

Willits Weekly

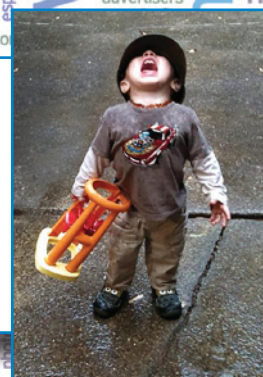
EST. 2013

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RAIN!!!

Little Camdyn's face says it all for the rest of the parched Willitians, many of whom ran outside to enjoy the short downpour Wednesday evening. Hopefully more rain will be on its way soon, to give us the water we, the plants, and the critters so desperately need!



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 72 Thursday, September 18, 2014

Black Fire 'contained,' says CalFire

Kate Maxwell
 Reporter
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

Residents of the Hells Delight Canyon and Black Bart Trails area of Redwood Valley were ordered to evacuate immediately last Saturday at 3:45 pm, after a fast-moving wildfire broke out. The specific cause of the blaze, which ultimately grew to cover 403 acres, destroy 11 buildings, and destroy three firefighting vehicles, is still under investigation.

The fire, known as the Black Fire, took place amid residences in primarily oak woodlands with pine, grass, and brush, in the area between Redwood and Potter valleys. CalFire announced Wednesday afternoon that firefighters had achieved full

Read the rest of **Fire**
 Over on Page 6

Mental health conflict of interest?

County disagrees with grand jury claims

Mike A'Dair
 Reporter
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The official response to a grand jury report alleging an apparent conflict of interest in hiring a company to run the county's adult mental health services division has been approved by county supervisors. It wholly disagrees with five of the grand jury's eight findings, and partly disagrees with two of them.

The grand jury report examined an alleged conflict of interest in the 2012-2013 hiring process

Read more of **Report**
 Over on Page 6

City Council hears from REACH

Zack Cinek
 Reporter
 zack@willitsweekly.com

REACH Air Medical hopes to be flying from the Willits airport sometime in November, a REACH official told the city council at a recent meeting.

Anna Blair, vice president of business relations and development with REACH, talked about her company's profile and its move to Ells Field in Brooktrails.

"We looked at a variety of options before coming to this decision," Blair said. The airport's appeal to

Read the rest of **REACH**
 Over on Page 15



Above, from left: Planes at Ells Field during Airport Day; bypass construction progress over East Hill Road; REACH paramedic Chandra Hall and Fight Nurse Jonah Cabrera pose with Ashes the arson dog from Brooktrails Fire Department. Below: A long view of the viaduct crossing Commercial Street.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Back in the Air

Attendees enjoyed aerial tours of Willits bypass and more during annual Airport Day event

"Overall, it was a very successful event," said Willits Airport Manager Dan Ramsey. "We had a really great turnout and were able to get many people up in the air."

Rides were sold in either a Cessna 172 airplane for \$35 or a Robinson R44 helicopter for just \$60. A frequent request from riders of both aircraft was a tour of the Willits bypass construction area.

"We did do general tours of the Willits valley, too," explained Ramsey. "This year, I even got to go up and take a tour! It's always a fun and new experience to see things from the air."

Along with the rides, other aircraft were available to view at the Ells Field airstrip, as well as a few classic cars, too.

The event was themed as a "60's fly-in" to celebrate the airport's 50th anniversary and featured rock and roll on the loudspeakers, lunch by the Willits Lions Club, root beer floats served by Harrah Senior Center volunteers, and even a few attendees wearing tie-dyed attire.

The REACH helicopter was on display, and REACH staffers were available to meet and greet, as were firefighters from the Little Lake and Brooktrails fire departments ... and, of course, crowd favorite, Ashes the arson dog.

- Maureen Moore

Below from left: Classic cars on display at Ells Field. Bypass construction continues in the Little Lake Valley. Helicopter rides were a big hit at Airport Day.

At bottom: Little Lake and Brooktrails Fire firefighters (and Ashes the arson dog) pose for a quick photo at the airport.



Photos by Maureen Moore



Council approves 20 percent water rate hike

Zack Cinek
 Reporter
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Willits water customers face a 20 percent rate hike after a 3-2 city council vote last week.

The vote accepted City Hall's recommendation to increase water rates 20 percent in meter charges and in water rate tiers 1 to 4, with a note that water rates should be monitored bi-annually to see if a decrease is appropriate.

Council members passed the recommendation and also included Councilman Larry Stranske's suggestion to end the increase in five years.

The 20 percent water rate increase was approved with support from Stranske and councilmen Bruce Burton and Ron Orenstein.

The city's move hopes to bring in about \$312,000 this fiscal year and an estimated \$416,000 during the next fiscal year, according to a report from City Finance Director Susan Holmes.

With a deficit in the water enterprise fund, one of the council's alternatives was to keep water rates at

Read the rest of **Water**
 Over on Page 15

Willits pot dispensaries? Council remains opposed

Zack Cinek
 Reporter
 zack@willitsweekly.com

City policy remained unchanged after lengthy discussion by the city council concerning medical marijuana dispensaries at last week's meeting.

