

Weekly

Thursday, May 28, 2015

Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Read the rest of **Jail** |
Over on Page 11



Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of
Prom |
Over on Page 4



At top: *Many friends met before prom at the Brooktrails Golf Course for a colorful photo moment.*

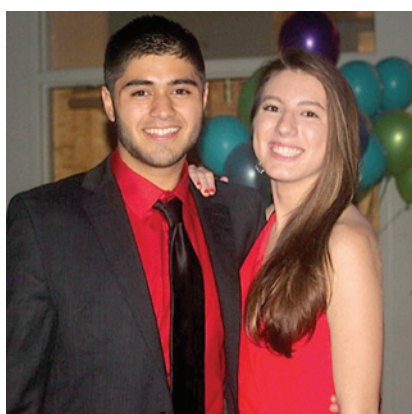
Photo courtesy Lilja Lamkin

Above: *The 2015 prom court. Back row, from left: Prince Patrick Orr, King Nick Johnson, and Prince Brian Huddle. Front row, from left: Princess Dara Collicott, Queen Lilja Lamkin, and Princess Leslie Leon. Left: 2015 Prom King and Queen, Nick Johnson and Lilja Lamkin.*

Photos by Maureen Moore

Below, from left: Candid shots from prom night including, from left: Izabel Hageman and Antonio Amador; Morgan Riley, Lety Mendoza, Gabby Agenbrod, and Grace Horger have some fun at the "selfie booth"; Victor Cardona and Alyssa Alvarez.

Photos courtesy of Willits High School yearbook staff



The 1934 Ford 2-Door Sedan, owned by Dan Pallo of Petaluma, that won Best in Show.

Photo by Jenny Senter



See more about the car show on page 3.

Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez said his

Read the rest of
Budget |
Over on Page 11

Contributing Writer

Given the historical record, even if we do have an El Nino this year, it would be wrong to believe that our water woes were ended. Being a metaphor

Read the rest of
Water |
Over on Page 11

Critical shortage of foster parents

To the Editor:

We desperately need YOUR help! Right now, there are approximately 250 Mendocino County children in out-of-home placements. When a child or children are removed from their parents or guardians because they cannot be safely maintained in their home, the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) / Family and Children's Services (FCS) makes every effort to locate relatives, friends or other people connected with the family.

These are people who have a relationship with the family or children. HHSA/FCS determines whether they are able and willing to provide care for the children and meet federal and state regulations to provide the care. Currently, over 70 of the 250 children in out-of-home care are placed with relatives or family friends.

Sadly, there is not always family or friends available or able to care for the children. When that happens, Family and Children's Services must find foster care placements for these children until they can hopefully be reunified with their parents. The Agency's Placement Unit specializes in finding homes for these children.

As required by law and monitored by the Juvenile Dependency Court, Family and Children's Services makes every effort to locate a home that is able to keep the children in their same school and with their siblings and that is culturally matched to the children. The Placement Unit works with state licensed foster homes as well as foster homes licensed through Redwood Community Services, Tapestry Family Services, True to Life Children's Services, Environmental Alternatives and Three Angels foster family agencies to locate placements for children within Mendocino County.

Foster parents are one of the most important members of the community team that helps keep children safe!

Unfortunately, there is currently a critical shortage of local foster homes within the county for the number of children requiring out-of-home placements. Because of this, some children have had to be placed out of county. This is extremely hard on children and their families.

When children have to be placed out of the county, they lose their familiar surroundings and sense of belonging, their school, their teachers, friends and classmates and have to start over in unfamiliar surroundings. Out-of-county placements also make it difficult for children, their siblings, their parents and extended family members to have regular and frequent visitation with each other, which is a critical component to successful reunification of the family.

YOU can help by becoming a foster parent!

There are a number of myths about who can be a foster parent and what it takes to become a foster parent. Single people can be foster parents. Same sex couples can be foster parents. People who rent their home or apartment can be foster parents. People who work outside the home can be foster parents.

There are all kinds of foster children, and there is a need for all kinds of foster parents, particularly Native American and Latino families, families who can accept sibling groups and families who can care for children with special needs.

There are some requirements that must be met including completing a background check and having a suitable apartment or house. Foster parents must also complete certain training requirements. Foster parents can choose to be a home just for emergency stays, or be a potential permanent forever home for children unable to return to their birth families. They can request only children of one gender, or specific ages, or special needs, or can help out other foster parents by being certified as a respite provider.

The most important ingredient is to want to make a difference in the life of a child. Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Become a foster parent and make a difference in our world, one child at a time. If you are interested, or you know someone who might be, please contact Family and Children's Services Placement Unit Supervisor Melissa

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Phillips at 456-3731. She can provide information on the requirements for becoming a foster parent and put you in touch with agencies that can provide various services and options to support you in becoming a foster parent.

She is also available to speak to groups and organizations interested in hearing more about becoming a foster parent.

Melissa Phillips, HHSA social worker supervisor, for HHSA

Summer at Wowser

To the Editor:

This summer, if you join Wowser by June 15 for just \$50 for a year's membership, you will be eligible for a series of one-week classes for free. Our summer program is a mix of local makers sharing their talents with their community. The workshops are targeted to teens; however anyone is welcome to take a class.

Some of the classes being offered are: 3D modeling with Roger Wilson, animator and architect; welding, and large format dream catchers with James Wilson; Michael Hackleman, a pioneer in alternative technology, with seven books under his belt, will teach about solar hot water systems, and basic solar systems; Bret Newberry will teach about solar power and basic auto upkeep; Mike Burgess, retired spacecraft engineer, will teach construction safety, Ron Cole, inventor and retired nuclear sub operator, will teach about free energy, I will teach a class on lost wax casting, Sean Okerstrom, custom car restorer, will teach a class in RC racing, customizing your RC car and building a racetrack; Dickey Weinkle, entrepreneurship; Mike Krusinski will teach how to paint your house/room; Lily Mitchell will teach basic sewing; Bill White, community open space designer, creation of inviting entrance to Wowser; Tiffany Leigh-Logan will teach how to make shopping bags out of used feed sacks; Woodworking, plasma cutting, and many more classes will be on the schedule this summer.

A final schedule will be posted May 28 on the Wowser website and Facebook page. The summer sessions will begin at 11:30 am with a group session, and individual classes will be held at 12:30 to 2:30 pm and from 4 to 6 pm.

Also, Espresso Yourself at Wowser will be opening soon. This member's only coffeehouse and music venue offers a drug- and alcohol-free place for members 14 and over to kick back. We look forward to seeing you this summer, and remember to join now by going to the website, calling 459-9697, or stopping by 330 West Commercial Street.

Cyndee Logan, Willits

Thank you to Willits Rotary

To the Editor:

On behalf of Willits Charter School and our music students, I want to thank Willits Rotary Club for its generous donation of \$500 toward a drumset for student use. With that donation and our annual music budget of \$200, I was able to buy a much-needed, good quality used drumset with a throne (stool) and lots of accessories.

Drumset is the popular and most accessible instrument for young music students to choose. The new set is a big improvement, and I can see that our students are excited to play it and hear how good they sound. Thank you Willits Rotary for supporting music education!

Dorian May, music teacher, Brooktrails

Goodbye

To the Editor:

As some of you may know, family matters call me and my wife back to Southern California; we'll be grandparents soon. I've resigned from the KZYX board and broadcast

Correction: Due to an editing error, the story "Garbage: City still grappling with mixed organic waste," in the May 21 edition of Willits Weekly, incorrectly stated: "The council showed an interest in procuring an estimate." It should have read: "The council did not state an interest in procuring an estimate."

my last "Mendo Matters" show.

We've enjoyed living in Mendocino County, its freshness, beauty and, overall, sense of freedom and little peer pressure will stay with us. We've loved the commitment we've seen in the people here, particularly Willits, towards keeping the area supported in schools, charities, environmentalism, etc.

There's just one thing that has consistently bothered me about this county, and that is the tendency of some people to separate themselves out from the big C community and call that small all-thinking-alike group that they belong to "their" community.

It started when we first arrived here, and I volunteered to help build a local low power FM station for Willits. When one of the leaders suggested that we set up a table at Mariposa Market to try and obtain local support, I volunteered to set one up at Safeway. The leader turned me down and explained: "people who shop at Safeway aren't our community."

