

## Supes OK another increase to retirement fund

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

Supervisors on Tuesday agreed to a \$4.2 million increase in the county's contribution to its retirement association.

The increase brings the annual county contribution to the Mendocino County Employees Retirement Association (MCERA) to \$18.65 million, or 33.38 percent of the county's payroll.

The unanimous vote approving the increase was a foregone conclusion. Under law, all 1937 Retirement Act counties are in a "rubber stamp" relationship to their respective retirement

Read the rest of **Fund** |  
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## Supes throw back public record effort

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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An attempt by Interim County Counsel Doug Losak to clarify the county's position on Public Records Act requests met with some measure of disapproval at Tuesday's board meeting. However, Losak's one-page effort was called a good first step.

In the document, Losak maintained the county's policy is to submit all Public Records Act requests to the county counsel, who determines if the request is for public or for confidential, protected information.

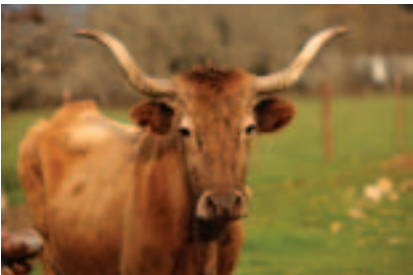
According to Losak, it is the county's policy never to require the person asking for the information submit a request in writing. Losak noted county officials may ask the request be made in writing, but cannot require it.

His statement was contradicted by several people, who told supervisors that county officials routinely demand requests for public information be submitted in writing.

Supervisor John McCowen felt the county should come up with a policy stating the public can obtain the desired document in a timely manner.

Supervisor Dan Hamburg urged county CEO Carmel Angelo and her staff to consult with other counties to determine how they fulfill Public Records Act requests. Hamburg also urged Angelo to ensure all county staff be trained in the proper way to respond to a

Read the rest of **Record** |  
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Photos by  
Maureen Moore

## Whaddaya mean it's not yet Spring?

With the past month of warm weather, it's been feeling more like May than January, but with heavy rain predicted for the next few days, maybe we'll be able to keep the feeling of winter a little longer, before the actual start of spring on Friday, March 20. In the meantime, lambs and calfs are popping up in pastures all across the valley, and seeing them grow into their legs and ears is a delight to watch. Take a drive and see the little critters at the height of their spring-time cuteness.



Photo by  
Maureen Moore

## Happy 107th Birthday, Edie!

Let's raise a toast to Edie Ceccarelli, whose 107th birthday is today, Thursday, February 5. Edie, the oldest resident of Willits, will be celebrating her birthday at the Willits Chinese Buffet. "I like a good buffet," she said with a smile, out in her garden last week.

Anybody enjoying dinner at the Chinese Buffet at 6 pm is welcome to stop by Edie's table and wish her many happy returns. Edie was born February 5, 1908 in Willits; her parents were Agostino and Maria Recagno.

The oldest of seven siblings, Edie said she "never ever in her life" thought she'd be celebrating her 107th birthday. "But I never smoked cigarettes, I never drank hard liquor, and I've been dancing all my life." She enjoys a small glass of red wine with dinner – "It's good for the heart," she says – and she likes to walk, too, and garden.

Read the rest of **Edie** |  
Over on Page 4

## John's Place suspect

sent to state hospital for treatment

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
zack@willitsweekly.com

A judge has ordered a 31-year-old Willits woman facing charges in a fire that burned John's Place to a state hospital for treatment.

Lacey Ross was found not competent to stand trial in December, and late last month the court sent her to Napa State Hospital to receive antipsychotic medication.

The Mendocino County Public Defender's Office is defending Ross. Public Defender Linda Thompson asked the court to include involuntary administration of antipsychotic medication in Ross's treatment.

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

## Mental health board

starts 2015 with 'clean slate'

Kate Maxwell  
Reporter  
kate@willitsweekly.com

The January 21 meeting of the Mental Health Advisory Board included introductions to several recent hires working to fill gaps in available mental health services. A lengthy discussion also took place on how best to achieve better financial transparency of the county's privatized mental health services for greater public oversight.

The board also began reorganizing its committees to comply with Brown Act requirements.

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

## Bypass project

60 percent complete: Caltrans

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
zack@willitsweekly.com

The Willits bypass is now about 60 percent complete, the California Department of Transportation told the City of Willits in a January progress report.

The Caltrans report dates from January 20 – before falsework on the viaduct section spanning Haehl Creek collapsed and injured workers.

Frisbie said Wednesday

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



## Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Pg. 3



Happy Valentines Day

Lovely Gifts  
Shop Kimberly's  
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Suzanne Picetti  
Personal Shopper!  
Let me find the perfect Valentine's Day gift for you.

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Flowers  
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Valentine's Day is February 14  
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1701 Valley Road  
Willits

At far right, Edie Ceccarelli sits in her garden, with her cousin, Evelyn Persico.

At right, some of Edie's beautiful rings, gifts from her two husbands.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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

"I love my garden," she said. "My mother always had a nice garden, and I like to plant flowers." Asked about her favorite flower, she said she liked them all but that she did have "a whole lot of sweet peas."

She also enjoys saying hello to the children walking through her neighborhood: "The little ones know me," she said, "and they stop and say hello."

Edie is known all around Willits for her sense of style, and her lovely and colorful attire. She wears her collection of beautiful rings, too, given to her by her two husbands, "for my birthday," she said, and for other happy occasions.

Her first husband was her high school sweetheart, "Brick" Keenan, who was a typesetter. The couple lived in Santa Rosa for 36 years – Keenan working at the Santa Rosa Press Democrat – and they raised a daughter, Laurie.

They retired to Willits, and enjoyed 51 years of

# Showin' Some Love

We've never charged! Submit your photo and message for free!

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.**



marriage before Keenan passed away. She met her second husband, Charles Ceccarelli, at a dance at the Ukiah Senior Center. Her friend and cousin, Evelyn Persico, tells the story about how "their eyes caught, and sparks flew." They married in 1986 and lived in Ukiah. Charles was 78 and Edie was 73.

After Ceccarelli's death, Edie moved back up to Willits. "I'm glad to be back in Willits, where I was born and raised," she said. "I like to see old friends, and meet new ones."

"I'm content with what I have," she said. "I've been blessed and I have lived a life that has given me happiness. I've always been honest and worked hard, but I've lived just an ordinary life."

"Ordinary"? Maybe so, in some ways, but we think she's extraordinary: Happy 107th Birthday to Edie Ceccarelli!



REDHOUSE & COMPANY 212 S. Main Street in Willits 707.459.4218

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this Valentine's Day

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and  
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GET COZY WITH YOUR CUTIE

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DELIVERY & INSTALL

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Golden Fire

## Paint the town Red!

FEBRUARY 2-7

Stop in for a visit and we'll donate a portion of your purchase to the American Heart Association's "Go Red For Women" campaign to raise awareness of heart disease, the #1 killer of women in the United States.

Above: Willits Chamber's Lynn Kennelly with a "Paint the Town Red!" poster outside the chamber office at the Skunk Train Depot.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

BARRA winery's Martha Barra receives a "Paint the Town Red!" resolution from Mayor Bruce Burton.

Photo by Lynn Kennelly



Willits, Ukiah and the coast are all celebrating "Paint the Town Red!" week this week, in an effort to bring awareness to the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign.

Heart disease is the #1 killer of women in the United States, the Heart Association says: That means one in three women will experience some form of this often-deadly disease, which is 80 percent preventable.

The week finishes off on Saturday, February 7, at BARRA of Mendocino winery in Redwood Valley, with "A Toast to Red – A Celebration of the Heart," from 11 am to 5 pm. The event features wine tasting, chocolate sampling, healthy food demonstrations, local jewelry and gift vendors, information booths with helpful tips on taking good care of your heart, chair massages, a wine sale, door prizes, and serenades by flamenco guitarist Jason Wright throughout the day. BARRA of Mendocino and participating vendors will make donations from sales for the local Mendocino County Goes Red organization.

There will also be drawings, entered with red bingo tokens residents can acquire by making purchases or asking for other services at local

Read the rest of  
**Paint Red** | Over on Page 10

## Amazing Athlete

of Willits High School

BASKETBALL |  
Hailey Riley, 17, Senior

**Position:** Varsity point guard  
**Breakfast of Champions:** English muffins  
**Love for the Sport:** I like how competitive it is and that you have to work as a team: basketball has taught me self-discipline, sportsmanship and how to be a team player.

