

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Choices in education

To the Editor:

I read Mr. Stamps letter, and I only wish that I had written it. It stated everything that I have been thinking for some time now. It isn't fair to our children not to give them choices in their education. When these young people learn a trade, even if they plan on going to college, it is something they have in their back pocket, just in case. It gives them a reason to learn some math, English, and even some history, as they would find it was useful in whatever class they were taking.

A home economics class was also mentioned. This is also a useful class, as it would teach basic cooking, how to sew on a button, repair a tear. Even teach how to balance a checkbook, how to live within a budget. These are subjects that help prepare a young person for facing new challenges.

With the present six periods offered at Willits High School, there is not really enough time for electives, as they need two periods in order to have enough time to accomplish anything in wood shop, automotive repair/welding, and some other electives. One of my sons is using the education he learned in welding class in his business today. In earlier times there were either seven or eight classes per day, which enabled the electives.

I understand that the superintendent is trying to work something out with the college to use the facilities. How is that going to help our students when they don't have the time in their present schedules?

I had a conversation with Chuck Davison, and he is also quite worried about the present status of what is being offered in the high school and asked that his name be added to this letter.

Carlin M. Horger and Chuck Davison, Willits

Teaching money management

To the Editor:

I so appreciated Ron Stamps' well-written letter in the February 12 paper. Along with his recommendation for a vocational high school program stimulating future craftsmen and women, I'd like to encourage our school to have an elective program teaching money management.

One of the most effective aspects of money management and growth is starting young. It's astonishing how much can be saved if one simply starts in one's 20s or teens. Following the format for investment outlined in David Bach's "Smart Women Finish Rich" or his "The Finish Rich Workbook" can catapult our youth into financial solvency and wealth, often without the need for a college education.

April Tweddell, Willits

A bad alley

To the Editor:

On February 14, I volunteered at the play at Willits Community Theatre at 37 West Van Lane in Willits. At 10:15 pm I was walking to my car, and I tripped over the speed bump and fell down. I managed to get up and get to my car. My head was bleeding, and my right hand.

My granddaughter took me to the emergency room at Howard Hospital here in Willits. I have a black eye on my right eye and my right hand has two cuts on it. Both knees were bruised, and it hurt to walk on them. I was checked out by the staff and released after 1 am.

I am writing to help others that walk from there to look and watch for potholes and uneven walk areas. The theater could put more lighting up for the safety of the people attending the plays there. The speed bump needs to be painted so we can see it in the dark.

Linda Wiley, Willits

Thank You

To the Editor:

As organizer of Willits Elementary Charter School's 3rd annual Winter Gala, I would like to express some well-deserved thanks. First and foremost to our Director Kara McClellan, who continues to bring her vision and dedication to the WECS students, staff, and school and allows me a lot of creative freedom.

I would like to thank all the teachers who go above and beyond to bring quality, innovative education to their classrooms. To Tyler Balthrop, our music teacher and MC for the event, a particular thank you for teaching the kids "This Little Light of Mine," which always makes me tear up! I'm also grateful to Tyler, Jenness Hartley, and Joe Madden for the musical entertainment.

I owe special thanks to Keith and Kim Shuster for their fantastic help with donations and the wonderful pulled pork they raised for us. It was delicious! Kara Garman was a huge help with soliciting donations for our amazing silent auction. I am also so thankful for the many generous local businesses that gave items that really represent who they are in our community. We couldn't do it without you all!

The Little Lake Grange, a historic treasure in Willits, is a great venue to utilize for events. Mama J of Zocalo Catering donated her services and did a wonderful job with the food; we are already looking forward to next year's Winter Gala with her in the kitchen. (February 13, 2016, "Celebrating the ones we love Mardi Gras style." Save the date!)

Most importantly, and the reason that we were all there, are our students.

They worked so hard and put on such great performances, you should all be very proud of yourselves! Performing is a great way to build self-esteem and confidence, and I would like to acknowledge the parents that made the effort to make sure their kids were able to perform.

I feel very fortunate to be part of such a wonderful community, and offer a heartfelt thank you for all of the support we continue to receive.