I was blown away at the arrogance and small mindedness that elevated eating organic food as a sign of community over the fact that those who shopped at Safeway were neighbors in a county so small that it ranks 38th out of 58 in population size for California counties.

(Needless to say, it was never built even though they received a built permit from the FCC.)

And I have seen it again and again: disagree with those who are trying to stop the Caltrans bypass, and you're a traitor; thinking that banning fracking in a county where there is no oil is a waste of time, you're a traitor; being concerned that teenage use of marijuana may be bad for them make you an enemy of the pot culture.

Which is about as bad as Texas thinking they are being invaded by the federal government because U.S. Army troops are training there.

That divisiveness and its attendant paranoia ends up dividing the community into us and them based on ideology and the belief that ours is better than theirs. And, while you might think that, in terms of "we are saving the world and they aren't," it has been proven in national politics and elsewhere that polarized ideologies cannot govern and take the kinds of actions needed to help all of us, the environment and nature.

That's not at all to say that you shouldn't be passionate about your beliefs and work as diligently and strenuously as you can to achieve your goals whether it is saving the environment or getting better streets and schools. I'm just saying that "demonizing" your opponents and separating yourself from them doesn't work in either Washington or Willits.

And that goes as well for KZYX, which is a precious gift to this county; while there are people who say "everyone" hates KZYX, these folks don't get more than 37 percent of the vote election after election. So some of them call for people to file lawsuits against the station to bankrupt so they can take it over.

That's not democracy or respecting the majority; it's the attempted tyranny of the minority.

So just because your neighbors think differently from you, they don't stop being your neighbors, nor are they less valuable even if they don't eat organic foods. They share the same space called Mendocino County, pay taxes for the roads and schools. So try tolerance and working together. Try to see past the differences to the traits that you and they share: the beautiful Mendocino County.

In saying good bye, I wanted to cite a few people who made this place special for us:

Tom Allman, Bill Barksdale, Dick Graham, Jim Marill, Holly Madrigal and Tom Woodhouse, Elizabeth the "Tea Lady," John Coate, Mary Aigner, David Steffan, Rich Culbertson, Eliane Herring, Stuart Campbell, Lorraine Decker and Shari Quinn, the members and listeners of KZYX, etc. Goodbye.

Paul Lambert, Willits



34th annual Community Festival & Car Show rocks the Rec Grove Sunday

The 34th annual Willits Community Festival and Car Show, held Sunday at the Rec Grove, was a beautiful day of fun in the sun (and an amazing

Rich Venturi
Contributing Writer

day for me personally). The festivities actually started at 7:30 am with the Willits Lions Club breakfast. For the cost of a medium, cappuccino-latte, half-caf-decaf with whipped cream, you could feast on sausages, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, scrambled eggs, coffee, milk or tea. The breakfast was a great way to start the day. If you have never attended the pre-car show breakfast, make a note to self and plan on it next year.

The 10 am opening ceremonies began with the master of ceremonies, our own Sheriff Tom Allman, making an announcement as a rumbling of motors was heard in the distance. But this year, that rumble was not hot rod cars, but Harley-Davidson motorcycles and the Mendocino County Chapter of BACA – Bikers Against Child Abuse – who rode into Recreation Grove and parked their bikes for display next to the BACA booth. It was a very impressive sight, and the car show was officially opened.

As always there were a large number of cars from many parts of California. Paint jobs and chrome glistened in the sunlight. There were many activities for event-goers, both adults and kids. For the kids, the local Boy Scouts erected a rope bridge, and kids took their chances at walking across the rocking bridge. Across the way a bounce house provided and sponsored by Yokums Auto Body was in full, bouncing swing. Next to the bounce house was the BACA booth, where chapter members were providing tattoos to all the kids who came up and wanted to be a biker for

the day (with parental permission, of course).

The arm wrestling contest had three classes of participation: adult male, adult female and kids. Mike and Gina Giles, owners of the Purple Moose Thrift Store, provided an official-size arm wrestling table, and Mike supervised the event. After all the grunting, groaning and straining was done, three winners were named.

The adult male champion was Johnny Kvasnicka of Scoops; the female champ was this reporter's very own lady love, Kim "Sugar B" Chin, who showed the crowd just what a biker chick and member of BACA can do; and the kids champion was Sean Pope, who worked his way through a long five-minute battle with his last opponent. Congratulations to all the arm wrestling champions.

Other car show games this year – all with male and female divisions – included the "Push Rod Drop," won by Richard Kight and Nancy Runyan; the "Fan Belt Toss," won by Richard Kight and Gina Giles; and the "Spark Plug Change," won by Brad Walton (1:45 seconds) and Gina Giles (2:04 seconds).

The calm afternoon was then interrupted by the crack of gunfire as the Black Bart Gunfighters decided who was and who wasn't cheating at poker! In the end all but one was ready for Boot Hill. They put on a great show and even demonstrated some of their weapons. It's always fun watching the shoot-outs by these great folks who are a staple of Willits Frontier Days.

At 3 pm the raffle began for all the folks who had purchased tickets for some great prizes, donated by local

businesses and folks. At the end of the prize raffle a 50/50 raffle was held: a 50/50 raffle takes the total amount of raffle tickets sold and divides it by two. The raffle winner receives half of the total money of the ticket sales. This year's winner was 14-year-old Dillan Kessen of Ukiah.

Upon receiving his money, Dillan immediately advised Sheriff Allman that he wished to donate the money to the local BACA chapter. This brought a roar from the crowd, and yours truly accepted the donation from Dillan on behalf of our chapter. As one person put it, it was the most touching moment of the car show.

But just as my emotions were beginning to settle, Kim and I were approached by Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contestant Caitlyn Forrester. Caitlyn advised us that she had sold two barbeque tickets for the July 4th barbeque at Recreation Grove. The purchaser told her to donate those two tickets to a worthy

Read the rest of
Car Show
Over on Page 11



At left, above: Some of the classic cars on display Sunday.
At top: Kim Chin, left, ultimate winner of the women's arm wrestling contest.
Photos by Brie Jones

Above: Sheriff Tom Allman and the chamber's Lynn Kennelly, on stage, as Dillan Kessen, at right, donates his raffle winnings to BACA, represented by Rich Venturi.

Photo by Jenny Senter

Below: Members of BACA, Bikers Against Child Abuse.

Photo by Steve Eberhard, TWN

At bottom: More classic cars.

Photo by Brie Jones



The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits, CA 95490
willitsweekly@gmail.com
www.willitsweekly.com
707-459-2633; 707-972-7047

Jennifer Poole, editor and reporter / jennifer@willitsweekly.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen Moore, designer and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047
Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com
Zack Cinek, reporter / zack@willitsweekly.com
Rachel Belvin, advertising / rachel@willitsweekly.com / 707-367-9319

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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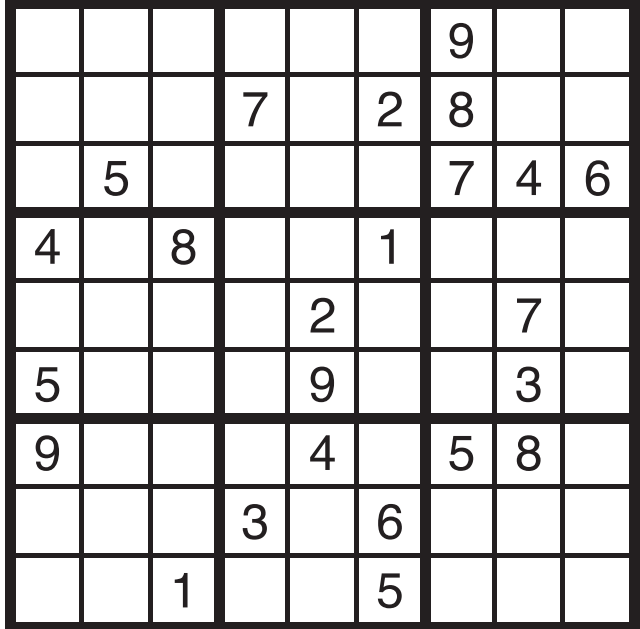
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Sudoku