This is Hailey's third year as a starter on the varsity team. She plays point guard: your leader on the court.

Hailey makes certain everyone on the court is on the same page. Hailey moves with the ball with such confidence and style that you'd think she must walk around with a basketball in her hands all day. It really is a sight to see. Hailey spends a tremendous amount of time practicing and perfecting her shot too.

This last week, Hailey put all of her skills together and led our team. She played maximum minutes, scoring from beyond the arc – attacking the hoop – and from the free throw line. Hailey played a crucial role on the defensive side of the ball, too!

– Coach Jody Ward



A rosemary footbath or hand bath is warming and enlivening. To use, add several drops of rosemary essential oil to your footbath tub of hot water, and enjoy a quiet, relaxing moment while you soak your feet to above your ankle. This is also a traditional remedy for some kinds of headaches.

Put a pan of water on the furnace or wood stove and add several drops of rosemary essential oil or sprigs of rosemary to help refresh the air in your house.

Using rosemary in a different way each week is a great way to get to know this readily available, easy-to-overlook, versatile herbal ally.

[This information is not intended to diagnose, prescribe or replace the advice of a qualified health professional.]

Donna d'Terra is a Willits area herbalist who has been teaching herb classes for 25 years.



COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

### Rosemary

Donna d'Terra  
Columnist

The rosemary bush in our gardens is an herb that can be used year-round, even during the late winter season.

The Latin name, Rosmarinus, means "dew of the sea" and reminds us that rosemary is native to the Mediterranean coast, where it grows on the cliffs overlooking the sea.

Sailors long ago used rosemary to preserve meat for long voyages. This is due to its anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, antiseptic, and antioxidant properties. As recently as World War I, rosemary was burned as a smudge to disinfect hospital wards.

As a warming, stimulating herb rosemary is especially useful for people who have chronically cold hands and feet. It also increases cerebral circulation, and so is used in herbal formulas for brain and memory tonics.

To realize some of these benefits, plant rosemary near your front door so you will be reminded to use it often in your food and drink. The newest, fast-growing leaves/needles are the most potent.

Strip the needles from a 6 to 8 inch branch. Mince finely and add to soups, greens, rice, eggs and meat dishes.

If you enjoy wine with dinner, steep the fresh flowers in white wine or steep a 6 to 8 inch whole branch in a bottle of red wine for a week, and decant before drinking.

Chop up a handful of rosemary needles and infuse in ½ cup sweet almond oil to create a massage oil that increases circulation and gives relief to stiff joints. (To make: fill jar to top with oil and chopped rosemary needles, put the jar in a brown paper bag, and let it sit on a sunny window sill for several weeks. Be sure the plant material stays submerged.)



Thursday, February 5

**Tours of Willits Charter School:** Interested parents and guardians are invited to "Come see the beautiful campus, meet the new director, see the classes 'in action,' and have all of your questions answered. Thursday, February 5 from 2 to 3:15 pm; and Monday, March 23 from 9 to 10:15 am. Students are welcome to attend. Questions: 459-5506.

**Free English class/Clase de ingles gratis: Every Thursday at 7 pm / Cada jueves a las 7 pm.** At the LDS church, 265 Margie Drive. Info: 707-758-8709.

**'Arsenic and Old Lace':** The classic dark comedy "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the Willits Community Theatre: tonight at 8 pm. The production stars Virginia Hanley and Janet Denninger as two elderly Brooklyn sisters who invite lonely old bachelors into their home ... only to dispatch the men from their misery with arsenic-tainted elderberry wine. The production runs from Friday, January 30 through Sunday, February 15, with performances on Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10 (A special performance sponsored by the Brooktrails Women's Club on Thursday, February 12. To reserve tickets for that performance, contact Dorit at 459-6706); Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15; and Sunday matinees (February 8 and 15) at 2 pm for \$10. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 S. Main Street, online at [www.brownpaper tickets.com](http://www.brownpaper tickets.com), or leave a message at the WCT office, 707-459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door for all performances.

Friday, February 6

**Free concert by pianist Sam Ocampo:** International concert pianist Sam Ocampo is performing a free concert on Friday, February 6, at 7 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "Ocampo has recorded more than a dozen albums and is a renowned music arranger and producer. " This free concert is open to the public and is sponsored by the Willits Christian Churches Fellowship. Space is limited: first come, first seated.

**"A Whale of a Story" Discussion:** Willits artist Ann Maglinte and composting expert Martin Mileck will discuss their collaboration on the book "Composting Abbie: A Whale of a Story" at the Willits Library, Friday, February 6 at 7 pm. "Composting Abbie" is the true story of a massive blue whale that washed ashore just south of Fort Bragg was composted, with the compost then given to schools and community gardens. Maglinte illustrated the story, and Willits author Jed Diamond wrote it. With a slide show about the blue whale, followed by a book signing; suitable for all ages and families are warmly invited. 390 East



Commercial Street.

**"Arsenic and Old Lace":** 8 pm. see Thursday, February 5 listing for details.

**Shanachie Pub:** Redbud, with original Rock, Blues, Pop, Reggae, Ska & more. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 7

**Studio Joy Open House:** Studio Joy holds a Free Open House today from 9 to 11:30 am. 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!" Visit [www.studiojoywillits.com](http://www.studiojoywillits.com) for more info.

**WCS 3rd Annual Winter Gala:** the Willits Elementary Charter School's 3rd Annual Winter Gala is set for Saturday, February 7 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street; doors open at 4 pm. This luau-themed event will be catered by Zocalo Catering, featuring locally raised, spit-roasted pork, vegetarian kabobs, coconut rice and more. Also featuring Jenness Hartley on viola, student and staff performances, a raffle drawing and a silent auction. No host bar. Childcare available. Dinner tickets \$20 each; buy a table for 8 for \$140. Student performances start at 4:45 pm and dinner at 5:30 pm. Dinner and raffle tickets available at the WECS office, 405 East Commercial Street (entrance on Lenore).

**"Sip Some Soup":** 16th annual fundraiser for Willits Daily Bread is set for 5:30 to 7 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Soupmakers compete for attendees' votes – and prizes – after giving out samples of their soup; Emandal bread and desserts by Seventh Day Adventists are also on the menu, and there'll be a silent auction again this year. Soupmakers can still sign up: you need to bring 3 gallons of soup, a crockpot, and table decorations and signage if desired; cups and spoons are provided and crockpot refills can be kept warm in the Community Center's kitchen. Entry fee for soupmakers is \$25, but there are scholarships available. Tickets – available at the door – for tasters are \$15, \$25 per couple, and \$5 for children 12 and under. To sign up, call Savage at 367-5669 or 459-2579, or drop by Willits Daily Bread, 58 Bush Street, Monday through Thursday from 3 to 6:30 pm to pick up an entry form. Soupmakers who show up at the door on Saturday will be welcome!

**"Arsenic and Old Lace":** 8 pm, see Thursday, February 5 listing for details.

**Shanachie Pub:** the return of 454, "high octane power trio, blues-based rock and roll." 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

The puuuurrrrrrrrfect match?

A new cat for Valentine's Day!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is offering a special deal on adopting cats in February: To make adopting easier than ever, the adoption fee for cats already 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 certificate for 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. The adoption desk can be reached by calling 707-467-6453. Visit [www.mendoshelterpets.com](http://www.mendoshelterpets.com) to see all the animals available for adoption.

Harrah Senior Center Lunch Menu

Week of February 9 through 13

**Monday:** Tuna Noodle Casserole

**Tuesday:** Soy Sesame Glazed Chicken

**Wednesday:** Pork Chops

**Thursday:** Veggie Lasagna

**Friday:** Cod w/Tartar Sauce

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55 \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Pg.6 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Now & Then Films

"Bee People"

Now & Then Films presents "Bee People," a documentary about bees and the challenges these glorious pollinators – responsible for one-third of the items on your dinner plate – are facing. Thursday, February 19 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. This ground-breaking film provides an educational and entertaining in-depth look at the "bee people" who caretake bees and who are working on finding both the cause of the Colony Collapse Disorder which is killing off beehives (nicotine-based pesticides? Mites? An as yet undiscovered virus?) and a solution: More bee people! Bee people every two miles! Suggested donation \$5. Visit <http://bee-people.com/> for more info.