I look forward to seeing you at next year's Winter Gala! Gratefully,

Aura de la Fuente, Willits

Thank you

To the Editor:

Willits Daily Bread would like to thank all the participants in this year's Sip Some Soup benefit – the 16th annual!

As usual, we had a full house of happy soup tasters, enjoying some truly delicious soups – made with lots of love – as well as bread and jam from Emandal and desserts from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Thanks to everybody who came.

We'd also like to thank all our soupmakers, including two groups who got left off our original list of participants: the Mendocino County Museum in Willits (offering Lentil Rice Soup) and the second soup made by members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church: "Sweet & Garlicky Italian Tomato Soup."

And thanks, too, to all the donors to our silent auction, and everybody who bid on the fun selection of items. Donors included: MonkeyWrench, Misty Made & Sew Much More, Geraldine & Kent Pember, Les Schwab, Yokum's Body Shop, Barbara Carlton, Robin Goldner, Shanachie Pub, Main Street Music, Emandal, Mark & Corazon Elliott of Hidden Agenda, Earlene Gleisner, Sparetime Supply, the Yoxalls, Mariposa Market, Mazahar, the Goods Shoppe, Spartan Body Works, Mike & Ruth Dell'Arra, Ace Copy, Bill & Linda Meyerhoff, John Ford Ranch, Healing Central Chiropractic, Willits Furniture, Marcia Tichenor, Rosalina Books & Antiques, Headroom, Cat's Meow, Adam's Restaurant, Kimberly's Jewelry, Tropic Tails, Northwest Sporting Goods, Brickhouse Coffee, Buttercups, Fetzer, Linda McDonald, Sharon Baumann, and Betty Bird.

Sip Some Soup is the major annual fundraiser for Daily Bread, which provides a hot meal Monday through Thursday evenings at St. Anthony's Parish Hall, 58 Bush Street. The nearly \$5,000 raised at Sip Some Soup this year will help pay the bills and demonstrates local support for our program, which is important when it comes to winning grants and other funding. It costs about \$60,000 a year to keep the doors open at Willits Daily Bread, and donations are always welcome: please send to Willits Daily Bread, 58 Bush Street, Willits CA 95490, drop by Monday through Thursdays, 3 to 6:30 pm, or call me, Cindy Savage, at 459-3947 or 367-5669. Thanks again to the Willits community for all your support.

Cindy Savage, director, Willits Daily Bread

Invitation from the principal

To the Editor:

On Thursday, February 26, Coffee and Tea with the Principal returns. Coffee with the Principal is at 8:30 am, and Tea with the Principal is at 3:30 pm. This time is an informal visit to chat about the current events at Willits High School, and other topics one-on-one with myself, Jeff Ritchley. Last month, a former WHS alumnus returned to find that their school record was still posted on the high school gym wall.

In addition, the same evening, February 26, at 7 pm, there will be a Willits High School community meeting in the Steve Short Gymnasium. This meeting will be concerning the gym floor. We will be discussing the gym floor policy, gym tarps, gym usage, and any other concern you may have. Please join me in this informal time to bring your concerns about the WHS gym floor. We look forward to seeing you then.

Jeffrey Ritchley, principal, Willits High School



'Top Ten' Firefighter and Sweetheart Dinner ... interrupted by fire call

Volunteer firefighters and their families have long ago learned they need to be flexible when it comes to planning events and gatherings. That flexibility came in handy when a fire call interrupted the Little Lake Fire Protection District's "Top Ten" and Sweetheart Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Saturday night.

Within minutes of the fire alarm, the Willits Senior Center saw Fire Chief Carl Magann and some of the very men that were to be honored that night rushing out the door to the emergency call. That left their family members, dates, fellow firefighters, and the attending fire district's board of directors to eat the dinner catered by the Willits Lions Club.

LLFPD board President Gerry Gonzalez and Nancy Stipe, LLFPD administrative assistant, took Chief Magann's place to present the "Top Ten" firefighter awards. The Top Ten Firefighters for 2014: Mike Wilder (top responder with 610 points); Eric Alvarez (586 points); Mike Cornwall (559 points); Tylor Yadon (551 points); Tim Caldwell (525 points); Bill Carter (522 points); Mike Griggs, Jr. (449 points); Kevin Reedy (442 points); Levi Linderman (418 points), and Greg Elliott (376 points).

