



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 96

Thursday, March 12, 2015

School board meeting:

Emotions run high at as Neary walks out

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
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District Trustee Christopher Neary stormed out of the March 4 meeting of the Willits Unified School Board after he felt a member of the public had been snubbed by board President Cynthia Carni.

His departure resulted in two tie votes, meaning those issues will be brought back to the board for a second vote at a future meeting.

Neary's explosion came after Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, who had successfully encouraged a number of community members to attend the

Read the rest of **Meeting**

Over on Page 9

Sewer plant trial begins

Mike A'Dair

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The trial in the matter of the Township of Brooktrails versus the City of Willits is set to open Thursday, March 12 in Sonoma County Superior Court in Santa Rosa.

The trial will determine what each party owes the other for operation and construction of the new wastewater treatment plant in Willits.

According to Brooktrails General Counsel Christopher Neary and Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose, the City of Willits last week asked Brooktrails to agree

Read the rest of **Sewer**

Over on Page 11

Stabbings in Brooktrails

being investigated

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office confirmed Tuesday afternoon it was investigating an incident with multiple stabbing victims, all adults, that reportedly took place sometime after 1 am Sunday morning, February 29, on the 20000 block of Birch Street in Brooktrails. No official information has yet been released, but rumors were flying around town about four stabbing victims.

Sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten told Willits Weekly, due to a continuing investigation, he was not

Read the rest of **Stabbings**

Over on Page 9



Brodey "the leprechaun" Lamprich, 6, sure knows how to enjoy her treasure!

Photos by Maureen Moore

Get Lucky with Gold



As leprechauns have long known, gold is a treasure – and a good investment! – so why not start building your personal treasure chest by purchasing some gold this St. Patrick's Day?

First and foremost, always buy from a reputable source. American Eagle Gold Coins are minted in four weights – 1/10, 1/4, 1/2 and 1 ounce – to fit a variety of budgets. The smaller sizes also make affordable and thoughtful gifts.

Ever-changing, the spot price for one ounce of gold can be checked at www.monex.com which, at presstime, was showing \$1,155, but as online charts show, the price varies, allowing savvy shoppers a chance to purchase at a good price. For more information: United States Mint: <http://www.usmint.gov>.



Ron Moorhead retires as Willits Chamber of Commerce president

Willits Chamber of Commerce President Ron Moorhead announced his retirement from the chamber's board of directors at the February 25 Willits City Council meeting.

Lisa Epstein, insurance agent and owner of Lisa Epstein State Farm Insurance in Willits, takes over from Moorhead, who was with the chamber for 33 years.

"I truly believe we have accomplished a great deal of good," Moorhead said.

Moorhead announced the news at the end of a report to the city council addressing several topics.

He also showed council members a preview of a dynamic new chamber of commerce website.

The new site is still a work in progress; Moorhead said it was designed by a firm that specializes in working with chambers of commerce.

"It will help them to do marketing in a way that has never been seen before," Moorhead said.

Moorhead's contributions to the chamber have been numerous, including a solar business rally in 1990 and a concern for post-bypass Willits that brought Cloverdale representatives to town for a talk last year.

"There is so much he has done for the chamber – you could not print it all," Epstein said this week.

Epstein said her involvement with the chamber started when she worked with chamber Executive Director Lynn

Kennelly before opening her insurance office doors.

Moorhead spoke of a "sustainable and vibrant Willits" as he talked about some of what the chamber has helped to accomplish.

He said the new website, which he projected onto a screen during his talk, will be easier to update and expand, offering miniature websites for Willits businesses that are chamber members.

A new community event calendar is also in the works. "The beauty of this whole thing is that we allow service groups to go in and work on their part of the calendar," Moorhead noted.

Mayor Bruce Burton read a proclamation that inventoried Moorhead's accomplishments with the chamber. The mayor personally praised the Memorial Day weekend car show.

"The standout event of the year is the car show the chamber puts on down there and – being a motorhead much like you, Ron – I think it's a great venue and event for the community," Burton said.

Burton shook Moorhead's hand before giving him a plaque, honoring his years with the chamber.

Willits Chamber of Commerce headquarters is located inside the Skunk Train depot on Commercial Street.

"The chamber's mission is to make Willits a better place to live, work and play, and our goal is to do that," Epstein said.



Above: Ron Moorhead.

Photo by Maureen Moore

School board powers through packed agenda

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
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Despite high seas of emotion and heavy winds of distrust and criticism from the public and school district employees, WUSD trustees managed to approve a number of important administration proposals at their March 4 meeting. Two items put forward by Superintendent Patricia Johnson will have to be reconsidered at a future meeting following tie votes.

Among items approved by trustees were administration proposals for a two-front campaign to improve student academic performance at Willits High School and to enlist the help of Mendocino College to expand community use of the Willits High School Career and Technical Education facility.

Kids Club committee to be formed

In recent weeks, one important issue to come before the district has been how to accommodate the Willits Kids Club, which is seeking permission to place two portable buildings on the campus of Blosser Lane Elementary School.

The Kids Club has requested exemption of the portable buildings from earthquake safety

Read the rest of **Agenda**

Over on Page 11

Four injured in Saturday 101 accident

Jennifer Poole

Editor & Reporter
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A 33-year-old Arcata man was critically injured early Saturday evening when a car driven by a Willits man struck him on Highway 101 at mile marker 47.77 north of Willits.

The pedestrian, 33-year-old Jonah Otwell, was airlifted to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital with critical injuries via the REACH 18 helicopter.

The car's driver, Shawn Bergeron, 32, of Willits, had moderate to major injuries, according to Little Lake Fire Department Deputy Fire Chief John Thomen, who was on scene that night. Bergeron was rushed to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital via ambulance for treatment. The passenger, 54-year-old Rhonda Sanders, also of Willits, reported back pain, Thomen said, and was also taken to Howard Hospital.

Bergeron was driving a 1986 Chevy Cavalier southbound on Highway

Read the rest of **Accident**

Over on Page 9

Herbicides unnecessary

To the Editor:

Willits Weekly recently had an article that stated that Caltrans is considering the use of herbicides and pesticides in Little Lake Valley to control all non-native species.

The use of herbicides and pesticides on the Caltrans land is unnecessary. The best management plan for the control (not elimination) of invasive species is by mechanical means, followed by targeted grazing.

There are natural ways to remove invasive species. For instance, the Willits Bypass Project Grazing Management Plan, written in May 2014 by Pete Van Horn and Larry Ford, states the following under "Invasive Species": "Grazing will be used as a management tool to reduce existing populations of invasive plants and deter new or expanded infestations. Targeted grazing - adjusting the timing and intensity to achieve specific objectives related to the plant species' natural history - can be effective as a stand-alone method or in combination with other methods.

On the same page, under "General Targets and Methods," Van Horn and Ford go on to say, "When the invasive plant itself is palatable or susceptible to trampling, grazing can be used to directly reduce its extent, abundance, and reproductive output." There are many natural methods in this plan to control invasive species.

In addition to using natural methods to control invasive species, much wisdom must be used in removing the plants, so that the results are better than what took place this past winter. For instance: Caltrans just removed some huge clusters of berry roots and vines beside Davis Creek in the valley. The removal of the massive root systems along the creek bed has caused a failure of the levee system along Davis Creek in three places; thereby allowing more sedimentation to go out into the surrounding fields, which could be harmful to the very survival of Baker's meadowfoam and the semaphore grass.

It needs to be noted that the Baker's meadowfoam and semaphore grass populations have survived and thrived in the valley up to this point under the present management. On a parcel in the Little Lake Valley where grazing was restricted for some time, the population of Baker's meadowfoam has been greatly reduced. Ongoing studies are being done to determine what happened.

The use of herbicides and pesticides in Little Lake Valley would definitely change the state of the valley in a negative way. To quote Ed Burton, "There is a better way."

John and Charline Ford, ranchers, Little Lake Valley

Herbicide hypocrisy

To the Editor:

I guess only herbicide applied by Caltrans contractors causes harm to the environment.

Oh, horrors. Caltrans is going to use herbicides from a list of herbicides approved by the state of California to target non-native Himalayan blackberries on mitigation lands. A forum is put together by SOLLV to discuss poisoning of water, land and people! Threats to wetlands! Migration of herbicides! Toxic exposure to workers! Contamination of basket weavers! Bee colony collapse! Flyers distributed. Marquee sign in front of the Willits Environmental Center for months. A coalition formed. Letters to the editor written. Radio interviews. Press releases to the media.

Marijuana growers have been using unregulated

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

herbicides, miticides, rodenticides, fungicides, growth hormones, etc. for decades in Mendocino County. Our local environmentalists have been mum all these years. No forum. No marquee signs. No hand-wringing letters to the editor. No press releases. No radio talk shows.

Do the local environmentalists not see their hypocrisy?

Jeanne King, Willits

Three cheers to Willits

To the Editor:

First, I would like to say thank you to the Willits community for embracing our musical fundraising events at the Little Lake Grange.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Bruce Burton for being so eloquent in supporting what we were doing on the same night as his own bluegrass show at the Willits Art Center. That's rare in the world we live in, and I'd like to thank him for that. I'd also thank the Willits Police Department for being so gracious with us.

I'd like to thank our sponsors for supporting what we're doing: KZYX&Z, Lagunitas Brewery, Fry Vineyards, Grocery Outlet, J.D. Redhouse, Mariposa Market, the Grange Farm School and Tree of Life Montessori School. And of course to the bands: I want to thank Adkins & Loudermilk, Hot Buttered Rum and the California Honeypops for coming to our little burg and playing their hearts out.

Most of all I'd like to thank all the children and their families for bringing their kids to our shows: it makes it all a bit sweeter. Stay tuned for more: Our next event will be Saturday, March 28, featuring a return appearance by Candelaria, playing cumbia, the music of Colombia. Come get your Latin groove on! Come one, come all.

Pooba, Willits

Grateful for Willits Weekly

To the Editor:

The Adkins & Loudermilk bluegrass concert was a rousing success. By the time MC Tom Allman had introduced the evening's performers, it was standing room only. Later Bruce Burton commented that when he booked the headline band last September, a Friday night on February 27 in Willits sounded innocuous enough, but who would have dreamed there would be two exceptional bluegrass bands performing the same night.

The center section of Willits Weekly has become the go-to section to plan your activities, especially if there are charity or service groups you want to help. Without a doubt, Willits Weekly provided coverage so desperately needed to get the word out that Willits Rotary Club and chairperson Bruce Burton were bringing some topnotch bluegrass entertainment to Willits. Thank you.