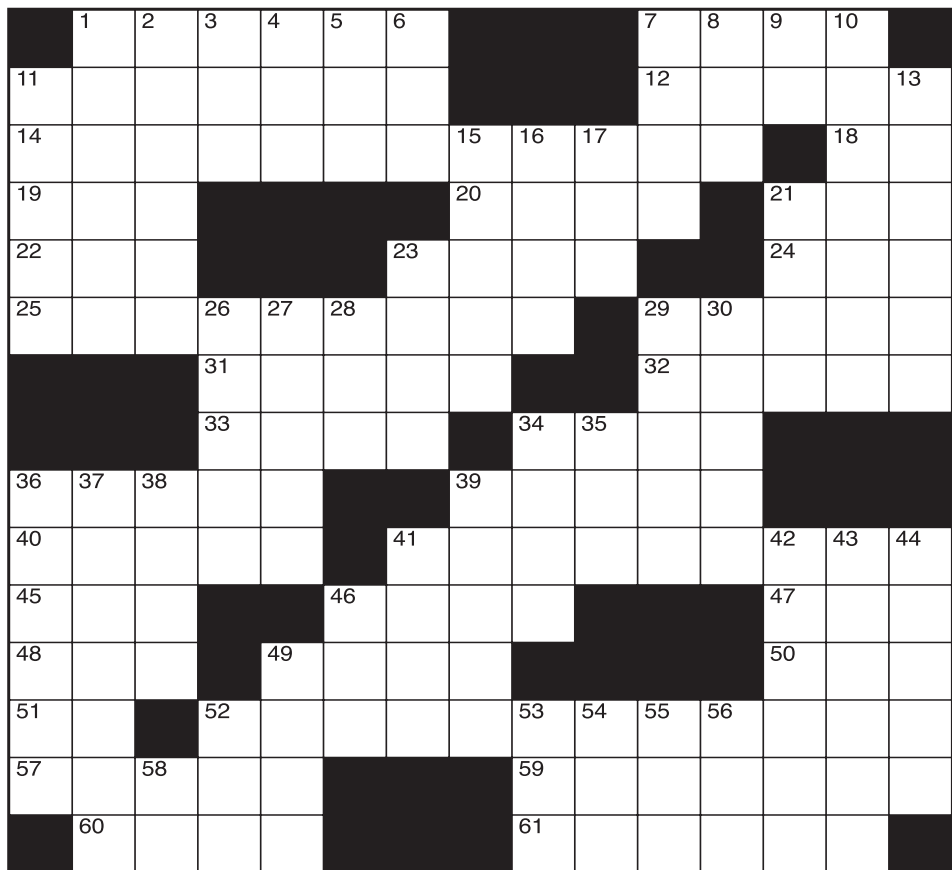
Level: Intermediate

**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



CLUES ACROSS

- On time
- Swiss river
- Maine river herring
- In a way, waits
- "Titanic" director
- The Ocean State
- Black tropical Am. cuckoo
- Macaws
- A transgression of God's will
- Belonging to a thing
- Mures River city
- Electroencephalography
- Puts together
- Sound practical judgment
- Pops
- In a way, assists
- One and only
- Prong
- More wise
- One who propagates
- Got up
- Writers of news stories
- Pianist Cilburn
- Hindu mother goddess
- Insures residential mortgages

CLUES DOWN

- Sows a crop
- Derelict
- Be indebted
- Prefix meaning wrong
- Beginning military rank
- Afternoon meal
- American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery
- Own (Scottish)
- Rural delivery
- Most supernatural
- Roseate spoonbill genus
- Lightly burns
- Adult female horses
- Geological times
- Radioactivity unit
- 1/100 of a tala
- Winglike parts
- Of sound mind
- "Ghost" actress Demi
- Package or bale (abbr.)
- More mentally healthy
- Siskel and ___, critics
- Pith helmet
- ___ Jima, WW II battlefield
- Learned person or scholar
- East Colorado Native Americans
- No longer here
- 1995 Brad Pitt movie
- Gambling town
- An earnest attempt
- Odd-toed ungulates
- Profoundly wise persons
- Sunrise to sunset
- Poor boys
- Chinese cabbage, ___ choy
- Point that is one point S of due E
- Tibetan gazelle
- ___ Lilly, drug company
- Hamilton appears on it
- Egyptian sun god

The rest of

Prom

From Page 1

"I had a great time dancing, and prom was a lot of fun," said Lankin. "The junior class did such a great job decorating for the event, and everyone looked so nice all dressed up!"

A "selfie" booth was set up in one corridor of the hall, where kids could pose in front of a black-and-white chevron-patterned backdrop with funny cutouts and take photos with their cell phones. Posing, more traditional prom photos were also available in a side room, and were taken by Maureen Moore. Couples posed in front of swirly crepe paper tendrils in a blue and green color scheme.

The decoration efforts were undertaken by the junior class and many parents and volunteers. One such parent, Rebecca Smith, had her garage turned into a bit of a craft studio, where the group crafted the large "PROM 2015" letters that hung above the stage where DJ "Juice" Flawless

was stationed. It was in that studio the volunteers created the beautiful lighted string globes that hung from swaths of glittery netting. These, along with many more handcrafted decorations showcased alongside the balloon trees covered in starchy gossamer, completed the look.

Smith expressed great appreciation on behalf of the committee to Olenik Fencing who, every year, sets up and takes down the outside fence area set up to give danced-out kids an outside area where they can cool off and get some fresh air. Keeping a designated area available for this helps ensure a safe and an age-appropriate night for all. Additional thanks was expressed to Subway of Willits, Safeway of Willits, and to many of the parents who donated food and refreshments for the event.

"There were so many people who helped make prom happen," said Smith. "A huge thank you goes out to all the parents, students and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event such a success."

OBITUARY Erma Lee

Erma Clarabelle Lee of Willits passed away on Wednesday, May 19, 2015 in Ukiah, at the age of 90. Born on April 12, 1925 in Willits, she was a fourth-generation Californian. Born to Siegfried Issak Avander and Annie Rachael Avander, her mother was a California pioneer and her father was from Sweden.

Erma graduated from Willits High School in 1943 and went to work for the California Department of Forestry as a typist/clerk. After the war, Alban William Lee returned to Willits in 1945, and Erma and Alban "Bud" drove to Reno, where they were married on March 18, 1946. Bud passed away in 1983 at the age of 59.

Erma was a hard worker all of her life, having worked at Little Lake Industries, Willits Cafe, and Northbrook Manor as a prep cook for many years. Erma particularly loved to spend time with her family, though she also loved everyone and always thought of others. She enjoyed working in her garden planting all kinds of flowers, and could grow anything. She found watering her garden very relaxing.

Erma loved riding her bicycle and jazzy motor scooter. She was a very loving, special person, the best Mom and friend, and will be missed and in our hearts forever.

Erma is survived by her five children: Alban William Lee, Patrick Avander Lee, Christine (Kenneth) Brown, Patti (Todd) Hollifield, and Nancy Ledford; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Services are under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary, where they will take place in the Mortuary Chapel: a viewing was held on Wednesday, May 27, and the funeral service will take place Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 11 am.

Death Notice | Gene Sallee

Gene Sallee of Laytonville passed away on May 20, 2015 at the age of 72. A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 12 to 4 pm, at the Laytonville Garden Club on Harwood Road. Bring a dish and visit with family and friends. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

Death Notice | Lee Foreman

Lee Foreman, former long-time Willits resident and Willits High School graduate of 1958, passed away in Coppell, Texas on May 15, 2015 at the age of 74, and will take his final rest at home in Willits. Services were held in Coppell, Texas. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



Above, left: Legionnaires salute the flag. Above, center: The Firing Squad honors the dead. Above, right: American flags on a grave site.

Below, left: Chaplain Mike Smith reading Memorial Day prayers. Below, right: Piper Jeff Whitby stands ready to play "Amazing Grace."

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Memorial Day at Willits Cemetery

Members of the American Legion Post 174, Willits, observed Memorial Day ceremonies at Little Lake Cemetery and Willits Cemetery Monday morning.

"This day is sacred with the almost visible presence of those who have gone before us," read Commander Robert Ireland from the American Legion's service for Memorial Day, to start the ceremony. "We honor the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of our country."

