mess - outside the creek - on Saturday. The wreckage was mostly put into debris piles by Tuesday afternoon.

Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie said Wednesday he expected cleanup of the

Read the rest of **Cleanup**
Over on Page 11



Beautiful Blooms and Happy Bees

The birds and the bees in Willits are convinced it's spring, with big flocks of birds singing and calling all day, and bees getting busy sipping nectar from the flowering quince. Those in Willits planning to prune their flowering trees better get busy, too: see page 3 for a story about Sanhedrin Nursery's annual Pruning Workshop featuring master orchardist Richard Jeske.

North county homeless survey underway

Kate Maxwell
Reporter
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Well before dawn last Thursday, Jim Marill and Elizabeth Hart of Willits Community Services set up hot coffee, maps, and clipboards for the seven volunteer teams gathered to begin the biannual "Point in Time" homeless count. The count is a federal project that takes place in late January across Mendocino County and the country to establish a baseline population of homeless residents in every community.

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

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Connecting local hospitals

To the Editor:

Adventist Health is making a significant investment in Mendocino County to improve the information technology infrastructure of Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, Ukiah Valley Medical Center and their associated clinics to serve patients seamlessly across the region.

In February, Adventist Health will roll out an upgrade to the software that is used in the registration process. According to Becky Ryan, lead project manager for the upgrade in Mendocino County: "Currently our clinics and hospitals have been running on two different legacy software systems. This upgrade will make significant improvements to how information is transferred between the clinics and hospitals. Our patient's medical records will now be integrated into one system to provide seamless care for our patients in the clinics and at the hospital. The integration will improve the timeliness and thoroughness of patient care, including reduction of medication errors and unnecessary testing."

This is the fourth upgrade that Adventist has undertaken as a system. Three other regions have already upgraded and improved their processes and flow of information. Once all the upgrades are complete, it will help improve processes across 19 hospitals and numerous clinics throughout California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. This means that medical records will be more easily accessible and transferable across the system – essentially making it easier for patients who utilize the services of an Adventist-affiliated hospital or clinic while outside of Mendocino County or the state.

President and CEO of Ukiah Valley Medical Center Gwen Matthews believes that this upgrade will make a tremendous improvement in the overall information technology systems of the medical center. "This will greatly improve the flow of electronic information across UVMC as a whole. Our clinics and ambulatory hospital services, lab and medical imaging, and emergency services will be able to access the same medical records and information on each patient. This will help provide a consistent continuum of care for each patient no matter where they are seen in the system."

President and CEO of Hospital Rick Bockmann echoed Matthews's sentiments and expanded with: "Patient safety and quality patient care have always been a top priority at HMH. An upgraded system better enables us to continue to provide high-quality care to our patients. With this change, patients will only register once even if their care requires multiple services within our care delivery network. As we approach the opening of our new HMH Hospital, I am confident this new system will improve the patient experience above our already high standards."

The new system will take effect starting February 4. The staff at both hospitals and all affiliated clinics have made every effort to ensure that there is minimal impact to patients during this transition. There might be slightly longer than normal waiting times as the staff gets acquainted with the new software.

These clinics include: Heart Institute in Ukiah; Fort Bragg Rural Health Center; Mendocino Family Care; Redwood Medical Clinic in Willits; Ukiah Valley Medical Specialties - Gastroenterology; Ukiah Valley Medical Specialties -

Orthopedics, and the Ukiah Valley Rural Health Center network of clinics. Patients with scheduled appointments from February 4 through February 28 are advised to bring their ID/Driver's License and proof of insurance for re-registration in the new system.

Cecilia Winiger, Adventist Health

'Here to help'

To the Editor:

Thank you Maltrass.

Let's poison the water table with herbicides, too.

William Ray, Willits

EMT class in Laytonville

To the Editor:

Career Technical Education of Mendocino County Office of Education is offering an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class, beginning February 23 through May 27, 2015, in Laytonville. The classroom site is located at Laytonville High School, 250 Branscomb Road.

This 160-hour class will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, 5 to 10 pm. This EMT course and certification is authorized by the Coastal Valleys Emergency Medical Services Agency, based in Santa Rosa.

Prerequisites include a current CPR certification by the completion of the EMT course. Instruction includes medical terminology, legal and ethical issues, what to do in cardiac and environmental emergencies, hands-on medical emergency training, and expert guest speakers.

To register visit our website at www.mcoe.us, click on Career Technical Education under "Departments & Programs," and scroll

down to find the links to download either the "Adult EMT Application" or the "HS Student EMT Application." Or call Carlee Prine at (707) 467-5123. Course fee is \$350 paid at the MCOE office, 2240 Old River Road, Ukiah. Deadline for applications will be February 12 at 5 pm. Class size limited to 20 students.

Victoria Gulick, Mendocino County Office of Education

Cat adoption special

To the Editor:

At the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency, Animal Care Services, Ukiah Shelter, we hope to open your heart so you will open your home to a wonderful cat. Cats are known to reduce stress and make you laugh. Watch a cat play, and you are sure to giggle.

To make adopting easier than ever, the adoption fee for cats spayed and neutered and ready to go home is just \$25 through the month of February 2015. Newly arrived cats that have not been spayed or neutered can be adopted for \$50 and may be taken home after surgery.

When they go home, all cats are up to date on vaccines, FELV/FIV tested, spayed and neutered, and microchipped.

Each cat leaves the shelter with a cat carrier and a free wellness exam at participating local veterinarians.

The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm, and until 6 pm on Wednesdays, for the public to meet adoptable pets. The adoption desk can be reached by calling 707-467-6453.

See all the animals for adoption in the comfort of your home at www.mendoshelterpets.com.

Kristina Grogan, Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Oferta especial para adoptar un gato

En el departamento de Cuidado de Animales de la Agencia de Salud y Servicios Humanos del Condado de Mendocino, el Albergue de Ukiah tiene las esperanzas de que abra su corazón para poder abrir su hogar a un gato maravilloso. Se conoce que los gatos reducen el estrés y lo harán reír. Mire un gato jugar, y puede asegurarse de que va a reír.

Para hacer una adopción más fácil que nunca, los cargos para adoptar gatos esterilizados y castrados y listos para ir a casa son nada más \$25 para todo el mes de Febrero. Los gatos nuevos que no han sido esterilizados y castrados pueden ser adoptados con \$50 y pueden ser llevados a casa después de la cirugía.

