

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

\$1.3 million

To the Editor:

\$1.3 million dollars is what our community, all of us within the school district, paid to build and equip a new state-of-the-art wood shop and metal shop at Willits High School. We spent the money because we believe in the value of vocational education.

Today those shop buildings are basically unused. An inquiry to Superintendent Pat Johnson as to why the shops are unused produced a three-part answer. The first part was that wood shop and metal shop does not lead to local jobs. The second part was that there is no interest from the students. The third part of the answer was that a shop teacher could not be found.

Today in our school, there seems to be a belief that learning to read a blueprint, a ruler, a tape measure or learning to swing a hammer, operate a radial arm saw or understand building technicalities has no value in our school system. Do the people in the school system believe there is no longer a need for these skills? Looking at shop classes in this manner is very short-sighted and detrimental to our community.

Shop classes acquaint students with ties to mathematics and sciences. There are the possibilities toward the arts which come from craftsmanship. Through the discussion of wood, metal, rubber, or plastics, shop classes lead to a better understanding of English. Imagine an exercise where a student is required to write to a customer explaining the costs of a project or students answer the question, "What use is English, Mathematics or History to me as a craftsman?"

Without early exposure to shop classes, many students will lose out on the opportunity to discover they like working with their hands and would like to pursue a career as a welder, wood worker, auto mechanic or machinist. Today the majority of our students are not going on to universities or state colleges, yet they are directed toward classes to prepare them for university. A curriculum that could land them a job as a craftsman would be better suited to non-college-bound students. Granted, it would be great if we could all be rocket scientists or hedge fund managers, but that is not the case. Just as there are those who could not be craftspeople, there are those who are not going to pursue an academic career.

Skilled workers are in extremely short supply today. Not only are the stereotypical jobs such as plumbers or carpenters in short supply, but companies such as Boeing and General Motors are having a hard time finding skilled workers. This trend may continue, and we will need to reach out to foreign countries to bring in skilled workers. The work of builders and mechanics is secure and cannot be outsourced and it cannot be made obsolete. Skilled work ties the craftsman to the community in which they live and the community to the craftsman. If you doubt this connection look around at the craftspeople who built the high school shop buildings. A worker living in India cannot build the forms and pour the concrete for the foundation of your new home. Many of the white collar jobs we once thought of as secure have now been made obsolete by technology or outsourced to another country. Today a person seeking a career path should consider what can and cannot be outsourced.

So looking at the situation as it stands today, I wonder what brought about such a disconnect to what we once referred to as vocational education? At the school board meeting on February 4 it was stated that 33 percent of our high school students are not eligible to participate in sports because their grades are D and below. The percentages of students who are in the freshman class have an even higher ineligible rate at 40 percent. I have no idea what the dropout rate is, but when you have grades like these I would imagine it is high. So how many of those students who are failing do you imagine are going on to university?

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.

Willits Weekly
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Could those students with low and failing grades be saved through vocational education? Could the additional ADA monies from students who might have dropped out, but stay in school and attend shop classes, pay a shop teacher's wages?

Can we all agree that a shop teacher should be hired and students encouraged to take at least one shop class? While we are at it we might consider home economics classes so students, girls and boys, might learn to sew a torn shirt or the basics of how to cook. Shouldn't school be a preparation for life other than just a preparation for university?

If you doubt the value of a craftsman, hire an electrician, plumber, carpenter or auto mechanic, and look at the bill.

Ron Stamps, Willits

Independent investigation needed

To the Editor:

This is an open letter to state and federal agencies and officials.

We are stunned by the collapse of a section of the Willits bypass viaduct, and we join with everyone in the community in sending prayers to the injured workers.

We are very concerned that a full, independent investigation needs to take place to determine what caused this collapse and to assure the safety of the construction of the entire project.

So far, there is little information, and it appears the only investigation is being done by OSHA and by Caltrans itself. While OSHA addresses worker safety, we believe it is equally important to have independent analysis of the structural integrity of the rest of the viaduct, to assess the ability of the piers to withstand flooding, viscous soil, and earthquakes, and to test the strength of the reinforcing steel used. These questions require clear answers before construction continues.

In addition to the shocking failure of the section of viaduct, the slopes at the southern interchange of this project have been unstable, with several substantial slides this winter causing partial closures of the current highway. This, too, needs to be analyzed to avoid safety risks to both workers and motorists.

And at the northern interchange, only a fraction of the 900,000 cubic yards of fill ultimately planned for this massive interchange have yet been brought in, and none of the proposed five bridges have yet been built. Could unstable subsoil conditions and/or sliding fill material cause future safety issues here as well? The whole valley is hundreds of feet deep of alluvial deposits, with no bedrock or solid footing for all this construction.

Moreover, at the northern interchange, Caltrans is planning numerous 3-foot diameter culverts to channel creeks and runoff under the wide swath of the interchange (over 200 feet wide in some places). If these culverts become clogged or fail, there could be major flooding problems.

Last but certainly not least, scores of Native American artifacts have been discovered (an entire ancient village and other sites have been destroyed; required protocols have not been followed) in the northern interchange area as well as in the proposed wetland mitigation areas. Further precautions are required, and this may constrain the already expensive, speculative, and potentially destructive mitigation plans.

We recognize that there is a huge investment in seeing this bypass project completed. Yet it is already – even before the viaduct collapse – far over budget and behind schedule. Caltrans and the contractor cannot be allowed to simply bulldoze ahead, with reckless disregard for safety, cost, cultural sites, and ecosystems.

There is still an opportunity to reduce some of the damage, cost overruns, delays, and risks, by eliminating the unnecessary 4-lane freeway interchange at the northern terminus of the project. Since Phase 1 is only 2 lanes – and Phase 2 seems extremely unlikely in the foreseeable future, if ever – a simple 2-lane intersection or roundabout could eliminate the need for an estimated 700,000 cubic yards of fill, four bridges, and many tons of concrete, not to mention concomitant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

This design change could also enable restoring about 24 acres of wetlands on the site (instead of speculative "creation" wetlands elsewhere) and avoid further destruction of Native American cultural resources.

David Partch, Willits

Caltrans must be held accountable. There must be an independent investigation. And Caltrans must be compelled to implement measures to reduce the impacts and cost overruns by eliminating the northern interchange. We look forward to your leadership and cooperation in this matter.

Madge Strong, on behalf of
Save Our Little Lake Valley, Willits

A second Grange

To the Editor:

Be part of history! Help get a second Grange chartered here in Willits.

Back in 1938, folks would work all day long at the mill or falling timber, and they'd come home and do their chores around the homestead. They didn't have TV or internet to occupy themselves, so they'd read (maybe by candlelight) for a bit, go to sleep, and start all over the next day. Day in and day out.

Then twice a month, on an evening after work, neighbors would come together at their local Grange and talk about their concerns or their family's celebrations. They would talk about the big chores that needed to be done, and friends would volunteer to help. Like-minded folks would discuss things they could work on together to make the community a better, safer, place.

These are the ideals we are going to keep in mind while organizing this new Grange: Friendship, Cooperation, and Family.

Friendship includes understanding, compassion, and caring.

Cooperation means building community, ensuring safety, and providing necessities.

Family has the need for health, education, and leadership.

Inspired by the past, we will meet together as families and friends to enjoy each other's company without outside influences, to enjoy each other's accomplishments, and to support each other in times of sorrow. There are 100+ years of Grange activities to draw upon for inspiration. With our fraternal brothers and sisters at Little Lake Grange, we are looking forward to working together in the future.

Come and join us at an organizational meeting on Monday, February 16, starting at 6:30 pm. We will answer any and all questions, and talk about names for our new Grange – bring your ideas! We will meet at the Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street.

Erica Bruce, Willits

'The Angel of Chatham Square': Reprise

To the Editor:

In November 2014, the Willits Community Theatre presented "The Angel of Chatham Square," written by Audie Foote, a playwright from Healdsburg. The play was exceedingly well attended and received. We had several sold-out shows, and people returning to see it twice. Everybody loved it. I felt honored to be a part of it.

Now the play is being staged again by the North Bay Stage Company at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts in the East Auditorium. The two lead actors from the Willits production will once again play their lead roles – Kelly Kesey as Kitty and Rod Grainger as Willy. I will also play the role of one of the bums, Chester, and a few other minor parts.

In addition, the author himself will be part of the cast, as well as three other members of the cast that performed the play in Healdsburg two years ago. With this combined and experienced cast, we hope to take the presentation to the next level in a larger and professionally equipped theater.

This gives everyone another chance to see this wonderful play, especially those who missed it here in Willits. Tickets can be ordered online at wellsfargocenterarts.org. There is a small surcharge for this online service. If you would like to avoid that, I would be happy to pick up tickets for you at the box office. The play dates are: March 20, 21, 27, 28, 29 and April 3, 4, 5. Pick a date, and give me a call at 459-7054 or email me at comm@thesighting.com.