It was a beautiful day to remember those at rest – with fresh flags on veterans' graves throughout both local cemeteries. Legionnaires put the flags out on Friday and put them away before sundown on Monday. "If we missed anybody, our most sincere regrets," said Vice Commander Roger Ham, about the more than 450 flags put up in both local cemeteries. The veterans crew also "retired" some flags at gravesites that were too tattered and faded to keep flying.

The ceremony at the Highway 20 cemetery started at 10 am with "Amazing Grace"

rendered on the bagpipes by Jeff Whitby. The flag – surrounded by graves of World War II veterans in "the veterans' plot" – was raised to the National Anthem, and then lowered again to half-mast. Commander Ireland continued to read from the service and Chaplain Mike Smith read prayers for the small crowd of veterans and family members. A wreath was presented; the American Legion Firing Squad gave a three-gun volley salute to honor the dead, and Whitby played taps to conclude the ceremony.

– Jennifer Poole

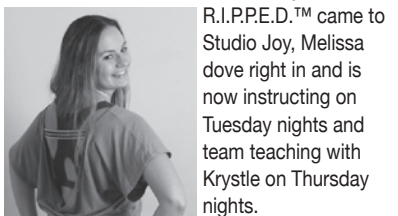


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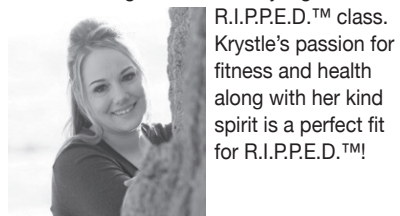
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SEABISCUIT LEGACY FILM SERIES
Sunday, May 31
Harry & Snowman
Celebrating 10 YEARS

RIDGEWOOD RANCH
16200 N. Hwy 101
10:00 am Ranch Tour
NOYO THEATRE
57 E. Commercial St.
4:00 pm Harry and Snowman
12:00 pm *The Making of a Legend: Seabiscuit's 1940 Victory at Santa Anita Park*
Ridgewood Ranch - Home of Seabiscuit and Riding My Way Back
1:00 - 3:00 pm Reception

RIDING MY WAY BACK
A STORY ABOUT A VETERAN, A HORSE, AND HOPE
MENDOCINO FILM FESTIVAL
SEABISCUIT
1933-1997
MENDOCINOFILMFESTIVAL.ORG

Thursday, May 28

“Art Under 20, 2015”: Last weekend to see this annual art exhibition for student artists from Willits High School and Willits Charter School is at the Willits Center for the Arts. Through May 31. Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 2 pm.

Community Hu Song: “In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, May 28, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 East 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 www.miraclesinyourlife.org.

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”: Shakespeare’s masterpiece performed by students at the Willits Charter School. Final weekend: Thursday, May 28, Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30. All shows at 7 pm. Tickets at the door, \$10 general, \$5 students with ID.

Shanachie Pub: singer/songwriter from Los Angeles Josephine Johnson, 6 pm; Jazz Night, 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Friday, May 29

Shanachie Pub: One-Man Band Jacob Green, original and covers (adapted blues/folk/grass style), performing on guitar, dobro, banjo, ukulele and mandolin, while simultaneously playing harmonica, stomp box and foot tambourine. Early show: starts at 7 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, May 30

Summer Arts & Music Festival: the 39th annual Summer Arts & Music Festival at the Benbow Lake State Recreational Area, two miles south of Garberville, is

set for the weekend of May 30 and 31. Featuring more than 100 performances on 4+ stages along the grass fairway, with 150 handmade craft, food and non-profit info booths, the fun-filled Kid Zone, Fine Art Exhibition, Belly Dance Temple, Summertronica E-Music Tent, and the Generation Green Dome that showcases innovative green-living products. Headliners include: JJ Grey & Mofro, whose music is a blend of blues, funk, soul, rock and gospel, and Blackalicious, the hip-hop duo from Sacramento. Also Joanne Rand and The Non-Prophecs, in addition to more than 60 of the best local musical acts, dance troupes, and children’s entertainers. Admission is \$20 per day, free for those 12 and under: single-day tickets available at the gates only. Advance weekend passes, \$30, are available online at www.mateel.org/summerarts.html, as is the 32-page Summer Arts & Music program guide. Gates open from 9:30 am to 10 pm each day, with a free shuttle service from off-site parking lots starting at 9 am.

Civil War Exhibits ‘Discovery Talk’: this event at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, 3 pm, is a free talk on “California Indian Histories and Memories of the Civil War,” with William Bauer, assistant professor of history,

University of Nevada at Las Vegas and Round Valley tribal member. In conjunction with the museum’s two new exhibits which chronicle the Civil War years from both a national and local perspective. “Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War” is a nationally touring exhibit that tells the story of Abraham Lincoln’s struggle to meet the constitutional challenges of the Civil War. “Uncivil Homefront: Mendocino County during the Civil War,” curated by Rebecca Montes, assistant professor of history at Mendocino College, focuses on the local effects of the Civil War through politics, the military experience, and the indentured servitude of Native Americans. Admission to the museum during the “Lincoln: the

perspective. “Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War” is a nationally touring exhibit that tells the story of Abraham Lincoln’s struggle to meet the constitutional challenges of the Civil War. “Uncivil Homefront: Mendocino County during the Civil War,” curated by Rebecca Montes, assistant professor of history at Mendocino College, focuses on the local effects of the Civil War through politics, the military experience, and the indentured servitude of Native Americans. Admission to the museum during the “Lincoln: the

What's Happening Around Town

Constitution and the Civil War” exhibit, through June 21, is free. Info: visit www.MendocinoMuseum.org or call 459-2736.

Shanachie Pub: House of Love Night with DJ Podge. “House Music from 1996 to the present.” 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, May 31

CNPS Native Plant Field Trip: “Explore different habitats at the beautiful Lucky Monkey Ranch west of Willits.” 9 am to noon. Hosted by the Sanhedrin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Free, but small donation welcome. Visit <http://sanhedrin.cnps.org> for more details.

18th Willits Walk for Health & Wellness: Registration for the fun and free 18th annual Willits Walk for Health & Wellness opens at 9:30 am at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street. Men, women, and children of all ages are welcome (and also well-behaved pets on leashes). Bicyclists are also invited. The walk begins in downtown Willits and winds through the neighborhoods. The entire walk is 5 miles, but people can walk some or all. Rain or shine! The walk will finish at Rec Grove for the Avenues to Wellness Free Family Food and Fitness Fair from 11:30 am to 2 pm. Free prize drawings after the walk, with gifts from Mazahar, Goods Stamps, Brickhouse Coffee, Buster’s, Nikos, Curves and more, plus special prize drawings for kids. Info: Willits Healthy Action Team (W.H.A.T.), Jed Diamond: 459-5505.

Seabiscuit Legacy Film Series: Mendocino Film Festival celebrates the 75th anniversary of Seabiscuit’s legendary win at Santa Anita Park with the launch of the “Seabiscuit Legacy Film Series,” highlighting stories that embody the spirit of hope that Seabiscuit instilled in his fans and in generations since. Screenings will take place at Ridgewood Ranch and at

the Noyo Theatre in Willits, including “The Making of a Legend: Seabiscuit’s 1940 Victory at Santa Anita Park,” plus two short films, “Ridgewood Ranch – Home of Seabiscuit,” and “Riding My Way Back,” at Ridgewood Ranch. Program starts at 10 am with a tour of the historic ranch; film screening at noon, 1 pm Q&A panel, and a reception from 1 to 3 pm. At 4 pm, the Noyo Theatre will host “Harry & Snowman,” a feature-length documentary that tells the remarkable life story of international show jumping legend Harry deLeyer, whose career was launched by his famous show jumping horse Snowman. \$11. Tickets for the Ridgewood Ranch events are available at the Mendocino County Museum, 459-2736, and www.seabiscuitheritage.org. Proceeds of ranch events to benefit Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation and Ridgewood T.R.A.I.L. Riders Association. Visit www.mendocinofilmfestival.org for full festival schedule.