Cuando van a casa, todos los gatos tienen todas las vacunas que necesitan, tuvieron la prueba de FELV/FIV, son castrados y esterilizados y tienen instalado un microchip. Cada gato se va del albergue en un portador y con un examen de salud gratis en los veterinarios participantes locales.

El Albergue del Condado de Mendocino está localizado en 298 Plant Road, Ukiah. Las horas de adopción son martes a sábado de las 10 am a las 4 pm con horas extendidas el miércoles hasta las 6 pm. El escritorio de adopciones puede ser contactado en el 707-467-6453.

Vea todos los animales de adopción de la comodidad de su hogar en la página de internet www.mendoshelterpets.com.

Kristina Grogan, Agencia de Salud y Servicios Humanos del Condado de Mendocino

Heads up: IRS forms

To the Editor:

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that there will be a limited selection of federal tax forms available at public libraries this year.

Because Congress significantly cut IRS funding in the 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, the IRS will provide libraries with only the following forms: Forms 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ, and only one copy each of: Publication 17, "Instructions for 1040 forms"; Publication 1132, "Reproducible Copies of Forms and Instructions"; and Publication 4604, "Use the Web for IRS Tax Products & Information."

No other forms or publications will be available through public libraries.

You can obtain tax forms by ordering forms to be delivered by mail by calling 1-800-829-3676 or ordering online at: www.irs.gov/ordforms. Please allow seven to 15 days for the IRS to process and ship your order.

Or you can download IRS forms and instructions directly from the IRS website at: www.irs.gov/forms.

Amber Muñoz, Mendocino County Library



Above, from left: a camellia, crocus and narcissus show off their colors.

At left: Purple violets are also starting to bloom.

Left, below: the first grape hyacinth pokes out next to fallen tree leaves, now dry and pale.

Below: More purple crocus.

Below, right: Where "not to cut" when fruit tree pruning.

Right: Dave Watts, left, of Sanhedrin Nursery, talks trees with workshop attendee Paul Saenger.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Spring certainly feels like it is upon us, with warm days, cool nights, and flowers and buds already appearing in yards and trees around town. An afternoon walk Tuesday yielded all the colorful

Plants & Pruning

By Maureen Moore

The trees will soon follow suit with their leaves and blossoms – the quince and camellia shrubs are already blooming – and now is the ideal time to do winter pruning to help create happy trees and fruitful harvests this fall.

With this in mind, Sanhedrin Nursery's owners, Dave and Jenny Watts hosted their annual Pruning Workshop last Saturday, featuring master orchardist Richard Jeske.

Sanhedrin has held the one-day workshops for more than 20 years and, this year, attendance was over 60 people.

The class focused on how to "get trees to survive into old age" and how to help your trees, depending on their current age and issue.

One of the best things learned? Prune for sunlight!

"We had them chanting that," laughed Watts.

Another key: knowing where the fruit is located. One goal

Read the rest of **Pruning Workshop** | Over on Page 9



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Best Dressed Team
• The Most Crooked Team will be voted on by the Judges

Showin' Some Love

It's almost Valentine's Day, and Willits Weekly is once again excited to feature photos of the community's loved ones this holiday.

We will print as many photos as we can in the February 12 edition.

Please email photos to willitsweekly@gmail.com, post them to our Facebook page, or text them to 707-972-7047.

Also, please include a caption, identifying yourself, as well as those in the photo. First names only are OK.

An example:

"Happy Valentine's Day to my sweetie [their name]! Love, [your name]."

All photos must be submitted by MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 at 5 pm.

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The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the 3rd District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once a month.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

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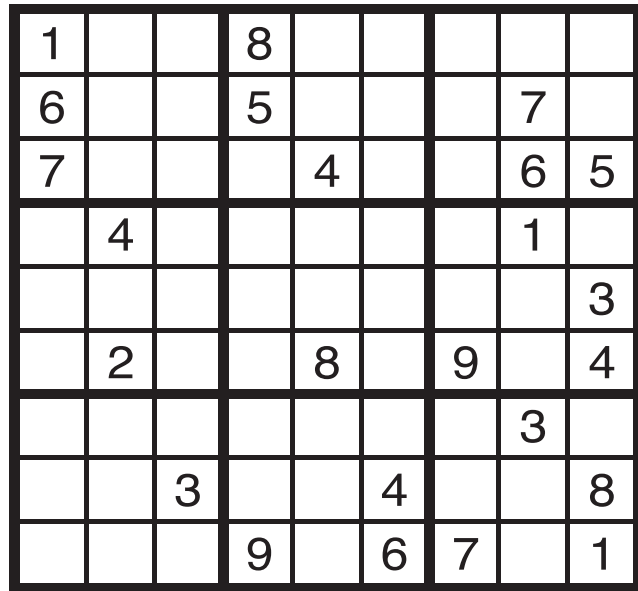
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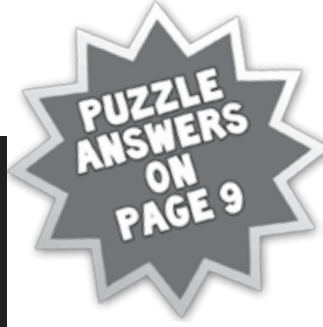
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Sudoku