Gail Richards, Willits

Bicycle and pedestrian projects

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) will consider requests from schools, tribal governments, private non-profit agencies, and others to partner on bicycle and

pedestrian projects that may be funded through the state's Active Transportation Program (ATP). Partnership requests must be received by March 25, 2015 to be considered by MCOG.

MCOG board will meet April 6, 2015 in the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors chambers in Ukiah at 1:30 pm.

It is expected that the California Transportation Commission will approve guidelines and announce a call for projects for Cycle 2 of the Active Transportation Program at their meeting in southern California on March 26, 2015. Projects that meet the goals to increase bicycle and pedestrian trips, increase safety, increase mobility opportunities, and enhance public health will be considered for funding.

A key requirement of the ATP is that applicants must be capable of entering into a "master agreement" with the State of California to administer state or federal funds. Counties and most cities have such agreements in effect, but schools, tribal governments and private non-profit agencies generally do not.

MCOG has a master fund agreement in place and is capable of serving as a partner in ATP projects, as the implementing agency, when no other partner has been identified. Since MCOG's staffing capacity is limited, the board will carefully consider any new ATP partnerships. A proposed project must be derived from an inclusive community process that clearly documents public involvement, alternatives considered, and how the candidate project was identified as a priority. It must also demonstrate cost effectiveness and how the project would result in improved public health and safety.

The Active Transportation Program goals, draft application form, and Draft 2015 ATP Guidelines can be found on the California Transportation Commission's website at www.catg.gov/programs/ATP.htm. For more information please contact Phil Dow or James Sookne at 463-1859.

Phil Dow, executive director, MCOG

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Donating Back

Willits Frontier Days donates \$2,500 to area programs

Each year, Willits Frontier Days gives back to the community in the form of donations and financial support for local activities and programs.

During a meeting last Thursday, \$2,500 was given back as follows: Little Lake Fire Department received \$250 for their smoke detector program; Soroptimist International of Willits received \$200 for their PEG program and \$250 for their book project; the Willits High School Swim Team received \$300 for new equipment; and the TRAIL program at Ridgewood Ranch received \$1,000.



From left to right: Tracy LeGriss and Lee Persico of Willits Frontier Days, Loraine Patton of Soroptimist International of Willits, Kevin Reedy, president of the Little Lake Firefighters Association, Deputy Fire Chief John Thomen, Marcy Barry, president of Willits Frontier Days, and past WFD president Rick Crowder.

Willits Frontier Days also donated \$500 for two full scholarships and one half scholarship for a three-day science camp at the Mendocino Coast this summer that sixth-grade students at Baechtel Grove Middle School were invited to attend. More than 100 students were invited, and each student needs to raise \$200 to attend.



Above, left: left to right: Jenna, Captain, Missy, Kaylynnne, Roxie, Henrietta and Jake. Above, right: Mikela holding Doodah.

Official Canine Good Citizens Eight dogs won ribbons at Saturday event

"Sit," "Down," and "Stay" aren't the only things that make for a well-trained dog, and 12 dogs and their handlers tried their paws at proving just that last Saturday, showcasing their extra training during the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test.

The test was held at Sallie Palmer's Well Mannered Mutts studio in Ukiah and was administered by Lynn Mosher, a dog trainer and AKC CGC evaluator from Covelo. Moshers specializes in Hunt Trials, Agility and Rally, and also trains her own dogs for competition. Having the dogs evaluated by a person unknown to the dogs helps confirm the training.

The test included tasks like "accepting a friendly stranger," which also includes being petted, groomed, and having ears and paws

examined; "out for a walk," where dogs demonstrate their behavior on a loose leash, in proximity to other dogs and other people, and even to items like wheelchairs and shopping carts. The dogs also must walk when called, remain seated or lying down as the owner walks a short distance away, and demonstrate they can behave during a 3 minute supervised separation from their owner.

Those who earned their blue ribbons and will be welcome to participate in this weekend's Advanced Canine Good Citizen test included Michael Seibert and Annie, Jack Dolan and Emie, Mikela Cameron and Doodah, Jerry Steckmyer and Gabby, Henrietta Simonson and Jake, Jenna Griswold-Wright and Captain, Kaylynnne Van Saun and Missy, and Maureen Moore and Roxie.

Acorn Woodpecker

The Acorn Woodpecker can usually be found in oak woodlands throughout California, but I have seen many of them in the city of Willits. As their name implies, they rely heavily on acorns for their diet. They create "acorn trees" by drilling holes in dead trees, branches, telephone



Photo by Sandy Strong

The Acorn Woodpecker can usually be found in oak woodlands throughout California, but I have seen many of them in the city of Willits.

As their name implies, they rely heavily on acorns for their diet. They create "acorn trees" by drilling holes in dead trees, branches, telephone poles, fence posts and wood buildings. The woodpeckers fill the holes with acorns that they have collected, finding just the right acorn for the size of the hole. I have seen these "trees" all over Willits and the surrounding area.

When they have eaten their stash, they move onto another wooden structure. One astonishing fact I found out was that woodpeckers were found to have put 490 pounds of acorns in a wooden water tank in Arizona. Now, that's a lot of acorns! They also feed on insects, sap and fruit.

The adult Acorn Woodpecker has a black head, black wings and tail, white forehead, throat and belly with yellow-white eyes, and the distinctive red cap. They have a "waka-waka-waka" call that sounds almost like laughing; a group of Acorn Woodpeckers can be very noisy!

This photo is of an adult male Acorn Woodpecker. Females have a black patch between their white forehead and their red cap.

- Sandy Strong

Sweet Millie

Our sweet Millie is a 9-year-old female Greyhound mix. She currently weighs 55 pounds. It is hard to believe that Millie had a guardian who moved and left her behind. Three weeks later she was brought to us, so - although we know she had a home - we do not know her history. We do know she is a kind soul and a favorite among staff. Millie would qualify for a senior dog discount and would be a wonderful addition to her new home.

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.mendosshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.



Photo by Rod Coats

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STILL ALICE (PG13) 1 hr 41 mins. Fri: 5:15 & 7:30pm. Sat/Sun: 12:45, 3:00, 5:15 & 7:30pm. Mon-Wed: 4:15 & 6:30pm. Thurs: 4:15pm - Special Showing for \$5.00 with guest presenter from the Adhemars Association. The Monday 4:15 show of Still Alice will be Open Caption for the Hearing Impaired!

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Sudoku

	8	4						9
			2		1			7
				3		5	2	
9				4		1		
	6							4
5			1					
		7	8	2	9		6	
				7				
6						7		

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

How To Sudoku:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Crossword Puzzle

		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		
		10	11							12			
		13							14				
		15							16				
17									18				
19				20					21				
22				23	24	25	26		27				
28									29	30	31	32	
					33				34			35	
					36								
					38								
		40									41	42	43
44								45	46	47			
48								49					
50													
								51					

CLUES ACROSS

- Slavonic language
- Solid water
- Supply with notes
- Edible bivalve
- Field game
- Yellow edible Indian fruits
- Lubricant that protects body surfaces
- Canadian flyers
- Took a seat
- Anthraxite
- Cuckoo
- Vietnamese currency unit
- Subject to payment on demand
- Opposite of BC
- The distance around an object
- Blood type
- Expressing gratitude
- Bridge-building degree
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- Great black-backed gull
- The largest island in the West Indies

CLUES DOWN

- College civil rights organization
- Full House actress
- Egyptian sun god
- Vessel or duct
- Belonging to a thing
- After B
- Refers to end of small intestine
- Baby cow
- River of Memmert Germany
- Farmer's calendar
- Spiral shelled cephalopods
- Source of chocolate
- Diversify
- Vegetation consisting of stunted trees or bushes
- Support trestles
- Single rail system
- Call upon in supplication
- Small compartment
- Lair
- Unpleasant nagging women
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Freshwater & limestone green algae
- Single Lens Reflex
- Gum arabics
- Austrian philosopher
- Maltese pound
- An immature newt
- Popular Canadian statement
- Norwegian monetary unit (abbr.)
- A journey around a course
- Confer a nobility title upon
- Idle talk
- British policeman
- A citizen of Havana
- Highly glazed finish
- A portion of
- Squad
- Betrayers
- Barrels per day (abbr.)
- Married woman
- Express delight
- Neither

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Senior Center Chili Cookoff

There were a lot of shady characters hanging out at the 9th Annual Willits Senior Center Chili Cook-Off last Friday night. Chili judges Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, Sheriff Tom Allman, Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, and Fire Chief Carl Magan were kept busy trying to stay above the fray of bribery, hot chili, gunslingers, saloon girls, karate masters, and hillbillies.

Master of ceremonies Sheriff Allman said he enjoyed visiting with local residents having a good time supporting the Outreach Program at the Senior Center. After seven years of judging at the Chili Cook-Off, Allman says he has learned that you need to save the hottest chili for last ... and that the root beer floats are essential for soothing a burning mouth.

A wide variety of ingredients went into the entries submitted by the contestants.

The award for the "Most Popular Chili" went to the BeanGos, the 1st Sunday Bingo group of the Willits Senior Center, for their Buffalo Wing Chili. There was some discussion that the winsome ways of the group's Miss Chili Pepper, Martha Morgan, were instrumental in bringing in the vote.

The judges awarded the "Best Chili" prize to Yokum's Body Shop for their Road Kill Chili. Owner and chef Jeff Yokum confided that his secret ingredient was "something flat and gray."

The Black Bart Gunfighters team won the "Best Booth/Best Dressed Team" award. Their entry for the contest was a Cow Poke Chili Con Carne straight from the prairie. They took time from their celebration to mention that they are looking for new members for their club.

semi and not from the BBQ grill." He must have saved all of the bones, because he had a unique bone wind chime on display at the table.

The Relay for Life team of Michael and Kathy Tobin, Jennifer Sookne, and Helen Michaels won the dubious honor of being "The Most Crooked Team." This team was very active in the bribery department. It was all in good fun, as all bribes were collected for the Willits Outreach Program.

Another contender in the contest, the team from Little Lake Fire Department, firemen Tylor Yador, Kevin Reedy, and Jody McGee, were not worried about having the hottest chili since, as they said: "We don't start fires, we put them out."

