

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 110

Thursday, June 18, 2015



Don't miss the B section inside today's 20-page paper!

Supes approve budget; Woodhouse votes no

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Supervisors approved a \$239.5 million recommended budget for 2015-16 on Tuesday. The vote was 4-1 in favor, with Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse voting no.

The budget supervisors approved is not the final budget. It is called the recommended budget, but it is actually more of an interim budget. It governs how the county is run from the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1) until the final budget is approved in early

Read the rest of **Budget** | Over on Page 8

Supes renew trapper program

Mike A'Dair
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Supervisors unanimously approved renewing the county's contract with the federal government's Wildlife Services on Tuesday, in spite of heartfelt testimony from a number of community residents who pleaded with the board to cancel the contract and move instead to non-lethal means of predator control.

The issue arose late last year when a number of citizen's groups, including the Coyote Project and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, sued Mendocino County in order to force the county to reevaluate its

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

Mail theft suspects arrested

Two out-of-county residents were arrested June 9 after allegedly stealing money orders from a residential mailbox in Leggett.

The victim of the theft, a 65-year-old Leggett man, became suspicious after seeing a vehicle with a man and woman inside parked next to his mailbox at about 1:30 pm last Tuesday. As he approached the vehicle, he later told deputies, the vehicle sped off.

The man followed the couple to Boomer's Bar in Laytonville, where he called sheriff's deputies.

When deputies arrived to investigate, the couple sped off and a short high-speed chase ensued, according to sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten. Sheriff's officers "caught up to the vehicle and initiated an enforcement stop."

Read the rest of **Mail** | Over on Page 8



A bright future envisioned for old Remco property

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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The Skunk Train wants the city's approval to turn the Remco property into a thriving tourist hub for Willits, but a group of Willits businessmen have a grand plan of their own.

Skunk Train leader Robert Pinoli is working to close a deal to buy the property from the Willits Environmental Remediation Trust. Pinoli needs approval from the city for a project that would turn the property into an epicenter of Skunk Train tourism.

Read the rest of **Remco** | Over on Page 8

Hey, it's Western Wear Days in Willits

Zack Cinek
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Hearty applause and laughter in the Willits City Council chambers? Willits Frontier Days' Jeff Cook was telling council members about upcoming events and the power of Western-wear clothing.

"It has been going for 89 years," Cook said, "and we are sure excited about the culmination of all this effort, anticipation, community spirit and now a brand-new hospital."

The Hometown Celebration on Thursday, June 25 and the Truck Pulls at Jack Sharp Arena, followed

Read the rest of **Jeans** | Over on Page 8

City government reorganized

Zack Cinek
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City council members approved Friday the city manager's request to eliminate three jobs from city books and add new positions, including a position in the planning department.

Council members voted 5-0 to approve the changes, which eliminated the jobs of a lead public works employee, the city engineer's position and an administrative assistant.

"We feel with resolution of some major issues we have dealt with for some time, it is time to fully implement this reorganization plan," City Manager Adrienne Moore said.

Several workers from
Read the rest of **City** | Over on Page 9



Dads & Roots

Fun for dads and kids of all ages

All little boys seem to love trains, and some of those little boys grow up to be dads and some of those dads make the full circle back to working on trains, becoming members of Willits' Roots of Motive Power organization.

Chip Jones and Keith Rongey are two of those used-to-be boys, enjoying the time-honored "dad" hobby of getting greasy and working with one's hands on wrenches, oil cans and biiiiiiiiii gears.

Jones is a father of three: Chuck Jones, who is a mechanic for Volkswagens, Karen Snider, who runs a commercial real estate office, and Sharon Gutierrez, who works at her sister's business. Between the kids, Jones is a grandfather to five grandchildren, including the youngest, Harrison, 4, a picture of whom grandpa carries around in his wallet to show off proudly.

Chuck, who makes annual motorcycle trips around the country, makes a point to swing back through Willits on his way back to Ontario, California to check out the latest projects at the yard.

Keith Rongey is the father of two: Adam Rongey, who is a third-grade teacher, and Lisa Rongey, an executive assistant. He is also a proud grandpa to two grandchildren.

Adam visits from his home in Colorado, and enjoys checking in with his dad to see what's happening at the Roots yard.

Read the rest of **Roots** | Over on Page B3



At top: Keith Rongey supervises as Chip Jones fits a wrench on a bolt of a large wheel.

At left, center: Chip Jones shows off the photo he carries in his wallet of his grandson, Harrison.

At left: Keith Rongey oils up some parts on one of the engines at the Roots yard.