Above: Girl Scouts from five different local troops at kick-off "Cookie Rally" this year.

Photo by Saprina Rodriguez

Thin Mints, Samoas and Tag-a-longs, oh my!

Girl Scouts selling cookies through March 8

The Girl Scouts annual cookie sale is off and running in Willits. You can find Girl Scouts selling cookies Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through March 8 in front of Safeway, Grocery Outlet, Main Street Music and sometimes

ER Energy, as well as door to door throughout town. With the February school break coming up next week, Girl Scouts will be selling at booths in front of stores every day. To find the exact locations and schedule, check out the "Cookie Locator" calendar, at www.cookielocator.littlebrownie.com, by entering the "95490" zip code.

There are two new varieties of Girl Scout cookies available this year: "Rah-Rah Raisin," with whole grain oats, raisins and Greek yogurt-flavored chunks, and – tah-dah! – a gluten-free option: "Toffee-Tastic." Classic cookies on sale this year are Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, and Savannah Smiles.

Girl Scouts offer a diet-conscious way to support scouting too: The "Gift of Caring" program allows customers to buy cookies and have them donated to the local food bank or to military troops overseas.

Interest in the Girl Scouts has "exploded" in the Willits

area in the last couple of years, says leader of Troop 10151 Saprina Rodriguez, "and there's a lot of girls participating." Rodriguez counts seven different troops for girls in Willits and one in Laytonville.

One reason for the increased interest, Rodriguez thinks, is that the activities the girls are doing are less "artsy and craftsy" and more engaged in the real world.

One of Troop 10151's projects last year was to try to "problem-solve" by educating other kids at Brookside School about garbage. "They didn't like how the janitor was treated by the kids, and they decided they were going to educate other kids about how they needed to put their food in the garbage. They picked up trash; they encouraged other kids to pick up trash; and they made a big poster for the janitor, thanking him for all his hard work, and presented it to him at school."

Other activities, past and planned, include cleaning out the creeks, helping a local elderly woman (met while selling cookies last year) with yard work and washing her car, and planting trees in Brooktrails. "Today's Girls Scouts are having a good time, and they're connecting with the community," Rodriguez said.

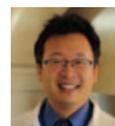
This year, the nine girls in Troop 10151 have a goal

of selling 550 boxes of cookies each, or a total of 4,950 boxes. Last year, the troop sold 4,500 boxes. Funds raised are used to help with expenses of attending Girl Scout camps and special events. On February 20 local Girl Scouts are going to see "Disney on Ice," in San Jose, with Girl Scouts from all over Northern California, with the special perk of getting to meet the characters after the show.

Anyone interested in finding out more about local Girl Scout troops can contact Loretta Tognoli of Girl Scouts of Northern California at ltognoli@girlscoutsnorcal.org or 463-2888, ext. 3005.

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

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



Michael Young, D.O., Interventional Pain Specialist

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



Rachel Chavez, P.A., Pain Specialist

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

Living Without Pain

Wednesday, March 4

5:00 p.m. registration
5:30-6:30 p.m. seminar

Willits Community Center

111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA

RSVP to 877.596.0644

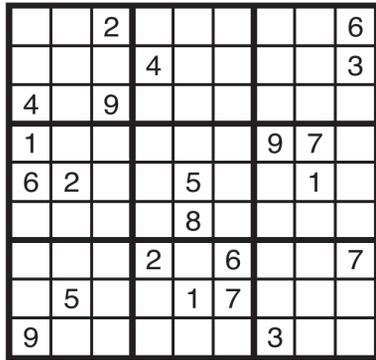
Space is limited.
Light refreshments will be served.
www.uvmc.org/painfree

Ukiah Valley Medical Center
Adventist Health

Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

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!

In The Stars

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, tackle a problem that's been puzzling you head-on this week. A direct approach may just provide you the unique perspective you need to crack this nut.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, state your case carefully when you attempt to get your point across at work. Others will appreciate your thoughtful approach and respond positively.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Gemini, you are up to your ears in work and you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel just yet. Rest assured that it's there, but it could take a few more days in the trenches.

CANCER

June 22/July 22

Various responsibilities require your full attention this week, Cancer. Don't be afraid to accept some help so you can get everything done on time.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23

Leo, you are invested in reaching a goal, and those around you are inspired by your gusto. Make the most of your energy and help others harness theirs if given the chance.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you work best when you have a plan in place. While you are not usually appreciative of surprises, this week you are willing to be a little more flexible.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

A disagreement at work has you unsure about what side to support, Libra. Stay neutral for the time being until you can get a better grasp of the situation.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, focus on issues at work this week. Channel your energy into productivity at the office, and know that there will be time to daydream down the road.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

You may feel strong winds of change blowing in your direction, Sagittarius, and you do not know what is in store for you. Sometimes it can be exciting to be surprised.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, look forward to the weeks ahead, as some good news is on the horizon. Allow others around you to share in the good times ahead.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

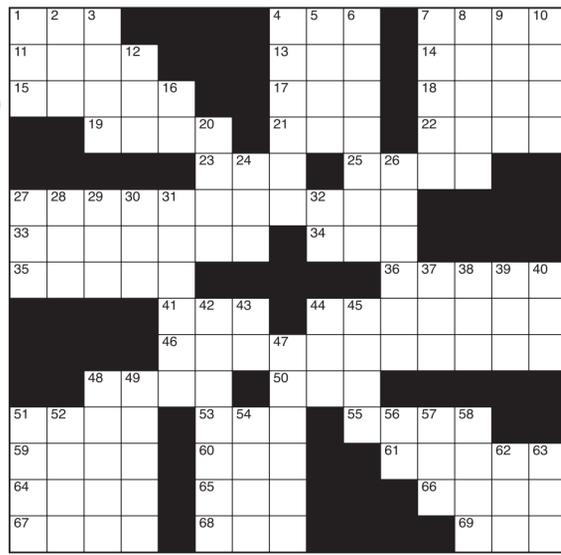
Aquarius, revisit your career goals this week. Even if your goals seem ever-changing, it can be productive to reexamine them from time to time.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Keep things simple this week, Pisces. You will have a lot on your plate in the days ahead, but it's nothing you can't handle.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Fashion dandy
4. Cycles per second
7. Strikebreaker
11. Aquatic reptile (informal)
13. Express pleasure
14. Swiss river
15. Contains cerium
17. Ribonucleic acid
18. On top
19. Taxis
21. Banking machine
22. Small salamander
23. Voltage
25. Pointed summit
27. DWTS host
33. In a way, smoked
34. Peat moss source
35. W. African nation
36. Cocoa plum tree
41. Holiday (informal)
44. Venezuelan capital
46. DWTS hostess
48. Hideouts
50. Actress Lupino
51. The content of cognition
53. Point one point

CLUES DOWN

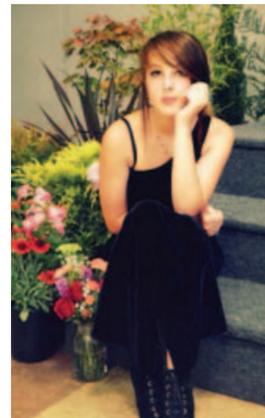
1. Licenses TV stations
2. Metal-bearing mineral
3. Meat from a pig (alt. sp.)
4. A bottle with a stopper
5. Short labored breath
6. Hair washing soap
7. Steam bath
8. "R.U.R." playwright Karel
9. Beside one another in lines
10. Not straight
12. Former OSS
16. Truck driver's radio
20. Dried-up
24. Million gallons per day (abbr.)
26. Encircle (archaic)
27. ___ death do us part
28. A single unit
29. A Siemens
30. Prohibition
31. V. William's clothing line
32. Scotland's poet's initials
37. Auto
38. Single spot card in a deck
39. Crow sound
40. Former CIA
42. Factory where arms are made
43. Radioactive unit
44. Scoundrel
45. Freshwater duck genus
47. 9 decades
48. Makes tractors
49. 55120
51. Southeast Nigeria people
52. Arab sailing vessel
54. Hay bundle
56. Blood type
57. Driver compartment
58. "Das Kapital" author Marx
62. Consume food
63. Dental degree



Welcome newbie Madeline!

Madeline Kay Yoder was born January 14, 2015, to Austin and Andrea Yoder. Madeline weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 18 1/2 inches long. She was also welcomed home by siblings Caleb and Jayden Lovell.

Willits Weekly has never charged for our "Congrats Column" submissions! Send us yours today!
willitsweekly@gmail.com



Happy Birthday, Natalee!

Happy Birthday to my daughter, Natalee Nicole Lopes, who will turn 16 on Valentine's Day. She is the light of my life. I love you so much sweetness. I am so proud of you. Love, Mom (Alana).