Gratefully Dedicated Chili's Joani Gartemaker-Johnson decorated her table in a '60s/'70s theme,



Howard Hospital Auxiliary elects new officers

New officers were installed for the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital Auxiliary - which will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year - at a recent luncheon in Willits. Elected officers are: President Nellie Larsen, Vice President Sheila Gray, Secretary Robin Crone, Treasurer Marla Schroeder and René Rodriguez, member at large.

The installation ceremony was conducted by Dennis Long, director of spiritual care at HMH. The Howard Hospital Auxiliary was founded in May of 1965 by several community members, including Iris Smalley, Bonnie Babcock and Ernestine Watson. Mrs. Watson served as the first president of the auxiliary.

The auxiliary volunteers play an important role in helping HMH deliver compassionate and quality care for patients and their families. From long-term and department-specific opportunities to special fundraising projects, the auxiliary donates countless hours to help fulfill the hospital's mission. As HMH nears completion of its new, state-of-the-art hospital off East Hill Road, there is a need for even more volunteers. To find out more about becoming an auxiliary volunteer, call Becky Hope, auxiliary coordinator, at 456-3245.



Choose your own 'best fit'

to win the college game

Bob Colvig, Ed.D.
Columnist

From the time high school students receive their first semester report card in the ninth grade, students begin to compare themselves to each other. Later they take the PSAT, SAT, and ACT tests, and share the results. With comparisons like GPA's and test scores, many students view these measurements in terms of winning and losing. The following discussion is an alternative view of winning and losing.

As a former coach and believer in the philosophy that competition brings out the best in us, I continually advise parents and students that approaching college should be approached like a game, so that the process can be fun. I also encourage students and parents to relax and enjoy the game. So, to make it fun, we may play the college application process like a game. In order to be successful, students need to learn the rules, prepare, and practice. In the college game, this may mean: study hard, take challenging courses, and earn the best grades possible.

Now in March, as colleges mail their fat envelopes of acceptance and their thin envelopes of thank you for applying, high school seniors will have to move beyond comparing winners and losers to deciding which college is the best fit for them.

Unfortunately, too many of us view getting into particular college like a win in terms of a sports context. The view that should be emphasized involves a personal choice. Contrary to a sports win, a win in the college application process is something that a senior should measure in terms of best fit. In this case, a win would be an acceptance to the college that is the best fit.

For each individual student, this is based on a variety of personal criteria. In terms of winning and losing, my advice to students is: "Don't look to your classmate's acceptance list, look at your options, determine which acceptance is a best fit for you."

The win a senior should look for in the college game is the college acceptance that is the best fit. A best fit is a personal determination for the student and their family. It may be determined in terms of college major, location, size, price, and many other personal factors. Choosing the best fit college option is a win. With this perspective, all of the college applicants from the class of 2015 will be winners.

Bob Colvig, Ed.D., University of San Francisco, a former high school counselor and national record-setting coach, currently provides assistance to schools through college application workshops. He also has worked for the University of California, Berkeley, in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, as an application reader. He and his daughter, Mary Colvig, Ed.M., Harvard University, provide independent college application advising services to individuals, as well as for free workshops. More information: colvigcounseling@gmail.com, www.colvigcounseling.com, or Facebook.

m.pho.tog.ra.phress

[uh-tog-ruh-friss]

noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

707-972-7047 maureengetsmail@gmail.com

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11 South Marin Street • Willits
459-6543

Thursday, March 12

The New Blu Trio: at the Willits Farmers Market today, from 3 to 5 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "One of Mendocino County's local favorites Nancy New on acoustic guitar, Don Fiers on bass, and Anita Blu on vocals, a polished blend of vocal harmonies, and a fun line-up of easy listening tunes ranging from Beatles to Jazz standards, to the Kinks, Phoebe Snow, KD Lang, to old hop-a-long cowboy songs, and anywhere in between!"

WHS Boosters Club Meeting: 6 pm at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support athletics and other extracurricular activities at WHS.

Auditions for "Kill Me, Deadly": Auditions for the Willits Community Theatre's main-stage production of "Kill Me, Deadly" will be held at the playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, Thursday, March 12 from 7 to 9 pm, and on Saturday, March 14 from noon to 2 pm. "Kill Me, Deadly" by Bill Robens is a hilarious, tongue-in-cheek spoof of old "film noir" movies like "The Maltese Falcon," which relies on a machine-gun rapid delivery for its comedic effects. Parts for 3 women, ages 20 to 40, 2 women ages 40 to 60, and 10 men, ages 20 to 60. The role of the central character Charlie Nickels has already been pre-cast; most of the male actors will be expected to do two or more roles. Directed by Damian Sebouhian; rehearses in May and opens on June 12 for a three-week run. Copies of the script are available at the front desk of the Willits Public Library. For electronic copies, email producer Mike ADair at michaeladair69@yahoo.com. Questions?: Sebouhian can be reached at 841-1634.

Friday, March 13

Friday Night Magic and Pokémon: every Friday through March at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, from 5 to 7:30 pm. For youth ages 10 to 14; parental contact info required to sign in. Bring your cards and play at the Willits Library! Participants are welcome to bring snacks and beverages. Info: librarian Jill Dorman at 459-5908.

Shanachie Pub: Melanie O'Reilly and Corwin Zekley, Celtic fusion. 8 pm. \$5 cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 14

Cupcake Wars: 2nd annual "Cupcake Wars" benefit event for the Willits High School Boosters Club and Cooking, from 3 to 5 pm (may be extended to 6 pm), at the Willits Community Center. Entry fee for competitors is \$20; pick up a form at Ace Copy or Imagination Station, or call or text 354-2312. Participants decorate a table and provide at least 24 cupcakes. Categories for prizes include: "Best Decorated Cupcakes," "Best Tasting

Cupcakes," "Best Decorated Table" and "People's Choice." Prizes of \$50 each except "People's Choice," which is \$100. Cupcakes are \$2 each, \$10 per half-dozen, and \$20 a dozen. Tickets to buy cupcakes are purchased at the door; \$1 entry fee just to come in and look; \$11 buys a "People's Choice" voting ticket.

American Legion St. Patrick's Dinner: American Legion-Willits Post #174 presents the annual Duane Brown Memorial St. Patrick's Dinner, featuring Corned Beef & Cabbage, Murphy's (Spuds), Carrots, Onions, etc. and Dessert. 5 to 7 pm, at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. \$18 adult, \$9 child under 12, free for children under 5 years. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

"Fed Up": Director Stephanie Soechtig's "examination of America's obesity epidemic and the food industry's role in aggravating it." With Michele Simon, Oprah Winfrey, and Bill Clinton. "Everything we've been told about food and exercise for the past 30 years is dead wrong. FED UP is the film the food industry doesn't want you to see." 6:30 pm at the Friendship House, 387 West Mendocino Avenue, next to the 7th Day-adventist Church. Plus demonstrations and food samples. Info: 972-9005.

Shanachie Pub: Darius Lux and Friends. 8:30 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Community Rights, Corporate "Rights" and the Rights of Nature: An evening with Movement Rights advocates Shannon Biggs and Pennie Opal Plant." 4 to 5:30 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "What does the passage of Measure S mean for the state of California? What comes next for Mendocino County? Shannon Biggs is a leading international speaker, author and activist on the growing movement for Rights of Nature. Shannon is a lecturer of weekend "Democracy Schools" that explore the rights-based framework for change, and leads rights of nature trainings around the country. Pennie Opal Plant is of Yaqui, Mexican, English, Dutch, Choctaw, Cherokee and Algonquin ancestry and is co-founder of Movement Rights. Pennie has been an activist for more than 30 years on anti-nuclear, environmental and indigenous rights. She has been a lecturer of Democracy School with the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund since 2005, promoting a rights-based strategy for confronting corporate power and creating real democracy from the grassroots." CROW meets the third Thursday of every month, this month March 19, at 5:30 pm in Room 10 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Everyone is welcome. Info: www.cmcrow.com or cmcrow@gmail.com or contact Peter Norris at 456-9968.



What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

is to build a network of mutual support among the community of (especially new and young) small farmers and to also reach out to the community and show-off our farms! Tour these inspiring farms. Then, get your hands dirty with some serious farm work.

Bring a dish to share at the potluck. April's Work day is set for Saturday, April 11 at Willits' Green Uprising Farm, 2301 East Hill Road. Info: www.mendocinofarmersguild.com or 707 216-5549. "Founded by farmers for farmers, the Mendocino Farmers Guild seeks to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, resources, support and inspiration within the Mendocino County farming community." The Farmers Guild plans to produce a beautiful Farm Tour poster every quarter; this first quarter's poster was done by Willits artist Marlena River, with the help of Thea and Sara Grusky.

"Understanding Community Rights" Forum: The Community Rights Organization of Willits (CROW) hosts this forum on "Understanding Community Rights, Corporate "Rights" and the Rights of Nature: An evening with Movement Rights advocates Shannon Biggs and Pennie Opal Plant." 4 to 5:30 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

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AARP Smart Driver class: See Wednesday, March 18 listing for details.

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Friday, March 20
Shanachie Pub: Julian & the Upside Sound. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

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Willits actors play Santa Rosa

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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. David Partch 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, the play will be taken to the next level in a larger and professionally equipped theatre.

This gives everyone another chance to see this wonderful play, especially those who missed it here in Willits. The play dates are: March 20, 21, 27, 28 and 29 and April 3, 4 and 5. Tickets can be ordered via the website at wells FargoCenterArts.org. There is a small surcharge for this online service. If you would like to avoid that, contact David Partch at 459-7054. You can also check out the play promotion video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vmk03neNl-w.

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St. Patrick's Day Lunch: The Harrah Senior Center presents St. Patrick's Day Lunch, from 11:45 am to 1 pm, at 1501 Baechtel Road. Corned beef & cabbage, red potatoes, carrot salad, roll, soup, beverage & dessert. Seniors \$5.50; non-seniors \$7; kids \$3.50. Info: 459-6826.

Free Healthy Lifestyle Class: Adventist Health presents a series of free "Healthy Lifestyle" classes on the third Thursday evening of every month, through September 2015. The classes, on health topics of interest to the general public, are from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the 11 Oaks Conference Room, and have various presenters. This month's class, Thursday, March 19, is titled "Moving Safely," and is presented by Heather Anderson, physical therapist. To register, call 456-3132.

10th Anniversary Now and Then Films: Now and Then Film Series celebrates its 10th Anniversary starting at 7 pm, with a retrospective of shorts and highlights selected from the more than 100 documentaries shown over the last decade. "Catch a glimpse of energy and oil issues, water, food and farming, transportation, currency and other subjects of interest for our community resilience." Suggested donation: \$5 helps sustain the monthly film series, every third Thursday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Organic popcorn, chocolate and refreshments for sale by the Grange. Info: 459-6362.