Photos by Maureen Moore

County to address public records shortfalls

Mike A'Dair
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Supervisors have approved unanimously a plan to address shortfalls and inconsistencies in how the county responds to requests by the public for public information.

According to Deputy CEO Jennelle Rau, who moved recently into the Executive Office from the General Services Agency, in February the CEO's office created a public records committee, consisting of numerous department heads. The committee met regularly for three months to arrive at a plan that will be implemented in three phases.

In the first phase, the county will create a county website for Public Records Act requests and information. The website will contain information defining what is, and what is not, public information; how to request public information; and links to various county departments and their agendas.

The website also will include a standardized application for public information and guidelines to county employees on how to process requests for information.

Phase 1 will be enacted immediately.

In Phase 2, the county will consider the advisability of providing public access to a list of all current county contracts. If this is technically and legally possible, it is to be done by November 1.

In Phase 3, the county will consider implementing a

document imaging project, where other county records and documents not currently available can be made available to the public.

"The committee feels strongly about these recommendations," Rau said. "We feel if we take these steps, it will address a lot of the concerns we've heard the

public has."

Contractor and water board member Lee Howard told supervisors about an experience he'd recently had with a public records request.

In April of this year, Howard had requested copies of a public document. The county employee charged him 10 cents per page, which is legal, and added a service charge of \$15.75, which Howard argues was not legal. When Howard told the county employee he couldn't do that, the employee replied the service charge was legal and he charged it all the time.

Board members agreed with Howard the employee shouldn't have added the service charge.

Howard said he was pleased with the progress the county had made on this issue. "I applaud you for goin' through the process, and I applaud the staff for goin' through it," he said. "It definitely appears to me that it's getting better."



Sober Grad

29th annual grad night party a great time

Excited graduates ready to celebrate safely are lucky in the Willits community, as the annual Sober Grad party allows for a festive night – chock-full of free food, fun, games, activities and prizes – and a way to make it to their future.

In years past, deaths have occurred on the night of graduation when over-celebrating led to tragedy. For 29 years now, the Sober Grad alternative has become a must-attend event and a great time.

Seniors from all Willits-area schools – Willits High, Willits Charter, San Hedrin, New Horizons and La Vida – are all welcome, and this year, 105 out of the 157 total grads attended the party, along with 66 guests. Seniors can invite underclassmen to join, and all can participate in the activities, but only the graduates are eligible for the plethora of prizes given out during the night. The guests, however, are eligible to win casino prizes.

Though doors open at 9:30 pm, attendees have until 11 pm to arrive. In order to be eligible for the prizes, they must remain at the Willits Community Center until 4 am. Prizes start to be awarded at midnight and finish at 4 am with the big ticket items. Each graduate is also given a \$50 check.

This year, four \$1,000 cash prizes were drawn and given to Alyssa Alvarez, Lakota Lebo, Billy Mann and Sam Grossman. Another big-ticket prize, a La-Z-Boy recliner, donated again this year by Willits Furniture, went to Datzman Engfer.

Several \$100 and \$125 cash prizes were given to attendees, and other swag included mini-fridges, flat screen TVs, Roku, headphones, speakers, dishes, blankets, pots and pans, themed baskets, bedding, sheets, towels, coffee makers, toaster ovens, camping gear, and much much more. A pair of San Francisco Giants tickets was even given to a lucky grad.

Those students who helped Sober Grad over the past year also received Ventura Perez Memorial Merit awards – cash

money! Sober Grad's Joyce Waters noted there were more awards given out this year than for any other year. "The way the kids received these awards was by helping out a lot throughout the year," explained Waters. "They attend meetings, help at fundraisers, sell tickets for fundraisers, help design the T-shirt, etc."

Recipients included \$150 winners: Ian Bertolino-Haley, Taylor Buzzard, Victor Cardona, Andrew Cavanaugh Hopper, Lija Lamkin, Billy Mann, Ankit Patel, Levi Phillips, Naomi Ramirez, Kara Rodriguez, Kaylee Seaton, Kira Wear, and Mikaela Wright. \$250 winners: Jordan Elliott, Annie Romberg, Brandon Thiel, Tori Troum, and Maya Valley. \$500 winners: Antonio Amador, Dara Collicott, Izabel Hageman, Irene Labus, Leslie Leon, Kaeleigh McKey, and Hailey Riley.