Did someone say bluegrass?

Once again Bruce Burton is bringing it to Willits – live! Performing Friday, February 27 at the Willits Center for the Arts will be Adkins & Loudermilk.

Coming to us from the heart of bluegrass, Dave Adkins and Edgar Loudermilk have put together a wildly popular six-piece band and selected Willits as the first stop on their 2015 tour of the west coast. Surely to raise the roof, can you imagine the sound a six-piece band will create upstairs at the Arts Center?

Doors will open at 6:45 pm with the show beginning promptly at 7 o'clock. Beautiful but admittedly small, this venue will only accommodate 140 people, so seating is limited. No tickets will be sold at the door, and you would be wise to purchase advance tickets early. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased from Bruce Burton or Linda Buletti by calling 459-0436. If a table-with-wine for six people is more to your liking, give Linda a call and for \$200, she'll try to accommodate your request.

Proceeds from this wonderful concert will benefit Rotary's High School Scholarship Program. In an effort to raise additional funds for this worthwhile program, Willits High School students will be selling cookies at the concert, so be sure to look for their table and save room for dessert.

– Gail Richards



WEF Annual Drive Through Tri Tip Dinner

The Willits Educational Foundation has set its annual Drive Through Tri Tip Dinner for Friday, March 6, 4 to 6 pm at the Rodeo Grounds. Dinner for four people – \$60 – includes: whole tri tip, Goss Family Beans, a loaf of Emandal bread, Caesar salad with homemade dressing, homemade cookies, and a long-stemmed rose. To buy tickets or for more info, call Annette Pinon at 459-6588 or Warren Lewis at 459-4429.

Sunday, February 8

**Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast:** The annual benefit breakfast for the Sober Grad Party, which offers Willits seniors a safe place to enjoy Graduation Night. The Little Lake Grange kitchen crew cooks up breakfast, featuring Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, eggs and bacon, and breakfast is served by Willits High School and Willits Charter School seniors. 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Tickets are still \$6, \$5 for seniors, and \$4 for kids age 10 and under. Raffle tickets on sale for Sober Grad's Valentine's Gift Basket.

**CANCELLED Harrah Senior Center Pancake Breakfast:** Senior Center breakfast will resume next month.

**Senior Center Ice Cream Social:** This month's entertainment is singer/songwriter Steven Hayes. Pie, ice cream, coffee & prizes. Members \$1; non-members \$1.50

**"Arsenic and Old Lace":** 2 pm matinee, see Thursday, February 5 listing for details.

Monday, February 9

**Willits Garden Club Meeting:** the club's February meeting features guest speaker Julie Bawcom, retired geologist, who will discuss "Tsunamis." The meeting starts at 12:30 pm with social time (coffee and refreshment); guest speaker starts at 1 pm. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge. Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, six miles south of Willits: west of Highway 101, and south of Ridgewood (Seabiscuit) Ranch. Questions? Lucille Garcia at 459-9995 or Gary Bodensteiner at 459-2708.



What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Tuesday, February 10

**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 Tightwad movie: "The Theory of Everything." For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

**Shanachie Pub:** the Great Spirit band from San Francisco: Cosmic-Mountain-Folk-Grass "combining poetic lyricism with folk-rock, bluegrass and funk." 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Wednesday, February 11

**2015 Willits Science Fair:** open to the public for viewing on Wednesday, February 11 (from 8:30 am to 7 pm) and Thursday, February 12 (8:30 am to 3 pm), at the Willits Community Center. Judges will be judging projects on Tuesday, so ribbons will already have been awarded: those projects with a gold "qualifier" ribbon are eligible to go on to the Mendocino County Science Fair on March 14, as a number of Willits students usually do. For more information, contact Sharon Hanna at 459-4116 or [sharonhanna@willitsunified.com](mailto:sharonhanna@willitsunified.com).

**Willits Stamp Club:** The stamp club will be giving out "hundreds of stamps for FREE" at the February meeting, 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.



Thursday, February 12

2015 Willits Science Fair: see Wednesday, February 11 listing for details.

**"Arsenic and Old Lace":** 7 pm, see Thursday, February 5 listing for details. Tonight's show is a special performance sponsored by the Brooktrails Women's Club. To reserve tickets for tonight's performance, contact Dorit at 459-6706.

**Free English class/ Clase de ingles gratis:** Every Thursday at 7 pm / Cada jueves a las 7 pm. At the LDS church, 265 Margie Drive. Info: 707-758-8709.

Free Healthy Lifestyle Classes

Adventist Health presents a series of free "Healthy Lifestyle" classes on the third Thursday evening of every month, through September 2015. The classes, on health topics of interest to the general public, are from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the 11 Oaks Conference Room, and have various presenters. The first class, Thursday, February 19, titled "Healthy Hearts," is presented by David Ploss, MD. To register, call 456-3132.

**February 19:** Healthy Hearts - Presented by David Ploss, MD

**March 19:** Moving Safely - Presented by Heather Anderson, PT

**April 16:** Stop Overeating - Speaker from Overeaters Anonymous

**May 21:** When Should I Call My Medical Provider? - Presented by Suki Spillner, FNP

**June 18:** Focus on Eyes: Diabetes & Eye Health - Presented by Geoffrey Rice, MD

**July 16:** Fill Up On Fiber: All You Want To Know About Fiber - Presented by Annie Dogail, RD

**August 20:** Caring For Your Feet - Presented by Walter D'Costa, DPM, FAPWCA

**September 17:** Safe Driving - Speaker from CHP

Grange Farm School Benefit

with Hot Buttered Rum

San Francisco's Hot Buttered Rum – West Coast Americana, high-altitude bluegrass and indie folk – headlines a benefit concert for the Grange Farm School, Friday, February 27 at the Little Lake Grange.

Hot Buttered Rum "lives for songs" they say on their website: and with three songwriters among the five band members, they play a lot of original songs, as well as classic covers. "Their original songs are instantly familiar and inviting," writes the SF Chronicle, "and their easygoing versions of timeless classics (the Beatles, Hank Williams) belie the intricacy of the arrangements."

Hot Buttered Rum also "lives for a good time," and their years of touring and "onstage chemistry" make their live shows "a happy, sing-along mix of hoedown, high art and roadhouse rock."

Also on the bill is the Dusty Green Bones Band, also from San Francisco, who describes their music as "Psychedelic/ Jam-Grass/Rock" and "Native American

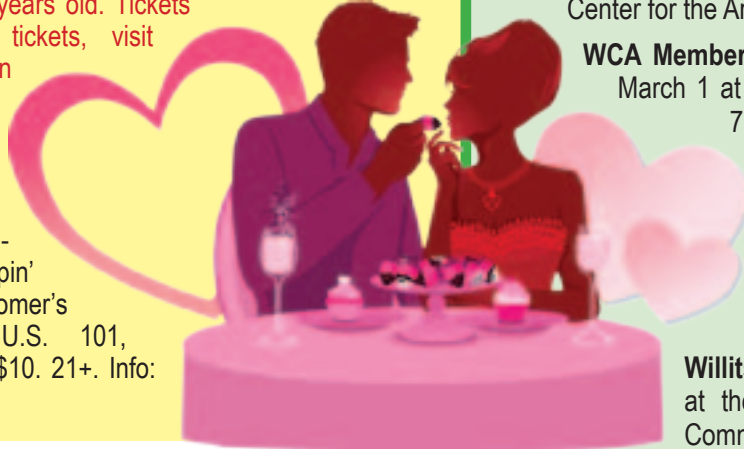


Saturday, February 14

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

**Parents Night Out!** Drop your kids off at the Willits Kids Club for a delicious kids-style Valentine's dinner, movies, story time, games and crafts. This event is hosted by the Kiwanis Club and the Willits High School Sophomore Class parents as a fundraiser for the Sophomore Class Prom. 5 to 10 pm at Willits Kids Club, 1265 Blosser Lane. Dinner menu includes Pizza, Corndogs, Cuties, Apples, Carrots, Celery and Cookies. Plus popcorn with a movie. \$25 for the first child; \$15 for each additional sibling. For potty-trained kids to 12 years old. Tickets are limited! For tickets, visit Roundtree Glass in Willits or call Fawn at 354-1979 or Tom at 841-8106.