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Sunday, March 22

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: "Join your friends at the Grange Breakfast! 8 to 11 am this morning and every fourth Sunday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. \$7 buys you a plate of the best 'scratch' pancakes and local farm eggs to be found. Choose our Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, Organic Local Farm Fresh Eggs made to order, Real Butter, Juice, Organic Coffee or Tea." \$7, \$6 Seniors, \$4 children under 10. Extra sides of Organic Fruit in season, or Amish Maple Syrup \$1 each.

Now & Then Film Series
Celebrates The First 10 Years, A Retrospective... and a Look Ahead for our Film Series and our Community
An Evening of Movie Shorts, Snippets, Trailers and Cake!
March 19 @ 7:00pm
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291 School St, Willits

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Wowsers to announce exciting new plans

March 21 at noon Willits High School Gym

On the first full day of Spring, Saturday, March 21, at noon in the Willits High School Auditorium, the Wowsers maker space will host an event to celebrate the breakthroughs that came from the recent local economic summit it hosted on February 19. The organization will announce plans for creating revenue along with a sustainable business strategy. The event is open to the public and will include information on how community members can get involved.

During the recent economic summit, Wowsers hosted a group of local entrepreneurs, educators, and government officials to discuss opportunities to spur local economic growth. The summit, combined with numerous tours for community members, open houses, and the recent 95490 Town Hall has allowed Wowsers to assess the feedback, and with the help of a consultant, they have developed a plan. The recently formed Office of the Chief Executive is guiding the organization. The OCE consists of Cyndee Logan, Roger Wilson, and Ian Fitzpatrick.

The 20,000-square-foot industrial arts build facility, located at 330 E. Commercial Street, offers a range of workshops, supplies, and tools for artists, inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs. In addition, Wowsers is doing custom work for hire, is opening a cafe inside the facility, and has expanded its hours of operation to noon to 10 pm seven days a week. In addition, Wowsers is vetting a list of products to manufacture and sell to create revenue.

"We're standing at the top of our current ladder, and we're moving to the bottom rung of the next ladder. We'd like to invite the community to join us on March 21 as we go forward from the future," says Ian Fitzpatrick. "Please be in your seat and ready to begin prior to noon."

For more information please visit http://Wowsers.org or call 459-9697.

Senior Center St. Patrick's Day Lunch

Tuesday, March 17

The Harrah Senior Center presents St. Patrick's Day Lunch, from 11:45 am to 1 pm, at 1501 Baechtel Road. Corned beef & cabbage, red potatoes, carrot salad, roll, soup, beverage & dessert. Seniors \$5.50; non-seniors \$7; kids \$3.50. Info: 459-6826.

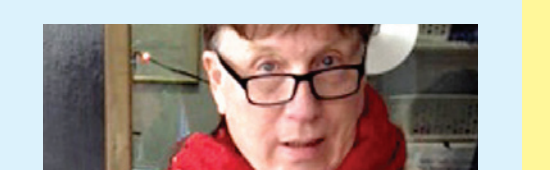
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Sign up for the Willits Otters Swim Team

The 2015 Willits Otters Swim Team started signups for the 2015 swim season this week at the Willits City Pool, just north of Willits High School. "Our seasonal swim team is for youths through high school ages. From the beginning swimmer to the most competitive skilled swimmer, our program provides the values of sportsmanship and team work." Regular practices are from 5 to 6:30 pm, Monday thru Friday. Sign-ups can be completed anytime during regular team practices. "Our Willits Otters typically start the season the first week of March and end the season the last week in July. The Willits Otters Swim Team Board of Directors and Head Coach Lou Meier and his coaching staff are excited about the 2015 Swim Season. The pool is ready, new equipment is on hand, and the 2015 swim meet dates are scheduled. Bring a friend, sign-up, and become a member of the Willits Otters Swim Team!"

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COLUMN | At the Movies



'McFarland, USA'

The Story: In the rural, mostly Latino town of McFarland in California's Central Valley, coach Jim White (Kevin Costner), a real-life person, leads his hard-working high school students to championships and international recognition in cross country track.

My Thoughts: This is a classic Disney "feel good" movie that made me feel good. Any movie that takes us out of Hollywood, or New York ... heck, any city ... wakes me up. I'm tired and bored by big city problems and big city corruption, or even by troubles in suburbia and for that matter. This flick gives us a relatively honest depiction of a California farming town and the economic struggles of farm workers ... all without being preachy. And, considering, I wouldn't have minded a little preachiness.

Also, "McFarland, USA" raises the moderately unimportant question: Can Dan, the sophisticated movie guy, enjoy a corny movie? Well, I liked this movie, and yeah, I even cried a little. The good guys win! The guys I was rooting for actually win.

Parents: This is a fine, good-hearted Disney movie for kids, for teenagers, for adults.

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

Melanie O'Reilly with Corca Baiscin

March 13 at Shanachie Pub

An exhilarating sound of Irish-themed music and song, old and new, in Gaelic as well as English, with a Celtic-Americana-Jazz contemporary twist, interwoven with a potent mixture of high energy instrumentals and soaring vocals. If you're an enthusiast for Celtic inspired music, or new and original outlooks on what it can be, this won't be a show to miss!

Featuring Melanie O'Reilly (from Dublin, Ireland), vocals and Corwin Zekley on fiddle, with Sean O'Nuallain (from Dublin, Ireland) on guitar, and Deirdre McCarthy, percussion.

Melanie O'Reilly was born in Dublin, and comes from a dynasty of musicians and actors.

She tours extensively throughout the USA, Ireland, Scotland, England, France and other parts of

Europe. She has also been nominated for Best Contemporary Album and Best Contemporary Female Artist by Irish Music magazine. The "Rough Guide to Irish Music" called Melanie's work "Spellbinding... uplifting music from a true innovator," while the Irish Times noted Melanie's "breathtaking amazing emotional intensity... (and) sheer virtuosity."

Show starts at 8 pm, on Friday, March 13 at the Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street in Willits.

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Phone: 707-459-2633, 7



85-year-old redwood

on State Street comes down, felled by Family Tree Service

A redwood tree planted during the Great Depression in a Willits backyard on State Street was taken down Friday. The 130-foot tree had somewhere between 83 and 87 rings – according to counts by property owner Victor Hansen and, later, by this reporter – each ring marking a year of growth.

Hansen said he didn't want to take the redwood down, but "the insurance company said it had to go. I didn't really have a choice. I'd feel so bad if a tree limb fell down and hurt somebody."

The tree had dropped limbs "bigger than I could put my hands around" into the neighbor's back yard in both this winter's storms, in February and last December, Hansen said. Neighbor Jennifer Snyder said the limbs landed in her fruit trees in the back yard this winter, and an earlier limb "took out

my shed."

The old home on the lot at 24 State Street, built sometime between 1910 and 1920, was demolished earlier this year. Hansen intends to replace it with a one-story office building – the lot is zoned commercial – as well as a gravel parking lot. Hansen has leased the highway frontage of an adjacent property he owns, at 101 North Main Street, to Starchild Chocolate, which plans to open a retail store selling its "made on the premises" organic chocolate by the end of this month. Hansen plans to plant fruit trees on the highway side of the chocolate factory.

Neighbors concerned about the loss of the tree had tried to convince Hansen to find a way to keep the tree standing, including Ash Maki, owner of Starchild Chocolate.

"Victor has been so generous to us," Maki said, "but we do disagree with the decision to take down the tree."

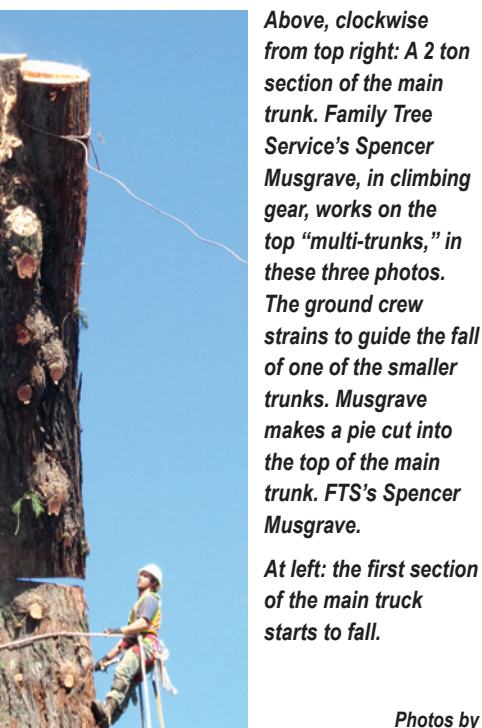
Family Tree Service spent much of the day

Friday felling the tree, as passersby watched and commented, some sad to see the tree go and some fascinated by a process not often seen in the middle of town. Family Tree used a 70-foot boom to limb the bottom part of the tree, chipping up those limbs with an on-site chipper. But Spencer Musgrave, son of Family Tree's owner, Greg Musgrave, worked the top half of the redwood using climbing gear.

The tree had grown into two "co-dominant" trunks right about 70 feet high, where the tree had been topped, decades ago. At the top of the tree, there were four weaker "multi-trunks."

As Spencer used a chain saw to take the multi-trunks down, each came crashing down with a hair-raising sound. Workers strained against ropes to help ensure – along with the feller's skill – that the heavy trunks would fall properly in place in the narrow lot.

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



Water Day #5

Earth, Water & Fire

Everything You Need to Know and About Living in Harmony with Nature!

Date: Saturday, March 21
Time: 9 AM-4 PM
Place: Garberville College of the Redwood Campus
 286 Sprowel Creek Road

Concurrent Sessions with Practical Information:
Water Conservation, Pollution Prevention, Fire & Forest Health, Erosion Control & FUN!

RIOS FISH AND CHIPS

11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Monday - Saturday
 1661 South Main Street • Willits
707-459-3105

Willits Weekly CLASSIFIEDS

30 Words | \$10 | 2 Weeks

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

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

Community HU Song
 In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, March 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.

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

For Rent
 Clean 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse/condo in a country setting, washer and dryer hook-up. No pets, no smoking. Garbage paid. \$735/month. Armo: 707-459-9601.

For Sale
 Shih-Tzu pups, 8 weeks old, vet-checked, wormed and first shot. \$500. 272-7020.