During the six-hour event, all attendees were welcome to bounce on the blow-up Velcro wall, get a henna or glitter tattoo, have their photo taken through a fun cutout of a dancing couple, sing karaoke with DJ Ken Steely, dance out on the floor, nosh on sandwiches, cookies, chips, fruit and pizza, play basketball in the outside court, watch movies, or hit the casino, where chips were earned to "buy" graduation-themed gifts at the prize table.

"We really want to thank the community for all of their support yet again this year," said Waters. "It's really heartwarming that the community feels it's so important to support these kids and to keep Sober Grad continuing. Since our beginning, there has not been a graduation-night death, so this really works. We have a 100 percent success rate, and we are really proud of that!"

- Maureen Moore

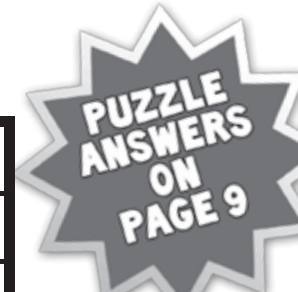
At top, from left: Hilary Koehler of Hilary's Henna creates a design. Boys at the poker table in the "casino." Erin Fitzpatrick helps deliver slices of pizza to the grads.

Above, left: The \$1,000 winners: Billy Mann, Lakota Lebo, Alyssa Alvarez and Sam Grossman.

Above, right: Leslie Leon proudly displays her loot from the event, including a mini-fridge, toaster oven, flat screen TV and cookwear.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Sudoku



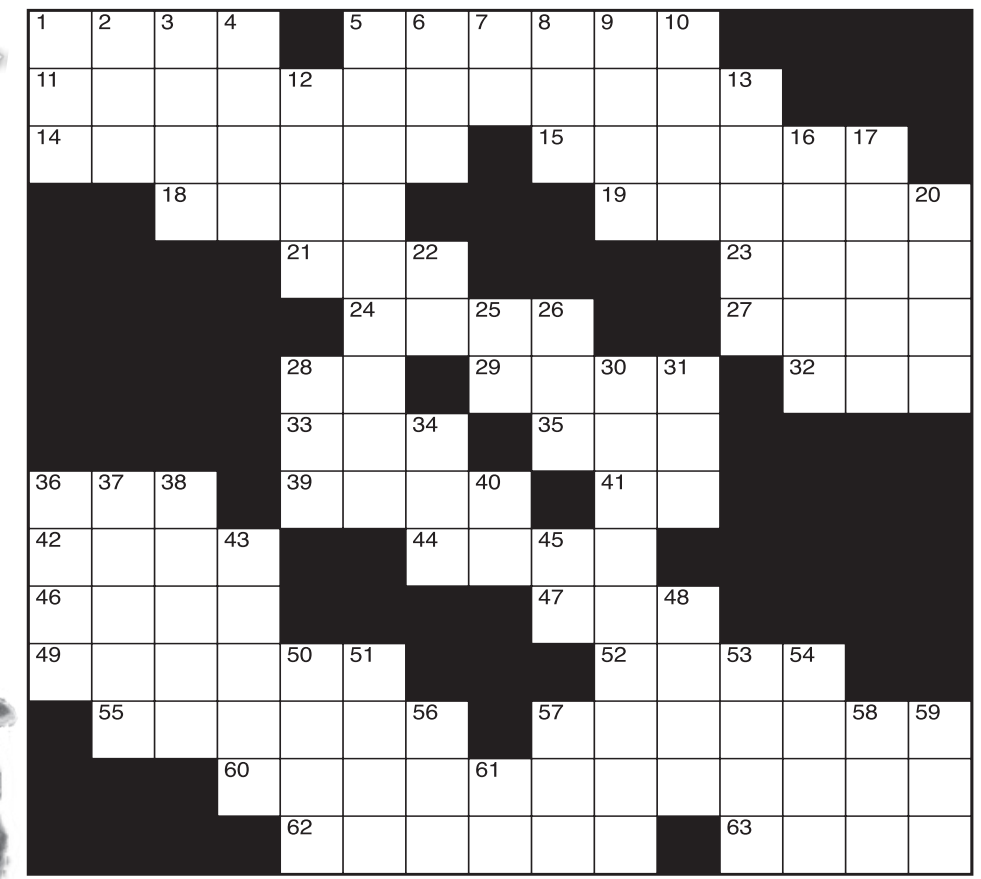
9		7	4														
		2				8	3										
	3		9	5													
6	9	4						2									
				9	8												
		8	1	2			4										
											5						
5												6					
4				6	1	9											

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!