Council members and community members spoke their thoughts on the greater topic of marijuana as a business, as medicine, a detriment to Willits' youth, and an industry with no payrolls or worker's comp insurance.

"As your police chief, I am going to come out against a dispensary," Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez said. Emails about active efforts to change state marijuana laws are often in his in-box, the police chief said.

"There is a discussion going on at the state level on this issue," said Gonzalez. "The law at this point does not support it, but it might, and I think that discussion is happening seriously at the state level."

If legalization or further regulation is coming, then the city may have a chance to prepare. "I am interested in a set of regulations for

Read the rest of **Pot**
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Please help

To the Editor:

It is important for us to continue to learn about what to do when we are being bullied at school or when we see someone being bullied. October 6 is National Bullying Prevention Day. We are supposed to wear blue.

We are raising money to get Michael Pritchard to speak at our school, Blosser Lane Elementary School. Michael Pritchard does school assemblies on bullying prevention. We need to raise \$1,650 and are asking for your help.

If we are able to get 16 people to donate \$100, and 1 person to donate \$50 we will be able to raise this money. Please let us know if you are willing to donate as much money as you can by writing a check to Blosser Lane PTO, Blosser Lane Elementary School, 1275 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490, by September 21.

You will really help us out if you donate. If you can run our letter about this in the newspaper, it would help us as well. For questions, please call our mom, Deb, at 354-4687. She is helping us organize this project. Thank you.

Olivia, Sydney and Jacob Kubin, Willits

Farm School Picnic

To the Editor:

The Grange Farm School Apple Pressing and Picnic was a completely memorable and really fun event last Sunday!

A 100-year-old apple orchard is located on the Ridgewood Ranch, who has graciously leased it to the California State Grange Center of Sustainable Agriculture for teaching new farmers from the Farm School's on-site methodology. What a lovely spot!

Sitting under leafy laden apple trees while eating delicious potluck food was more wonderful than I can say.

We worked with a cornucopia of apples: I believe we pressed about 30 gallons of cider from the partial harvest to date.

There were folks of all generations working shoulder to shoulder just like in old-time harvest paintings; we chopped apples and squeezed cider, drinking it fresh from the spout, and taking jugs home to share.

Crafts and games and creating a T-shirt design was part of the fun.

Thank you to the Farmers Market Band for their down-home music selections. Thanks to all the volunteers that made the day possible; a huge shout-out to David Partch and Richard Jeske for their generous loan of cider presses and equipment; and a special thanks to Ruthie King, farm manager, for organizing it all.

I hope that it becomes an annual event so that more people can participate next time!

The Farm School can use more help to teach our next generation of farmers. There are work days every week, and you can learn by doing. You can see more at their website & donate too: www.grangefarmschool.org.

Thanks, Farm School.

Annie Waters, Willits

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
Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Banned Books Week

To the Editor:

Throughout the country, most children are starting a new academic year. Teachers are sending out their lists of required readings, and parents are beginning to gather books. In some cases, classics like "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "The Catcher in the Rye," and "To Kill a Mocking Bird," may not be included in curriculum or available in the school library due to challenges made by parents or administrators.

Since 1990, the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom has recorded more than 10,000 book challenges. A challenge is a formal, written complaint requesting a book be removed from library shelves or school curriculum. About three out of four of all challenges are to material in schools or school libraries, and one in four are to material in public libraries. The Office for Intellectual Freedom estimates that less than one-quarter of challenges are reported and recorded.

It is thanks to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, and students that most challenges are unsuccessful and reading materials like "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "Slaughterhouse Five," the "Harry Potter" series, and Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's "Alice" series, remain available.

The most challenged and/or restricted reading materials have been books for children. However, challenges are not simply an expression of a point of view; on the contrary, they are an attempt to remove materials from public use, thereby restricting the access of others. Even if the motivation to ban or challenge a book is well intentioned, the outcome is detrimental. Censorship denies our freedom as individuals to choose and think for ourselves. For children, decisions about what books to read should be made by the people who know them best - their parents!

In support of the right to choose books freely for ourselves, the American Library Association and Willits Branch Library are celebrating Banned Books Week, September 21-27, an annual reminder of our right to access books without censorship.

Since its inception in 1982, Banned Books Week has reminded us that while not every book is intended for every reader, each of us has the right to decide for ourselves what to read, listen to or view.

Adopting a new mission, vision and goals for Caltrans concludes the department's implementation of four "early action" recommendations made by the State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI) in January, when it called for bold reform and a more modern department:

American libraries are the cornerstones of our democracy. Libraries are for everyone, everywhere. Because libraries provide free access to a world of information, they bring opportunity to all people. Now, more than ever, celebrate the freedom to read @ your library! Read an old favorite or a new banned book this week.

Caltrans will now work with the CalSTA to develop new performance measures, which will objectively measure progress toward achieving state goals. Here is a link to the SSTI review published in January: http://calsta.ca.gov/res/docs/pdfs/2013/SSTI_Independent%20Caltrans%20Review%201.28.14.pdf.

Joens-Poulton withdraws

To the Editor:

After much reflection and thoughtful deliberation, I have decided to not engage in an active campaign for the office of Mendocino County superintendent of schools.