'Love a Bully'

On Saturday, February 14, Mendocino County's Animal Care Services will join shelters all over the U.S. to celebrate Valentine's Day with "Love-A-Bully" specials. All Bully breed dogs in the Ukiah Shelter will be able to go home for the low adoption fee of \$50. If an adopter lives in Mendocino County, a \$25 license fee will be added for license registration.

All dogs are up-to-date on vaccines, spayed or neutered and microchipped, and they have received a heartworm test. They even come with free training classes!

The shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah and is open Saturday, February 14, for adoptions, from 10 am until 4 pm. We encourage people to come at 9 am that day to watch our Pitbull training class, to see what great, well-behaved Bullies are at the shelter.

To see all the dogs for adoption, visit www.mendocoshelterpets.com; for more info call the Adoption Desk at 467-6453.



Odin with ball.

Photo by Rod Coats

OBITUARY | Tracy Roller

Tracy Roller

Tracy Dean Roller of Willits passed away January 30, 2015 at the age of 54. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, he was raised in Los Angeles and Pismo Beach, and had been a resident of our community from 2002 to 2007 and returned in 2014. Formerly he had been a tow-truck driver and siding installer. Tracy loved playing golf on the Brooktrails course. After his diagnosis, Tracy's dream of becoming a surfer came



true through his brother, amputee professional surfer Rodney Roller of Pismo Beach.

Tracy is survived by his loving wife of 20 years, Christina "Cook" Roller; and his children: Travis, 17, Katelyn, 14, Christopher, 12, and Melissa, 10. His greatest love was seeing his children give, share, and strengthen each other. "We will always love you, Dad, and we know your loving spirit will always be with us. Love you, Dad!" Also surviving Tracy are his brothers: William Roller, 52, Rodney Roller, 47, Christopher Roller, 46; and his father, William Roller.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jeanette "Vittioe" Roller; sister, Pam Roller; and brother, Lloyd Roller.

Memorial services will be held at his former church, St. Cecilia Church in Cincinnati, Friday, February 20, 2015 at 10:30 am.

Local memorial services will be held at his home in Willits on April 6, 2015 at 2 pm. After that date, his brother, Rodney, will row out to sea at Pismo Beach to scatter Tracy's ashes. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

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COMING IN MARCH!
Beginning March 2! Ballet Barre Class with Suzanne Wagner, former ballerina with Berlin Ballet. Mon. and Wed. at 10:30 a.m. No special shoes or clothes necessary. See webpage for more details. This is a session running from Mar. 2-30.

Come one time, come to them all.
(Next session arts Apr. 20)

NEW STUDENTS!
Never been to our studio? First class is free!

New Student special:
5 classes for \$35!

Studio Joy punch cards make great gifts! Give the gift of fitness to someone you love.

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- Children under 13 are always welcome and always FREE

Come like us on Facebook: Studio Joy, Willits
1262 Blosser Lane Willits, CA 707-841-7499

Willits Weekly's 'Phrase Find'

Match the phrases below to their specific advertisement in this edition for a chance at a prize!

Every month, a random week – or multiple weeks – will be chosen for Willits Weekly to run our new Phrase Find contest.

The contest will feature five phrases that can each be found in an ad in the current edition. Each phrase will match only one advertisement.

The first person to EMAIL the correct answers to willitsweekly@gmail.com will win a prize.

For this week's prize, Main Street Music will provide the winner with A FREE MOVIE RENTAL!

Answers will only count as correct if they include the COMPLETE NAME OF THE BUSINESS, as shown on the ad where the phrase is found.

Winners will be replied to via email and will receive instructions on how to get their prize at that time. Winners will also be publicly announced in the next round of Phrase Find.

Phrase Find will be run on random weeks at random intervals, so make sure to check often to see if the current edition contains the contest. Phrases will only be pulled from regular display advertisements: not from classifieds, news stories, letters to the editor, Calendar or other editorial content.

Facebook posts, messages, texts, phone calls, personal conversations or any other form of communication will not be counted as entries. **All entries must be emailed to: willitsweekly@gmail.com only.** Email time stamps/order in inbox will indicate the winner in the event of a tie.

1. Where can you "get cozy with your cutie"?

2. "Rooster & Owls" is a theme day for what business?

3. Where can you get "Watch Batteries Replaced"?

4. Who is opening a "New Willits Office"?

5. Who can help you with "Lot Development"?

Willits Weekly's Phrase Find - February 12, 2015 - EMAIL answers to willitsweekly@gmail.com

January 22 WINNER:
Jack Isborn

Open Daily: 9 am to 6 pm
101 East Barbara Lane
Willits, California **459-2201**

CHICKS! CHICKS! CHICKS!
are now here!

Come see all the breeds and stock up on chick supplies!

COAST HARDWARE
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TUESDAY EVENING CLINICS

Because getting sick doesn't always happen between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm
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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

REDWOOD MEDICAL CLINIC
Adventist Health

88 Madrone Street | Willits, CA 95490 | www.howardhospital.com

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\$20 Each - Buy now or order today!



I love you so much, Old Man!
Kevin Walker and Briana Lawrence, together since 2007.
Izzy and me, as sweet as can be.



Happy anniversary to the love of my life! Cheers to 80 more! Love, Genevieve.
Happy Valentine's Day Casey King, love you. It's been the best 10 years of my life.
Happy Valentine's Day, Nana. Love, Lucy



Happy Valentine's Day to my one and only, Marcus Kelley. Love, your Queen
Marcelino and April.
Happy Valentine's Day Eric. Love you, love Jodi.



Shawna and Jack.
My three loves and !!
Happy Valentine's Day, Miss Janie. Hugs, DW.

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Happy Valentine's Day to my love bug Mariah and my big boy Trenton. Love, Mom and Dad



Happy Valentine's Day to my love Shawn Hays and Nevaeh Hays. I love you both to the stars and beyond. Love Always, Mommy/Lela.



Happy Valentine's Day, Dad & Mom <3 Grady
Chad, you are my forever Valentine. Love, Lara



Happy Valentine's Day to my love Bobbly Casey. Love you forever, Kristina



Happy Valentine's Day <3 Dannie & Kaila <3 So Proud of You. Love You, Mom



Happy Valentine's Day to my darling husband (and soon-to-be father of our child!) Victor Duran. Love, Angela Duran



Happy Valentine's Day, Daddy. We love you to the moon and back. Love, Jakoby & Lucy



Happy Valentine's Day, Mom

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Crowned!

Shyanne DeMarco of Willits takes 2015 Miss Mendocino County title

For the second year in a row, the Miss Mendocino County tiara will rest atop the head of a Willits woman, this year passing from 2014 winner Kassy Aldaco to 2015 winner Shyanne DeMarco.

DeMarco was one of four Willits ladies competing for the title; Willits girls swept the first and second runner-up awards, too, as well as the Punky Hammel Miss Congeniality award.

Maureen Moore Graphics & Photographress maureen@willitsweekly.com

First runner-up, and a \$2,500 scholarship, went to Michaela Terrell, and second runner-up, a \$1,500 scholarship, and the Punky Hammel award (with another \$200), went to Emily Oberg.

The other contestants – including Willits' Amanda Mason and other county residents Harmonie Roberts, Ruby Simonian and Hannah Forbes – all received \$900 for their participation in the 2015 contest.

The big scholarship, a whopping \$5,000, was awarded to DeMarco, who also won the Miss America Outstanding Sponsorship scholarship for raising more than \$5,000 in sponsorships, earning her another \$1,800, bringing her total to almost \$7,000 for scholarships as she moves on with her education.

Another Willits girl was there in spirit as well, Aldaco's dear friend, Kayla Chesser, who passed away very unexpectedly last November. Aldaco asked for her farewell show to be dedicated to Chesser, and several musical numbers were also performed in her honor.

The big pageant day started long before the official crowning moment, however, with all the contestants having to compete in a "press conference"-style interview, showcase a special talent, answer onstage questions, and demonstrate their physical fitness and elegant walk in the swimsuit and evening wear portions of the pageant.

"During the big interview, I felt very positive about my answers, and it gave me a lot of confidence for the rest of the day," explained DeMarco.

The night's big pageant started off with an opening number where the girls performed a pre-choreographed routine. They then moved to the onstage interview, emceed by Aldaco.

"You had to pick a question out of the fishbowl," explained DeMarco. "My question was 'If I could have dinner with anyone

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



At top, left: Willits' Emily Oberg, in center wearing purple, learns she is the recipient of the Miss Congeniality award as the other contestants cheer. She also received the second runner-up award.

Photo by Josh Bowers

At top, right: Shyanne DeMarco holds a handful of bouquets and smiles at the crowd.

Photo by Tammy DeMarco

Above: The newly crowned Miss Mendocino County 2015, Shyanne DeMarco, walks across the stage.