Level: Intermediate

Crossword Puzzle



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Cambridge

Cambridge is a 1-year-old female mixed breed dog who currently weighs 33 pounds. Cambridge had a family who did not have the time for her, and we're grateful for the chance to find her the kind of loving home that she deserves. She spent a lot of time outside in her previous home, so in her forever home we really want her to be able to have a nice fenced yard to hang out in and the option to be inside. With her happy playful personality, she will remind you of a large puppy. This is her second chance at finding a great home with adopters who will spend time with her and allow her to be a part of the family.

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

Photo by Rod Coats

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cleopatra's vipers
5. Slanted printing style
11. DWTS' Italian judge
14. Slender tower with balconies
15. ___ Aires
18. Practice fight
19. Forged using a metal bending block
21. Male parent
23. National Asset Mgmt. Agency
24. Not this
27. Middle East chieftain
28. 7th tone
29. A role of insulation
32. Midway between S and SE
33. The longest division of geological time
35. Oolong, green or Earl Grey
36. Disorderly crowd
39. Children's author Blyton
41. A radio band
42. Assist in some wrongdoing
44. Measures speed of rotation (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon
2. ___ Lanka, country
3. Play on words jokes
4. Finger click
5. Repeating
6. Toddler
7. Article
8. Women's ___ movement
9. Promises to pay
10. A ball of yarn or thread
12. Towards the mouth or oral region
13. Fatuous
16. Old Irish alphabets
17. Slang for trucks with trailers
20. Defy
22. Dear husband (abbr.)
25. A blood group
26. Make lacework
28. Golf ball support
30. Having a particular scientific skill
31. Chit
34. Head louse egg
36. Pomace
37. West Indian sorcery cult
38. A. Hutton drew this Br. comic
40. Popular 1950's hairstyle
43. A unit of girl or boy scouts
45. 3.6% of the earth's crust
48. Drug agent (slang)
50. Supplemented with difficulty
51. Self-immolation by fire ritual
53. Br. slang for donkey
54. Supervisor
56. Of she
57. Research doctorate in law
58. Took possession
59. Point midway between NE and E
61. Care giver degree



Above, right: The Velcro wall is always a popular Sober Grad activity.

Left: Datzman Engfer, the winner of the La-Z-Boy recliner.

Right: The end-of-the-night, blurry-eyed madness that ensues prior to awarding the large prizes.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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DAILY: (2D) 12:30 & 5:30pm (3D) 3:00 & 8:00pm

SAN ANDREAS
(PG13) 1 hr 54 mins
DAILY: 1:00 & 6:00pm

SPY
(R) 2 hrs
DAILY: 3:30 & 8:30pm

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"A Roof Over Our Heads" Fundraiser for Harrah Senior Center



Horseman's Playday and BBQ

Fun event for riders – and barbecue eaters – the first weekend of June

It was a weekend full of events at the Willits Horseman's arena on the first weekend in June. Youngsters came to rope and ride in the Saturday gymkhana, and riders of all ages came out for Sunday morning's jackpot roping and the afternoon rodeo. Sunday also was the day for hungry barbecue eaters to get a full belly before cheering on the riders.

The younger generation of riders competed in several events to earn points towards being the high point winner, including cloverleaf barrels, Washington poles, open-ended figure eight, two barrel cow horse, single stake, and the gated keyhole event. The top rider in each age group won a high point award (a headstall), and the second highest won a fly mask and fly spray. In 12 and under, high point went to Sierra Mayfield on Yellow and reserve to Hazel Cooke on Poppy. In 13 to 17, high point went to Emma Wade on Purdy and reserve also went to Emma Wade, but this time riding A Shot at the Bar. In 18 to 34, high point went to Brandi Miner on Squirrel and reserve to Carmen Coleman on Sugar. In 35 and over, high point went to Leanne Mills on Tommy and reserve to Jennifer Seymour on Sizzle.

The barbecue – always a big hit – was headed up this year by crew members Jim and Jeff Yokum, Bob and Debbie Baechtel, Art and Annette Cooley, Doug and Kathy Goss, and Ray Hebrard. The Yokum boys are third-generation Horseman's barbecuers and still use the hand-blended spice mix on the beef that was created by Glen Yokum, Jim's dad and Jeff's grandfather. A whole beef was cooked long and slow all night over a wood fire and watched over carefully by the BBQ crew. In addition to the meat, event-goers enjoyed beans made by Dan Pinon, the bean specialist, made with his own recipe and cooked over an open wood fire. The rest of the kitchen crew was made up of non-members and



At top, from left: Jim Bean presents buckles to All Around winners Kayla Zilch, left, and Mark Lucchetti, right. Robbie Burgess hands Boot Scootin' Boogie winner Caterina Wear with a \$100 gift certificate to Rainbow Ag. Jim Bean presents spurs to High Money Heeler Janelle McCormack, left, and High Money Header Mark Lucchetti, right.