Healthy Family Fair: 11 am to 2 pm at the Rec Grove. Free. Food samples from Howard Hospital Chef Kyle Evans; fun fitness activities; games, diabetes screenings, Zumba and yoga for adults and kids, prizes and more! Se habla Espanol. Bring a picnic lunch. Bicycles welcome. Drop in after the WHAT Walk. Sponsored by Avenues to Wellness, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, and North Coast Opportunities.

“Harry & Snowman”: 4 pm screening at the Noyo Theatre, 57 East Commercial Street, as part of the Mendocino Film Festival’s “Seabiscuit Legacy Film Series.” A feature-length

documentary that tells the remarkable life story of international show jumping legend Harry deLeyer, whose career was launched by his famous show jumping horse Snowman. \$11. Info: www.noyotheatre.com/ or 459-6696.

Tuesday, June 2

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. For this week’s Tightwad Tuesday movies, and for showtimes, visit: www.noyotheatre.com or see ad below. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Thursday, June 4

Free Creative Writing Class: “Discover the writer within and have free fun!” Free creative writing class, 1:30 to 2:30 pm, the first and third Thursdays of every month, June 4 and June 18 coming up, at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtcl Road. All supplies are provided. Writing mentor: Susan Bertsch; info: 972-6422.

Friday, June 5

Shanachie Pub: The Great Spirit Band. 9 pm. \$5 cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, June 6

66th annual Willits Horseman’s Beef Barbecue & Rodeo: Willits Horseman’s Association presents this annual free-to-watch event, June 6 and 7, featuring Gymkhana on Saturday, starting at 9 am. On Sunday: Jackpot Team Roping (sign-up at 8:30 am,

starts at 9 am) and Rodeo, with Rodeo Grand Entry at 1:30 pm. Also on Sunday: Beef Barbecue, starting at 11:30 am; tickets \$13 for adults and \$5 for children. At the “new” rodeo arena off East Commercial Street. Info on Gymkhana: Kathryn, 707-489-6565; general info, Rodeo or Roping: Robbie, 707-489-0476 & Jim 707-354-1624.

WCA Artists Reception: The June show at the Willits Center for the Arts, “You Show Me Yours and I’ll Show You Mine: From Negative to Print,” featuring 35 mm film photography by Ree Slocum and David Weitzman, opens today with an artists’ reception from 4 to 8 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. Runs through June 28. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: Ree Slocum at 972-2163 or reeslocum@gmail.com.



Shanachie Pub: Max’s Midnight Kitchen. 9 pm. \$5 cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, June 7

66th annual Willits Horseman’s Beef Barbecue & Rodeo: June 6 and 7;

Sunday’s events include: Jackpot Team Roping (sign-up at 8:30 am, starts at 9 am) and Rodeo, with Rodeo Grand Entry at 1:30 pm. Also on Sunday: Beef Barbecue, starting at 11:30 am; tickets \$13 for adults and \$5 for children. At the “new” rodeo arena off East Commercial Street. Info on Gymkhana: Kathryn, 707-489-6565; general info, Rodeo or Roping: Robbie, 707-489-0476 & Jim 707-354-1624.

17th annual Willits Rotary Phoenix Hospice Golf Tournament: “Enjoy a day on the greens under the redwoods. Willits Rotary is sponsoring a golf tournament to benefit Phoenix Hospice.” Brooktrails Golf Course, 24860 Birch Street. 8 am check-in; 9 am shotgun start. Donations: \$65 per player; \$45 for members. Includes Barbecue, Green Fees, Silent Auction, \$10,000 cash for hole-in-one on Hole #9, and additional prizes. To RSVP: Tammy Long: 480-993-5755 or 456-3244, or TammyLong@ah.org.

Sunday Bingo: Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtcl Road. Doors open at 10:30 am; snack bar opens at 11 am; bingo buy in \$10 459-6826.

All-Church BBQ and Singspiration: 1 to 4 pm at Rec Grove, East Commercial Street. All are welcome! BBQ is 1 to 2:30 pm: “Bring meat (or veggie) to BBQ, beverage and table service for your group and, if possible, a potluck dish (salad, dessert, etc.) to share.” Singspiration follows, from 2:30 to 4 pm.

GET YOUR EVENT INCLUDED!

EMAIL US: willitsweekly@gmail.com



Ongoing Events

Willits Summer Farmers Market: from 3 to 6 pm every Thursday at City Park on East Commercial Street, with produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music; the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

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

Free Classes for Girls: The Mentoring Network, under the umbrella of the Youth Grange, is offering free after-school classes on Friday afternoons, 3:30 to 4:30 pm, for girls in Willits area schools, grades 6 through 10. Classes will be on herbs one week, yoga another week, cooking and life skills. Room 4 of the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Questions: call Michelle at 972-1601. No pre-registration is necessary.

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

“Art Under 20, 2015”: The annual art exhibition for student artists from Willits High School and Willits Charter School is at the Willits Center for the Arts through May 31. Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 2 pm.

Free Creative Writing Class: “Discover the writer within and have free fun!” Free creative writing class, 1:30 to 2:30 pm, the first and third Thursdays of every month, June 4 and June 18 coming up, at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtcl Road. All supplies are provided. Writing mentor: Susan Bertsch; info: 972-6422.

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

Junior Grange After-School Program: an after-school program for kids ages 5 to 14, Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or zeynep34@yahoo.com.

Mondays at Wowser: Free events at the Wowser maker space, 330 East Commercial Street. 6:30 pm. Lectures, slide shows, flash videos, guest speakers, demonstrations. Info: 459-9697 or www.wowserilc.com.

Al-Anon Meeting: Every Thursday Night from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtcl Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. “Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery.”

Drop-in Knitting Circle: Due to popular demand, the Willits Library will be holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. “Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects – we’ll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in.”

Cards and Games at Willits Library: free games in the Willits Library’s Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Saturday free bridge classes, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, for new and review students. Info: Donna at 459-9035. “Friday Night Magic”: Youth game night, for kids ages 10 to 14, starts April 2 (no games April 10 due to spring break) and runs through June. Bring cards and games to share. Parental contact info required to sign in. From 5 to 7:30 pm, but library doors close at 6 pm, and no admission after 6 pm. Info: the Willits Library at 459-5908. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: Chess: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

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

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

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

Free Sheriff’s Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday, 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al’s Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street 459-2444. With Mr. Larry’s New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

Open Mic Jam at Al’s Redwood Room: Every Friday night, hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, featuring talented, established local musicians from all over Northern California. Jazz, Blues, Rock. New talent welcome. Al’s Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street; starting at 9 pm. Mr. Larry’s New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits Avenue, Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, hot soup, baked goods, and more.



Left: The organic garden at Emandal. Below: Organic tomato, grown using biodynamic methods.

Eel River Recovery Project

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention Workshop June 3 at Emandal

The Eel River Recovery Project is kicking off an Eel River basin-wide water conservation and water pollution prevention project with a workshop from 10 am to 3 pm on Wednesday, June 3 at Emandal, east of Willits. The project is aimed at improving agricultural practices, including marijuana cultivation that has been linked to stream flow reduction and is likely adding to nutrient pollution. In addition to public field trainings and workshops, ERRP experts will be available for scheduling free, confidential two-hour visits with Eel River residents at their properties, in order to provide them with free technical consulting for implementing best management practices.

On June 3, resident organic gardening experts from Emandal will explain biodynamic methods of building and maintaining soil productivity that produces high yields of high quality crops. Local water expert Larry Desmond, of Mendocino Water Works, will talk about how to conserve water while maintaining a thriving garden and meeting rural residential water needs.

Anna Birkas of Village Ecosystems will present on how to use land contours for water storage and to reduce the need for irrigation. Benefits of bioswales and permaculture include reduced energy and water use, groundwater replenishment, and less contamination of streams. Anna will also explain water storage options and grey water systems that use bath and laundry water, which are now legal in California.

Staff of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Division will be at Emandal to answer questions about proposed permitting for marijuana farming, and water rights and permitting.

Lunch will be provided. Emandal is an organic farm and retreat center located near Hearst, approximately 50 minutes east of Willits. Take Commercial Street east from Willits, but use Canyon Road instead of the Hearst-Willits Road that has a ford over Tomki Creek. Go right before the White Bridge in Hearst. The road ends at Emandal.