Below, from left: Willits' Amanda Mason is escorted by her grandfather, Ron Busch, during the evening gown portion of the event. First runner-up Michaela Terrell walks along the stage showing off her golden gown. Emily Oberg plays the banjo during the talent portion.

Photos by Josh Bowers



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Thursday, February 12

2015 Willits Science Fair: open to the public for viewing for the second day on Thursday, February 12, 8:30 am to 3 pm, at the Willits Community Center. Projects were judged on Tuesday, so ribbons have already been awarded: those projects "qualifier" ribbon are eligible 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.

NC Financial Group Open House: "Tax season is upon us," and the NC Financial Group has opened a new Willits office to help locals with tax preparation. Nicholas Casagrande, EA, invites Willits residents to drop by the new office at 660 South Main Street, on Thursday, February 12 from 2 pm to 7 pm, and on Friday, February 13 from 6:30 am to 1 pm. Visit www.ncfinancialgroup.com or call 855-240-6606 (toll-free) or 415-480-3669 for more information.

"Arsenic and Old Lace": The classic dark comedy at the Willits Community Theatre. Tonight's special benefit performance, complete with dinner from Emandal Farm, is sponsored by the Brooktrails Women's Club. Dinner starts at 6:15 pm; play at 7 pm. To reserve tickets for tonight's performance, contact Dorit at 459-6706. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details about the "play-appropriate" dinner menu. "The play is a faithful production from the original hit script by Joseph Kesselring and contains the zany antics of the elderly, well-meaning Brewster aunts Abby and Martha, played by Virginia Hanley and Janet Denninger, who attempt to cure lonely old men of their misery with arsenic-laced elderberry wine.



'Arsenic and Old Lace'

The comedic show also highlights their nephew Mortimer Brewster (played by Kevin Clay) in his love affair with the lovely Elaine Harper (played by Alexis Eich), and his efforts to keep his aunts from doing a stretch in Sing Sing prison."

This final weekend also includes a Friday and Saturday night show at 8 pm (\$15), and a closing Sunday matinee at 2 pm (\$10). Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 S. Main Street, online at www.brownpaperickets.com, or leave a message at the WCT office, 707-459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door for all performances.

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz Night with local musicians. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. "Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their and partake during the second set, so long as it fits within the moment of sounds!" 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, February 13

NC Financial Group Open House: Today from 6:30 am to 1 pm. See Thursday, February 12 listing for details.

Study Sessions for Amateur Radio License Test: Study sessions, using the Gordon West study guide, will be held February 13 and 27, and March 13 and 27, at the Willits Library Community Room from 2 to 4 pm. The studies are in preparation for an upcoming Amateur Radio License test, to be held April 18 at noon, at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits. Study sessions will be primarily for Technician level licenses; however there will be help for those wanting to pass a General Class test. "If you have always wanted to get a radio license to be more prepared for emergencies, or have thoughts of talking to other radio operators around the country (or world), then now is the time to become licensed and get on the air!" Info about study sessions: contact KJ6ZVS@gmail.com. Contact KG6TXU@arfl.net for info about the April test, or to reserve a spot.

"Arsenic and Old Lace": 8 pm, see Thursday, February 12 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Jacob Green, "an acoustic, multi-string player and one-man band, performing on guitar, dobro, banjo, ukulele & mandolin, while simultaneously playing harmonica, stomp box and foot tambourine." Original songs and covers. 8 pm. No cover. Visit www.jacobgreenmusic.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

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

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

COLUMN | At the Movies



'Jupiter Ascending'

Daniel Essman
Columnist

The Story: Science Fiction. Adventure. Satire. Unknown to her, the gentle young woman named Jupiter (Mila Kunis) is the Queen of the Known Universe and has ownership of, or title to, Earth and all its inhabitants, to rule as she pleases. Unfortunately, there are others, headed by the evil, snarly and degenerate Balem Abrasax (Edward Redmayne), who want to kill us all, or rather harvest our life force for their own uses.

My Thoughts: If the above sounds a bit like the life-sucking computer in "The Matrix," that's because the producers of "Jupiter Ascending" are the Wachowskis brother and sister team that created the "Matrix Trilogy."

My fellow film geeks, the first wave of critics have called this movie incoherent. I didn't find it so. Oh, there were a few moments when I wondered why some androids (maybe they were cyborgs) were helping the dog-man (Channing Tatum) in his quest to save lovely Jupiter, but those confusions quickly were overwhelmed by the amazing and satirical spectacle that this movie is.

I watched the flick with a theater filled with middle schoolers. There was no talking, or squirming in the seats. Further (and this was a good test), when Tuppence Middleton emerged naked from her life-giving pool, there was only scattered and short-lived giggles. The kids were into the melodrama; the movie ended to applause.

Parents: The movie is not for children: Teens and up.

Willits Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



Photo by Nathan Dehart

'Museum Road Show' covers county's history

Opens in Willits, Saturday, March 7

The Mendocino County Museum presents the 2015 Mendocino County Museum Road Show, opening in Willits on Saturday, March 7, for one night only, before traveling to shows in Point Arena, Ukiah, Philo and Fort Bragg.

Now in its second year, the show features enactments of oral history stories by noted local actors and is accompanied by music both original and traditional by Americana trio, All About Sally.

"We're bringing history to the people, bringing it alive, using the real words of the people who lived those stories," states Museum Road Show Artistic Director Linda Pack. Pack created the show from oral history accounts and historical archives with help from Ukiah Players Theatre director Kate Magruder. Pack and Magruder also act in the show, along with local talent Rick Allan, Ricci Dedola, Billy Hetherington, Nichole Phillips, and Tony Rakes.

Stories range from the long-lived Lucy Young, a Native woman whose grandfather foresaw the coming of Europeans, to some regrettably short-lived members of the Coates and Frost families, whose members took part in a multigenerational feud in Willits based on differing loyalties in the Civil War. Along the way we meet Jeremiah "Doc" Standley, a Ukiah-based sheriff who talked an angry mob out of attacking a group of Chinese immigrant railroad workers on the coast; Helen Carpenter, mother of Grace Hudson, whose trek west from Kansas was so arduous that she and her companions had to jettison their cookstove before descending into Potter Valley; and the inimitable Black Bart, part gentleman, part criminal, who was known for robbing Wells Fargo bank safes and leaving poetry in his wake.

Tickets (advance purchase is recommended) are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65+, and \$10 for youth 20 and under. Order tickets online at www.MendocinoMuseum.org, by calling 459-2736, or by visiting the museum, 400 East Commercial Street, during open hours, 10 am to 4:30 pm Wednesday through Sunday.

— Roberta Werdinger for the Mendocino County Museum

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

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, Corn dogs, 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.

Laytonville Valentine's Day Dinner: 5 to 8 pm at the Laytonville Grange, 1620 Branscomb Road, about 2 miles west of Highway 101. "Choose between two chef-designed locally sourced offerings: Pork Loin Special or Vegan Extravaganza." Take-out available, starting at 4:30 pm. "Very reasonably priced adult and child dinners. Phone to order: 489-1111 or just show up. For more info, call: 984-7078.

"Arsenic and Old Lace": 8 pm, see Thursday, February 12 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Valentine's Day party with Forrest Glycer of Schindig and Friends, "unique brand of folk Americana originals and covers." 8 pm. No cover. Visit www.jacobgreenmusic.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

McKenna Faith: "first-class, high-energy, boot stompin' country," live at Boomer's Saloon, 45020 U.S. 101, Laytonville. 9 pm. \$10. 21+. Info: 984-6534.



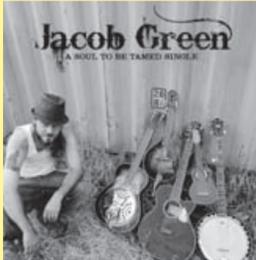
Sunday, February 15

"Arsenic and Old Lace": Final show: 2 pm matinee, see Thursday, February 12 listing for details.

Monday, February 16

Relay for Life Team Captain Meeting: from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. "Please come and join us to learn more about Relay." The 2015 Willits Relay for Life event is set for July 25-26, at Rec Grove Park.

Willits Dances of Universal Peace: aka Sufi dancing, 7 to 9 pm at The Muse, 30 East San Francisco Avenue. Every third Monday of the



Jacob Green



McKenna Faith

Little League page on Facebook.

Wednesday, February 18

Mental Health Advisory Board meeting: the MHAB meeting is in Willits this month, starting at 10 am on February 18 at the Willits Integrated Services Center, 221 South Lenore Avenue, in the Atlantic Conference Room. "The meeting is intended for members of the public interested in supporting their local mental health services system. Public members are encouraged to attend the meeting to ask questions and give testimony." MHAB meeting agenda will be posted at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/mh_board.htm. For more info, contact MHAB Chair John Wetzler at johngwetzler@gmail.com or 707-937-3116.