Above: Gymhana winners from left to right: Carmen Coleman, Emma Wade, Leanne Mills, Sierra Mayfield, Hazel Cooke, Brandi Miner and Jennifer Seymour.

Photos by Rachel Belvin

volunteers who created a well-orchestrated team.

Eight events were presented to the afternoon rodeo riders, including girls breakaway roping, girls steer daubing, steer stopping, girls barrel racing, team roping, girls goat tying, ribbon roping, and chute dogging.

First place in breakaway went to Shanna Gayski and second to Kayla Zilch. First place in steer daubing went to Gracie Bauer, second to Brandi Gamble, third to Lana Vlastelica, and fourth to Dalli Fonsen. First place in steer stopping went to Mark Lucchetti, second to Anthony McKemy, third to Kayla Zilch, and fourth to John Weiss. First place in barrel racing went to Shanna Gayski, second to Domanique Penny, third to Jennifer Seymour, and fourth to Claire Brackett. First place in the team roping event went to the team of Joe Dennis and Mark Lucchetti, second to Mark Lucchetti and Keith Thornton, third to John Weiss and Pat Rowan, and fourth to Walt Niesen and Ron Hogenstead. First place in goat tying went to Kaley Wilson, second to Kayla Zilch, third to Gracie Bauer, and fourth to Brandi Gamble. First place in ribbon roping went to Kelly Fonsen, second to Anthony McKemy, and third to Walt Niesen. First place in chute dogging went to Kelly Fonsen.

After the rodeo points were tallied, a silver buckle

and All Around Cowboy title went to Mark Lucchetti, and another silver buckle and title of All Around Cowgirl went to Kayla Zilch. Mark Lucchetti also took home a pair of silver spurs, as the morning's jackpot roping event's High Money Header, and Janelle McCormack, the High Money Heeler, took home a matching pair of silver spurs, as well.

During the rodeo, two events were held for youngsters who got to come into the arena on foot from the grandstands. The mystery scramble allowed kids to chase loose chickens around the arena: If you catch one, you keep one! The second, the Book Scootin' Boogie event, is a jumble of kids' boots in the middle of the arena. Kids run barefoot, find their boots and race back across the finish line. First one back across with her boots on was Caterina Wear, who won a \$100 gift certificate to Rainbow Ag.

"The Willits Horseman's Association would like to thank the Willits community and our award sponsors for their support of our Annual Play Day and BBQ," said Cindy Mihelic. "Many thanks also to our announcer Kathy Goss, the rodeo crew: Jim Bean and Robbie Burgess and Rachel Belvin, and the arena crew: Bob Weiss, Stetson Burgess, and many other hard-working individuals who kept the rodeo fun, well-organized and fast-paced."

Event sponsors included: Little Lake Auto Parts, Garman Construction, 101 RV and Trailer Sales, Spacetime Supply, Yokums Body Shop, Redwood Empire Quarter Horse Association, Adams's Tire, and Sheri Cronin, DVM.

– Maureen Moore



Left: Harold purchases tickets to the barbecue from Sharon Short and Sue Clark. Above: Casey Persico reaches for the steer in the daubing event.

Photos by Maureen Moore

THURSDAYS

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\$4

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\$250 GAME 9PM

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Visit Willits fan page for daily specials.

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Celebrating Father's Day

... the Willits Weekly way!

Don't forget, Father's Day is this Sunday, June 21

Enjoy photos of Willits-area dads and their kids in our free community photo collage, continued on page B3



A sweet little girl and her very first love. Happy Father's Day Daddy! Love, River and Shawna



Hunter and Logan wish their dad Eric a very Happy Father's Day!



Wayne and Lea Ingle, 1986



Adam Lawrence and his two girls, Madison and Macy



Thanks for being such an awesome dad! We love you, xoxo

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Below: Mariposa's ATW special, the Mediterranean salad.

Right: Hanna Willoughby, counter worker at J.D. Redhouse, with an ATW special smoothie she just made.

Below: Longtime Mariposa staffer Tasha Lee White, at right, offers customer Matt Marchand a Mediterranean salad, with Mariposa deli supervisor Amber Roberts, at left, and Suzanne Picetti of Avenues of Wellness.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Avenues to Wellness specials:

Highlighting healthy food options at local eateries

Looking to pick up a quick lunch in Willits that's also tasty, healthy and – ta-dah – low-calorie? Look for a growing number of "Avenues to Wellness specials" at local to-go and sit-down eating establishments.