Grant funding for the project comes from the State Water Resources Control Board’s Clean Up and Abatement Fund for the purpose of improving flow and water quality in the Eel River. In addition to educational outreach, ERRP is funded to assist citizens anywhere in the Eel River watershed with water temperature monitoring. Anyone who wants to receive a free technical consultation or assistance with stream monitoring can get more information at www.EelRiverRecovery.org or by calling (707) 223-7200.

– submitted by Pat Higgins, for the Eel River Recovery Project



Senior Center Lunch

Week of June 1 through June 5

Monday: Pork Chops with Stuffing

Tuesday: Burger on Bun

Wednesday: Tuna Noodle Casserole

Thursday: Swiss Steak with Noodles

Friday: Ham with Cherry Sauce

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

Redwood Empire Spring Fair

June 5-7

At the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds, 1055 North State Street, Ukiah. Live entertainment with Fat Chance Truckin’ Band, Double Standyr, Banda Pacific, and more; Monster Trucks and more at the Ukiah Speedway, Carnival, and more. Enjoy free admission to the fairgrounds (not grandstand events). Info: www.redwoodempirefair.com or 707-462-3884.

Shopping at Summer Arts Fest

May 30 and 31 at Benbow Lake

The 39th Annual Summer Arts & Music Festival this weekend features a great opportunity for shopping from North Coast crafters, along with all the music, food, educational booths, kids activities, and more.

Aisling Svenningsen of Moss Follows says the jewelry she creates is inspired by a blend of images and memories from glittering landscapes, seascapes, and forests. She crochets delicate metal chains with silver, brass, copper, crystals, semiprecious gems and glass. Paul Steege of Sweetland Pottery makes high-fired porcelain tableware with a glaze palette comprising a balance of matt, shiny, stiff, and fluid-like surfaces, which he blends to create stormy, watery, or arid surface-scapes.

Jewelry artist Nicole Apostoli of Presh uses embellished textiles, recycled metals and vintage materials combined with leather, chains and gemstones to create one-of-a-kind limited edition treasures. Frogworks masks are new this year at Summer Arts: Artist Charlie Hardwick has been making masks since 1999, which have been used in theaters all over the world. Some of his inspiration comes from the birds on his bird farm: he also sells cruelty-free feather jewelry.

Summer Arts Festival admission is \$20 per day or \$30 for the weekend, and free for those 12 and under (at the gates only). For more info about camping, free shuttles, and a complete schedule of activities, visit www.mateel.org/summerarts.html.



Above: Work by Paul Steege of Sweetland Pottery.



Right: Work by jewelry artist Nicole Apostoli of Presh.



Relay For Life invites all cancer survivors

“We would like to invite you to participate in the 2015 Relay For Life Willits as our honored guests. This year’s Relay For Life Willits will be held at Recreation Grove Park on July 25-26 from 10 am Saturday to 10 am Sunday. Our event kicks off Saturday morning by celebrating our survivors at the opening ceremonies followed by a Survivors Lap around the park. We want to celebrate you! We would like to encourage all survivors from Willits, Fort Bragg, Covelo and Laytonville and beyond to sign up now for Relay For Life Willits.” Early registration is recommended and will guarantee a “Survivor” T-shirt in your size. To register now, visit www.relayforlife.org and search for “95490” or call 1-877-7848 and an operator will assist you with registration. Registration is free! All are welcome.

Wowser Summer Program

Wowser’s first annual Summer Skills Training Program will primarily serve greater Willits area youth ages 14 plus, but any member is welcome to take a class.

The vocational skills program starts on June 15, and will offer different one-week classes for eight continuous weeks. Members choose which classes they want to go to, one week, all eight, or somewhere in between.

Some of the classes being offered are: 3D modeling with Roger Wilson, animator and architect; welding, and large format dream catchers with James Wilson; Michael Hackleman, a pioneer in alternative technology, with seven books under his belt, will teach about solar hot water systems, and basic solar systems; Bret Newberry will teach about safety, Ron Cole, inventor and retired nuclear sub operator, will teach about free energy, I will teach a class on lost wax casting, Sean Osterstrom, custom car restorer, will teach a class in RC racing, customizing your RC car and building a racetrack; Dickey Weinkle, entrepreneur; Mike Krusinski will teach how to paint your house/room; Lily Mitchell will teach basic sewing; Bill White, community open space designer, creation of inviting entrance to Wowser; Tiffany Leigh-Logan will teach how to make shopping bags out of used feed sacks; Woodworking, plasma cutting, and many more classes will be on the schedule this summer.

A final schedule will be posted May 28 on the Wowser website, <http://wowserilc.com/>, and Facebook page. The summer sessions will begin at 11:30 am with a group session, and individual classes will be held at 12:30 to 2:30 pm and from 4 to 6 pm.

Wowser has provided vocational skills training to the community for the last two years. An online

Save the Date

Redwood Run Motorcycle Run, June 12 through June 14

Frankie J, June 14, Willits Community Theatre

Rock Your Ride Bicycle Show, June 18, City Park

Harrah Center’s Grateful Dead 50th Anniversary Party, Willits Community Center, June 20



57 East Commercial Street - Willits 707-459-NOYO (6696) www.noyotheatre.com

Coming Next Week: Pitch Perfect 2 & Spy



7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: Ree Slocum at 972-2163 or reeslocum@gmail.com.



Shanachie Pub: Max’s Midnight Kitchen. 9 pm. \$5 cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, June 7

66th annual Willits Horseman’s Beef Barbecue & Rodeo: June 6 and 7;



heavy-handed, maybe even preachy. To hell with them, too. Sure, as a movieguy, I know that “Tomorrowland” isn’t perfect, but I loved it!

Parents: Positive messages about courage. Some serious android violence that’s realistic but not bloody. Kids (and maybe some adults) won’t really understand the plot.

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

SAN ANDREAS in 2D/3D

(PG13) 1 hr 54 mins
Fri: (2D) 6:30, (3D) 9:00pm
Sat: (2D) 12:45 & 6:30pm
(3D) 3:30 & 9:00pm
Sun: (2D) 12:45, 3:30 & 6:30pm
(3D) 9:00pm
Mon-Thurs: (2D) 5:30, (3D) 8:00pm

POLTERGEIST

(PG13) 1 hr 33 mins
Fri: 6:00 & 8:30pm
Sat: 1:00, 3:15, 6:00 & 8:30pm
Sun: 1:00, 6:00 & 8:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

TOMORROWLAND

(PG)
2 hrs 10 mins
Fri: 5:20 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun: 12:00, 2:40, 5:20 & 8:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:20 & 7:00pm





Classic Metal Mixer

Chamber members party at Baechtel Creek Inn

Delicious food, fun networking, and a sneak peak at some of the classic cars that were to be at the Community Festival & Car Show the next day kept a large group of business owners, community members, and even hotel guests happy at the Classic Metal Mixer Saturday evening. Baechtel Creek Inn owners Bob and Jan

Jenny Senter
Features Writer

Rodriguez, in conjunction with the Willits Chamber of Commerce, were hosts of the mixer.

"What I enjoy most is seeing business people and community members networking about anything and everything," said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lynn Kennelly, "from current events, legislation that affects their businesses, plans for future promotions, economic trends, and their vision for the community of Willits. Mixers are held in a relaxed environment that allows

people to mix with others they wouldn't ordinarily see in their businesses."

Kennelly also wanted to thank local business owners for the door prizes that were greatly appreciated by the winners. Donations included a gift certificate from Starchild Chocolate, a First Alert evacuation ladder from Lisa Epstein's State Farm Insurance, and a spa products and gift certificate from Baechtel Creek Inn.

The Rodriguezes, who've owned their business since 1991, moved here from Sonoma County. They enjoy living in Willits, and both are enthusiastic about their vision of Willits as a destination. They promote the Willits area to guests by posting – both on their webpage and in the hotel lobby – information about local events such as the music festivals, wine

tasting events, Willits Frontier Days, Ridgewood Ranch and Seabiscuit events, and the shows at the Willits Community Theatre. They both are active in the community, and Jan is also a board member for the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

Lisa Epstein, president of the Willits chamber's board, said: "I loved seeing all the happy faces, and what a crowd! We had a great time! Jan and Bob Rodriguez were generous

hosts. The food was delicious, the wine generously donated by Barra of Mendocino was refreshing, and the classic cars were beautiful. It truly was a delightful evening."