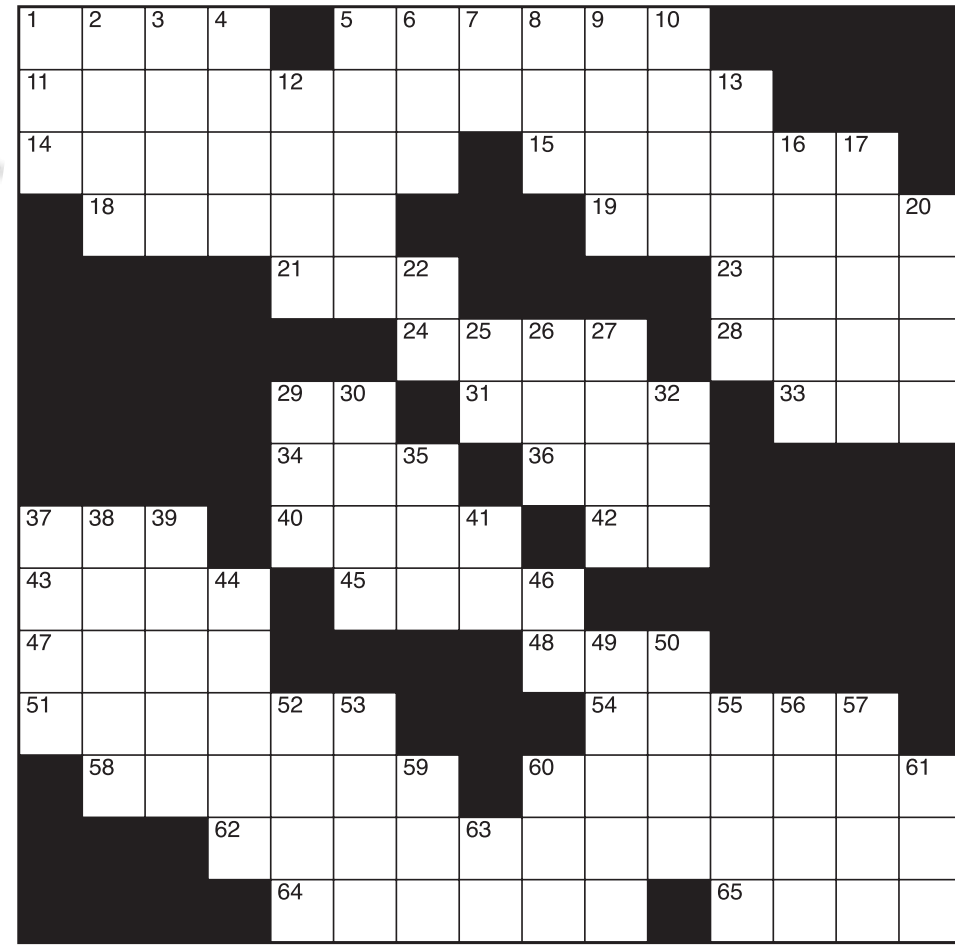
Level: Intermediate



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!

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Cut into cubes
- Food flavorings
- Longest tenured "Tonight Show" host
- One being educated
- British conservatives
- End without completion
- Boater
- Indicated horsepower (abbr.)
- Protects the chest
- Expresses pleasure
- Stiff hair, bristle
- Blood type
- Taxis
- Ribbed material
- Young female socialite
- Priest's liturgical vestment
- 2.1 km tributary of the river Seille
- The golden state
- Powder mineral
- Coat with plaster
- Far East housemaid
- Digital audiotape

CLUES DOWN

- Disk jockeys
- 9th Greek letter
- Fish of the carp family
- Medical prefix for within
- Short for synthesizer
- What part of (abbr.)
- Farm state
- Thermionic vacuum tube
- Employee stock ownership plan
- A crane
- Filippo __, Saint
- One below tens
- Impatiently desirous
- Inflict a heavy blow
- As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- Ma's partner
- Carrier's invention
- Possessed
- Invests in little enterprises
- Summate
- Rosary part
- A large body of water
- Woman's undergarment
- Essential oil obtained from flowers
- Cripples
- An explosion
- Of, French
- Fish of the genus Salvelinus
- Bahrain dinar
- Banded calcedony
- Giant armadillo
- In place of
- Electronic counter-measures
- Large package of cotton
- 3564 m French Alp
- European defense organization
- Check
- Former OSS
- Not old
- Goodwill promotion

In The Stars

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

There is no harm in being ambitious, Aries. But a little humility to accompany that ambition can go a long way. Accept any recognition you earn in an appropriate manner.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Your desires make it seem like anything is within reach this week, Taurus. You may have to work a little harder to achieve your goals, but hard work is its own reward.

GEMINI

May 22/Jan 21

Postpone chores that are not essential, Gemini. This way you can make the most of your upcoming free time with friends and family. You deserve a little break now and again.

CANCER

Jan 22/Jul 22

Cancer, try to avoid stretching yourself too thin in the coming weeks. Your ambition and energy are at an all-time high, but if you do not slow down, you can easily get burnt out.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

It's impossible for people to try to contain all of your energy this week, Leo. Direct your energy in a positive way and use it to reach your goals.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Express your feelings without any inhibition, Virgo. Others will appreciate your honesty, especially if you employ some tact when sharing your opinions.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, no matter how crazy your life is right now, you still manage to come out looking no worse for wear. You have a handy way of making lemonade out of sour lemons.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Your long-term career opportunities are looking good, Scorpio. If you do what makes you happy, you will always end up on top and financial rewards will follow.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, although you see lucrative career opportunities at every bend, you are not ready to make a big change. You will know when the moment has come to make a change.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Proceed gently if you want to make any real progress, Capricorn. You're feeling more optimistic, but you still need to exercise caution. Common sense can keep you grounded.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, friends may arrive at your home with plans for fun and adventure. Any kind of celebration or social situation is what you crave right now. Go ahead and enjoy yourself.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Don't worry about a potential conflict, Pisces. In due time you will realize this was nothing to get worked up about.

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Studio Joy is holding a Free Open House on Sat., Feb. 7 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Sample Zumba®, Zumba® Gold, PiYo™, Insanity™ and R.I.P.P.E.D.™ Healthy beverages and snacks will be provided. Come meet our instructors and sample our new fitness programs.
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m·pho·tog·ra·phress
noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments
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Willits Unified School District's Elementary School Counseling Program is a grant funded program that currently offers parenting groups and play groups to families interested in both Spanish and English.
We are offering a 7 week parenting group where parents can connect and learn more effective ways to deal with our children. The group starts February 24th, meeting once a week with one week off for Spring Break. Child care and refreshments will be provided.
We also offer individual and group counseling to elementary students who attend Brookside, Blosser, or Sherwood elementary schools. Currently we have openings to families of elementary students interested in confidential family therapy. For more information please contact Katie Cochran, Lead Elementary School Counselor at katiecochran@willitsunified.com or at (707) 459-5385, ext 1440.

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Willits Center for the Arts annual Members Show opens Saturday

The February show at the Willits Center for the Arts is the annual member exhibition, which showcases the varied creative talents of artists from all over the greater Willits area. The Members Art Show is an opportunity for WCA members to share their work with the public, and for visitors to enjoy a glimpse into the many talents of their friends and neighbors.

One or two artworks from each participating artist - longterm art center members and first-time exhibitors - will be on display, including art for sale. The show opens Saturday with an artists' reception from 7 to 9 pm.

On Monday, the WCA was alive with action as members delivered art, and others began organizing and brainstorming the best combinations for display. Although the walls were still empty, the gallery filled with gasps of delight as new arrivals came in.

Sculptures followed paintings followed textiles: a selection from almost 30 artists who'd stopped by before noon. Artists new to the area came by to join up, others to renew their memberships and admire the work of their peers, and still more called with plans to deliver still more art.