Mike Cornwall's daughter, Karissa, and Kevin Reedy's wife, Janet, stepped in to accept their firefighter's awards.

The "Top Ten" and Sweetheart Dinner is a night every year – Valentine's Night, February 14 this year – that the department honors all of the volunteer firefighters, the previous year's Top Ten firefighters, and the families that support their participation as volunteer firefighters. Firefighters earn points throughout the year by attending fire department trainings and responding to emergency fire and rescue calls. In addition, five of these Top Ten firefighters have also attended the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association Fire Academy.

Fire Captain Kevin Reedy, president of the Little Lake Firefighters Association and a nine-year veteran of the fire department, said he knew since he was 8 years old that he wanted to be a firefighter. As a youth in Willits, he remembers how the late Jeff Smith, former

fire chief of LLFPD, always supported his dream of becoming a firefighter. Reedy attributes his dedication to the fire department and the Willits community to his "ride-alongs" on emergency calls and conversations with Chief Smith.

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



Counter-clockwise from top: Janet Reedy, Karissa Cornwall, Mike Wilder, Eric Alvarez, Tim Caldwell, Bill Carter, Levi Linderman, and Greg Elliott with the firefighter awards; Bill and Crystal Carter; Mike Cornwall returns from the call, ready to eat in a tie and turnouts; Chief Carl Magann and his wife, Claudia, know to take advantage of a chance to dance with each other; Claudia Magann and Nancy Stipe share a laugh; Mike Wilder, top responder, and Little Lake fire district board president Gerry Gonzalez; Eric Alvarez and Jodi relax after dinner, and Kassy Aldaco and fireman Greg Elliott.



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FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (R) 2 hrs 4 mins
Fri: 5:45 & 8:15pm
Sat: 12:35, 3:10, 5:45 & 8:15pm
Sun: 2:10, 4:45 & 7:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:15pm
(The Monday 7:15 show will be open caption for the hearing impaired.)

SPONGE BOB: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG) 1 hr 32 mins
Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm
Sat: 11:46am, 1:45, 3:50, 6:00 & 8:30pm
Sun: 12:45, 2:50, 5:00 & 7:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

SELMA (PG13) 2 hrs 8 mins
Fri: 5:15pm
Sat: 12noon & 5:15pm
Sun-Thurs: 4:15pm

WHIPLASH (R) 1 hr 47 mins
Fri: 8:00pm
Sat: 2:45 & 8:00pm
Sun: 1:45 & 7:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 7:00pm

Coming Soon: **Kingsmen: Secret Service**

Movie Times for 2/20 thru 2/26 This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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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



Rascal's Rescue: needs help and a home for Devo

Devo is a sweet 2 1/2-year-old neutered male Siamese cross. He arrived at East Hill Veterinary Clinic with a urinary tract obstruction that resulted in kidney failure. He was also so severely infested with fleas that he was anemic. After his urinary obstruction was relieved, his kidney failure was resolved, and his parasites were treated, he is on the mend.

Devo's owner is unable to care for him and is hoping he can be adopted by someone who can provide him with the love, care and special diet he needs. Thanks to Rascal's Rescue, an organization started by Misty Gonzalez at Willits Power, a fund has been created to help offset the cost of Devo's care. Donations are being accepted by Rascal's Rescue for this project and others. Rascal's Rescue can be reached at 459-6420, or donations can be brought to the Rascal's Rescue donation jar at Willits Power, 1600 South Main Street.

Delightful Khloe

Photo by Sage Mountainfire

Khloe is a 2-month-old female German Shepherd mix puppy. She currently weighs about 18 pounds, but is sure to grow up to be a medium to large dog. We also have three of Khloe's sisters here as well. Like all pups they are absolutely adorable and delightful and sure to bring endless joy to their new homes. And, like all puppies, they will need a lot of patience and guidance to grow into their best big dog selves. It takes a lot of work to raise a baby, so please be sure you've got the time and energy! The reward for your efforts is a lifetime of love and loyalty!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.




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