Help Wanted
 Activity Assistant, part-time. Northbrook Healthcare Center. Call Kathy at 459-5592 for more information.

Missing Dog
 3-year-old male lab mix. Black brindle coat. Last seen @ Grocery Outlet. Friendly boy named Storm. Very LOVED and MISSED. Contact Alexia @ 970-401-1882.

Poetry Group
 Empower yourself. Say what you feel in shorthand; You too can write poetry! Fun group, Room 7, Willits Grange, Thursdays, 3-4 pm. Contact Ellen, groundstones@yahoo.com

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

Vacation in Mexico Cabo San Lucas/ Puerto Vallarta
 One floating winter week 20-year term www.villadelapalmar.com \$2,500 + maintenance fee 707-354-4964

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

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.

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

with beads, tie dye, and a lava lamp. She also included information on the need for more jobs for the members of Ukiah's Mayacama Industries team.

Jennifer Sullivan and Debi Menesini's entry was a 7 Meat Hunter Chili. Their popular chili combined bear from Covelo, elk from Wyoming, and venison from Sherwood Rancheria, with buffalo, bacon, beef tri-tip, pork, and chocolate to make a hearty chili.

Jackson Isborn, a past winner of the contest, said his tasty Taco Chili was made even better because of its secret ingredient of "love."

HillBilly Sperling Chef Max Sperling entered a Chicken Chili served with the help of his friends and family, including the youngest server, Liam Sperling. He noted that his secret ingredient was rabbit, "but it tastes like chicken."

Lou Celaya and Gary Martin were kept busy serving Adam's Restaurant's Turkey White Bean Chili with Adam's special spice mix.

Steve Barden and Teresa Lane claimed their chili wasn't the hottest, but it was the best because of a "certain chili" not easily found in our area. As an added treat, Braden and Lane had tamales at their table.

Director of Willits Senior Center Allyn Nonneman thanks the community, prize donors, and volunteers for making the Chili Cook-Off a success.

The rest of **Redwood** | *From Page 8*

The last felling job before lunch was to take down the first, 16-foot length of the main trunk off the top. The ground crew passed a heavier 4-foot saw up to Musgrave with rope, then attached the guiding ropes to the truck hauling the chipper. Musgrave cut a wedge-shaped pie out on the front of the trunk, then cut around the back.

As the truck slowly inched forward, the estimated 2-ton chunk of wood fell right in front of the still-standing trunk, with a resounding crash.

Hansen said the lot had a well right west of the redwood tree, which fed its quick growth. The well had gone sideways to a 45 degree angle, Hansen said, and the old house was being raised up by the tree roots. When asked what he was planning to do with wood from the tree, Hansen said he would make lumber out of it – milled right on-site. The tree, due to having a number of knots, is likely to produce less than \$10,000 worth of lumber, Hansen said, and will be used to build a project like a fence or a deck.

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

1	8	4	2	7	5	6	3	9
3	5	2	9	1	6	4	7	8
7	6	9	3	4	8	5	2	1
9	7	3	5	8	4	2	1	6
2	1	6	7	9	3	8	5	4
5	4	8	1	6	2	3	9	7
4	3	7	8	2	9	1	6	5
8	2	1	6	5	7	9	4	3
6	9	5	4	3	1	7	8	2

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

meeting to discuss the future of the Willits High School Career and Technical Education facility, tried to ask a question concerning that issue. Carni told Woodhouse, who had already spoken extensively at the meeting, he would have to wait until later in the agenda.

It wasn't the first time Woodhouse had been redirected or contradicted during the meeting.

At the outset, Woodhouse had asked if he could speak during the public comment portion of the agenda about the underused CTE facility and the high number of Willits High students doing poorly academically. He was told to wait until later for that part of his comments (the public comment section of an agenda is reserved for comment on items not on the agenda), but went to the podium to speak on other issues, including urging the high school to do more to teach Spanish-speaking students how to speak and read in English.

After district Superintendent Patricia Johnson reported on her plans to involve Mendocino College in using the high school's CTE facility, Woodhouse again asked if he could speak. He was again told to wait until the item was up for full discussion.

When Willits High Principal Jeffrey Ritchley reported on plans to create Saturday school sessions at both Baechtcl Grove Middle School and Willits High to help lower-achieving students become eligible to play sports at the high school, Woodhouse responded such classes would be of limited use.

"This is a very limited way of catching up, if you already have the skills and are doing reasonably well, and just miss school," he said. "We really need to look at re-teaching the kids effectively. The kids are not stupid, they're not bad – they're smart. They're just not tracking or getting interested."

"I don't think it's just one factor," Carni replied, interrupting Woodhouse. "I think our teachers are fantastic. They put everything they have into it. With a lot of the kids we have coming around, there's so many factors that go into it: the home environment, the community. There's a lot of factors. There's just not one area where we going to be able to fix it."

When she finished, Woodhouse continued. "It's going to take a real commitment, working on it consistently, trying 50 things and seeing what works. We need to have an honest discussion about why the kids are failing. I mean, the great kids, you take their books, throw 'em in a pile outside, they figure it out and go to college. We're trying to reach the rest of the kids."

"We need to be honest about the challenging place we live in and the economy," he said. "These kids really need extra help and somehow, with all the money we've spent, we're not reaching them. Having the college involved is great, but again we're out-sourcing, thinking someone else can do our job. It's really our job. College teachers teach for a certain kind of mind. High school teachers are specialists and understand this wide range of kids."

"We have to teach to the kids that are bright, too," Carni said, interrupting Woodhouse again. "There's a whole gamut we are trying to cover..."

"I hear what you're saying," Carni continued. "You are not on any different mode than we are, just so you know. And our desire is to meet the needs of our students. And we're identifying areas where we're not."

After the meeting was opened for public comment, Mike Harger told trustees he felt Saturday sessions at Baechtcl Grove would not be enough to turn things around.

"Why are kids at Baechtcl Grove not doing well enough to play sports?" he asked. "There's got to be a problem somewhere else. Because I am seeing this as a Band-Aid."

Brookside School teacher Janie Smith said: "I think the real question here is: what do we have to do to reach these kids and get them to care, to get involved, to pay attention? How do we do that?"

No one had an answer.

"We all agree. We're not debating on different sides of this issue," Woodhouse said. "It's just a matter of figuring it out. It's going to cost some money, coming from somewhere."

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

It's going to take the community working together. And I think the community will come and help, but we need to give them some specific goals and let the kids know we care. Thank you for having this discussion. I know it's painful. Thank you very much," Woodhouse said.

At some point during the discussion Woodhouse asked permission to ask a clarifying question, which Carni refused. A few minutes later, Neary left the room, returning in about 15 minutes.

When Carni moved the meeting forward to the "board comments" portion of the agenda, Neary asked to go first and lowered the boom.

"[Tom Woodhouse] wanted to ask a question about trade positions [i.e., teachers for the CTE program], and we cut him off, saying it was on the agenda so he couldn't talk then," Neary said. "I thought we had agreed we were going to move away from those kinds of formalities. I had to step out of the room for a minute, so I am the only one in this room that doesn't know what happened on [agenda item] 'F.' If [Woodhouse] had been able to ask the question at the time he wanted to, then I would know right now."

"So I am pretty upset that you cut him off," Neary said. "I don't think we should cut people off when they want to ask questions, and I think we have got to bring a stop to that. If somebody wants to ask a question, they ought to be able to ask it."

"I am pretty hot about this," he added, "because I wanted to ask questions, too. I didn't know what the superintendent meant by 'building and trades' and I guess I will just go home. Because, if we can't ask questions in this meeting, if it's going to be 'sit down and shut up,' then I would like the superintendent to call me tomorrow and tell me what it is you said."

Neary then left the meeting.

While his departure marked the meeting's most dramatic moment, it was certainly not the only time the meeting resembled an exercise in primal scream therapy. Immediately after Neary's departure, student representative to the board Naomi Ramirez tried to explain why "spirit" among Willits High School students is so low. She bemoaned the loss of former Willits High Principal Gordon Oslund and the loss of the Summer Academy, which over the past five years has shrunk from three weeks to two weeks, and now to just one day.

Near to tears, Ramirez also lamented the loss of former Willits High history teacher Jeff Bergmann and former Willits High counselor Tania Ramming.

"Losing Mr. Bergmann and Tanya hurt. They were like batteries of energy that lifted us up. I think those are some of the reasons we are so cynical," Ramirez said.

Willits Teachers Association representative Paula Nunez added to the gloom, telling trustees the current atmosphere between the administration and district employees was suffering from a lack of trust.

Nunez and California School Employees Association Secretary Shauna Martin told Willits Weekly they were not at liberty to go into detail about what has gone wrong, but indicated the issue concerned disciplinary action taken by the district that the leadership of both employee unions feels was meted out unfairly.

"When someone is accused of wrongdoing, be it misunderstood, or poor judgment and the breaking of a law," Nunez told the board, "the procedures followed and the penalties suffered are seen, at best, as inconsistent and, at worst, as discriminatory or purposefully punitive."

"Because these events concern personnel, I am not mentioning names. However I must say the persons receiving the brunt of the apparent injustice range from CSEA members and their president to a number of WTA members."

"This semblance of impropriety is serious," Nunez noted. "It is hurting our morale, district-wide, and it is hurting the level of trust the superintendent, the board, and both our organizations [i.e., the WTA and the CSEA] have been working so carefully to build."

"Trust is a very fragile thing," Nunez said. "It takes a lot of time and a lot of hard work to build, yet it takes almost nothing to break and destroy."

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

42-year-old adult male who said "he was being physically assaulted and he protected himself by stabbing," but there was "no clear, overwhelming evidence at the scene," van Patten said. No arrests were made at the time.

Van Patten couldn't give details of the injuries, but said it was his understanding that none of the injuries were life-threatening.

– Jennifer Poole

The rest of **Redwood** | *From Page 8*

Photos by Jennifer Poole

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

able to give out much information. "At this point, the best information we have available is that we believe this to be possibly a self-defense situation, and it's currently still being investigated by the Sheriff's Department's detective staff, with further interviews going on."

The call for service came in at 1:27 am, with a report of "a possible physical assault in the vicinity of Brooktrails Lodge," Van Patten said. The deputies' report described a

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

Traffic was stopped on the highway for about an hour and 45 minutes.

"We had traffic basically stopped the whole time," Deputy Chief Thomen said. "We had to land the helicopter, and we couldn't have the traffic passing." The REACH 18 helicopter landed at the old truck scales north of town.