Avenues to Wellness, the community wellness and health program sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Foundation, has started working with local businesses to "increase the community's awareness of the availability of choice for healthy food," said Doreen Blumenfeld, ATW director.

The ATW specials must be 600 calories or less, as well as low in sodium, fat and sugar.

As an added incentive, those buying the ATW specials can participate in a monthly drawing – just fill out a raffle



ticket when you buy your special – for a prize which is usually, Blumenfeld said, a \$15 gift certificate at Mariposa Market.

Businesses are offered stickers for their window to show they are participating, as well as "ATW special" stickers to put on ready-to-go items.

Mariposa Market has added an ATW special sticker to its Mediterranean salad, offered with other prepared foods in the cooler at the front of the store. The salad features a variety of olives – chopped and whole – and feta cheese on top of mixed greens, with grated carrots, chopped purple cabbage, cherry tomatoes, marinated pepperoncini peppers, and a house-made olive oil balsamic vinegar dressing, served on the side.

J.D. Redhouse and It's Time are two other "early adopters" of the ATW special program. J.D. Redhouse offers a fresh fruit smoothie, made with all organic fruit, in four different flavors. It's Time has a custom-made spicy veggie sushi roll: You can ask for the "ATW Special" if there's no ready-made rolls in the to-go cooler at It's Time.

Suzanne Picetti has recently joined the ATW team to help recruit cafes and restaurants to participate in the ATW specials program. She offers tools and tips – including a special handout – on how to create a popular and healthy menu item. One of the tools is a link to the Calorie Count website, which can do a nutritional analysis of any recipe: www.caloriecount.com/cc/recipe_analysis.php.

"The educational aspect is so important," Picetti said. "People are not aware of the calories that they are consuming, and when you see an analysis or you have a specific number, it's shocking."

Picetti told Willits Weekly about some newly signed up participants in the ATW specials program, including El Mexicano, which is offering an "ATW special salad," and Paradise Cafe, which has a fresh fruit smoothie and will soon be offering an Asian beef salad that meets ATW special requirements.

Adam's Restaurant's ATW special is called "Field of Greens," and features greens and fresh seafood topped with lemon garlic vinaigrette. Chef Adam says he is happy to accommodate dietary requests for gluten-free and vegetarian dishes.

La Siciliana Restaurant & Pizzeria's "Insalata Salad" qualifies as an ATW special, too, and features organic romaine lettuce, pecans, crumbled bleu cheese, currants, organic Roma tomatoes, and Kalamata olives, topped with homemade vinaigrette. La Siciliana also hopes to offer a pasta ATW special, too, "but we are still working on the calorie count," Picetti said.

Local restaurants interested in finding out more can contact Avenues to Wellness at 459-2777 or atwforhealth@gmail.com. For information about the whole range of programs and workshops ATW is offering the Willits community, visit www.avenuestowellness.org.



Soroptimist Special:

Scholarship winners from Class of 2015

Family and friends joined Willits Soroptimist members in honoring six Willits High School award recipients on Tuesday, June 2 during the annual Soroptimist Scholarship and Sweetheart luncheon.

The scholarship committee selected Irene Labus, Rachel Kanonchoff, Lijia Lamkin, Amanda Mason, Leslie Leon and Kayla Smith to receive the 2015 awards. Candidates must provide a certificate of enrollment to receive their award.

Kanonchoff, Lamkin, Mason, Leon and Smith all received \$1,000 awards, and Labus will receive two \$1,250 awards as a part of the Evelyn K. Kennedy scholarship.

"Irene will receive one \$1,250 check now, and another next year, keeping at least a 2.75 grade point average," explained Divora Stern, chair

of the Soroptimist scholarship committee. "The recipient of the Evelyn K. Kennedy scholarship has to be entering into the field of science or medicine, and Irene was a great candidate."

All of the girls were selected for their academic excellence and community service, Stern said. "Lijia and Rachel were co-valedictorians for their graduating class; Lijia was also a past Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart and did a great job co-emceeing the Senior Awards night."