Dinner theater benefit for Brooktrails Women's Club scholarships at WCT

A special benefit dinner and performance of "Arsenic And Old Lace" at Willits Community Theatre will be hosted by the Brooktrails Women's Club on Thursday, February 12. The buffet dinner and dessert catered by Emandal Farm will start at 6:15 pm, and the performance of the popular play will follow at 7 pm. "In keeping with the play, Emandal Farms will be providing "tea-style" sandwiches of roast beef on dried plum whole wheat bread with fresh horseradish aioli, and sandwiches of cheddar cheese made with dark, orange rye bread and spicy mustard, both served with "piccailini" on the side. Also on the menu will be elderberry wine and Lady Baltimore Cake for dessert." Tickets are \$15 and funds raised will go toward the Club's student scholarship fund for the Willits School District. To reserve tickets for the event, contact Dorit at 707-459-6706. Seating will be limited, so reserve tickets in advance.

— Steve Hellman, for Willits Community Theatre

Last Chance for 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 Dori Grauer at 459-6535 or Meredith Bliss at 459-2965 for more information.

Four Shillings Short: Celtic duo at Willits Community Theatre

The virtuoso Celtic music duo Four Shillings Short performs at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, February 20 at 8 pm. This delightful husband-and-wife duo provides a surprising array of songs and sounds from Celtic, folk and world origins. Aodh Og O'Tuama and Christy Martin stir in a generous amount of Indian ragas and medieval flavorings.

The pair adds captivating storytelling and humorous side notes to create an amazing show. They play from a collection of more than 30 musical instruments, including the hammered and mountain dulcimers, mandolin, mandola, bouzouki, tinwhistles, recorders, medieval and Renaissance woodwinds, North Indian sitar, charango, bowed psaltery, banjo, bodhran, guitar, percussion instruments and even a krumphorn, or Renaissance German curved horn.

The duo has been touring in the United States and Ireland since 1997, with as many as 150 concerts per year at music festivals, theaters, performing arts centers, folk societies, libraries and schools. They have released 12 recordings. Their music virtuosity makes the old songs sound new and new songs sound like the time-worn spells from the old country. Their rare appearance at WCT is a show not to be missed.

Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at www.brownpaperickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

Editor's Note: Four Shillings Short will also perform a free concert on Thursday, February 19 at the Round Valley Library in Covelo, from 7 to 8 pm.

— Steve Hellman for WCT

Thursday, February 19

Free Healthy Lifestyle Classes:

The first in a series of free "Healthy Lifestyle" classes presented by Adventist Health on health topics of interest to the general public. Tonight's class, "Healthy Hearts," is presented by David Ploss, MD. Classes will continue on the third Thursday evening of every month, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the 11 Oaks Conference Room, with various presenters. Next month's class (March 19) is "Moving Safely," Presented by Heather Anderson, PT. To register, call 456-3132.

Four Shillings Short: Celtic duo plays a free concert at the Round Valley Library in Covelo, from 7 to 8 pm. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details about this "delightful husband-and-wife duo."

"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. 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.

Friday, February 20

Four Shillings Short: Celtic duo plays the Willits Community Theater, 37 West Van Lane, at 8 pm. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.

Saturday, February 21

Free Saturday bridge classes: New session starts today; taught by Donna Vaiano. Also sponsored by Friends of the Willits Library and the American Contract Bridge League. 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, Saturdays, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. For new and review students. Info: Donna at 459-9035.

Donna at 459-9035.

A new cat for Valentine's?

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 to see all the animals available for adoption.



Christy Martin and Aodh Og O'Tuama of Four Shillings Short.



David Ploss, MD

Sunday, February 22

"95490" Town Hall Meeting: the first "95490" Town Hall Meeting of 2015 features three presenters: Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, Brooktrails Township Manager Denise Rose and Willits Mayor Bruce Burton. The theme of the meeting is "How can we improve?": with presenters "starting the conversation by sharing their own vision of how to improve our community to benefit all of its residents," the

meeting is intended to give all residents of the 95490 zip code "a chance to share our thoughts, ideas and plans on what more we would like to see happen here – and the ways in which we can work together to make these things happen." Willits City Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street, from 4 to 6 pm. Info: Jane McCabe at janemccabe44@yahoo.com or 4056-9067.

Save the Date

Grange Farm School Benefit with Hot Buttered Rum, February 27

Bluegrass concert with Adkins and Loudermilk, February 27

Senior Center Chili Cookoff, March 6

WEF Drive-Through Tri-Tip Dinner, March 6

Mendocino County Museum Road Show, March 7

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.

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.

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 or Jenny Watts at Watsup@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 cnylmon@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.

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.

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 Baechtlet 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 MHM 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, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: 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.



Above: The littles florist-to-be, Kelsey Escobedo, practices while playing in the shop.
 Photo by Annette Pinon
 Left: The Flowers by Annette crew, from left: Annette Pinon, Mattie Pinon, and Kelsey Escobedo held by Lisa Escobedo.
 Below: The ladies were already hard at work Monday morning, readying their selection of flowers for the upcoming holiday.
 Photos by Maureen Moore

Shop Local - for your florist!

We know it's easy to just sit at home and look at the flashy national florist network commercials, promising dozens of roses, almost for the price of a dozen bagels, but, if it's too good to be true, it probably is, and you may end up wasting money, instead of saving it.

National chains such as FTD, 1-800-Flowers.com and other similar services act mainly as a middle man, using a chunk of your money meant for flowers, to pay their call center staff for making a phone call on your behalf. Some arrangements come shipped with an "assemble yourself" model in a box, or maybe have spent lots of time waiting around - without water - in some big stock warehouse.

How to remedy this? SHOP LOCAL.

Before the age of the internet, florist searches were much more difficult, but now with Google - and the prevalence of toll-free calling - the best plan is to go direct to the florist and place your order. Sending to Kentucky? Call Kentucky. Sending into Willits from out of town? Call Willits.

Most all florists will be able to take your credit card over the phone, too.

"It's absolutely the best way to get the

most for your money," explained Annette Pinon, owner of Willits Flowers by Annette.

"Personal service and attention to quality is something all locally owned shops strive for," continued Pinon. "We know our customers, and we know our recipients, and we want to make sure everyone gets a gorgeous arrangement, and their money's worth."

Another tip? Ask for a "designer's choice" arrangement, allowing the experienced florists to use their expertise and select the freshest and best-looking flowers for your arrangement. You can also look at photos online and then call and discuss your likes and dislikes with the florist, and end up with a beautiful custom arrangement.

Flowers by Annette is available for Valentine's Day orders and will be open through Saturday for deliveries. Contact them directly at 459-6588 or stop by 1701 Valley Road in Willits to place your order.

- Maureen Moore



WILLITS POWER Equipment

1600 S. Main St.
Willits
707-459-6420

MEN'S VALENTINES DAY GIFTS HERE!

Carhartt Accessories 20% OFF
 All Bags • Gun Cases
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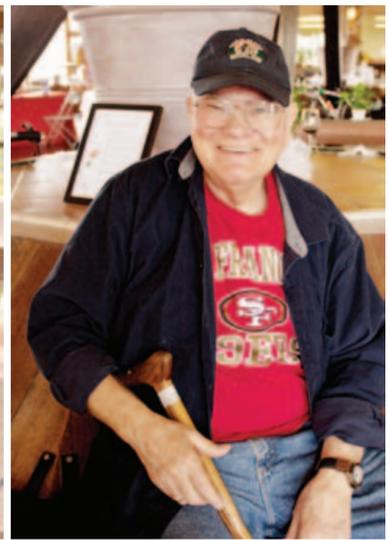
Get your Sweetie Something Sweet this Valentine's Day

Fudge

FLAVORS

Buy one pound, get a half pound free!

Red Velvet Chocolate Walnut & Chewy Praline



A Toast to Red!

A healthy heart is the best gift on Valentine's Day

The threat of rain didn't discourage more than 200 people from stopping by the first annual "A Toast to Red! A Celebration of the Heart" event held at BARRA of Mendocino's Event Center in Redwood Valley on Saturday. This event was the culmination of the weeklong promotion of Willits and Ukiah businesses as part of the "Go Red for Women - Paint the Town Red" week.

It was the winery's first attempt to bring together heart health professionals, relaxation specialists, and vendors, including those showing off their healthy skin products - all in an effort to focus on raising funds for the American Heart Association and to educate the public on how to monitor life choices that relate to maintaining a healthy heart ... especially for women. "Music, chocolate truffles, wine, and massage allowed guests to relax and de-stress," said Martha Barra, owner of BARRA of Mendocino winery.

Diane Smalley, licensed acupuncturist, and K.C. Chamberlain, both of Willits, felt the event's mix of educational and therapeutic offerings in a fun environment proved that healing doesn't have to take place in a clinical atmosphere.

One of the many highlights of the day was an interactive Q&A session on heart health with doctors David R. Ploss, MD, electrophysiologist and cardiologist, and Monica Divakaruni, MD, interventional cardiologist.