Epstein said two of her guests at the inn from the Sacramento area, Vito and Mimi Forchione, joined in the fun. "They told me they were so impressed with our community that it made them want to move here!"

Above: A group photo of many of the attendees at the Classic Metal Mixer.

Below: Classic cars lined up at Baechtel Creek Inn and Spa.

At bottom: Chamber mixer guests, including from left: Tom Allman and Martha Barra; Mimi and Vito Forchione from Carmichael; and Holly and Jill Walton.

Bottom, at right: Marianna Smoot wins the raffie basket.

Photos by Jenny Senter



Senior Center Flea Market a success

The flea market and BBQ held by the Harrah Senior Center on Saturday was well-attended. All of the 16 vendor spaces were sold. The proceeds will be added to the Senior Center's ongoing fundraising efforts for a new roof. Money raised at the Kiddy Land area will be divided between Relay for Life and for buying gas cards for local cancer patients.

– Carrie Shattuck, contributing writer

Far left: Kylie Southwick says the hot dogs are good! At left: Paul Krauss, 94, the "Goodwill Ambassador" for the Senior Center, plays a game at Kiddy Land. Below: All kinds of items were for sale at the Senior Center Flea Market last weekend.

Photos by Carrie Shattuck



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The rest of
Creek | From Page 1

adopted in 2009.

According to the staff report: "While industrial uses are allowed within an I-2 District by right, an application for Development Review is required in cases involving uses that may include potential environmental effects (County Code Chapter 20.188). This was discussed in the 2010 staff report for the above noted rezoning, specifying, in part, that 'So long as the existing facility continues to be operated under the conditions of the prior entitlements, staff does not foresee any additional impacts as noted in the EIR, further re-enforcing the need to have the conditions outlined in UR 5-72/2002 function as an equivalent to Development Review and continued to be maintained with the existing operation.'"

"As a result," the planning document goes on to state, "potential impacts from the use of the site for asphalt processing were deemed to have been adequately evaluated in 2002 with the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and subject to conditions of approval."

Put into ordinary English, that means that all the necessary environmental review was either covered in the 2002 use permit, or in the 2007-2009 update of the Mendocino County General Plan.

That argument doesn't fly with the Friends of Outlet Creek.

"We believe the board of supervisors overstepped their authority by their actions on March 17," said Friends of Outlet Creek spokesman Glen Colwell. "This petition seeks to require Mendocino County to comply with its own ordinances and state environmental law, including the California Environmental Quality Act, in the evaluation of a project to allow a new asphalt production

plant within the flood plain of Outlet Creek, already classified as sediment-impaired and one of the last remaining coho salmon-supporting watersheds in the main stem of the 'Wild and Scenic-designated' Eel River.

"The Outlet Creek watershed and ecosystem does not belong to one commercial/industrial enterprise to use as it will," Colwell continued. "The watershed belongs to everyone, and has value as a scenic resource and a relatively intact ecosystem, which still supports endangered salmon species."

"Fast tracking approval of an asphalt plant on Outlet Creek seems like government abdicating its responsibility to represent all constituents, and not just business interests. By taking this action and bypassing the current environmental review process, the board of supervisors effectively ensured that the project's impacts on water and air quality, threatened salmonid species and traffic safety will not be considered, and other interests including the environment, salmon and use of the commons, which will be affected by this action, have no voice."

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, who voted in support of the asphalt plant on March 17, was not available for comment by press time on Wednesday.

However on April 21, during board discussion of the use and impacts of hack-and-squirt techniques on Mendocino Redwood Company timber lands, Woodhouse did say: "I want more jobs for young people, and training for them, to use natural resources. So I vote for things like logging and gravel extraction and asphalt, because we need to have an economy. Some people won't like the decisions I make, but we have to have jobs."

The rest of
Car Show | From Page 3

cause ... and, yep, you guessed it: Caitlyn donated the tickets to our BACA chapter in hopes we could use them for a raffle prize.

I have to admit that day was very emotional for us. The outpouring of support we received for our BACA chapter was overwhelming. Especially since – thanks to Lynn Kennelly of the Willits Chamber of Commerce – this was our first actual public appearance.

As the day came to a close, the four main trophies were awarded. "The Willits Police Department Award" went to Tom and Donna Cropp, Ukiah, for their 1960 Ford T-Bird; "The Willits Fire Department Award" went to Steve Quinliven, Willits, for his 1968 Chevy Camaro; "The Mayor's Pick" went to Doug Forrester, Willits, showing his 1929 Ford 2-Door Sedan; and "Best of Show" went to Dan Pallo, Petaluma, for his 1934 Ford 2-Door Sedan.

As always, the Shifters Car Club and the Willits Chamber of Commerce did an excellent job at putting on a fun family-oriented day. They hope to see you all there next year for year 35!

The rest of
Budget | From Page 1

department looks to achieve a 5 percent cut by not filling unfilled positions.

"We had an unfilled position – it made it easy," said Gonzalez. "You are not looking at an individual."

From numbers in the draft budget, other parts of the police department, like administration and dispatch, would see cuts of between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

Council members met Tuesday for a budget workshop to discuss the budget, which is still a work in progress.

"This is not a painless process," City Manager Adrienne Moore said. "Five percent is big when you are at bare bones."

The city's general fund spent more revenue than it took in last year. The difference was made up from a cushion of about \$2.4 million the city holds in that fund.

A general fund deficit of about \$80,000 was penciled into the draft budget.

Money in the city's general fund can be tracked across city departments. The fund pays for salaries or portions of a position in all departments, except for the sewer plant.

In the draft budget, general fund dollars pay 49 percent of the city manager's position, 10 percent of the city engineer's position, and 41 percent of a third-level water plant operator – to give a few examples.

Currently part-time planning services in Willits are carried out by a planner borrowed from the county planning department.

The city planning department got a part-time planner on contract from the county this year after losing former City Planner Alan Falleri to retirement and then a brief tenure by his successor.

The planning budget as submitted in the draft budget would fund planning at an expense of about \$61,000.

Last year, council members approved a budget that showed deficits in other funds in addition to the general fund.

The rest of
Jail | From Page 1

or contractors, but what do we, as a community, feel we accept. And not just because we're upset with the jail administration, but because we need to find other resources and how we're going to support better outcomes for people."

On the plus side, Tom Pinizzotto, assistant director of the county's Health and Human Services Agency, cited recent improvements to the intake process at the jail, including the dissemination of mental health-related information to California Forensic Medical Group, and the practice of alerting public defenders to their clients' incarceration. But perhaps the most hopeful change discussed at the meeting was the promise of improvement in the training of police officers.

Currently, academy recruits receive a total of six hours of training on the entire range of disabilities, including mental, developmental and physical disabilities. Two proposed new laws, Senate Bill 11 and Senate Bill 29, would guarantee that trainees at police academies receive a minimum of 40 hours of training on mental health issues, and officer candidates would receive 20 hours of training, as well as four hours of refresher training per year.

All of this will have to be paid for, of course, and it remains to be seen how the legislature will respond. But most board members expressed optimism about the future.

"It's a problematic process," said attorney Kit Elliot, "but I see that everyone is buying into it and trying to communicate, which has been some of the lack, I think. We're getting somewhere."

The rest of
Roundup | From Page 1

told council members the Harrah Center needs to raise money to fix its leaky roof.

The senior center has set up a webpage, gofundme.com, where supporters can give money to help pay for the project.

The center's plea for donations has raised \$775 from 13 people towards the \$100,000 it is seeking, the gofundme.com website stated.

Words to live by

The Willits Police Department and a community working group crafted a new mission statement for the department.

Willits police motto "For the People" was adopted in the 1990s, Sgt. Jon Anderson said, but this is the first statement of the department's mission.

The police mission statement reads: "The Willits Police Department's mission is to deliver quality services and resources while providing safety, assistance, and protection built on trusting and reliable relationships."

"That is for me to try and show – and the guys I work with to try and show – when we come out," said Anderson, an 18-year veteran of the department.

Mayor Bruce Burton read a proclamation acknowledging the hardships facing law enforcement.

The city water department fund was budgeted last year with a deficit of \$6,600, and the sewer department at about \$276,712, a city report stated.