"It's such a great opportunity, and one of the benefits of being a member, to have this show to share our art with the community to enjoy," said artist Ann Maglente as she

moved pieces around the rooms. "People that have never had the chance to show before can be inspired to create even more."

"It worked for me," said volunteer coordinator Nancy Reed, explaining that her participation in the WCA shows had reinvigorated her painting process. Although the show is open to all members, Maglente emphasized that one doesn't have to be an artist to join the WCA.

WCA memberships are essential to supporting the WCA - its monthly shows, classes and special events as well as the open community space. Members can also participate in organizing events, using the space, and attending the always popular "Member Appreciation Party."

Gabee Permenter is one such member who will be curating the upcoming 2015 art shows,

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



SPARETIME SUPPLY
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February

Here we are in February, the month of Valentines, and we have a strong focus on the elements of duality. In this month (that is about unifying lovers), it is important to remember that within each of us, we are both male and female aspects. There are moments when we need to be the masculine eagle, flying high with majesty, clarity, and embodying power and aloneness. Then there are moments when we need to become the feminine swan, gently floating and diving into the elements of our emotions with the embodiment of space, grace, and purity.



Suzanne Wagner
Columnist

Remember that the conflicts always originate within you. You cannot create a bridge between your own opposing and yet complementary sides if you judge one part, suppress another part, or feel guilty about something from your past and are still holding on to some mental self-hatred.

This is the month to create bridges between the dominant parts of yourself and those other parts that deserve and need some attention and connection. If you notice that you are very loving and beautiful in one moment and then hours later you are expressing absolute anger or fear, then something is not fully integrated.

When you are unified within, the emotions may still roll past your mind but your identification with them and the attachment to voicing them or your expression of them will be very different. When the different sides of your mind and heart communicate and become strengthened, then the duality disappears and the bridge connecting them becomes stronger.

At that point they unify into one great bridge of awareness. In that moment a crystallization occurs and the duality evaporates. All becomes one, and your male and female internally become one powerful moving force of conscious clarity, where each is heard and honored for the gifts and insights that they share, the logic and the illogic finally understand each other, and chaos and clarity find a way to be with each other in a flow of love.

Within you right now is an Earth Keeper, a synergistic shield of perspective and respect for all things. If you do not feel that this part is fully activated, it is time to look at what you are judging within that is preventing the natural alignment of all life in the great cosmic flow that is available to all. You do not need to earn it. It is your birthright to be here on this planet. This is such a wonderful gift, and so often in our rushing around and getting caught up in "thinking," we lose touch with the wonder and magic that is the passionate force of life and nature.

In this month of "Love," don't forget to put your heart awareness to the animal and nature kingdoms. Often their lives have more suffering than humanity. So become aware of your own suffering, and

Read the rest of **Wagner** | Over on Page 13

The benefits of group exercise

At the expense of dating myself, I remember doing Jane Fonda workout videos in my living room when I was 12. I was also a runner and into weight training for 15 years. Exercising by myself was my "me" time, and I felt invigorated when finished.



Erin Fitzpatrick
Columnist

It wasn't until I had my daughter that I ever thought of doing anything different. After having her it felt like I needed more motivation and accountability to exercise. I, like so many moms, was tired and could no longer motivate myself to get out of bed to go for a run while it was dark. It felt lonely and not as satisfying. For the first time in my life I tried a group exercise class and, to my surprise, I loved it.

I got the "me" time I so desperately needed as well as a sense of community, friendship, and the extra push I needed to accelerate my efforts.

When asked what exercise method they recommend most often for people starting a new fitness routine, 48 percent of the personal trainers and instructors who took part in a recent Vibram Five Fingers Survey said: "group exercise classes."

Here are three benefits of group exercise classes.

Keep and maintain motivation. A good intention to exercise as part of a resolution won't do any good unless you keep it up when motivation lags. By participating in a group exercise class, you will have the benefit of a team that will hold you accountable and notice your absence. In fact, oftentimes the dynamic of the group will be off if you are not there. You become part of a close-knit community that sweats, aches, and achieves together. Having accountability is an ideal way to ensure that you actually keep up with your intention to exercise regularly.

You'll be challenged to push yourself to the next level. When you exercise on your own you may ease up when you're tired or stop entirely. But in a group setting your instructor will push you further than you think you can go. Not only that, your peers will offer support and encouragement. There's also the benefit of healthy competition: if they can do it so can I.

Group exercise classes are simple and fun. If you dread something, you won't do it. In order to motivate ourselves to exercise, we should choose an activity that's fun. Group exercise classes are more entertaining, making the time pass quicker than exercising by yourself. If you love meeting up with friends, you're more likely to show up and work hard. Whether it's the activity itself, the atmosphere or the friendships you make, enjoying yourself makes

Read the rest of **Fitzpatrick** | Over on Page 13

Denis Pelley

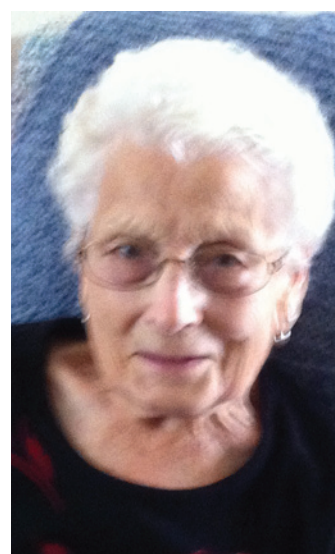
Denis Pelley, born May 16, 1944, passed away at home with his family by his side on October 26, 2014.



A celebration of Denis Pelley's life will be held Saturday, January 31, at 1 pm at Pine Acres Resort at Blue Lakes. For more information and directions, contact Linda Grace at 707-354-0727 or expectgrace@gmail.com.

Edna Simonsen Heidebrink

Edna E. Simonsen Heidebrink of Willits passed away January 19, 2015 at the age of 96. Born in Wilson Creek, Washington on August 14, 1918, she had been a Willits resident for the past 72 years.



A retail sales clerk for 35 years – most recently employed by Sidney's Apparel – Edna had enjoyed meeting and assisting people in the community. After her retirement, she still sought the joy of helping others through her work as a volunteer at the Harrah Senior Center, where her good nature and joyful spirit were greatly appreciated.

Edna is survived by her children: Joan (Charlie) Kelly and Mark (Kathleen) Simonsen; her step-children: Kay (Lou) Barcellos, Rick Heidebrink, Steve (Lynn) Heidebrink, and Brenda (Steven) Reno; 13 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands: Carl Simonsen and Clarence Heidebrink.