Lamkin plans to attend University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, where she will be majoring in biology, doing pre-med. She enjoyed playing volleyball all four years of high school, and softball her freshman and junior year. Kanonchoff will attend UC Davis, where she plans to study civil engineering. She

enjoyed playing cross-country and tennis for the past two years, and was captain of both teams during her senior year. She was also selected as the Girls State delegate last year. Leon enjoyed playing sports, including soccer and cheerleading, and is looking to go into the nursing program at Mendocino College. Mason is also an avid sportswoman, enjoying softball and cheerleading, and although undecided on a major, she is looking to attend Santa Rosa Junior College or the College of the Redwoods. Labus is planning a career as an emergency room nurse and has already been certified in CPR and first aid. Smith is going to Mendocino College to "knock out my pre-reqs," then she will be off to Sonoma State, and UC Davis for medical school.

Above: Soroptimist scholarship winners hold their awards while wearing the festive sashes and sparkle mortarboard hat pins. From left: Lijia Lamkin, Leslie Leon, Irene Labus, Amanda Mason, Rachel Kanonchoff and Kayla Smith.

Below from left: Winners Amanda Mason and Rachel Kanonchoff pose with Soroptimist Linda Posner in center. Winner Irene Labus poses with Soroptimist Jane McCabe. Soroptimist Divora Stern poses with winner Leslie Leon. Winner Kayla Smith poses with Soroptimist Elizabeth Sinofsky. Soroptimist Divora Stern poses with winner Lijia Lamkin.

Photos by Maureen Moore

– Maureen Moore



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One of the leaks in the Senior Center roof.
Photo by Jenny Senter

Totally Dead:

Grateful Dead cover band plays Senior Center benefit Saturday

Fifty years later, Grateful Dead fans keep on truckin' to the sound that is synonymous with the Grateful Dead. This Saturday, June 20, the Bay Area band Totally Dead will fill the need to hear a little Dead at the Willits Community Center, from 6 to 11 pm. The proceeds for the evening will go to the Willits Senior Center's A Roof Over Our Heads fundraiser. Tickets at the door are \$20; a chicken dinner is also available for \$10, along with a no host bar.

The senior center was built in 1987, and the almost 20,000-square-foot roof is original to the building. The leaky roof has been an ongoing problem for the past several years, but last winter it reached a crisis point. Many of the repairs to stop the leaks last winter were unsuccessful, and it became apparent that the roof needs to be replaced as soon as possible.

A hardy group of senior center volunteers will be on hand at the event to serve chicken dinners, wine and beer. Dennis Nooneman, chairman of the concert benefit event, told Willits Weekly a silent auction will include a Tré Cool autographed drum head, Tré Cool Zildjian drumsticks, and the CD "American Idiot," autographed by the 2015 Hall of Fame inductees, Green Day. Tre Cool, drummer with Green Day, grew up in Willits. Auction treasures also include a rare Jerry Garcia Band collector's pin, passes to the Brooktrails Golf Course, a drip system donated by Dripworks, and many other generously donated items.

Totally Dead has garnered the notice of experts in the field of "Deadom." David

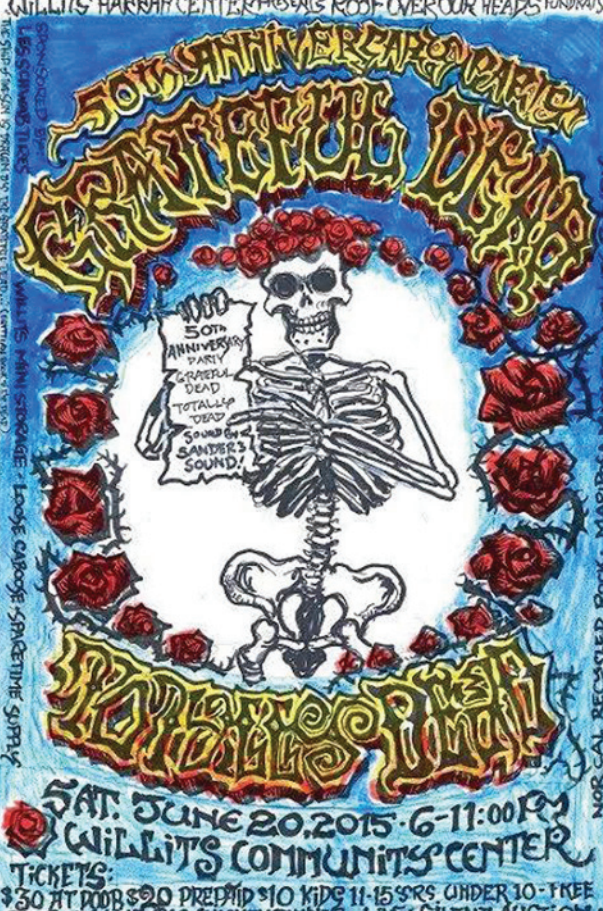
Gans, host of the weekly syndicated radio show "The Grateful Dead Hour," has said of the band, "I really enjoyed Totally Dead's performance at the Berkeley Shakedown Street Festival. [This is] a big, muscular interpretation of the Grateful Dead's music with strong vocals."