**McKenna Faith:** "first-class, high-energy, boot stompin' country," live at Boomer's Saloon, 45020 U.S. 101, Laytonville. 9 pm. \$10. 21+. Info: 984-65349 pm.



American Legion Auxiliary Sweetheart Drawing

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 174 presents its annual Sweetheart Drawing: Win a night on the town for two, on Valentine's Day, February 14, plus other prizes. There will be three or more prize packages, including a night at a local motel, dinners or luncheons, flowers, candy, haircuts, theater tickets, movie theater tickets, video rental certificates, and various other special coupons for gift items. Tickets will be on sale by Legion and Auxiliary members in front of Safeway, the Grocery Outlet and The Book Juggler. Tickets cost \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. Contact Dorl Grauer at 459-6535 or Meredith Bliss at 459-2965 for more information.

Call to enter Chili Cookoff

The Harrah Senior Center invites teams to enter its annual Chili Cookoff contest, set for March 6 this year, from 5:30 to 7 pm. All proceeds benefit the Outreach program at the center. "Enter your chili for a chance to win a great prize and bragging rights!" \$25 entry fee. Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st Place Prize: Most Votes/Most Popular Chili; Hottest Chili, Best Booth/Best Dressed Team and "The Most Crooked Team" (a judges' award). Questions, or to sign up: 459-6826.

Ongoing Events

**Willits Winter Farmers Market:** from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, with produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**The Emandal Choral:** this community chorus based in Willits is in its 20th season, and you are welcome to join! Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. No auditions necessary. The Choral meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

**WCA Members Art Show:** ongoing through March 1 at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Works by 45 WCA members in various media. Gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm.

**Willits Photography Club:** meets at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street, on the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 12 noon. All levels of experience welcome. Come to the back door of the Art Center.

**Willits Frontier Twirlers:** Monday night session at the Willits Center for the Arts. New beginner class runs from 7 to 8 pm, with dancing to follow from 8 to 9 pm. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. Caller/teacher Lawrence Johnson. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. \$20/month (to help pay the caller), with young dancer scholarships available. Questions? Contact Emmy Good at [Emmy@pacific.net](mailto:Emmy@pacific.net) or Jenny Watts at [Wattsup@gmail.com](mailto:Wattsup@gmail.com).

**Alateen Support Group:** for teens ages 12-17 that are friends and family members of problem drinkers and/or addicts. For teens only. Every Thursday, 6 to 7 pm, Room 44 at Willits High School, north of gym near pool. Contact: Aurelie at 707-489-1258 or Cindy at 707-972-4748 or [cynlamgon@gmail.com](mailto:cynlamgon@gmail.com).

**Junior Grange After-School Program:** an after-school program for kids ages 5 to 14, Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or [zeyny34@yahoo.com](mailto:zeyny34@yahoo.com).

**Mondays at Wowser:** Free events at the Wowser maker space, 330 East Commercial Street. 6:30 pm. Lectures, slide shows, flash videos, guest speakers, demonstrations. Info: 459-9697 or [www.wowserllc.com](http://www.wowserllc.com).

**Cards and Games at Willits Library:** free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. NEW Saturday free bridge classes, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, start February 21, for new and review students. Info: Donna at 459-9035. Tuesday evenings: "Dungeons and Dragons, the Adventurers' League," from 6 to 10 pm. Both newbies and experienced players, ages 13+, are welcome to join. Info: Dan at 972-3154. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: Chess: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

**Life Changes:** Discussion and support group with Linda Posner, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Willits Community Drum Circle:** 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

**Smoking Cessation Program:** Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HMH Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Teens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague](http://www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague) or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

**Shanachie Pub:** Open Mic every Wednesday and World Music Open Mic every Monday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room:** every Wednesday night, karaoke in the bar. 207 South Main Street. 459-2444.

**Open Mic Jam at Al's Redwood Room:** every Friday night, hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, featuring talented, established local musicians from all over Northern California. Jazz, Blues, Rock. New talent welcome. Al's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street, starting at 9 pm. Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving at Al's on Fridays from 9 pm to 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 354-3197

**Laytonville Winter Farmers Market:** Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Laytonville Grange. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, and more.

Willits Weekly | February 5, 2015

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Pg. 7







Willits Weekly  
CLASSIFIEDS

30 Words | \$10 | 2 Weeks

**Algebra, Geometry SAT & ACT Test Prep**  
Mac Smith 459-MATH

**Business Classes**  
\*Taking Your Business On-Line\* 10 am to Noon Wednesdays. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits. 10 two-hour classes, \$20 each. Call for details: 459-6826.

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

**For Sale**  
Composting Toilet NEW: I paid \$2,600.... Your price \$2,000. For more info call Bobbie at 459-9228.

**Information Wanted**  
I am seeking information regarding my unknown father. My mother is Callie Rowan, age 62. I believe she grew up around the Tranquility area. I was born in Howard Memorial Hospital in July of 1970. We left this area in August of that year. I was 6 days old. If you have any information regarding who my father may be, please email me at jazeteadams@rocketmail.com or call 918-716-0359. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

**Help Wanted**  
Willits Power Equipment is looking for part-time employees for Sales, Assembly, Cleaning and Stocking Store. Weekends will be required and must be able to lift 50 lbs. Please bring in resume or pickup application at 1600 S. Main St. No phone calls please.

**Send us your ad today!**

**Email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com**

**Junior Grange Singers**  
A weekly music class for kids 8 to 15 years old. Taught by Nancy New. Starts Friday, February 13, 4 to 5 pm in Room 10 at the Willits Grange. We will learn a lot of vocal music and have performances. The class will cost \$25 a month. To register, or for more info, contact Nancy at nancynew@willitsonline.com or 459-1276.

**Rummage/Bake Sale**  
Saturday, February 7 at 68 E. San Francisco Ave. 9-3. Some furniture, toys, household goods, lots of wonderful bargains! Free coffee! Homemade fresh doughnuts! Many other fresh baked goods!

**Rummage Sale**  
Every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at 1st Baptist Church, 145 Wood Street. Rain or shine. We accept rummage donations, and have an ever-changing selection of goods!

**SEWING AND ALTERATIONS**  
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher  
Barbara Carlon  
Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com  
707-367-6182, Willits

**Volunteers Wanted**  
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

**Volunteers Wanted**  
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our Team. Call Marjia at 707-459-6826.

**Dendy's Computer Services**

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**Hours**  
Tues-Sat 9am - 4pm  
Sun-Mon Closed

**- I will come to you! -**

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The rest of  
**Paint Red** | From Page 5

businesses. The more red bingo tokens, the more chances to win: the grand prize drawing requires three bingo tokens to enter. You must be present to win, and the grand prize drawing will be held around 4 pm.

Willits Chamber of Commerce / Local First Committee has distributed packets to Willits businesses, with tokens and a beautiful, colorful poster to display, to let customers know they are participating. Businesses are donating a portion of the proceeds from their "bingo token" purchases to the American Heart Association.

"We're very excited about this," said Lynn Kennelly of the Willits Chamber of Commerce. "Did you know that heart disease kills more women than all kinds of cancer combined? I didn't." Kennelly is happy to be working with other Mendocino County chambers and with the other sponsors of this event, including the Ukiah Valley Medical Center and Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital.

The Willits City Council passed a resolution at last week's meeting, proclaiming February 2 through 7 as "Paint the Town Red Week" in the City of Willits, and presented a framed copy to Martha Barra, dressed in a red sweater. "It behooves all citizens of the City of Willits to promote, foster, participate in and enjoy this great event," the resolution signed by Mayor Bruce Burton reads. The resolution encourages locals to "visit local participating businesses to learn about heart disease signs and prevention strategies, share stories, and support a great cause along with supporting local commerce."

Employees of the Little Lake Health Center (and clinics in Ukiah and Lakeport) wore red and decorated the clinic to commemorate "Go Red for Women," handing out information about risk factors and ways to stay healthy, in English and Spanish. Students at Ukiah High School are planning to wear red to school Friday, which is the Heart Association's national "Wear Red Day."