In addition to the numbers, department goals are a part of the budget. For city administration, that includes working with federal, county and state government to oversee business like the old Remco Hydraulics industrial property.

Sales taxes are a top source of revenue for the city, and a report from a consulting firm earlier this year listed the biggest sales tax contributors.

Some 25 businesses in Willits yield 74 percent of the city's sales tax revenue. The top 25 list features gas stations, grocery stores, fast food restaurants, hardware stores and a few other Willits-based businesses like Sparetime Supply and Caterpillar heavy equipment dealer Peterson Tractor.

The current budget approved last summer eliminated money given to the Economic Development and Finance Committee and the Willits Local First business campaign to save \$6,000.

In the draft of the budget, the city penciled in the usual amounts of money for the usual list of community institutions and Willits branches of county services.

The draft budget proposed \$7,500 to the Willits Senior Center, \$1,000 to the Willits Library, \$1,000 for the County Museum, \$6,000 for Willits Community Services, and \$3,000 for Our Daily Bread.

Another review of the budget is expected to happen June 10; council members could adopt the budget on June 24.

Editor's Note: The 2015/16 draft budget can be found at the City of Willits website: Go to www.cityofwillits.com, click "City Council Agendas & Minutes," then go down to the May 26 Budget Workshop item, and click "Report."

The rest of
Water | From Page 1

kinda guy: Imagine you're going through a rough financial period, barely getting by from paycheck to paycheck, while falling deeper in debt. Then one day you get a letter from a lawyer informing you that your rich uncle Max died and left you \$100,000. So you take the money and buy a Ferrari. Being the prudent, careful type, you don't buy the \$250,000 expensive model; instead, you buy the cheaper, more affordable \$95,000 one! Gotta make that money last! But the following week, as you drive around town in your new wheels, thinking about where you're gonna get the cash to fill the gas tank, you realize that your financial picture hasn't really changed – even with the cash windfall.

So even if we do get enough rain this year to end the drought, we still need to take the long view and maybe even think about doing things a little differently, because sure as God made little green apples, it's gonna get dry again!

This is the place where you might expect me to go to "Preachy Mode," and lay out for you what I think you should do about water into the future. Well, I'm not gonna do that. Preserving our natural resources and learning to share what little we have while planning for the future is not something that can be mandated or forced on you by arm twisting. We each need to make our own responsible decisions, and if your decisions are wrong for the majority of the people, your neighbors will let you know.

However, I'll offer as a guide the premise that addressing the long-term water issue requires action from your government as well as from all of us civilians. From the government side, the City of Willits is currently completing its Emergency Water System, and when it's completed, it will go through a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process to determine whether it's appropriate to make the emergency water system into a permanent part of the existing city water system.

The CEQA study would identify key components of the aquifer and the affect the city's water use would have on the total water supply. The study would include determining how much water is contained in the aquifer; what the quality of the water is; where the good and bad water is located; how much water can be pumped before affecting other wells; and what the recharge rate is, as well as other pertinent data. There are other steps that the city can take to expand and improve our water supply, and these will also be looked at in the future.

As for what each of us can do, there are many things that can help conserve our water supply. Many of us have been doing these things since the beginning of the drought, and we could continue to do so into the future. But some of us might not be willing to make any sacrifices unless it's an actual emergency situation. That's our freedom of choice!

One strategy is to take "Navy showers" – turn on the water and get wet; turn off the water and soap up; turn on the water and rinse. After installing low-flow toilets and shower heads, flushing the toilet only as often as appropriate – yellow is mellow, brown, flush it down. From personal experience, just doing this has resulted in our water use being cut almost in half.

Replacing your grass lawn with native, drought-tolerant plants can save lots of water, with the added bonus of not having to spend your weekends mowing the lawn. This type of landscaping provides color all year-round, avoiding having your grass turn brown during the hot summer days, no matter how much water you pour on it. Many local jurisdictions have adopted the state mandate to eliminate grass lawns, and some cities offer a monetary incentive to remove grass, while others have simply required it. Over the last few years, many homeowners around town have decided to remove their grass and replace it with a variety of bright, colorful drought-tolerant plants. Walk around town and look.

There are many other water-saving strategies that can be applied, but it all comes down to what each of us is willing to do to save water. And as I discussed in previous articles, when we use less water it means that less revenue is going to the city's Water Enterprise Fund, making less money available to pay for operating, maintaining and upgrading the water system. And to offset this loss of revenue, the city is compelled to ask the ratepayers to approve a rate increase.

So what it all comes down to is a simple choice: What do we value more, water or money? Are we willing to pay more money to use more water, while perhaps endangering the water supply? Are we willing to spend more money to use less water, thus preserving or stretching our water supply? If we are willing to spend more money to use more water, if and when the water runs out, will we be able to satisfy our collective thirst with cash?

These are some of the choices we face as a community, and unfortunately, they're not hypothetical questions!

Ron Orenstein is a member of the Willits City Council; this piece is his own work, and does not represent any official position of the City of Willits or the Willits City Council. "Water: How it works in Willits, Part 1" was published in the May 7, 2015 edition of Willits Weekly, and can be read at www.willitsweekly.com/documents/WillitsWeekly_05142015_Pages.pdf. "Water: How it works in Willits, Part 2" was published in the May 21, 2015 edition of Willits Weekly and can be read at: www.willitsweekly.com/documents/WillitsWeekly_05212015_Pages.pdf.



Above: Tutor Dunkin Bacci, learner Saranporn Dvornik, and learner Rosa Nieto with her tutor Anna Wilson

Literacy Volunteers celebrates 30 years of ‘opening doors’

Jenny Senter
Features Writer

The 30-year anniversary of the Literacy Volunteers of Willits’ commitment to literacy was a great reason to come together for a celebration last week at the Willits Library.

A short business meeting and election of board officers

was also held before the May 20 celebration. Elected to the Literacy Volunteers board of directors for 2015-16 were: Carolyn Pavlovic, president; Sandy Peters, secretary; Pam Shillings, treasurer, and board members Tania Borrás, Dunkin Bacci and Ken Stedman.

Literacy Volunteers of Willits founder Alex Carlon, guest



Above: Teresita and Pedro Steffens share a laugh with Pam Shillings.

Below: Alex Carlon and Mayor Bruce Burton.

Photos by Jenny Senter



Said Garcia, Carmen Santiago, tutor Ruthanne Volz, and Teresita and Pedro Steffens.

speaker for the evening, told those present that in 1985, he wanted to “fill a gap that the family and schools were not able to fill” by helping adults learn to read. Carlon believes that each person learns to read “in their own time” and that society should never give up on non-readers. His vision of what has become the Literacy Volunteers of Willits was to help non-readers from not only Willits, but all over northern Mendocino County become proficient in reading.

“Reading Opens Doors” was a popular literacy catchphrase at the time, and Carlon stressed that literacy truly does open doors for those who have spent a lifetime struggling with the stigma of being illiterate. Carlon, a retired Willits Unified school teacher, became a teacher at Baechtel Grove Middle School two years after starting the adult literacy program.

Willits Mayor Bruce Burton was on hand to commend the volunteers for “providing literacy, the greatest gift of all, to the Willits community.” An avid reader, Mayor Burton remembers fondly his trips as a child to the Willits Carnegie Library with his mother, Hattie Burton. His son, Willits High School and University of Oregon graduate Robert Burton, is currently a volunteer with Literacy Volunteers of Willits.

There are approximately 35 volunteers with the program. Pam Shillings, board secretary and organizer of the anniversary event, has been with the Literacy Volunteers of Willits for 19 years. Sandy Peters, tutor and board secretary, has been with the group for 16 years. Other longtime members are Dunkin Bacci, with 10 years, Charlotte Oeding, seven years; and Carolyn Pavlovic, who recently retired after working for years at the Willits Library.

Currently there are 24 learners matched with tutors. Several tutors and learners were on hand to be recognized, to receive commemorative Literacy Volunteers of Willits book bags, and to enjoy the festivities. Many of the learners shared that they had gained confidence since joining the program. The tutors agreed that helping their learners learn to read has been a very rewarding experience.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact lvw@willitsonline.com or leave a message at the Literacy Volunteers office at 459-5098.

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