Katrina Kessen, manager of the BARRA Tasting Room and Event Center, remarked: "There is not a better example of the word 'community' than what we experienced this past week from our friends and partners in Willits, the Willits Chamber of Commerce and Willits LocalFirst organization. The energy and excitement surrounding the week's events could not have happened without the support of such caring individuals. We look forward to bringing even more awareness to next year's 'Go Red for Women' campaign."

"The Willits Chamber was thrilled to be a part of the event!" director Lynn Kennelly said. "We commend BARRA of Mendocino for their vision to reach out and collaborate with health care providers and businesses to improve the awareness of heart disease prevention in our county. We look forward to next year!"



Above: Jan Stephens discusses the finer points of the Tower Garden growing system.
 Right: Diane Smalley and her mother's red dress from the 1950s.
 Photos by Jenny Senter

At top, left: K.C. Chamberlain and Diane Smalley enjoy "A Toast to Red!" At top, right: Frank Deuel of Willits awaits a chair massage.

Above, left: Laura Allman, Sheriff Tom Allman and Kim Mayfield. Above, center: Mother and daughter piecrust experts Kim Mayfield and Brenda Moss of Kemmy's Pies. Above, right: Katrina Kessen, Lisa Epstein and Lynn Kennelly.

Photos by Jenny Senter



Weekly Promotions for February

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

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

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

THURSDAYS - Super Senior Day
 The Senior Freeplay will be preloaded to the Players Club Card from 8:00 am-4:00 pm
 Half off lunch coupon for those participating.
 Specials posted at Creekside Café, 8:00 am-4:00 pm

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

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

SUNDAYS - Snowflake Surprise
 12:00 Noon-9:00 pm
 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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 Mon-Thurs: 2:10, 4:45 & 7:15pm

SPONGE BOB: SPONGE OUT OF WATER

(PG) 1 hr 32 mins
 Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm
 Sat/Sun: 11:40am, 1:45, 3:50, 6:00 & 8:30pm
 Mon-Thurs: 12:45, 2:50, 5:00 & 7:30pm

JUPITER ASCENDING

(PG13) 2 hrs 7 mins
 Fri: 5:20 & 8:00pm
 Sat/Sun: 12:00, 2:40, 5:20 & 8:00pm
 Mon-Thurs: 1:40, 4:20 & 7:00pm

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

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Appetizers

Calamari Rings \$10 Shrimp Cocktail \$12 Crab Cakes \$14

Salads and Soup

Cesar \$7 House \$5
 Seafood Chowder Cup \$3 Bowl \$6

Entrees

Prime Rib Full Cut 16 oz. \$26 Petite Cut 8 oz. \$19
 Chicken Marsala \$19
 Served with Creamy Marsala and Mushroom Sauce
 Crab Stuffed Salmon \$28
 Served with Saffron Lobster Sauce
 Pan Seared Salmon \$25
 Served with Creamy Lemon Garlic Sauce
 Shrimp and Crab Ravioli \$22
 Served with Saffron Lobster Sauce
 Chef's Vegetarian Special \$18
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Coupon valid Feb. 14, 2015

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Above from left: Soup booths from the Willits Lions Club, Jolie Lamour Studio, Willits Community Services and Food Bank, and the Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Photos by Maureen Moore



Above: Best Table Decoration winners, the Female Farmers of Willits. Above, right, top: Soup booths of The Church of Divine Lineage and Healing Central Chiropractic (bottom). Photos by Maureen Moore



Above: Best Soup winners Little Lake Health Center. Photo by Leslie Rich



Above: All the award-winners at the Sip Some Soup 2015 contest. Photo by Leslie Rich



Above: The soup booths of Willits Charter School (top), Adam's Restaurant (left), and "Tam's Soup of the Week" (right). Photos by Maureen Moore

Sip Some Soup 2015

The annual Sip Some Soup contest Saturday night drew a full house of tasters, featured 19 soups and a silent auction, and raised almost \$5,000 for Willits Daily Bread.

Veteran and newcomer soupmakers offered a wide selection of soups with flavors from different cultures and varied ingredients. "I think the soups were fantastic this year," said Daily Bread director Cindy Savage. "Well, they're fantastic every year, but this year in particular.... A lot of love went into those soups."

First-place winner was the Little Lake Health Center with El Gallo Rico, a creamy chicken soup with a delightful smoky flavor. Second place went to Tam Adam's "Soup of the Week" entry, a "Heart-Warming Thai" soup, with heart-shaped pieces of sweet red pepper as a garnish. Third

place went to the Willits Charter School for their Potato Leek soup, prepared by students in the culinary arts program with vegetables grown in the school garden. The award for best table went to the Female Farmers of Willits with its "Can't Stop the Beat" chorus line dancing behind the table while serving Beet Ginger soup made with yellow, golden and red beets.

Other wonderful soupmakers included: Willits Toy Run, with Biker BBQ Pork & Bean; Trinity Cleaning Service, with Pumpkin Ginger; Sherwood School, with Coconut Lemongrass; Amazing Grace, with Hearty Beef Vegetable; Healing Central Chiropractic, with It's a Wild World; Adam's Restaurant, with Adam's Clam Chowder; Brookside School Farm, with Pumpkin Curry; Emandal Chorale, with Pozole; Jolie Lamour Studio, with Ying Yang Live; Church of the Divine

Lineage, with Coconut Mango; Stephanie Roellins, with Ecuadorian Quinoa Cheese; Relay for Life, with Relay Chicken Sausage; Willits Community Services/Food Bank, with Drunken French Onion; Willits Lions Club, with Asian Pear Sunchoke; and Seventh-day Adventist Church, with Butternut Squash Pear.

It costs about \$60,000 a year to keep the Willits Daily Bread hot meals program going: the nearly \$5,000 raised by Sip Some Soup shows local support (important for grants and other funding) as well as helping pay the bills, but further contributions are always welcome: send to Willits Daily Bread, 58 Bush Street, Willits CA 95490, drop by Monday through Thursdays afternoons, or call Savage at 459-3947 or 367-5669.

— Jennifer Poole



Above: The soup booths of the Mendocino County Museum (left), Relay for Life (center), and the Emandal Chorale (right). Photos by Maureen Moore

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Community HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, February 26, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit miraclesinyourlife.org.

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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 my father may be, please email me at jajzeadams@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.

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 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!

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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.

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The rest of Flowers | From Page 1

have the boys with her while she's working, something she always dreamed of doing.

Eric will come in and help at the shop too, assisting with deliveries and other "man tasks" as Katelyn jokingly referred. "He's my handyman, too!" she laughed.

Those handyman skills have already been put to good use: the showroom has already received a fresh coat of paint, new carpet, sophisticated seating and consultation area, and rearrangement of the tables and display areas, and the back storeroom has been sifted through, organized and rearranged for maximum convenience and help in inventory and product selection.

Artisanal gift items will be coming soon; hand-poured soy wax candles made by Katelyn's mother-in-law, Tami, are already in stock. There's also an expanded selection of houseplants and blooming plants available for purchase or sending to loved ones out of the area. The Garcias will be continuing the use of Teleflora's wiring services, too.

Several veteran floral designers and helpers will be back to assist the new owners through their first big holiday, and Katelyn and Eric will also bring in several family members and fresh faces to help

take orders, make deliveries and more.

Deliveries will continue to Willits, Redwood Valley and Ukiah, and the new owners are considering expanding to the coastal areas, too ... in the future.

The Flower Lady of Willits will be open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. They will be accepting Valentine's Day orders Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and encourage everyone to place their orders early for the best selection of their most beautiful blooms and custom-designed arrangements.

Orders can be placed by calling 459-9075. During the off hours, the Garcias have set up a 24-hour florist answering service, so you can place an order any time you want and feel assured your order will be received by the Flower Lady to be made in-house with the same personal attention.

Also, feel free to preview bouquets or place orders online at www.FlowerLadyofWillits.org or on Facebook under "Flower Lady of Willits."

Katelyn and Eric encourage everyone to come in, say hello, and see the new space this weekend. An official grand opening is planned after Valentine's Day.

OBITUARY | Vicki Hicks

Vicki Hicks

Vicki Hicks, 55, a longtime resident of Willits, went to Heaven on January 30, 2015, with her family by her side. She was born on October 19, 1959 in Germany. She was preceded in death by her two sisters: Cheryl Hogue and Teresa Hogue. She is survived by her loving mother, Ruby Johnson, and her sister Brenda Jensen, both of Willits, and a brother, Clayton Hicker of Oregon.

She is also survived by daughter Tracy Wesley of Fort Bragg, grandson James Maki of Willits, and granddaughter Cierra Luce, also of Fort Bragg. She had several nieces: Candis Rountree, Tara Gernert, Tina DeGraffenreid and Holly Yanase, and two nephews: Daniel Hicker and John Walter.