Funeral services will take place at 11 am on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Willits, followed by graveside services at the Little Lake Cemetery.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



Photo by Amy Campbell

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The rest of **Pruning Workshop** | From Page 3

for pruning is being able to reach the fruit without a ladder, basically setting yourself up for easy picking come harvest time.

Another goal of the workshop was helping to combat two types of diseases Watts noted were prevalent in the "Homoprunis" species: Prunus Rigamortis, or freezing up in fear, unsure what, where, when or how much to cut, and therefore ending up doing nothing, and Prunus Abandonous, or cutting down everything, possibly to the unrecoverable ill fate of the tree.

Those afflicted with either disease were encouraged to fear not and "go for it," then assess how, or if, those choices resulted in positive change.

"You have to look at how well did it do," explained Watts. "If you get 6 to 8 to 12 inches of growth next year, you're doing something right!"

And Watts also expressed his encouragement to those who may end up being overzealous with their pruning, noting there will always be more trees for purchase and planting next year.

One of the attendees at last weekend's workshop, Paul Saenger, purchased eight fruit trees prior to the workshop. He was at Sanhedrin picking them up Tuesday, and noted his excitement about the workshop and his knowledge gained.

"I've had orchards over the years," explained Saenger, "but they've always been a little wild and wopus. I was happy to be able to fill what I knew with more knowledge. The workshop was as informative as it was fun!"

Though the big workshop is only scheduled once per year, Watts noted he is happy to help anyone who comes in with questions and can also put them in contact with Jeske for additional assistance, too.

Sanhedrin Nursery is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. It is located at 1094 Locust Street and can be reached at 459-9009 or online at www.SanhedrinNursery.com

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The rest of **WCA** | From Page 5

already booked through the end of the year. Permenter, a ceramacist, will be showing her own work in the member show, but came by on Monday to start preparing for upcoming events and to help with the hanging. Barbara Willens, another art center member, was also helping to organize the art works, and had contributed a sculpture of her own, an old favorite she made several years ago.

One of the best parts of a WCA opening is the opportunity to meet the artists, and Saturday's event promises to be a cornucopia of local talent, friends, and family.

From 7 to 9 pm, WCA volunteers will be available for those who want to renew or start center memberships, and will also be distributing free, donated original artworks to members as a gift.

Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the wide variety of member artworks, join the WCA, buy a painting or make a donation, or to sign up to volunteer for future WCA events.

As the WCA transitions away from a city-run organization, Maglente says the volunteer team is looking for help with hanging the shows and a variety of other tasks to keep the center running smoothly.

"You don't have to be an artist to volunteer: We are always looking for more helping hands," she said, as she began to hang art on the gallery walls. Those interested can attend the opening reception on Saturday, January 31 or call Maglente (984-6747) or Reed (459-1239) to get connected.

This month's show runs through March 1 at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street, with the opening reception on Saturday, January 31 from 7 to 9 pm.

Gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. WCA member artists will be staffing the show throughout the month, and visitors are encouraged to talk with the hosts about the show.

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Left: Maria, Sarah, Emily, Tami, Dylan and Kapila pose with the sign encouraging tasters to come sample.

Below: the to-go containers include pesto, at left, bread and La Siciliana's "Sugo" red sauce, right.

Bottom: La Siciliana's Kapila holds up sample boxes at the drive-thru event.



A view of the collapsed falsework on the viaduct section of the Willits bypass last Friday afternoon.

Photo by Maureen Moore



The rest of LLLFD | From Page 1

La Siciliana

Finally, an Italian restaurant with pasta and more opens in Willits!

Offering a diverse menu of Italian and Sicilian-style favorites, Kapila Benz's La Siciliana is filling the pasta-shaped void in the life of many thankful Willitsians.

Officially opening its doors at 1611 South Main Street on October 31 last year, Kapila has been shaping and modifying the restaurant and its menu over the months, listening to feedback from the community and patrons.

"We really wanted to be able to bring menu items to Willits that didn't exist," explained Kapila. "We're also trying to balance high-quality ingredients at affordable prices while providing the community with another great option for dine-in or to-go lunches or dinners."

Since opening, requests have included adding bread to the menu to enjoy with your pasta, lowering the light in the dining areas, offering gluten-free pasta, and adding music to the background ambiance, as well as lowering some pricing, or adding new options at a lower price point. Kapila noted that all these suggestions have been put into effect, including their new lunch special: a half pound of pasta with their tomato "Sugo"-style sauce, a sizeable salad with tomatoes, olives and vinaigrette, two bread sticks and a drink, all for \$9.95.

Following these changes, Kapila and the staff want to now re-extend an official "We're Open!" and to welcome everyone to come in, or come back, to try the handmade and high-quality dishes for the first, or second, or even third, time.

Hoping to help drive home the point that the restaurant

is open and ready for orders was Kapila's fun new take on a marketing idea, the drive-thru tasting event held last Saturday in the restaurant's parking lot from 2 to 4 pm.

Around 100 to-go sized meals were handed out to curious and intrigued drivers (and a few walkers), who received a nice portion of La Siciliana's creamy pesto and Sugo sauces on al dente penne pasta along with a slice of their made-in-house bread. Cleverly, the giveaway packages also contained the new menu and a notice about the new lunch special, too.

Along with the sampled sauces, patrons at the sit-down, table-service restaurant can enjoy three other sauces as well, which can mix and match with five different pastas. Three salads also grace the menu as do a large assortment of handmade pizzas. La Siciliana welcomes to-go orders, too.

The restaurant's four most popular pizzas are the "Redwood Logger," which has pepperoni and green onion, the "Fireman's Fury," which has pepperoni, hot oil and crushed red pepper flakes, the "Siciliana Combo," which has salami, pepperoni, artichoke hearts and green onion, and the "Fo' Getta Bout It," which is an all-white, tomato-less pizza, instead featuring mozzarella, ricotta, and romano cheeses and olive oil.

A diverse selection of beer on tap including everything from light to IPA brews, wines by the bottle or glass, sodas, hot and cold teas, and Italian coffees are also available to enjoy.

La Siciliana is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am to 8 pm and can be reached at 459-5626 or online at www.lasicilianawillits.com or Facebook.