Rosie McGee, photographer and author of "Dancing with the Dead," a book about the Grateful Dead band's halcyon days, says: "Totally Dead is NOT a run-of-the-mill Grateful Dead tribute band: their happy energy and professional chops are uncommon and worth seeking out."

Will McCosker, drummer for Totally Dead, told Willits Weekly that the band includes lots of upbeat tunes for the audience's enjoyment. He said the band – based in the Bay Area – loves to interact with the audience, as the audience's energy drives their performance. The band began when seven musicians and friends decided it would be fun to play a Grateful Dead show from the classic spring 1977 tour. "We gave it a go and discovered not only that we had a blast, but people loved it too," the band reports. "We initially began by playing Grateful Dead set lists, but over time discovered the joy of creating our own original set lists. We try to incorporate songs from the late 60s all the way up to mid-90s."

Opening for Totally Dead will be the Phil Savell Band, a three-piece band out of

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Totally Dead.
Photo by Bob Minkin

Sonoma County.

Chairman Nonneman says he is really excited about bringing Totally Dead to Willits, and wants to recognize and thank illustrator and cartoonist Larry Todd, who donated his time and talent for the "flash from the past" poster seen around town.

Willits Senior Center Executive Director Allyn Nonneman said she has been pleased with the support the fund drive has experienced from Willits residents so far. "While fundraising over \$100,000 for the roof repairs is daunting, we are well on our way to achieving our goal!" "A Roof Over Our Heads" fundraising page set up on Go Fund Me is just one of the many ways the center is collecting funds for the roof. You can make your online donation – and watch a video about the senior center – at www.gofundme.com/ogvqy8.

Advance tickets, also \$20, are available at The Headroom, Harrah Senior Center, Main Street Music and Shanachie Pub.

Column | Relationship Ins and Outs

Differences

Dear Doris:

My husband is more of an introvert than me. He likes to stay home, and I like to go out and be social. Those differences bring frustrations on both sides. I have stopped cutting my needs of being social, and I participate in a lot of events without my husband. At the same time I miss spending time with him, and I know that he would like to spend more time with me, too. Is there a way out of this dilemma?



Doris Wier
Columnist

– G.

Dear G.:

That can truly be a dilemma. I know that many couples experience similar conflicts.

I think there are two risks that could possibly damage the connection between the two of you in the long run. The first one is that we have a tendency to think the other is wrong for being or feeling different. The other risk is giving up our individual hopes and dreams for our partnership and in our lives together.

Let's look at the first risk. It is so easy to make each other "wrong" for being and feeling differently. And yet we all are different from each other in so many ways. Our differences are often the reasons why we were attracted to each other in the first place.

Instead of tentatively making each other wrong for being different, I recommend you consciously look into the benefits that your differences bring to each other and your partnership. Perhaps have a conversation about what staying at home has to offer and what is attractive about being more of a social butterfly? I am sure that you will find wonderful qualities in each other's "expertise" if you are open to finding and discussing them. Qualities from which both you as individuals and your partnership can benefit.

Neither of you has to sacrifice his or her hopes and dreams, either. Being in a committed relationship means that we naturally will expand each other's comfort zones. The beauty of your situation is that your differences will enrich each other's life experience if you both allow and encourage each other to move beyond his or her comfort zone.

I recommend you make a commitment to intentionally go out together and intentionally stay home together in an equal and balanced manner to start. Figure out a schedule that will accommodate both of you. You can do a soft start by letting the person who is being pulled out of his/her comfort zone to choose the event or the activity.

If you learn to accept your differences, you will be able to appreciate what you have to share when you come together after spending time apart.

And last, I want to mention that couples who already have a strong connection and feel strongly supported by each other, usually give first priority to their partnership and the well-being of each other. This does not mean that you have to do everything together, but only that you consult with each other regarding time and schedules and when making important decisions.

Enjoy your differences and each other!

If you have any relationship questions, please send them to doriswier@embraceconflicts.com or to WW directly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490. I am happy to answer them anonymously on the third Thursday of the month.

Doris Wier is a certified relationship and life coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples, families, and professionals. In addition she offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution and deepening your intimacy and connection in your partnership. For more information on the process, call 707-456-9246. www.embraceconflicts.com and www.facebook.com/doriswier

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