Vicki worked at John's Place as a bartender for 30 years. She loved life and was a friend to many. At her request, there will be no public services. Any contributions you would like to make to help with expenses, please contact her mother, Ruby Johnson, or her sister Brenda Jensen.

The family would like to share a poem with you that Vicky wrote. It was found the morning after her death.



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The rest of
Crowned
From Page 7

in the world, who would I choose," and I replied with "Will Ferrell, my favorite actor." That got a laugh out of the crowd!"

The crowd also had a blast, stomping their feet and cheering out loud, for the talent of second runner-up Emily Oberg, during the talent portion. Her banjo playing was a huge hit!

"She did such a great job," said DeMarco. "The crowd was so into it!"

DeMarco ended up changing her talent, gymnastics, to singing at almost the last minute, due to a twisted ankle and wrist from a "failed" attempt at a back flip prior to the event.

"I hadn't done one in a while, and well, there was a total back flip fail," laughed DeMarco.

Thankfully, the full-of-talent 17-year-old pulled a backup plan out of her hat and sang "Thinking Out Loud" by Ed Sheeran for the crowd during the pageant.

The evening gown portion followed the talent, and each of the girls were escorted out onto the stage and then walked a pattern onstage showing off their dresses. DeMarco's father, Sheriff's K9 Deputy Joey DeMarco, was her escort.

As is tradition, on the morning following the pageant, the winner has brunch – including waffles for DeMarco – with the judges at the Hampton Inn to celebrate.

For the next year, DeMarco will get to appear at official events, including riding in the Willits Frontier Days parade, and she can make personal appearances at approved events, too. Groups interested in having Miss Mendocino 2015 appear at their civic meetings or events, can contact Verna Jacobs, executive director of the Miss Mendocino pageant, at 462-2025.

Come June, DeMarco will get to compete in the Miss California pageant as well, something she's very excited to get to do.

"We are just so tremendously proud of our daughter," said Shyanne's mother Tammy. "She's the best friend and best daughter and, while it's been a wild ride competing for the pageant, we support her for everything and will be by her side, encouraging her for anything she wants!"

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Above: Walkers and their pups make their way around the track at the Rec Grove Park.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Above, right, top: Shyanne DeMarco poses with the Paws for Veterans sign.

Photo by Sophia White

Above, right, bottom: Four (and a half) walkers for the Paws for Veterans event, from left: Taylor Comton, Amanda Mason holding 4-month-old Kason Compton, Madison Jones and Shyanne DeMarco.

Photo by Maureen Moore



Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com



Above, top: The Willits "Powerettes" from left, Melanie Grossman, Carrie and Misty Gonzales.

Above, left: Football-themed cupcakes available at the bake sale.

Above, right: Adrienne Moore gets a lap tally from Jaynie Smith.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Below: Shyanne DeMarco poses with Rudnick the K-9.

Photo by Sophia White



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Above, right, bottom: Four (and a half) walkers for the Paws for Veterans event, from left: Taylor Comton, Amanda Mason holding 4-month-old Kason Compton, Madison Jones and Shyanne DeMarco.

Paws for Veterans

Shyanne DeMarco holds dog walk to raise awareness for PTSD

Even before Shyanne DeMarco received the crown at the Miss Mendocino County pageant on February 7, she wanted to get a head start on her platform "Paws for Veterans," so she decided to hold a walkathon on January 31 at the Rec Grove park.

The walkathon raised money for Paws for Veterans, a non-profit organization that assists in rescuing dogs facing euthanasia: rehabilitating, re-homing, and training them to become veterans service dogs. Helping raise awareness for those affected by PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and programs like PAWS helped form DeMarco's platform for the Miss Mendocino contest.

A few dozen people showed up at the still-foggy 10 am start time, many with dogs in hand, to walk laps, buy raffle tickets, support a bake sale and show support to the then Miss Mendocino candidate.

Most laps went to Don Scott who tallied some 14 laps during the two-hour event.

Between the \$1-per-ticket raffle tickets and donations, DeMarco was able to raise \$474.50.

"It was amazing, people were handing me \$20 bills for the raffle, and everyone was so generous with the donations!" said DeMarco.

Raffle prizes included donations from many local

businesses, including Les Schwab, BodyWorks Gym, Willits Power Equipment, Tropic Tails, Kathy Tobin and J.D. Redhouse.

"We want to also extend a huge thank you to Mike and Kathy Tobin, who were a tremendous help setting up and running the event," said DeMarco.

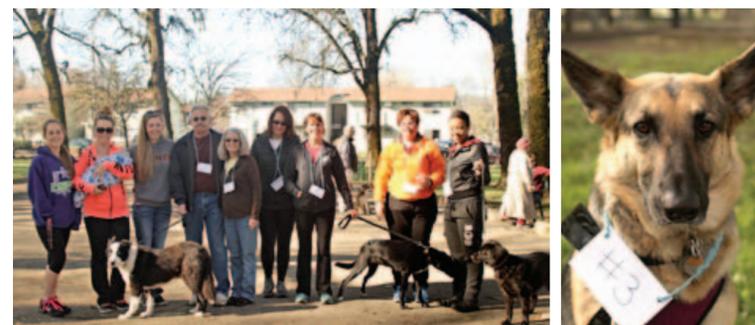
Mike Tobin also emceed the event, starting out by sharing some stories of his experience with PTSD and helping explain the importance of getting help with coping, as well as the availability of resources.

After the event started, music played and jovial threats of karaoke and joke-telling followed, keeping walkers motivated for their treks around the track.

A few Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies also showed up including DeMarco's father, Sheriff's K9 Deputy Joey DeMarco, with his K-9, Ruddick, to socialize and show their support of Shyanne.

The Willits "Powerettes" of Willits Power Equipment, Melanie Grossman and sisters Misty Gonzales and Carrie Gonzales, were at the Rascal's Rescue booth, selling football-themed cupcakes, cookies, jam, See's Candies and other goodies for the benefit of a local veteran's dog, "Spike," who was in need of surgery.

Read the rest of **Paws** | Over on Page 15



Above: Walkers get ready to start the event. Right: Roxie begrudgingly poses with a walking number, handed out at the check-in table by DeMarco's boyfriend Will Smith.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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

the work shift is completed and the equipment put away.

According to Brooktrails Fire Chief Daryl Schoepner, the change in contract language means his firefighters stand a better chance of being paid. "The previous contract was only 'arriving at the incident' and we never got paid until we were on the scene for 12 hours. In practice that meant CalFire was always sending us home after 11 hours, and so a lot of times we didn't get paid for the work we did.

"The new language will add on time to the time we work, and so we will have a better chance of getting paid," Schoepner said.

The second resolution states employees who perform work for state agencies on an emergency incident, and who work overtime in that capacity, will be paid according to the current memorandum of understanding with the Township of Brooktrails.

Brooktrails renews drought declaration

In other action, the board renewed its declaration of local emergency due to drought conditions.

While the board acknowledged both reservoirs are full and overflowing, and Willits Creek is running both into and out of Lake Emily at a rate of at least 20 cubic feet per second, directors agreed with staff it was appropriate to keep the declaration of emergency in place.

"While the district has received rainfall and has realized an increase in its stored water at Lake Emily and Lake Ada Rose, late spring rains may fail to materialize, as was the case in 2013," according to a staff report. "If early fall rains fail to materialize, the district may face a crisis similar to the one it faced in late 2013 and early 2014. Staff remains concerned about the adequacy of its supply to stretch through the late winter [of 2015-16] and into the early spring [of 2016]. Water supply is hovering at approximately 175 days."

In response to recent storm events, the board did increase the use cap for all Brooktrails residences from 200 gallons per day to 250 gallons per day. The vote to increase the cap was 3-2, with Tony Orth, Ed Horrick and Rick Williams voting in the majority.

The rest of **Paws** | From Page 14

"The bake sale for Spike did great!" said Misty Gonzales. "We raised \$264 and Rascal's Rescue donated \$300. Hope this helps and thanks for the support everyone." (Anyone interested in donating to Rascal's Rescue to help fund emergency surgery and other medical care for canines in need, can find a donation jar, and more information, at Willits Power Equipment, 1600 South Main Street.)

After the conclusion of the walkathon, the Powerettes set up the booth at Willits Power where they continued to collect throughout the day, earning the rest of the \$264.

DeMarco is excited to send off the check to Paws for Veterans and to continue to raise awareness throughout her year of holding the title of Miss Mendocino County, 2015.

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

expanded new free counseling services offered at all Willits Unified elementary schools beginning this past fall. Funded by a three-year federal grant, the program includes free on-site school individual counseling and support for all students, additional staff, in-school social groups and anti-violence programs, and family and marriage counseling services.