The rest of Falsework | From Page 1

out by CalStar helicopter to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. Flatiron has declined to give any updates on the condition of the injured workers, but issued this statement: "Three Flatiron employees sustained non-life-threatening injuries and are being treated at local hospitals. Out of respect for the individuals involved, and their families, we are not releasing names or additional details at this time." Other sources and reports have said three or four other workers received minor injuries, including at least one who refused medical treatment.

Witnesses report about 20 workers scrambling to run off the top of the span as it collapsed and spilled wet concrete into Haehl Creek – most of them succeeding – with a couple of workers "riding it down."

Photos taken Thursday afternoon from the area of the Willits Horsemen's Arena just northeast of the collapse show the pillars on the north side of the creek (the north end of the collapsed section) leaning in a bit toward the creek. The viaduct stretches 1.2 miles over what Caltrans describe in documents as a "regulatory flood plain."

Cal/OSHA spokesman Peter Melton told Willits Weekly Cal/OSHA's Sacramento office was notified of the accident Thursday afternoon, but because it would've been dark before inspectors could make it to Willits, the two Cal/OSHA inspectors started their field inspection work Friday morning. Caltrans contractors were cleared to start clearing debris Saturday at noon, and Caltrans spokesman

Phil Frisbie says that work is expected to be complete at the end of this week.

Cal/OSHA has opened investigations of three employers, Melton said: Caltrans, Flatiron and DeSilva Gates. "It's a complicated case," Melton said. "They're going to have to unravel who's responsible for what, and try to figure it all out from there." Cal/OSHA – the Occupational Safety and Health Division of the Department of Industrial Relations – has jurisdiction only over worker safety issues: Caltrans "forensic engineers" – and Flatiron engineers, Melton said – are examining the viaduct to do their own analysis of what happened. Engineers will also determine the effects of the collapse on the rest of the viaduct, including the approximately 60 to 70 percent where cement has been poured, and the still-unpoured falsework sections.

The Cal/OSHA report won't be issued quickly: Melton said. "It'll take a couple months, minimum. The more complex the case, the more parties, the more employers, the longer it takes. This is not a small project." Cal/OSHA has six months by statute to finish an investigation and - if they find workplace safety violations – to issue citations. Inspectors will look to see if the project had the required permits and inspections, as well as doing interviews and continuing "hands-on consulting" at the site, as needed.

There are as of yet no official – or unofficial – estimates of the cost of repairing the damage.

The rest of Fitzpatrick | From Page 8

all the difference when sticking with an exercise regimen.

You don't have to exercise alone to get that all-important "me" time. It's discouraging to finish a run and not have anyone to celebrate with. Now at the end of class, I look around and see others who just did it with me and that's a gratifying feeling. Group exercise works. The classes get people started. They also keep up motivation so people push themselves further than they could do by themselves. They are fun and simple and provide a safe atmosphere to work out and make great friendships.

Ein Fitzpatrick is a licensed Zumba Instructor. She is a lifelong fitness advocate, marathoner, and dancer. She began teaching fitness classes two years ago and is a co-owner of Enerize Willits. You can learn more at Facebook.com/EnerizeWillits.

The rest of Wagner | From Page 8

learn to expand beyond the limitation of suffering into a larger world that is the envelope of love that surrounds and protects us all. When you are fully embodied and awakening, you will notice the suffering of others. Everything alive has a soul. Everything on this planet has that spark of life within it. Everything that lives struggles to navigate the world and the priorities of the pattern that its life requires.

Remember, your pattern and priorities are not necessarily the priorities or joys of your pet. What a farm animal wants and needs may be very different than what you want to offer. When you can step beyond your own fears, insecurities, or emotions, you can begin to notice the needs of others. It is not about what you want or what you need to give others. It is about what they need, and then it is your job (as a conscious being) to find a way to give that to another in the way that opens them, serves their growth, and supports the expansion of love that is not about getting but about giving.

You have an opportunity this month. Take a look at how you communicate with your inner self. Are you being loving? Are you being respectful? Notice how you choose words, and be willing to look that shadow in the mirror and do not turn away from what you might see within that has been perhaps a bit off-putting in the past. Look beyond the event and into the heart and longing of who you really are.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. To learn more, visit www.suzwagner.com or call Suzanne at 707-354-1019.

Weekly Promotions for January

MONDAYS - Rooster & Owls
Earn 3X Points all day.
Morning Session: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 9, 10, 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Evening Session: 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 7, 8, 9 and 10 p.m.
May win once per promotion day!
For both Morning and Evening sessions: Play 50 coin-in (150 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay and a \$2.00 Food Coupon

TUESDAYS - Guy's Night
Earn 2X points all day.
6:00-10:00 p.m.
Play 50 coin-in (100 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay. Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00-9:30 p.m. for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

WEDNESDAYS - Ladies Night
2X points all day.
6:00-10:00 p.m.
Play 50 coin-in (100 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay. Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00-9:30 p.m. for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

THURSDAYS - Super Senior Day
The Senior Freeplay will be preloaded to the Players Club Card from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawings each hour. Winners receive \$40 Cash.
Half off lunch coupon for those participating.
Specials posted at Creekside Café. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

FRIDAYS - Friday Fun
9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.: Earn 100 points, receive \$10 freeplay
2:00-8:00 p.m.: Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$75 Cash
9:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawing for \$100 Cash

SATURDAYS - Winter Wonderland Cash
4:00-10:00 p.m.
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. Have a chance to win up to \$150 Cash.

SUNDAYS - Snowflake Surprise
12:00 Noon-9:00 p.m.
Random Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. The Winner will choose a Snowflake of their choice and have a chance win up to \$150 Cash.

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Above: Maria dishes out Sugo-sauced pasta.

Left: Kapila hands a to-go sample to Jody Johnston.

Below: La Siciliana employees eagerly await drive-thru tasters.



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Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

AMERICAN SNIPER

(R) 2 hrs 12 mins
Fri: 5:30 & 8:15pm
Sat: 12:00, 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15pm
Sun: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:15pm

STRANGE MAGIC

(PG) 1 hr 39 mins
Fri: 6:30 & 8:45pm
Sat: 11:45am, 2:00, 4:15, 6:30 & 8:45pm
Sun: 1:00, 3:15, 5:30 & 7:45pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:30 & 7:45pm

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

The rest of Survey | From Page 1

This year, along with the simple survey of visible bodies counted on one January morning, the count includes a new survey implemented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to collect more specific data on the circumstances and causes of homelessness. The survey will be conducted through January 30. Willits Weekly will cover the results in depth in an upcoming article.

Although many homeless people have deep ties to their local communities, they are often not counted in traditional methods of measuring local residents and population numbers, which can determine the amount state and federal funds a county receives.