For more information about the national "Go Red" campaign, visit [www.goredforwomen.org](http://www.goredforwomen.org). For information about the local event, or to donate to the local "Mendocino County Goes Red" group, contact the Willits Chamber of Commerce at [info@willitschamber.org](mailto:info@willitschamber.org) or 459-7910. BARRA of Mendocino organic winery is located at 7051 North State Street in Redwood Valley; 485-0322.

– Jennifer Poole

The rest of  
**Casual** | From Page 3

People Services of Lake County, Mendocino High School Library, Hospice of Ukiah, Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Program, Harwood Memorial Park, and Ukiah Players Theatre.

"It is businesses like yours, that make a difference for us," wrote Ilene Dumont, executive director of People Services, Inc. "It definitely takes community support like you have shared to keep non-profit organizations, like ours, providing the extra quality to make life meaningful for those we serve."

"Casual for a Cause – Denim Days, what a great idea! We feel so honored that you chose our library," wrote Jason Morse, superintendent of the Mendocino Unified School District. "Your donation will help our continued effort to upgrade and update our library and services."

"Thank you, so much, for the donations provided by the good people who took part in this wonderful effort to contribute to the lives of others," wrote Linda Clark-Bore, CEO of the Northern California Adaptive Living Center. "It speaks well for your organization that you all understand that no investment is as significant or as meaningful as that with which one is somehow personally involved."

As the local community bank, Savings Bank is proud of their tradition of giving back to our communities and the community support and volunteer time that their employees provide.

– submitted by Savings Bank of Mendocino County

Food Bank  
almost to  
\$32,000 goal

Willits Community Services and Food Bank announced Wednesday that it has raised \$30,795 towards its Winter Fund Drive goal of \$32,000. Donations can be mailed (checks made out to "Willits Community Services") to WCS, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, or dropped by during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 5 pm. More info: 459-3333 or [willitscs@gmail.com](mailto:willitscs@gmail.com). This week's contributors include: American Legion Post No. 174, Frank & Erla Barr, Buckeye Construction, Helen Falandes & Clancy Rash, Patrica Freeman, Richard Hincker, Ronda Landes, Douglas & Kay Nord, Linda Posner, Robbin & Tamia Rempel, Larry & Francis River and Gwen & Roscoe Wood.

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COLUMN | Resendez Reads!

**‘The Paris Winter’**

Fran Resendez  
Columnist

Imagine being in the dead of winter, 1909, in a city that is enduring such a devastating flood that portions of the streets are turning into sinkholes beneath the fleeing occupants. The scene of this disaster is metropolitan Paris, a city riddled with old tunnels, damp basements and murky depths concealed beneath a cosmetic layer of wealth and charm.

The novel, "The Paris Winter" by Imogen Robertson (2013 in the UK; 2014 in the U.S.) follows the lives of young art students studying at a fictional art school. The main character, Maude Heighton, is an English girl who has managed to scrape together enough money to cover her tuition, but has virtually no other financial support. She is befriended by Tanya, a stylish Russian from a wealthy family, and by Yvette, a young woman of the street making her living as an artist's model.

This unlikely trio will find themselves involved with a dangerous couple, Christian and Sylvie, who hire Maude as a companion to Sylvie, who has a little problem with her opium habit and a fatal attraction to expensive jewels.

The setting is a great part of the appeal of the novel. The atmosphere of Paris in the midst of the glittering Belle Epoque, a romantic destination for sensitive, expressive souls, is balanced with the reality of the city's underbelly of poverty, drug use and violence. These young women are forced to face challenges they could not have imagined. In fact, the action got so tense that I was tempted to jump to the end of the book just to find out how it was going to end! But, I restrained myself. And ended up being quite satisfied with the ending.

I also enjoyed the clever interweaving of historical figures into the story. Ada Leigh, who ran a rescue house for penniless young foreign women, is portrayed as the character Miss Harris. Gertrude Stein appears in a scene where Maude attends one of her famous evening salons, and the scandalous Suzanne Valadon – artist, model and muse – plays a part in the plot as well.

But the best part of the story was the struggle of young artists to find support, education and outlets for their talents, only to be faced with a deeper challenge to overcome appearances and assumptions, to find their inner strength and courage, and to trust their intuition ... that being the process all of us must go through.

Whether you read by page or by device, please utilize our library system and patronize our independent bookstores, both new and used.

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

COLUMN | Linda on the law

Seniors and driving

Aging is like starting a new business. To flourish, we must willingly take over our new role and accept its challenges. One of those challenges is safe driving. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the courts tell us that driving is a privilege and not a right, although the independence associated with a driver's license cannot be underestimated, especially in rural areas like ours.

The simplest way to "tune up" is enrolling in a senior driving class, either through AARP or your insurance company.

As a senior, it is important to be aware that law enforcement is trained to consider age as a factor in traffic violations. Imagine this scenario: You're driving home from the dentist and make a "California stop" at a stop sign. Emergency lights suddenly appear, and you pull over. The officer requests that you get out of your car but your arthritis and anxiety affects your ability to easily slide out of your car and stand for extended periods. You admit that you take medications on a daily basis.

This situation, or others like it, could be quite benign and not affect safe driving. Still, it might prompt a review of your driving skills by the DMV if an officer determines your speech, gait, anxiety and medications could point to a condition negatively affecting your ability to safely drive. To be fair, officers have very little time to make this determination, and sometimes their decision is simply based upon the possible effects of age and medications. Before final action is taken against your license, you have a due process right to a full and fair hearing before the DMV.

If a law enforcement officer requests a DMV review, you will receive a letter requiring a phone interview within a very short period of time. If you don't take action, you will automatically lose your license. Don't expect this contact to be just a friendly phone call – it's a recorded phone interview.

The DMV may decide you can no longer safely drive. If so, you can request a hearing, enroll in a driving school for a refresher course, and review your medical condition and medications with your family, your doctor and your lawyer. If your driving skills and medical condition meet the DMV standards, a hearing should be requested. You might have to pass the written and driving test again. Sometimes an attorney can show that the review was unwarranted in the first place, so a driving and written test is not required.

There is an old Italian proverb that states: "We are born arsonists and die firefighters." Nothing is wrong with being cautious as we gain more years, although there's a difference between caution and uncertainty. The results of aging are unexpected at best, and many seniors are fully capable of driving safely with or without classes and medical reviews. Some seniors need others to take care of the driving for them. Other seniors may need legal assistance to get through the bureaucratic maze surrounding the DMV. Do not let the authorities tell you that you cannot drive without taking some kind of action.

Linda McNeil is an attorney with more than 35 years legal experience. Since 1992 she's been practicing in Mendocino and Lake counties, with an office in Willits. Her practice is limited to representing drivers before the DMV and representing people accused of DUI. The California DUI Lawyers Association has designated her a "DUI & DMV Specialist."

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Saturday:  
Sip Some  
Soup

Tasters and more  
soupmakers welcome!

Save Saturday evening to "Sip Some Soup" at the Willits Community Center, and if you feel inspired, last-minute soup makers and soup teams are still being accepted.

This 16th annual event is the major fundraiser for Willits Daily Bread, which offers a hot dinner to anyone who wants to eat, Monday through Friday at St. Anthony's Parish Hall.

It's a fun social evening, with attendees tasting each soup in the "fierce but friendly" contest, and voting for their favorite. Soup samples are accompanied by bread from Emandal and desserts provided by the Seventh Day Adventist church.

Cindy Savage, director of Willits Daily Bread, has been collecting goods for a silent auction at Sip Some Soup this year, and she has a long list of auction items (so far), including a professional car cleaning from Yokum's Body Shop; a "Downton Abbey" cookbook donated by Robin



COLUMN | Wowser Makes

Design

Design is a funny process.

The process by which you design things sometimes goes through funny twists and turns.

One of the new Wowser projects is building a "rolling bandwagon." It will have two riders/pedalers (to make it move forward). And three musicians who ride seated in rings (like a small Ferris wheel.) And the whole thing rolls down the street for parades. It will be fabulous fun. (We saw one on the internet; it looks incredible.)

And to start, we needed to decide on the size of the rider rings. How big is big enough for a drummer (and her drummer) to be comfortable?

To figure out what would be the best size, Dan and Steve and I set up a small chair and some poly pipe as a mockup. (Sometimes making a full-size mockup is a good and fast way to determine sizes.) We decided on 5 feet, 6 inches.