"It's so wonderful that we have this program," said social worker Jackie Herz, who worked with the district as a behavior specialist for nearly a decade before starting her grant-funded position last January. "There was always a need at the schools, whether for difficult behavior or bigger issues like divorce, homelessness, or family problems. Before this, kids would mainly be referred to various outside agencies, which can be a lot of work for families."

The grant funds several new employees with expertise in family, marriage, and expressive art therapy to offer services and programs at each location: Katie Cochran, lead counselor, works at all three schools, including Sherwood Elementary School, Loree Newland works at Brookside School, and Nicole Burke works at Blosser.

"Having the services at the schools makes a huge difference - it's one of the biggest pieces in supporting the family," Herz elaborated. "The kid gets what they need, it's easy, and there's

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

near the corner of Main and State streets, replacement of an electric service panel at 395 South Main Street, and gas service at a Franklin Avenue residence.

In the city's last report on business licenses, seven Willits-based businesses signed up for business licenses in January. Those businesses included:

- Mama Maya's Kitchen, a baked goods business operated by Maya Youngstrom.
- KTK Service Co., a mobile computer repair service operated by Kevin Klay.
- Logan Co., a handyman business operated by Logan Schaefer.
- Haley Trimmer Design, an internet-based graphic design business operated by Haley Trimmer.
- Flower Lady of Willits, a florist shop operated by Katelyn and Eric Garcia.
- Carl's Classic Cuts & Fits, a barber shop operated by Thomas Gallups, Jr.
- Peter's Sushi & Chinese Food, a restaurant operated by Lucky Star Restaurant.
- Mom's Buffet, a restaurant operated by Ping Bog Ng.
- Anthony Kull with Concord Environmental Consulting Services Inc., providing ground water and environmental

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

lunch policy provides that lunch is split into two periods, with seniors and juniors getting one of the lunch periods, with an open campus privilege (i.e., they can leave the campus for lunch), and with sophomores and freshmen getting a separate lunch period, without the open campus privilege.

New regulations for use of the gymnasium require all people, including parents and other adults, to only wear gym shoes when using or entering the gymnasium. Street shoes are not allowed. Food and drink (with the exception of water) are also prohibited inside the gym. This restriction applies to adults who are in the gym watching sporting events and games.

Prior to the students' presentation, Ritchley explained why he has taken a hard line on gym use.

The gym floor was refinished last year, he said. As part of its warranty, the company that refinished the floor offered to come back periodically to restore the finish and add more layers of wax onto it. But that offer only holds good if the floor is used according to company specifications. Those specifications include prohibiting the use of street shoes on the floor.

Ritchley said he instituted the new policy to protect the new floor, which he described as a valuable asset to the campus that he wants to pass on to future generations of students. However, in practice, the new floor policy means students cannot have dances or rallies in the gym.

Recently, students of Trish Sylva-Brown's senior civics class conducted a poll of Willits High students, staff and parents. They shared the results of the poll at the February 4 board meeting.

no legwork. And we can support teachers, staff and the principals in developing preventative and long-term solutions for the kids. Now that it's here, it's hard to imagine not having it."

Herz will lead the upcoming parenting workshops, utilizing a program called Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, or STEP, which has been developed over several decades. Workshops will be held weekly and follow the same lesson plan at each location. Parents are encouraged to register and attend the entire course. Classes include free food and childcare (with advance registration), and are set for Wednesdays from 9 to 10:30 am at Brookside (light breakfast), and Thursdays from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Willits Kids Club (dinner). The program, also open to parents with children who aren't enrolled specifically at Willits Unified schools, runs through April 16.

The counseling grant is for an approach called "restorative practices," a method Cochran says helps schools prevent disciplinary problems by learning to deal with strong emotions and conflict management via facilitators, instead of punishments like suspensions. The method is being implemented district-wide and "is focused on building connection and community, repairing relationships in an accountable way when there is conflict," she said. All district teachers and interested administrators, including Blosser Principal Robert Chavez, received a grant-funded two-day training, with further training for

services, also joined the ranks of city-licensed businesses.

January projects in the city were valued at \$39,300, down from \$48,250 in 2014, the report stated. Like the City of Willits, the county department of Planning and Building Services released a list of permitted work in Mendocino County's unincorporated areas for January.

County activity in the Willits are included electrical service at an Exley Road residence, a covered porch on the Laytonville Dos Rios Road, replacement of an old tub with new walk-in shower on Tuck Lane, addition of a new room on Hill Road in Covelo, roofing work on Birch Street, replacement of electrical on Hilltop Drive, new heating and air-conditioning on Perch, roofing work on Sherwood Road, and windows, siding, doors, heater and air-conditioning were replaced on Lupine Drive.

Countywide, six new single-family homes were permitted with an estimated value of \$419,492, according to the county's January report.

Willits Weekly's Building and Business Report is based on monthly reports from the building inspector for the City of Willits and the Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services.

— Zack Cinek

selected staff. Cochran said around 200 students are currently utilizing the various free resources, with about 40 in individual counseling. Counselors hold groups for children with more minor concerns with topics such as "friendship," and teach a social skills and anti-violence program called "Second Step" held at each school for all elementary age children. In January, counselors partnered with local organization Nuestra Alianza to better provide parenting workshops and other services to Spanish-speaking students and families.

Students can be referred for services by teachers or staff, or families can request services themselves. The program also funds family and marriage therapy for any family member with a child enrolled in the three schools. Cochran emphasized the service is free and confidential, and offers flexible scheduling during and after school hours.

She said hoped the program would help combat what she felt was sometimes a local "culture of isolation," and encourage people to seek the free resources offered. The team is also looking for parent and stakeholder volunteers to provide program feedback.

Anyone interested in workshop registration, counseling services or providing feedback should contact Katie Cochran at 459-3232, ext. 1309 or katiecochran@willitsunified.com or Jackie Herz at 459-5385, ext. 1440 or jackieherz@willitsunified.com.

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

packed, two- or three-week program in mid-summer called the Summer Academy: a stripped-down program in which Oslund, one counselor and three teachers would combine to orient the kids to life at Willits High.

"The Summer Academy was for learning about careers, college, how to use the high school to get to college. Basically, it was an in-depth orientation to high school that taught the kids how to get the most out of the high school experience," said former Willits High School counselor David Hulse-Stephens.

Both Oslund and Hulse-Stephens conceded funding for full summer school dried up 10 years ago.

"In Willits, and in fact all over, there haven't been pure summer school programs in a long, long time," Oslund said. "The funding really evaporated for summer school programs."

"Those remedial programs, where kids could go to make up credits from the prior year, those went away at least 10 years ago," Hulse-Stephens said.

According to Ritchley, this could change next summer.

"We're looking at programs to help incoming freshmen become eligible for sports," Ritchley said. "And also we're looking at a credit recovery program, too. We don't know what these programs will look like, but we're looking at doing it."

"Nothing is for sure yet. But we definitely have the spirit of wanting to improve ourselves," he said.

Ritchley added the district may be able to present the outline of a plan by late February or early March.

Weapons arrest

A 37-year-old Covelo man is being held in county jail after deputies discovered a cache of weapons and ammunition while attempting to serve an arrest and search warrant at a Henderson Lane home last Wednesday. Winterhawk Eugene Lincoln was wanted on suspicion of burglary, being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, and trespassing.

Deputies failed to find him at the Henderson Lane house, but later spotted his vehicle at a Tabor Lane residence. As they approached the house, Lincoln reportedly ran out the back door and disappeared. Deputies and their K9 companions later found him hiding in a hole he had dug to try and evade police, says Sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten. Lincoln was taken into custody without incident.

Deputies later served a search warrant at an undisclosed location and discovered numerous firearms, including rifles and a shotgun, and ammunition.

Lincoln was booked into county jail on the three warrants, with a total bail of \$140,000.

Following the search, new charges of being a felon in possession of a firearm and a felon in possession of ammunition were added, as was an additional \$100,000 in bail.

This report is based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.



Above, left: Carolyn Bakewell, Laura Herman, Marisela de Santa Anna, and Gwen Rasmussen.

Above, right: The Five Star Committee of helpers who run the fair: Jaeva Cash, Tim Hanna, Sharon Hanna, Valerie Kanonchoff and Suzanne Matheson.

Right: Judges look at projects.

Below: Projects, left, "Growing to the Beat," and right, "Let's Float," on display.

Below, center: Lilja Lamkin and Omar Sisemore judge projects.



Science Fair

A grand total of 237 science projects from area school kids filled the Willits Community Center for the 2015 Willits Science Fair. The fair will be open to the general public on Thursday, February 12 from 8:30 am to 3 pm. Judges have awarded ribbons, including the gold ribbon that means the project has been chosen to go on to county-level competition, as well as special awards from local businesses including J.D. Redhouse, The Book Juggler, Curves, and Cal Forestry, Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic, Padula Ranches, TD Hanna Consulting, and Sara Hanna Consulting.

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