In addition to the California Highway Patrol, REACH, and the two Veri-Health ambulances and one Med-Star ambulance that responded, Little Lake Fire had "our heavy rescue, an engine, and two chief officers on scene," Thomen said.

The accident remains under investigation, the CHP said.

Additional reporting on this story was done by Dan McKee.

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

701 when the accident occurred, across from Gate 6, Thomen said, the entrance to the northern interchange construction area of the Willits bypass project. Right before 6 pm, the car reportedly swerved off the roadway and onto the shoulder, where Otwell was hitching a ride. Otwell was found unconscious right next to the vehicle, "inches away from being crushed," Thomen said.

A second passenger riding in the back of the car, Jeffrey Arrington, 55, of Willits, escaped with only minor injuries. "We understood he was another hitchhiker they'd picked up between Laytonville and Willits," Thomen said. Arrington had left the accident scene, reportedly chasing his dogs who'd been in the vehicle, and was discovered at the Willits city limits. He refused medical treatment.

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

able to give out much information. "At this point, the best information we have available is that we believe this to be possibly a self-defense situation, and it's currently still being investigated by the Sheriff's Department's detective staff, with further interviews going on."

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2015 *Congressional Art* COMPETITION for high school students

Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) today announced that the 2015 Congressional Art Competition is open to all high school students in California's Second Congressional District, which spans from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border. "An Artistic Discovery" is the annual art contest held by the U.S. Congress for high school students across the country.

"I am excited to announce the kickoff of our 2015 Congressional Art Competition, an opportunity for Congress to recognize and encourage the artistic talent of our high school students. I invite young artists from up and down California's North Coast to join their peers across the nation in an opportunity to showcase their art in the U.S. Capitol Building," Huffman said.

Students must submit completed works to one of Congressman Huffman's district offices no later than Friday, April 10, 2015.

The winning artwork will be exhibited in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year, alongside artwork from each congressional district in the country. The winning student will receive two round-trip tickets to Washington, D.C., to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception for the new display in June 2015. All participants will receive a certificate of recognition. The winner will also be eligible for a scholarship to attend Savannah College of Art and Design (upon admission acceptance).

Semi-finalist competitions will take place in each county, and a district-wide competition will select the winner of the Second District. Previous winners include Jee Young Bhan of Larkspur (2014), and Kalyń Peterson of San Anselmo (2013).

Guidelines for the Congressional Art Competition:

- Artwork must be two-dimensional.
- Each piece can be no larger than 28" x 28" x 4" (28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep), including a frame (frame optional unless selected as winner).

Deputies raid pot garden, arrest two men

Two Willits-area men were arrested March 3 after members of the County of Mendocino Marijuana Eradication Team, agents from the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, and sheriff's deputies served a search warrant on a residence and property in the 4700 block of Bear Canyon Road southeast of Willits just before 9 a.m.

A search of the property revealed an indoor marijuana garden containing almost 500 plants, according to sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten. Also seized during the raid were some 110 pounds of processed marijuana packaged for sale, a scale, and almost \$3,000 in currency.

Jacob Kiesel, 34, and John Rardon, 35, were arrested on suspicion of cultivating and possessing marijuana for sale, and booked into county jail.

They were released that evening, after posting \$25,000 bail each, Van Patten said.

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

COLUMN |
Wowser Makes

I want to weld!! (at Wowser)

Roger Wilson
Columnist

Yes, it's true. One of the things that we hear most often at Wowser is, "Really!!!! I can learn to weld at Wowser!!!! Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy!!" Everyone seems to like the idea of welding.

Well, just for you reading this, Wowser has decided to reveal the true secret of welding. I hope it lives up to your expectations. And here it is:

The best welders spend less than 5 percent of their time welding.

Sorry, I knew you were expecting something bigger. The truth is: The best welders spend most of their time preparing to weld. Do I have the right pieces to weld? Are they lined up right? Are they square? Have I ground, and sanded, and polished the joint area so that the weld will be perfect? Are the clamps in place (and solid), so nothing will wobble when I start the weld?

Is the speed/current correct (for the best penetration of heat)? Do I have the best electrodes for this combination of metal and location and type of weld? Are they clean and dry? (Damp electrodes mess up a weld badly.) Is the ground clamp in the best place for high current flow? (Is it even connected to the piece I plan to weld?) Is my iPhone sitting in a place so that it will get welded to the metal?

OK, now we weld. For all of 3 seconds.

Are the metal pieces still in place? Have they shifted position a tiny bit? (Too little to notice until an hour from now when I find that nothing really fits together like it was supposed to.) Is the weld solid? Did I get enough heat into the metal? Enough heat on both pieces. And not too much heat: That would weaken the other parts of the metal. (Ever see a weld where the metal broke an inch away from the weld? That was too much heat, for too long.) And lastly, even if it is fine, does it look good? Is it a beautiful weld? Smooth, even, clean, straight (or curved)?

The best welders not only have skill, they also have learned that the better you prep your weld, the better it comes out.

And here is the trick.

The trick is simple. A beautiful weld is the best. You'll know when your weld is beautiful. You can tell.

Come on over to Wowser and have fun.

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

The rest of
Sewer | From Page 1

to postpone the trial while the two sides tried to reach a settlement.

However, in a written communication with Willits Weekly, Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore said the impetus to postpone the trial came from Brooktrails, not from the city. She added the city will not submit a settlement proposal to Brooktrails unless both sides are in mediation.

Both Neary and Rose said the Brooktrails Township Board of Directors rejected the idea of a continuance, but asked the city to submit a proposal that included settlement terms to Brooktrails.

Neary told Willits Weekly Brooktrails has submitted numerous proposals to the city in the past, none of which has been acknowledged.

Rose said much the same thing. "The district has submitted four or five proposals to the city, none of which have been commented on by the city."

While Neary said last Friday that the trial had begun, both Rose and Moore said the judge will hear motions on Thursday. Jury selection should begin either Friday, or Tuesday, March 17. The trial itself could begin as early as March 18 or March 19.

Neary has predicted the trial will last as long as six weeks.

"Brooktrails has been trying to work with the city on this issue at least since 1997," Rose said. "The longest-standing issue has been the accounting issue, which has been going on at least since 1997. And metering has been an issue since 2002. I am sure both the city council and the [Brooktrails] board of directors would like to settle, provided they can come to terms."

According to Moore, "It was Brooktrails who approached the city last week, seeking our participation in mediation to achieve a settlement. In response, the council met in closed session on Thursday March 5, to discuss Brooktrails' request, wherein they voted to authorize participation in said mediation.

"At the same time, the Brooktrails board also met in closed session to discuss and presumably to authorize their participation in the mediation. For reasons that escape us, they decided not to participate in the very mediation they proposed. We later learned that their willingness to engage in mediation was predicated on the city presenting a proposed settlement offer prior to the mediation. However, they failed to convey that condition to us prior to our meeting."

"With regard to whether or not the city is contemplating a settlement proposal, all I can say is we would only present a settlement offer during the mediation process, not prior to. Why would we step outside of a process that provides those legal safeguards, frankly, to both parties?" Moore asked.

The rest of
Agenda | From Page 1

standards set by the Department of State Architects, which governs school buildings.

That request has created a legal conundrum for the district: if a Kids Club portable is located on a district campus, but used only by the Kids Club, does it need to comply with DSA standards, or not?

Trustees Saprina Rodríguez and Laurie Harris agreed to serve on a new Kids Club committee with Johnson, who noted this would be a superintendent's committee, not a board committee, and therefore not subject to Brown Act rules for open meetings.

District hopes to work with college

Johnson also told the board she is in the early stages of creating a working relationship with Mendocino College so college students can use the CTE facilities at Willits High School.

The district is exploring a number of possibilities regarding this effort, including offering concurrent enrollment for high school students at the college, concurrent enrollment for high school students at the high school (so Willits High students can take college classes at the high school), dual enrollment, and other options.

Johnson seems to be willing to consider all options, including one which would allow college students to come onto the high school campus during regular school hours. A resolution approving this was approved 3-1, with Trustee Alex Bowlds voting no and Trustee Christopher Neary absent.

Bowlds said he had "deep reservations" about allowing college students to come onto the WHS campus during regular school hours, noting he was concerned for the safety and security of high school students. He added he would have no problem with an arrangement that would allow college students to use high school facilities for evening classes.

He asked Johnson to complete a plan on how the larger community could use the CTE facilities at the high school, but Johnson replied she needed board approval of a statement that would allow all options before she would be able to enter into negotiations with Mendocino College.

"I would hate to send the college the message that the board wasn't really in support of going forward with this," she said.

Johnson said she thought progress on reaching an agreement would be slow. "I think it will be a slow journey, but once we get things in place, I think it will benefit our students tremendously."

Saturday classes offered

In recent weeks, both Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits High School have suffered criticism by community members over the high rate of Willits High students receiving poor or failing grades.

Of particular interest has been the fact that more than a quarter of current high school students are ineligible to play sports. Some 40 percent of incoming and first quarter freshmen this year were ineligible to play sports at Willits High, due to poor grades.

Willits High Principal Jeffrey Ritchley told trustees the latest report cards show those statistics moving in a positive direction. Whereas first-quarter report cards indicated 40 percent of freshmen receiving grades of 2.0 or lower, more recent reports show that rate has dropped to 28 percent.

First-quarter report cards showed 35 percent of

Willits Weekly | **March 12, 2015** **Phone:** 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 **Email:** willitsweekly@gmail.com

Community Endowment Fund awards \$25,000 in grants to North County projects

Four projects in northern Mendocino County were awarded a total of \$25,000 in grant funding at the March 3 meeting of the Community Foundation of Mendocino County Board of Directors. These grants were made possible through the Community Foundation's "Community Endowment Fund."

The Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation and Golden Rule Church Association were awarded \$10,000 to renovate the historic Carriage House doors at Ridgewood Ranch, along with the vertical column between the doors, to provide a finished look and protection from adverse weather conditions for the interior. This was the largest of this year's grants, which totaled \$120,000 given out countywide.

The Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation just celebrated the 75th anniversary of Seabiscuit's and jockey Red Pollard's history-making win in the Santa Anita Handicap of March 2, 1940.

The Frank R. Howard Foundation was awarded \$5,000 to provide stipends and materials for master classes to train 12 local co-facilitators who will provide chronic disease management workshops for more than 80 residents in Covelo, Laytonville, and Willits.

The two Willits grants will help preserve Willits' unique sense of place and to improve community health.