The mockup showed us that a diameter of 5 feet, 6 inches gave enough head room and foot space to work well. Great. The first size detail was set. We were moving ahead!

Then I opened MS Visio (a CAD

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If you have any questions regarding this position, please contact Juanita at (925) 519-5834

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Goldner; one free use of party

space from Hidden Agenda; a weekend stay at Caspar Cottage, donated by Mike and Ruth Dell'Arra; 25 pounds of ground beef from John Ford Ranch; a clock from Willits Furniture; a fitness ball from Healing Central Chiropractic; a kids' golf set from Ace Copy; a car kit from Les Schwab; a Shanachie Pub hoody from Shanachie Pub; a "Soup of the Week" subscription from Emandal; seeds and accessories from Sparetime Supply; gift certificates from Mariposa Market, Mazahar, The Goods Shoppe, Spartan Body Works, Adam's Restaurant, and Kimberly's Jewelry; and other items donated by individuals and businesses.

Soupmakers so far include: Emandal, Debbie McDaniel (Seventh Day Adventist church), Adam's Restaurant, Crystal Luedemann, Tammy Long (Seventh Day Adventist church), Trinity Cleaning Service,

program, sort of) and started drafting. Well, it turns out that to fit three 5 feet, 6 inch rings inside a large ring (the "Ferris wheel"), the large ring needs to be 13 feet, 10 inches in diameter. (We also needed 5 inches of foot-clearance around the rings.) Easy-peasy.

Except for one thing. (This is when the funny part appears.) The roll-up door in the Wowser building is only 13 feet, 2 inches tall.

Oops. This means, if we build the rings at 5 feet, 6 inches, then the outer ring is 13 feet, 11 inches, and then we can't drive it out the door!! It would be sort of like building an airplane inside a basement. I repeat: oops.

So our design has changed. The rider rings are now going to be 5 feet, 1 inch in diameter. There will be a little bit less room; but we will be able to drive the bandwagon out the door. The size of our machine has become determined by the size of the doors in our building.

Now, doesn't that sound funny to you?

Side note: Good designers work things out in advance. Better designers understand that limitations and problems always appear, and have learned how to work around those. Some of the best work comes specifically from those limitations. (But that is a story for another time.)

Curious how the rolling bandwagon looks (as it takes shape)? Come on down to Wowser and check it out. Any day from noon to 6 pm at 330 East Commercial Street.

Roger Wilson is a founder and CEO of Wowser, Mendocino County's largest makerspace. His focus is to teach people ways to make stuff with better results, or more easily, or faster, and even some things that are just for fun. Learn more at [www.Wowser.org](http://www.Wowser.org) and find Wowser on Facebook.

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Check out our website: [www.preschooldaycarewillits.com](http://www.preschooldaycarewillits.com) or look for us on Facebook

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SATURDAYS starting February 21, 10:15 - 12:15

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American Contract Bridge League

Willits Library Conference Room 390 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA

COLUMN | Cocktails with Candice

**Rum**

Candice Kelley  
Columnist

Rum is a liquor that is often underrated. Rum originates from the Caribbean and is made from the byproducts of sugar cane production. This is a spirit that is more sweet than other bottles on the shelves and is often mixed with other flavors that are native to the tropics. The classic **Cuba Libre** (rum and Coke with a squeeze of lime), is a timeless cocktail.

Rum is also an ambiguous liquor. There is so much variety. Spiced rums like Sailor Jerry have a very distinct flavor profile. The clear and gold rums that we see under the Bacardi label are less distinct, which makes them more ideal for mixing with juices and in **Pina Colodas** (rum, cream of coconut, and pineapple juice).

There are also the darker and thicker rums like Meyers's, which add a great flavor with a simple float on top of your cocktail. I can't leave out the flavored rums, ranging from coconut to strawberries and cream. These are fun because you can add a new flavor twist to your cocktail without any exotic ingredients.

A simple but newer cocktail that I see becoming more popular is the **Dark and Stormy**. It is spiced rum (Sailor Jerry is my favorite, but keep in mind that it is 92 proof, so enjoy responsibly!) and root beer. It is just slightly different from a rum and Coke, but it is a refreshing change. Dr. Pepper isn't too bad, either.

The Hurricane is one of those fruity cocktails that are so delicious with rum. I start with a hurricane glass of ice (a hurricane glass is shaped like a hurricane lamp and is taller than a highball glass), and add a shot of light and a shot of gold rum. After that, add pineapple and orange juice, with just a splash of grenadine for color. I give it a stir and add a float of Meyers's rum to the top. Garnish with a wheel of orange, a cherry and a piece of pineapple. Add an umbrella if you are feeling fancy!

Always enjoy responsibly and designate a driver.

Candice Kelley has been bartending since 2006 and started her mobile bartending business Service With Style in 2013. She is available for parties large and small around Mendocino and Sonoma counties. For info call 707-354-4894 or visit [www.servicewithstyle.net](http://www.servicewithstyle.net).

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## Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to Stella, on the left, and Dana, on the right. Love, Papa & Nona.



## Happy Birthday Nora!

Happy 3rd birthday, Nora! We are so lucky to have such a happy, fun, loving little girl in our lives! Thanks for choosing us to be your family. Love, Daddy, Mommy and your big sister Jazmin and big brother Luke.



## Congrats Luke!

Luke has been working hard racing his BMX bike. He has gone from novice to intermediate in only 6 months. We are so proud of how good his is doing in school making student of the quarter and how hard he works out on the track at every race!! Way to go Luke, keep up the good work. Love, Dad, Mom, big Sister Jazmin and little sister Nora.

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Left: Senior class members selling Pancake Breakfast tickets; from left to right: Isabel Hageman, Antonio Amador and Rachel Kanonchoff.

Photo by Olivia Cooper

Below: Tickets for a chance to win this Sober Grad Valentine's Raffle Basket are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Photo by Annette Pinon

## Sober Grad Pancake Breakfast

benefits safe graduation party



The Sober Grad committee is busy with preparations for the 17th Annual Pancake Breakfast in conjunction with the Little Lake Grange. The fundraising breakfast will be on Sunday, February 8, from 8 to 11 am. Tickets are being sold by members of the Class of 2015; they are also available at the Willits High School office or at the door.

If you haven't been to a breakfast at the Grange, you're missing out. The breakfast includes: Hank Strock's delicious pancakes made from scratch, scrambled eggs, bacon, OJ, and coffee, tea or hot chocolate. Breakfasts-To-Go are also available for those who may need to get to work or are on a tight schedule. Just stop in and tell Angi at the door you'd like a Breakfast-To-Go!

The committee is also holding a Tupperware sale at Sunday's breakfast. Order sheets and samples will be available for attendees. Tupperware gives Sober Grad 40 percent of all sales, and local rep Cyndy Sales donates all of the sales tax, so this is a great time to stock up. Tupperware is a great food storage system; however, it can also be used to store non-perishables, such as items that would go into a Survival Kit, as it keeps everything airtight. Tupperware makes great gifts for Valentine's Day, Mother's/Father's Day, birthdays, graduation and other special days.

Sober Grad's Valentine Raffle Basket will also be at the breakfast. There are some wonderful items in this basket, including a dozen roses from Flowers by Annette; gift certificates from Moon Lady, Moon Man, Buster's, El Mexicano, Main Street Music and Video, and Brewed Awakening; many items donated by Cat's Meow/Trillium, Little Lake Auto Parts, The Book Juggler, Tango Tanning Salon, Yokum's, Coast Hardware, Willits Power, Friedman's and Monkey Wrench. The retail value of this basket is more than \$600! The winning ticket will be drawn on February 13.

Don't miss this important event. All proceeds go to put on a drug- and alcohol-free party for all Willits- area graduating seniors. For more information call Angi Edgar at 459-2260 or email WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com.

— Joyce Waters, for the Sober Grad committee

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## The rest of Bypass | From Page 1

cleanup work at the site has been completed. Two concrete viaduct columns at the bridge site were removed over the weekend.

"That's some of the first steps," said Frisbie, "and we will be evaluating more of that [concrete] pour and how much can be salvaged."

If weather forecasts prove true, the Willits area could be due for heavy rain. The National Weather Service has issued a notice for potential flooding and high winds in the Willits area.