The "Point in Time" observational count occurs nationally in late January because surveyors believe those sleeping outside during cold winter weather reflect the most accurate count of a local stable homeless population, Marill explained.

The count includes data for location or vehicle, and age, race, and ethnicity, if provided.

The data is not taken as the definitive estimate of local unhoused residents because many people find some kind of shelter or "double up" with friends and family in the wintertime. But is a useful tool for extrapolating local homeless populations.

Marill said he has been organizing the count in Willits and the north county area every other year for at least the last five years, but plans to begin doing an annual county count in future years.

The count is also conducted in Ukiah and on the coast; the data is submitted for the whole county to HUD, which uses that baseline to calculate changes in estimated homeless populations.

Trained teams go out in groups to known homeless locations during the hours most people are sleeping to get the most accurate count, since many unsheltered people are on the move by dawn to avoid camping citations or other legal consequences of homelessness. Sleeping in one's vehicle and camping are both illegal in Willits and other locations in the county. Mendocino County has cut social and homeless services and shelter space across the county, leaving less of a safety net for those in need.

This year, five teams surveyed locations in the greater Willits area, while others went to Laytonville, Leggett, and Covelo to complete the count there. Interested homeless people were asked to complete a more extensive survey, which includes information about duration of homelessness, available resources, medical issues, services used, military history, education, and employment. There are also several "magnet" events being held in Willits and Laytonville to solicit as many responses as possible to obtain an accurate picture of Mendocino's current homeless situation.

The rest of MCERA | From Page 1

was looking forward to serving with them for the next three years.

Another new face was James Wilbanks, who took his place in the "retirement administrator" seat after a little over two weeks on the job.

Wilbanks has wasted little time during his short tenure to look for administrative changes in the retirement board. He continued a discussion initiated by McCowen in December about how MCERA meeting minutes should be presented.

Wilbanks, together with legal counsel Jeff Berk, advocated minutes in abbreviated form, showing only trustee votes and action items, and eliminating narrative descriptions of discussions during the meetings. Wilbanks and Berk listed reduced staff time, elimination of "post meeting tinkering" and a reduced risk of legal challenges as advantages of the abbreviated form.

Trustees were divided as to how onerous it would be for trustees and the interested public to find desired information by watching video recordings of their meetings. Ultimately, there was no strong appetite among trustees to change the format of the minutes, so the current narrative format was retained for the time being.

Wilbanks also proposed eliminating the narrative explanations from the monthly investment and financial reports staff has been presenting to trustees. According to Wilbanks: "We want a new set of eyes on the reports and fresh questions from this knowledgeable board instead of leading trustee questions with narrative explanations."

However, trustees were not comfortable with the proposal. Trustee Ted Stephens pointedly asked Wilbanks: "Is it not your job to analyze and process information?" and Trustee John Sakowicz pointed out county supervisors get information in the same narrative form, taking advantage of staff expertise.

Wilbanks revealed his hands-on managerial style by reporting he had distributed competency assessment tools to all staff members to determine whether any changes in task assignments were warranted. He also questioned whether there was a compelling need for the new pension administration system to print paper checks.

While trustees were very open to promises of savings in staff time and administrative costs, they were not convinced MCERA would be able to entirely get away from paper checks. Trustee Randy Goodman advised Wilbanks: "Don't send the printer back yet."

After further discussion on how the retirement association operates, trustees added two items to Wilbanks' already lengthy to-do list. Chairwoman Shari Schampire and Trustee Stephens asked for a draft policy to ensure minimum trustee training requirements are met, and Stephens asked to go over sample benefit calculations for each tier of retirees at future trustee meetings. Wilbanks won approval for changing the trustee seating arrangement during meetings to enable new trustees to benefit from the experience of long-serving board members. Trustees agreed with Wilbanks that "it is important that new members can just lean over during a meeting to ask an experienced trustee a quick question."

– Carl Magann, Fire Chief, Little Lake Fire Protection District

Editor's Note: this press release from Fire Chief Carl Magann was issued late Friday afternoon. Willits Weekly would like to add our thanks, too, to all the first responders in the Willits area.

Amazing Athlete

of Willits High School



BASKETBALL |

Julia Johnstone, Sophomore

Position: Shooting guard

Breakfast of Champions: Apple cinnamon oatmeal with sourdough toast.

Love for the Sport: I love the competitive atmosphere and team bond, the speed, intensity and winning!

My selection for athlete of the week this week is Julia Johnstone. Julia is a sophomore on the JV girls basketball team.

Julia has been playing the entire basketball season while undertaking numerous medical procedures and chemotherapy every Wednesday in attempt to remove a tumor that had developed in her right foot, ankle, and has moved up into just below her knee. This has not stopped this young lady! Julia still shows up and competes and completes our 30 to 45 minutes of crossfit training and practices with her team for two hours, five days a week.

Wednesday last week was Julia's eighth round of chemotherapy, moving her past the halfway point in her "therapy." She showed up to practice Thursday looking extremely tired, as usual, a little frail and not very energetic, but it didn't matter. She gave that consistent 100 percent effort!

Our game Friday night took place in Kelseyville. Julia is a starter and captain of the JV team, but plays limited game minutes due to fatigue. She came to play Friday! finishing the game as the high scorer and keeping us into the game until the final seconds of double OT! Oh yeah! Did I mention due to double overtime and several girls fouling out, Julia had to play extended minutes! No problem! Julia personifies mental toughness! She inspires us every day!

— Coach Jody Ward



Left: Liam UiCearbhaill and Evie Hayman helping Pat Mushik on the desktop.

Below: Pat Mushik working on her laptop at the Computer Help Lab.

Photos by Erin Creekmur

'Taking Your Business On-Line'

classes at the Senior Center

Erin Creekmur
Contributing Writer

Evie Hayman and Liam UiCearbhaill are both volunteers at the Harrah Senior Center's Computer Help Lab, which is held weekly on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 pm. For a \$3 donation, members of the public may come into the Help Lab with their own laptops, or use the various computers on site. Currently the lab is running Windows XP, 7 and 8, and they will even have Windows 10 installed and available to try out prior to this summer's official release date.

Computer lab visitors are welcome to surf the web, read email, draft a letter or even print a screenplay out. The volunteers are there each week to help solve problems, teach new skills and new software, or simply get you set up as a first-time computer user. Another volunteer, Pat Mushik, came in a year ago to get help with a problem she was having with Microsoft Word, and she is now helping other visitors solve some of the same problems.