The Laytonville Unified School District received \$5,000 in grant funding to assist with the building of an outdoor classroom, complete with a solar demonstration system, weather monitoring station, rainwater catchment and outdoor sink to enhance renewable resource and garden education

opportunities for district students.

Round Valley's Bones Pet Rescue was granted \$5,000 to equip a new cat shelter facility that will effectively house and rehabilitate stray cats by removing them from the areas in Round Valley where they pose a health and safety risk.

The Community Endowment has been built by contributions that vary from a check for \$25 to an estate gift valued at several hundred thousand dollars.

Megan Barber Allende, the Community Foundation's operations & philanthropic services manager, notes that the Community Endowment Fund has been built by donors with various interests, and all of these are reflected in the grants. Donors who give to the Community Endowment fund know their gifts will be used here in Mendocino County for long-term benefit in the county.

The grants funded through the Community Endowment Fund undergo an extensive review process, including review by regional volunteers, as well as a board committee.

Grants are made in all regions of the county, and fund grassroots as well as more established non-profit organizations. These grants serve to strengthen the capacity of non-profit organizations in Mendocino County to serve our communities now and in the future.

For more information about the grants or how you can make a gift to the Community Endowment Fund, visit www.communityfound.org.

— submitted by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

school dance, held February 28 in the gym. Special mats were rolled out to protect the floor, and Ritchley said those who attended had a good time. Currently, enrollment at the high school is 427.

Board OKs district office move

Trustees approved spending \$53,000 to create a driveway from Blosser Lane Road to the proposed new site of the district office at Blosser Lane Elementary School on a 3-1 vote. The plan is to use four portable classrooms located on the southern border of Blosser Lane School as a district office complex.

Superintendent Johnson has repeatedly said the current situation, with two classrooms in the heart of Blosser Lane being used as a district office, is not workable over the long term. Building a new building could cost more than \$1,000,000, and renting or leasing a building is estimated to cost between \$18,000 and \$38,000 a year in perpetuity.

Johnson said building the driveway would be the biggest part of creating the new office space; the rest of the move would involve little additional cost.

Trustee Harris voted against the proposal.

Other key votes

Trustees approved hiring four physical education teachers to offer organized PE activities at the district's two elementary schools, Brookside and Blosser Lane. The proposal to hire the new teachers is a response to state mandates requiring PE for elementary school-age children.

The board declined to support a proposal by Superintendent Johnson to create a new position called Facilities, Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Assistant, or FMOT Assistant. This would be essentially an unskilled, entry-level position to help with simple tasks and fill in as needed with the district's custodial, transportation and maintenance needs. Johnson argued the position was necessary "to build internal capacity."

Baechtel Grove Middle School Principal Maria de los Angeles Mungia noted some pipes had broken in her office during the winter, flooding the floor. Mungia and the dean of Baechtel Grove had to lug out all the books and administrative records in the room. When the room was dry and the pipes were fixed, they had to lug them back in.

"If we would have had that person at that time, that was the kind of work he could have done," Mungia said.

The vote on the question, held after the departure of Trustee Neary, was 2-2, with board President Cynthia Carni and Rodriguez voting yes, and Bowlds and Harris voting no. The issue will be brought back later for a second vote.

The board also rejected a new salary schedule for the superintendent. The proposal would have set the superintendent's pay at \$138,600 a year at Step 1, and hiked it to \$152,980 a year at Step 5. According to Johnson, currently there is no approved salary schedule for the superintendent position. She currently makes \$132,000 a year.

The bump up to \$138,600 would represent the same 5 percent raise all other employees received in 2014. The incremental increases to Step 5 are figured in at 2.5 percent per year, which is what other administrators in the district have written into their contracts.

The motion to approve failed on a 2-2 vote, with Bowlds and Harris voting no.

The question will be brought up again at a future meeting.

A big thank you to all who helped us raise \$33,169.54 in our

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Willits High School's Amazing Athletes



Track | Robert Swoboda, 16, Sophomore

Events: 800, 1600, 3200 meter dash and pole vaulting

Breakfast of Champions: Whatever I find in the pantry

Love for the Sport: It's a blast, and I like competition. My goal is to break a 5 minute mile.

Having just finished his wrestling season at the North Coast Sections, and with only one week of track practice, Robert ran a great mile race, taking first place in his heat of 20 runners. He was passed by another runner on the backstretch of lap 4, but regained the lead on the final sprint for the finish line. His time of 5:05 is only one second off his personal record.

— Coach Dave Smith



Track | Bianca Guevara, 14, Freshman

Events: 4x100 relay, and 100 and 200 meter dash

Breakfast of Champions: Bananas, apples, oranges

Love for the Sport: I love track because you're active, and I like to run.

Bianca ran three events at the Big Cat Invitational in Santa Rosa, where there were more than 1,200 competitors. She ran the first leg of the 4x100 relay, then followed that up with a first-place finish in her heat of the 100 meter dash. Her last race of the day was the 200 meter, where she took 3rd in her heat.

— Coach Dave Smith

Willits High School's Stand-out Wrestlers

Wrestling | Justin Thom, 17, Junior

Breakfast of Champions: Mini-wheat cereal

Love for the Sport: It's an independent sport, and you must rely on yourself for a win or loss, and no one else.

Wrestling | Gabby Agenbroad, 16, Junior

Breakfast of Champions: Breakfast burrito (after weigh-ins)

Love for the Sport: Wrestling keeps you in good shape, and helps you learn discipline and how to manage yourself.

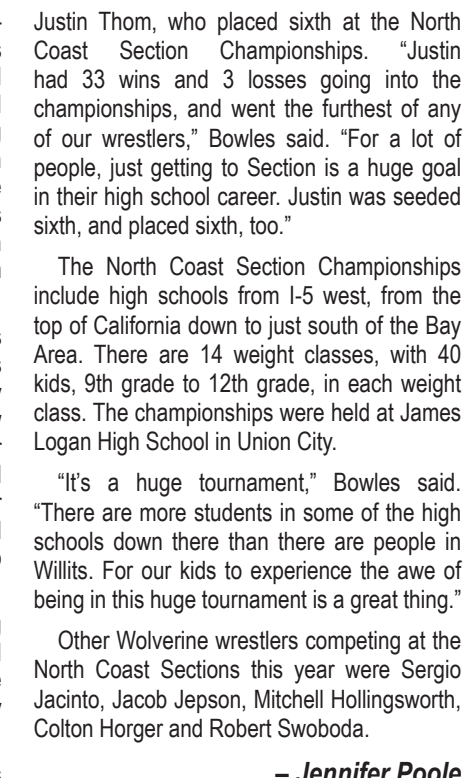


The Willits High School wrestling teams — both boys and girls — had a great season this year. Girls standout Gabby Agenbroad placed sixth out of 40 girls, upsetting the 3rd seeded wrestler, at the CIF State Girls Wrestling Championships at the Visalia Convention Center. Agenbroad is the first Lady Wolverine wrestler to place at that level. "We've had girls who've qualified," said head wrestling coach Brian Bowles, "but none who've placed. I'm really proud of her."

Gabby is the third Agenbroad Bowles has coached: "She's the youngest sibling, but she's placed the highest," he said. "I would really attribute Gabby's growth this year to our new girls coach, Dana Karkar. Having Dana on our coaching staff has really elevated the potential of our sport for Willits." Karkar wrestled for Willits High, went to college in Iowa on a partial wrestling scholarship, and has come back to coach in Willits.

Bowles says wrestling is the fastest-growing sport for girls in California. He's looking forward to next year's competition, with words of praise for other Lady Wolverine wrestlers Bailey Ferguson and Nicole Karkar.

Top Wolverine wrestler this season was



— Jennifer Poole

Wrestling | Justin Thom, 17, Junior

Justin Thom, who placed sixth at the North Coast Section Championships. Justin had 33 wins and 3 losses going into the championships, and went the furthest of any of our wrestlers," Bowles said. "For a lot of people, just getting to Section is a huge goal in their high school career. Justin was seeded sixth, and placed sixth, too."

The North Coast Section Championships include high schools from I-5 west, from the top of California down to just south of the Bay Area. There are 14 weight classes, with 40 kids, 9th grade to 12th grade, in each weight class. The championships were held at James Logan High School in Union City.

"It's a huge tournament," Bowles said. "There are more students in some of the high schools down there than there are people in Willits. For our kids to experience the awe of being in this huge tournament is a great thing."

Other Wolverine wrestlers competing at the North Coast Sections this year were Sergio Jacinto, Jacob Jepson, Mitchell Hollingsworth, Colton Horger and Robert Swoboda.

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Curves Annual Food Drive now through end of March



Earline Dykes, left, and Curves-Willits owner Lisa Yokum hold bags of food for Willits Community Services donated by members of Curves, the weight loss and exercise center specially designed for women. Curves-Willits holds a food drive in March each year. "New members can join during this month, and we will waive the \$59 enrollment fee when they bring in a bag of non-perishable foods," Yokum says. The food drive will continue through the end of March. To join up, or just to donate, bring a bag of food to Curves, 1726 South Main Street, Suite F, in the Evergreen Shopping Center, or call 456-0751 with questions.

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Many of the past Willits Frontier Days Sweethearts.
Photo by Maureen Moore

Looking for 2015 Sweethearts!

Deadline to apply is April 10

Soroptimist International of Willits is now accepting applications for 2015 Frontier Days Sweethearts.

The contest is open to young women residing anywhere in Mendocino County between the ages of 16 and 21 as of July 1, 2015, and who have never been married.

Judging is based on 40 percent ticket sales, 40 percent horsemanship and 20 percent on poise and appearance. The Sweetheart Contest helps young women raise money for college or other expenses, as the contestants are awarded 15 percent of the ticket funds they raise.

Interested applicants should contact Loraine Patton at 459-5363 for details. Applications can be picked up at Gateway Realty, 100 South Street, in Willits or downloaded from www.willitsfrontierdays.com. (Go to this web site, scroll down to headings /Home/ Events/ Sweethearts), click on "Sweetheart," scroll down to bottom of page, see Sweetheart Entry Form.

Those interested can also access the form through Willits Frontier Days on Facebook. Fill out the application, mail it, or drop it off at Gateway Realty, 100 South Street, Willits. Applications need to be received by Loraine Patton on or before April 10, 2015.

The Sweetheart applicants will receive their binders at the first Sweetheart meeting on Thursday, April 16 at 6 pm, at Gateway Realty. If you have any questions please call Loraine at 459-5363 or stop by her office.