Frisbie noted recent dry weather allowed for more bypass work to be done this winter than if there had been normal rainfall.

On the southern end of the bypass project, from the beginning of the project to Center Valley Road, a number of components have been completed or need only a few more things done to be completed.

Caltrans says the Haehl Creek Bridge foundations and abutments are now completed.

"Due to a short work window and

temporary suspension of Corps permit in June 2014, work on Haehl Creek Bridges is suspended and will resume in June 2015, and be completed in October 2015," the report stated.

A northbound onramp, E20/N101 Connector Bridge, is complete, except for concrete barriers, joint seals, and deck grooving.

On East Hill Road, the bridge is near completion, except for approach slabs, concrete barriers, joints, and deck grinding.

Like the northbound onramp bridge, the North Haehl Creek Bridge is complete, except for approach slabs, concrete barriers, joint seals, and deck grinding.

At the viaduct portion of the new highway, Caltrans reports foundations and columns are complete for all eight frames. (Again, this report was written

before the January 22 collapse.)

Near the northern interchange, some utility relocation work continues. Heavy equipment has been operating in the area between the railroad crossing and the creek, where a crane was put into storage for the winter.



A Cleveland Wrecking Company hydraulic jackhammer slowly takes down one of the two giant cement pillars on the north side of the Willits bypass falsework collapse on Saturday.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

## The rest of Fund | From Page 1

association boards of directors. In the case of Mendocino County, MCERA directors determine how much the county will pay annually to support its retirement system, and the county must pay it.

Probably the biggest step taken by MCERA this year was lowering the expected rate of return on its investment from 7.75 percent to 7.25 percent. That move automatically increased both the Accrued Actuarial Liability (AAL – the total amount the county thinks it owes to current and past retirees: \$584.5 million) and the Unfunded Accrued Actuarial Liability (UAAL – the difference between what the county needs and what it has now) by \$50.2 million.

The UAAL grew from \$131 million in 2012-13 to \$179.5 million today. To cover the widening gap, the county's annual contribution jumped from \$14.5 to \$18.65 million. Over the past 15 years, the county's contribution has increased more than four-fold. In 2000, it was \$3.7 million; in 2006, \$4.9 million; in 2010, \$9.5 million; in 2012, \$11.8 million.

One factor in the increase of the county's MCERA contribution is continued expansion in the number of inactive or retired retirement association members compared to working county employees. On June 30, 2014, there were 1,328 retired MCERA members, as opposed to 1,081 active county employees.

Another component of the increase is the current system of paying down the UAAL. In 2011, MCERA adopted a plan to pay down the UAAL over a 30-year period. The task was so daunting in the financial environment at the time that MCERA's payment plan didn't even cover the interest on the UAAL. Called "negative amortization," under this plan – despite contributions from the county of \$9.5 to \$11.8 million – the UAAL continued to increase.

MCERA attempted to correct that trend in 2013, when it adopted a complicated plan under which old portions of the UAAL would be paid off under the 30-year payoff plan, and newer portions of the UAAL would be paid off on an 18-year plan.

As time moves forward, less and less of the UAAL will be subject to the 30-year plan, and an increasing percentage of it will be amortized under the 18-year plan. With this new payoff system in place, the MCERA UAAL held steady at \$131 million for two years, until the MCERA board decided to lower its expected rate of return on investments.

During discussions on the issue, Supervisor Dan Hamburg referenced the trend over the past decade. "I can see there is a general curve here on how things are going. Is there any way to bend this curve back the other way?"

Segal Consulting Vice President Andy Yeung responded: "The contribution rate will stay flat, at 33.3 percent. So in order for the contribution rate to come down, we would have to have actuarial gains. Good earnings would be one [possible cause of actuarial gains]." There could be other reasons why the liability would not come as fast as we've

expected, but having good earnings is by far the most important factor," Yeung said.

In fiscal year 2013-2014, the MCERA investment portfolio performed extremely well, increasing its overall assets by 18 percent compared to the losses sustained during the Great Recession of 2008-2009, during which MCERA's assets suffered a loss of 16 percent.

However, because MCERA uses a smoothing technique to blend one-year highs and lows into a more gentle pattern, the one-year gains from 2013-2014 won't automatically translate into a lower contribution from the county. While the rate of return on investment over the past five years is 13.75 percent, the return over the past eight years is 6.95 percent.

Another reason for the continued upward trend of the county's contribution is that supervisors are generally opposed to issuing pension obligation bonds. The county has issued such bonds twice in recent memory, and those moves are now seen as "kicking the can down the road."

MCERA board member and radio talk show host John Sakowicz answered an earlier question posed by Hamburg: "How did we get so upside down on this?"

Yeung had said, "Blame the accountants." Yeung is himself an accountant.

Sakowicz reminded the board that Ukiah attorney Jared Carter threatened to sue the county should it decide to issue more pension obligation bonds. Sakowicz said Carter had told the board in 2013 that issuing another POB is an example of "generational inequity," in which the current generation foists its debts off on future generations.

According to Sakowicz, supervisors then in office appeared to realize Carter was serious and agreed that issuing more POBs was not an option.

## The rest of Ross | From Page 1

The hospital where Ross was sent is a 140-year-old Napa County facility currently treating 1,183 patients, according to a recent census: 305 of those patients had been found incompetent to stand trial.

In the John's Place fire, Ross faces charges of arson, felony burglary and brandishing an imitation gun.

Police and law enforcement encountered her during the bar fire November 14. Two days earlier, on November 12, a judge had issued a bench warrant for Ross in a different court case.

The fire destroyed a convenience store, the decades-old bar, and a popular preschool.

In a misdemeanor battery case, Judge David Nelson granted Ross release from county jail on October 22 if she agreed to stay away from John's Place and from the battery victim, according to court records.

Deputy DA Caitlin Keane filed a November 10 petition asking the court to revoke Ross's release and issue a restraining order against Ross.

Keane cited events in which Ross did not follow the terms of her release, court documents state.

Judge John Behnke issued a bench warrant for Ross November 12 and ordered that she not be released again, and that police could not cite and release her.

Keane stated in the DA's request that the battery victim and a witness told her Ross was not staying away from the bar and the victim.

Keane recorded her talks with the pair and was also working to get video surveillance from John's Place that showed what was happening.

In the petition, Keane said she was given Willits Police Department records that show call logs documenting Ross's presence at John's Place from October 24 through October 27.

In a database of court cases from 2000 to present, Ross's past at the courthouse includes more than 10 court cases for criminal charges, civil domestic violence, family law and driving.

The events Keane cited include threats Ross made at John's Place and an incident in which Ross broke a window in the bar owner's vehicle.

The DA's other case against Ross includes a charge for alleged vandalism which occurred October 26.

The DA accuses Ross of felony vandalism of neon signs, the bar owner's car, and a Willits police car.

Ross pleaded not guilty in both cases. A court hearing to review the status of Ross's placement at the state hospital is scheduled for March 20.

## The rest of Health | From Page 1

Supervisor John McCowen guided the board through the reorganization process, which entailed removing several non-board members and the dissolution of most standing committees into ad-hoc ones. The process will be completed May 1, when annual committee reports are submitted.

### Recent hires

Health and Human Services Agency Assistant Director Tom Pinizzotto introduced Joy Kinion, who began work in December as a mental health rehabilitation worker and one half of a countywide "mobile outreach team" that will include a to-be-selected law enforcement officer from the Sheriff's Office. The team is aimed at early intervention and prevention for individuals who otherwise may be at risk of incarceration or hospitalization, providing outreach and case management assistance for clients.

Kinion, a 35-year county employee and founder of the county Family Strengths program, spoke about her methods for mobile outreach. Kinion is also undergoing further training to provide "5150" evaluations (evaluations for involuntary psychiatric holds) for the program.

"We meet people where they are," said Kinion, who explained she has long-term ties to the community, and has begun working on several cases in Covelo and Gualala.

The team will focus on clients from target areas in the north county, south county, and Anderson Valley, although clients may be referred countywide by community organizations, county workers, and residents.

Kinion admitted the logistics of her position, including countywide travel time, limit her capacity, but is hopeful about the program's efficacy.