Mushik said that she enjoys the relaxing atmosphere and admires Hayman's and UiCearbhaill's patience and ability to solve problems. There is an amazing wealth of helpful advice available at the Senior Center Computer Help Lab.

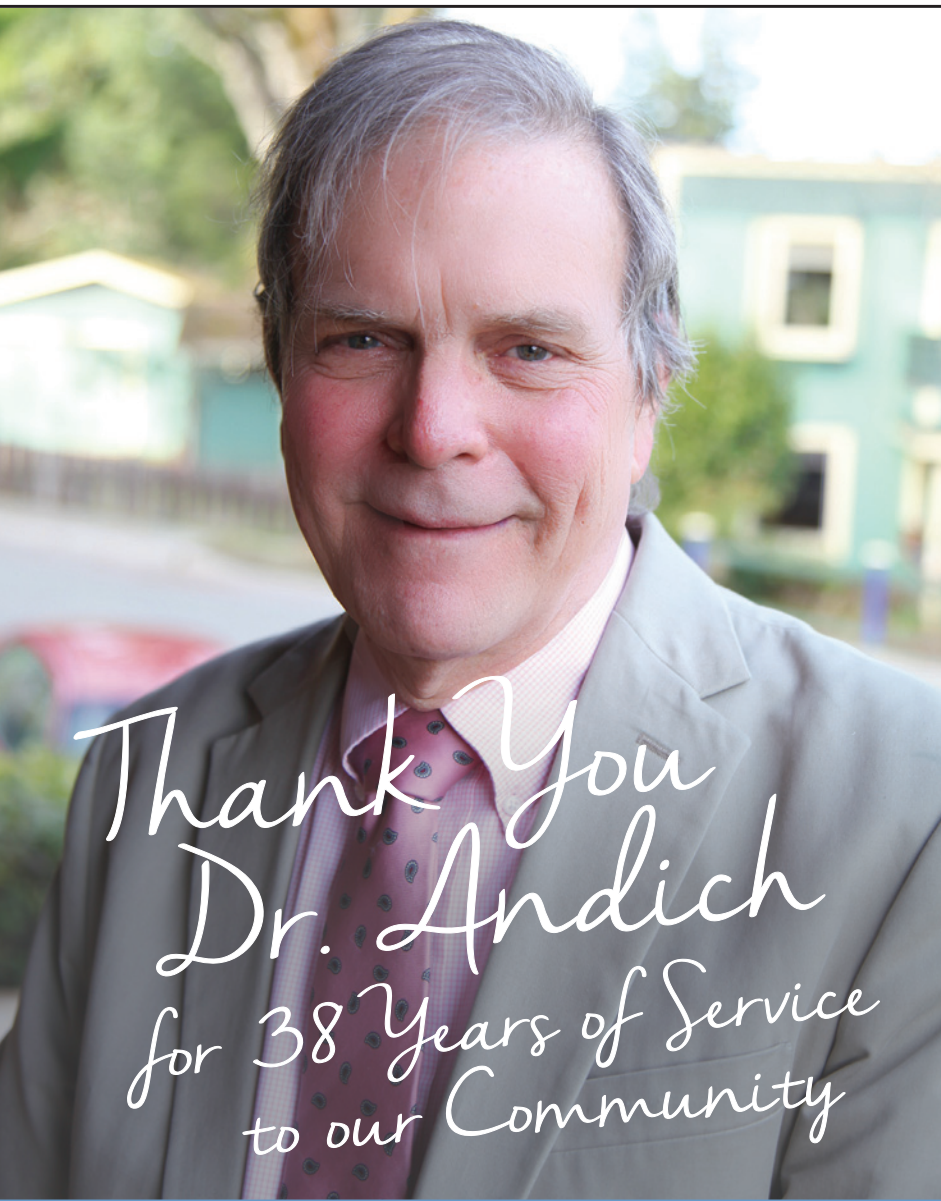
And now – Hayman and UiCearbhaill are offering something new at the Computer Help Lab: a 10-week series of classes on "Taking Your Business On-Line," starting Wednesday, February 4 with "Introduction to Email." The classes are set from 10 am to 2 pm and will run through April 8.

If you're thinking about branching your business on to the web, but are not sure where to start, these classes are for you, UiCearbhaill says. The classes will teach you the computer skills you need to know to succeed, including exactly how to develop a website that highlights your product well, is also easy to use, and is aesthetically pleasing. "Online websites have to be about much more than just a good product for the right price," UiCearbhaill said. It's important to stand out from

the rest, and draw the user in with eye-catching pages and easy-to-find product information. Today's web shoppers don't have the patience to struggle through complicated websites, UiCearbhaill said: "If it gets difficult, they will simply scroll over to the next link on the page."

Classes in the series also include how to create a Facebook Business and Etsy page, how to set up a website domain and how to use WordPress for web design, as well as more advanced HTML and CSS techniques to fine-tune your pages. The two-hour classes will be \$20 each, and students are welcome to attend all or just a few of the classes. Space is limited, so those interested should call 459-6826 to sign up and get more details about the individual classes.

The Computer Help Lab is at the Willits Harrah Senior Center, located at 1501 Baechtel Road.



Thank You
Dr. Andich
for 38 Years of Service
to our Community

BRUCE ANDICH, M.D.

After 38 years of continued service to our community, it is with deep respect and gratitude that we announce the retirement of Bruce Andich, M.D., Internal Medicine, from the Redwood Medical Clinic.

As of January, 2015, Dr. Andich will no longer be seeing patients in the clinic. Patients will have the option to see John Glycer, M.D., Family Medicine physician, and Suki Spillner, FNP-C, at the same office located at 88 Madrone Street, in Willits.

To schedule an appointment call 707.459.6115

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River Ramsing is happy
to be home after 53 days
in the hospital.

Thank you for your help
and support.

Beal John Cherokee
~Willits~



Watershed Restoration Funds for Fire, Fish, and Flows



Saturday, January 31

Noon to 4:00 - FREE!

Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Ave, Laytonville

Tenmile Creek & Outlet Creek
and Other Eel River Tributary Watersheds

- Funding through state and federal grant programs to improve watershed health and drought conditions
- Partnering opportunities with experienced restoration professionals
- Examples of NORCAL projects

Presented by: Mendocino County Resource Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Information: Mendocino County RCD: 462-3664 ext 104

Funding provided by: Fisheries Restoration Grant Program & National Fish and Wildlife Foundation