Sports Central at Willits High School last Tuesday

Cheering on the home team is great for school spirit and athlete encouragement, and is a fun way to spend an afternoon. Last Tuesday both the Willits High School's softball and baseball teams played home games against Laytonville; the tennis team was practicing their skills at the net; and there was also a wrestling competition where middle schools, including Willits' Baechtel Grove, competed. Check out an upcoming Willits Weekly for additional game coverage, and see the list of home games for all the Willits High School teams below. Come cheer on the Wolverines!

Photos by Maureen Moore



Willits High School Home Games, 2015

Varsity Softball

Thursday, March 12 at 4 pm against El Molino
Tuesday, March 24 at 4 pm against Middletown
Tuesday, April 14 at 4 pm against Kelseyville
Tuesday, April 21 at 4 pm against Clear Lake
Tuesday, April 28 at 4 pm against Fort Bragg
Friday, May 1 at 4 pm against Lower Lake
Thursday, May 14 at 4 pm against Cloverdale

JV Baseball

Tuesday, March 24 at 4 pm against Middletown
Friday, March 27 at 4 pm against Clear Lake
Tuesday, March 31 at 4 pm against Cloverdale
Friday, April 10 at 4 pm against St. Helena
Tuesday, April 14 at 4 pm against Kelseyville
Tuesday, April 28 at 4 pm against Fort Bragg

Varsity Baseball

Tuesday, March 24 at 4 pm against Middletown
Tuesday, March 31 at 4 pm against Cloverdale
Friday, March 10 at 4 pm against St. Helena
Tuesday, March 14 at 4 pm against Kelseyville
Tuesday, March 21 at 4 pm against Clear Lake
Tuesday, March 28 at 4 pm against Fort Bragg

Swimming

Thursday, March 19 at 4 pm against Fort Bragg/Mendocino
Thursday, March 26 at 4 pm against Clear Lake/Kelseyville
Thursday, April 16 at 4 pm against Calistoga

Tennis

Friday, March 12 at 3:30 pm against Anderson Valley
Tuesday, March 24 at 3:30 pm against Fort Bragg
Friday, April 3 at 3:30 pm against Point Arena
Tuesday, April 7 at 3:30 pm against Mendocino

Track

Wednesday, April 15 at 3:30 pm against St. Helena, Calistoga, Sonoma Academy, St. Vincent's, and Technology School.

OBITUARY | Lillian Hennigan

Lillian Hennigan

On March 10, 2015, Lillian Maxine Hennigan passed into the arms of the Lord. A long-time Willits resident, "Maxine" was born in Clarks, Louisiana on June 23, 1920. She traveled from there to California with her family, settling first in Fort Bragg and then in the Willits area in the 1940s.

Maxine spent the earlier portion of her working career at the Willits Bakery, later becoming a fixture at Sprouse-Reitz Store where she worked for many years, and eventually ending her career through her volunteering at the Willits Senior Center for another 14 years.

Maxine had many varied community interests including the Rebeccas, Lady's Auxiliary and her church, Agape Bible Church. She was well-known for taking the tickets every year for the 4th of July Rodeo, and she was also involved with the women's group that quilted for the homeless.

Maxine was married to George Hennigan for 59 years, until his death in 1995. Over the years they made many trips back to Louisiana to visit family and friends. They had two children, Betty Griffin, who preceded her mother in death in 2012, and Bob Hennigan. Maxine's beloved son-in-law Doug Griffin preceded her in death in 1997. Maxine was the oldest of six children, and the last surviving child of Oscar and Lucille DePriest.

Maxine leaves behind a large family that includes her son, Bob Hennigan and wife, Judy; her grandchildren: Sandy Griffin, Tina & (Mike) Elledge, Debbie Parker, Lorrie Hennigan & (Luis) Blanco; five great-grandchildren: Ryan, Dakota & (Heather), Kismet, and Ali; and one great-great-grandchild, Hendrix.

Maxine's greatest joy was spending time with her family and grandchildren. She loved her friends, and loved to tell a good story. Maxine will be greatly missed by her family and friends and the entire Willits community. Her zest for life serves as an inspiration to us, and her memory will live on forever.

A graveside service will be held at the Willits Cemetery on Tuesday, March 17, at 1:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a memorial gift in her name to the Willits Senior Center.

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

OBITUARY | Larry Grafft

Larry Grafft

The family of Larry Grafft is saddened to share that he passed away on March 9, 2015 due to complications from his battle with cancer. Larry was known by many for his tireless work ethic, integrity, and his strong support for and mentoring of his fellow law enforcement and CAL FIRE employees.

His family will always remember his love and compassion for those around him. He was always a true and genuine soul.

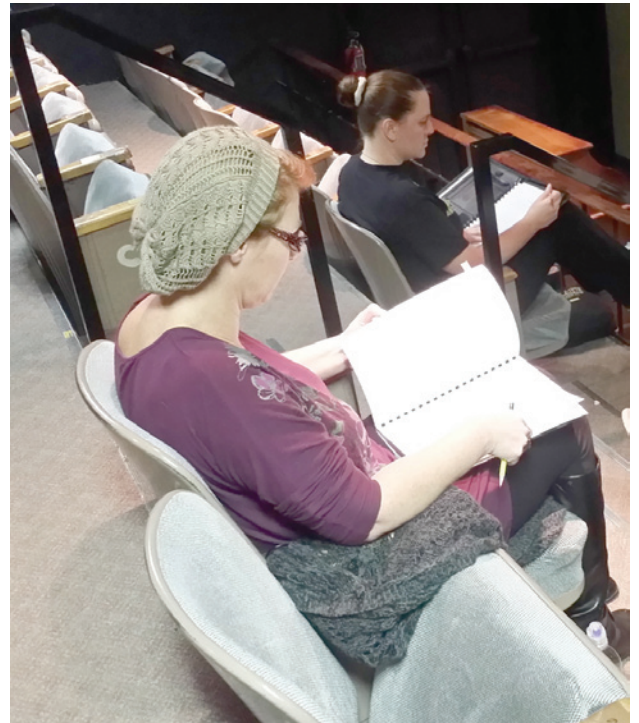
Larry was a retired assistant chief for CAL FIRE who spent 30 years in law enforcement and fire control. He was also a member of the Mendocino County SWAT since 1998.

He is survived by his wife, Valarie, his son Kris and daughter-in-law Amanda, his mother Jeanette, and his sister Lisa, brother-in-law Phil, and nephews Richard and Anthony.

A memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, March 14, at the Recreation Grove Park located on Commercial and Lenore Streets in Willits, and a Celebration of Life will take place following the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County, 590 South Dora Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Please take a moment to celebrate and remember a wonderful man who touched so many lives. He will be forever missed and always remembered.

All services provided by Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



'Lips Together, Teeth Apart'

WCT's next production taking shape at the Van Lane playhouse

Clockwise from top: Director Bill Barksdale instructs his cast, rehearsing on the set for "Arsenic and Old Lace," which was still running when rehearsals for WCT's April play started. Actors Gretchen Anderson and Steve Marston share a laugh. Gretchen Anderson memorizes lines for her character, "Sally." Steve Marston, playing "Sam," considers his next move.

Photos by Kevin Klay

At the Willits Community Theatre, Director Bill Barksdale is preparing a play that may be too hot for some to handle, Terrence McNally's "Lips Together, Teeth Apart." Barksdale, a local real estate agent and theater director, is working on his 10th play for WCT. Barksdale has been directing since 1994, and is known for presenting emotionally gripping, dramatic plays.

Kevin Klay
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"Plays shed a light on the human condition. Acting is living and reacting in a real way to imaginary circumstances,"

Barksdale says. "Lips Together, Teeth Apart" is a play about irrational fear; it begs the question, "Can we change?"

Mike A'Dair, longtime stage producer at WCT, describes Barksdale's style as very exacting. "He doesn't direct like anyone else around here, and he's in a class by himself." "Do what's real!" Barksdale tells his four cast members, "If you're painting, paint. If you're reading, read. If you're cooking, cook. If you're checking a gauge, really check and read that gauge. I don't want you to just go through the motions, do it for real."

"He does what it takes to bring out the character in the actors," says stage manager Glorianne Lucero. "Bill wants us to be the best we can be." Barksdale's cast, two women and two men, must memorize what has been described as blistering and searing dialogue. Acting in McNally's play can be emotionally and physically demanding, as it requires the cast to dig deep and tap into some dark emotions. At one point, a physical struggle breaks out between two characters.

Members of the cast play characters with many facets. "It seems to me that all these characters have two voices," actor Steve Marston said about the characters: "the spoken voice that everyone hears, and the voice that is spoken,

but only the character and the audience hear."

Marston plays "Sam": a man who feels like the world and everyone in it looks down on him. Sam has a dark past and an inferiority complex. Sam's wife, "Sally," played by Gretchen Anderson, is trying to freeze a beautiful moment, to hold fleeting beauty. Sally tries to come to grips with the death of her brother from AIDS. "John," played by Damian Sebouhian, is a man afflicted by hate and prejudice. He feels he is better than everyone, but holds some dark secrets.

John's wife "Chloe," played by Patricia Willis, changes clothes often: she's uncomfortable with life. Chloe plays the proverbial happy homemaker and is always trying to give people food and beverages. "Chloe is annoying and gets on everyone's nerves," Barksdale says of the character, "I hated Chloe; I wanted to walk out on the play the first time I saw it because I hated her so much. But that changes later in the play. We start to understand and maybe sympathize with her and the other characters. Every character starts the play in their own, personal prison. By the end [they] are free; the walls are down."

Sexual situations, physical altercations, love, drama, conflict, humor: this play's got it all.

"Lips Together, Teeth Apart" opens Friday, April 10, and runs through Sunday, April 26 at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. This play contains strong language and adult content.

MARCH 2015 SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

<p>MONDAY • 8AM-10PM CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY Earn 3X Points ALL Day MORNING SESSION 8AM-2PM Hourly hot seat drawings for \$50 free play EVENING SESSION 5PM-10PM Hourly hot seat drawings for \$50 free play. For each session earn 50 points to receive \$10 bonus play plus a \$2 food coupon.</p>	<p>FRIDAY • 9AM-9PM PAYDAY FRIDAY 8AM-4PM - Earn 100 points to receive \$10 free play. 2PM-8PM - Hot seat drawings each hour for \$100 free play. 9PM - Hot seat drawing for \$150 free play.</p>
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