Pinizzotto said the program will emphasize data collection to track reductions in the number of arrests, incarcerations, and hospitalizations, and ensure program sustainability.

It is currently funded by almost \$350,000 in Wellness Grant funds and Intergovernmental Transfer Act dollars, although the county had requested additional funds to cover a vehicle, which the Sheriff's Office will provide.

Patients' Rights Advocate Barbie Svendsen, another internal hire by HHS, began a half-time position in August, assisting with countywide advocacy, grievance assistance, and case management, a position the county had struggled to fill. Svendsen explained one of her primary roles is to respond to calls to the patients' rights message line, and connect clients to county services that best meet their needs.

Svendsen said over the last six months she has realized the system needs to be expanded to better serve clients in crisis or life situations who may not be able to wait for, or respond to, phone messages.

## The rest of Record | From Page 1

request for public information.

Angelo offered to reconvene the county's Policy Committee to discuss how to revise the policy. Board Chairwoman Carre Brown directed Angelo to do that.

Angelo named manager of water agency

In other news, supervisors confirmed Angelo as general manger of the county's water agency. The action was taken as a consent calendar item on the board's agenda. It was pulled only so McCowen could mention the action was being taken. The board approved the item unanimously and without discussion, nor did Angelo say anything about her new assignment.

Part of the resolution taking the action includes the direction for Angelo to prepare a water agency action plan and to submit it to supervisors within 90 days.

### Drell urges county action on cell phones

Willits-area resident and environmentalist David Drell informed supervisors that France has taken action to make the use of cell phone technology a little safer in that country.

Drell said the French Parliament recently passed a law to safeguard the health of the French people. Provisions of the law include:

"When cell phones are sold and advertised, [the French now] recommend the use of an accessory device, with a headset, to reduce the exposure of the head to radio frequency radiation. Violations of such would face a fine of \$100,000," Drell said.

"Any advertisements promoting the use of cell phones without these accessories should be prohibited, and violations of this should be punished with fines of up to \$100,000.

"Anyone selling a cell phone should provide children under the age of 14 an accessory that reduces the exposure of the head to radio frequency radiation.

"Wireless internet technology should be prohibited in places where children under the age of 3 congregate.

"Wireless internet in schools should not be allowed except when teachers are engaged in the act of teaching," Drell said.

"I would submit to you that the county health department could pass a law that included some of these items," Drell said.

His comments prompted no response from the board.

### Increasing financial transparency

As part of an ongoing conversation regarding the inability of the Mental Health Advisory Board's Financial Committee to access county financial reports and records, the board agreed to move forward with a "clean slate" and work with county mental health services to achieve greater financial transparency for both board members and the public.

The board has been attempting to identify useful financial information from the county and affiliated administrative services organizations over the past year to establish a financial baseline to better evaluate the transition to privatized services. During January's meeting, the board began to implement new communications and reporting procedures to more effectively achieve that goal.

The board hopes to compile a more complete financial picture of the current quality of public services, both from a budgetary standpoint – such as cost per patient – as well as the timeliness and level of care provided to patients in crisis. The board also hopes to understand the bigger picture of how money spent and program success have changed over time.

How to best access this information has been an ongoing source of confusion. Board members say they have struggled to establish regular communication with appropriate HHS staff to discuss mental health finances, and experienced difficulty in accessing the same financial reports the county is required to provide to the state and the board of supervisors.

Since HHS's Pinizzotto previously asked that records requests go through him, some board members expressed frustration he had not adequately facilitated those requests.

Pinizzotto explained the delays were caused by a seven-year lag in updating county records, a task completed this month. He also provided other logistical reasons for the absence of financial records, including a lack of timeliness on the part of state officials in providing quality monitoring reports. He assured board members he would communicate timely information requests in the future.

Another source of confusion has come from inconsistencies in the regular monthly reporting of the contracted service providers, with both MHAB members and providers repeatedly expressing the need for standardized formatting and data to ensure the reports are comprehensible. Board members say they have repeatedly requested information that is not subsequently provided, particularly by Orner Management Group.

In response, the board will establish a clear protocol and set of information for such reports to be in place by March, including data on response time, psychiatric holds issued and rescinded, and other indicators of services provided.





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Caption: Fire Academy graduates at the January 23 ceremony, from left to right: back row: Benjamin Mayes, Kristopher Kellem, Brian Gatton, Austin Young, and Fredrick Tiempo; middle row: Johnny Vega, Robert Casey, Jose Jesus Gonzalez, Wyatt Galton, Jorge Jacinto, Jordan Milani-Matthews, Joshua Miller, Brandon Mendenhall-Jack, Daniel Campbell, Kyle Pinson, Wade Sizemore, and Jake Walton; front row: Diego Lopez, Jason Ius, Richard Maldonado II, Makenzie Gould, Cristal Tapia, Andrea Pennebaker, Dalton Olson, Peirce Thomas, Alejandra Valderama, Danielle Ward, Jeremy Whitaker.

## 2015 CalFire Wildland Fire Academy graduates

More than 400 family and community members attended the CalFire graduation ceremony at Ukiah High School on Friday, January 23. The 28 high school and adult students in the 2015 class were honored for their completion of the Basic Wildland Fire Fighting Academy sponsored by CalFire and the Mendocino County Office of Education.

All of the students successfully completed 180 hours of firefighting training at the CalFire Howard Forrest training center. Each student was able to earn up to 14 certifications provided by CalFire to qualify for the application process to be a seasonal firefighter in Mendocino County for the upcoming 2015 fire season.

The ceremony began at 6:30 pm with bagpipes accompanying the graduates into the cafeteria. The

adults graduating were from the coast, inland and north Mendocino County. The high school students represented Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Willits and Laytonville high schools.

The partnership of CalFire and the Mendocino County Office of Education has produced and certified more than 70 local seasonal CalFire firefighters in the past three years. During the 2014 fire season, 100 percent of graduates were offered employment in the fire service, and made a significant difference in a season filled with many critical fire events in our county.

For more information on the Wildland Fire Academy, or other Career Technical Education opportunities offered through the Mendocino County Office of Education, contact Carlee Prine at 467-5123 or cprine@mcoe.us.



### OBITUARY | Jesse Harrison

## Jesse Harrison

Jesse Donald Harrison of Willits passed away January 27, 2015 at the age of 89. A native of Mountain Pine, Arkansas, he had lived in our community for more than 60 years. Jesse had been a maintenance supervisor for Little Lake Industries for more than 10 years. Formerly a member of the United States Marine Corps, he was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Masons. He was an avid hunter and trout fisherman, and loved to be outside pruning trees, mowing the yard on the rider mower, weeding, cutting firewood and building fences.

Jesse was a wonderful dad, grandpa and great-grandpa and had a great sense of humor. After each new birth, he would always say, "They're a keeper, a real dandy!" He was married to Louise for 68 blissful years.

Jesse is survived by his loving wife, Louise; son, Jim Harrison; daughter, Glenath Wear; grandchildren: Brook (Heidi) Losh, Jimmy (Candice) Harrison, Denell (Angle) Nunez, Jessica Mayberry, Alyson (Jeremy) Gregg, Kristina (Shawn) Wear, and Aaron (Ashley) Wear; great-grandchildren: Emily, Andrew, Michael, Nathan, Jesstina, Craig, Victoria, McKenzie, Haileigh, Landon, Emma, Maycee, Catarina, Caleigh, Sophia, and Isabella; his sister, Hattie Mae (Marcus) of Hot Springs, Arkansas; brother-in-law, Jake (Percy) Tanner of Arcata.

The funeral service will be at 11 am on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel, followed by a graveside service with military honors at the Willits Cemetery. A reception will follow at the Valley Oaks Mobile Park Community Hall.

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



## Gymnastics for parents & tots

Beautiful Bella, with her mom, Julie, plays on the bar and tackles a floor-level balance beam during Gateway Gymnastics' Parent/Tot class.

Coach Cathy Warren offers four levels of gymnastics: Parent/Tot (for 1 to 2 year olds and parents); Tiny Tumblers (age 3 to 5); Beginning (5 years+) and Intermediate.

New session began January 5 and will continue through May 22, at the gym at 275 Franklin Avenue. Classes are open until full, and drop-ins are OK when space is available.

Gymnastics "builds confidence, strength and flexibility," Coach Warren says.

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