My experience since last March, when I decided to run for county superintendent of schools, has been remarkable. It has provided me an opportunity to see our county and the communities within it from a new vantage point.

I have had the opportunity to meet many incredible people who care deeply for their communities and the future of public education, which has truly been a gift. My breadth and depth of knowledge surrounding educational issues has grown through this experience, preparing me to better serve our students.

With this heightened perspective, I have to be realistic about the immediate challenges that face education and the responsibilities of the Mendocino County Office of Education. As many of you know, county offices are going through tremendous change as a result of new legal requirements, new funding formulas, and varying roles for our local school districts.

With all of this in mind, I cannot in good conscience take time away from my work to pursue a political campaign. I also feel very strongly that the position of county superintendent should not be politicized and it should not be partisan.

I have spoken with Warren Galletti [candidate for superintendent of schools who came in first in the June primary, qualifying for the November runoff with Joens-Poulton] and have informed him of my decision. My name will remain on the ballot, and I will wholeheartedly take the office of county superintendent should I be elected.

However, my overall commitment is to the ongoing success of the office, and with that in mind, I also look forward to working together with Mr. Galletti should he be elected. My dedication and commitment to MCOE, specifically the Educational Services Division, remains unchanged. I look forward to contributing to the efforts by MCOE to support school districts, and students in Mendocino County.

Paul Joens-Poulton, former candidate for superintendent of schools

War strategy

To the Editor:

On the 13th anniversary of 9/11, our nation once again honored lives lost, gave thanks to our brave first responders and reflected on lessons learned from that terrible day. I'm proud of the unity and resolve our country demonstrated in response to 9/11 and grateful that we are better prepared to prevent terrorist attacks.

I'm also mindful of mistakes we made in seeking to address security threats in the wake of 9/11 - most notably, the disastrous Iraq war which cost us dearly in blood and treasure and did not make us safer. Today the world is more turbulent and dangerous than at any time since the Cold War. Protecting our national interests and keeping Americans safe requires that we be smart, not just tough. We must learn from past mistakes.

I listened carefully Wednesday night last week as President Barack Obama outlined his strategy for confronting ISIL. I agree with the president that ISIL is a brutal terrorist group that poses a threat to the Middle East and aspires to be more than a regional menace. I share his desire to destroy this group. However, I believe the strategy outlined by the president - bombing in Iraq and Syria, supporting Kurdish and Iraqi partners on the ground, and recruiting, vetting and arming moderate Syrian rebels - falls short in several key respects.

First, we must restore the constitutional safeguard of war being authorized by Congress. President Obama should obtain congressional authorization - not just to recruit and train Syrian fighters but for the entirety of what has been described as an intense, multi-year military intervention: a war. Because prior Congresses in the wake of 9/11 granted very broad authorizations to use military force, the President may not technically need a new one.



Above: A pink Zinnia in the Emandal garden.

Photo by Mark Bello

Above, right: Don Willis leads the Emandal Chorale in water-themed songs.

Center, left: Judges Tom Woodhouse, Tom Allman, and Jenny Watts studiously examine the apple pie entries; center right: the ballot box for the "People's Choice Award" sits next to prizes for the contest winners; engraved vintage rolling pins.

Photos by Kate Maxwell

Below, from left to right: Emandal owner Tamara Adams and judges announce apple pie winners, including Spring Senerchia, right, with her kids

Photo by Mark Bello

Emcee Mayor Holly Madrigal introduces Congressman Jared Huffman; a decorative entrance to the Emandal gardens.

At bottom, left: The eager crowd lines up for the pie tasting; right: headliner Juni Fisher performs.

Photos by Kate Maxwell



"It's really a special place here, it's such a treasure," said singer Juni Fisher, as she sat shaded under one of Emandal's majestic trees last Saturday on her first visit to the Farm-on-a-River. Fisher was the headline act for the 4th Annual Not Just Cowboy Poetry celebration and "Apple Pie Throwdown."

Kate Maxwell

Features Writer willitsweekly@gmail.com

Cowboys, Poetry & Apple Pie at Emandal Farm



Attendees enjoyed a range of Western performances during the event, which raised donations for the Willits Public Library, Willits Daily Bread, and the Harrah Senior Center. Willits Mayor and candidate for 3rd District supervisor Holly Madrigal emceed the entertainment over the afternoon, introducing open mic performances by locals Jim Cardwell, Amy Porter, musical duo Twining Time (John Wagenet/Anita Blu), French cowboy tunes sung by Michael Charnes, and a Western dance performed by Jenna Byrne and Melinda Clark.

The barn-shaped stage served as the perfect backdrop to the cowboy songs and was constructed by Emandal staff, who also aided in event preparation.

Headliner Fisher treated the crowd to two sets, mixed with anecdotes and comedic asides, at one point asking "what's an event in Mendocino without a ukulele?," before taking hers out as accompaniment to several songs.

Husband and wife team Jim and Karen Ross won many laughs and much applause with their lengthy recitations of poetry. "There are two versions of cowboy poetry," said Karen Ross before the performance, "one that is

Read the rest of Emandal Over on Page 13

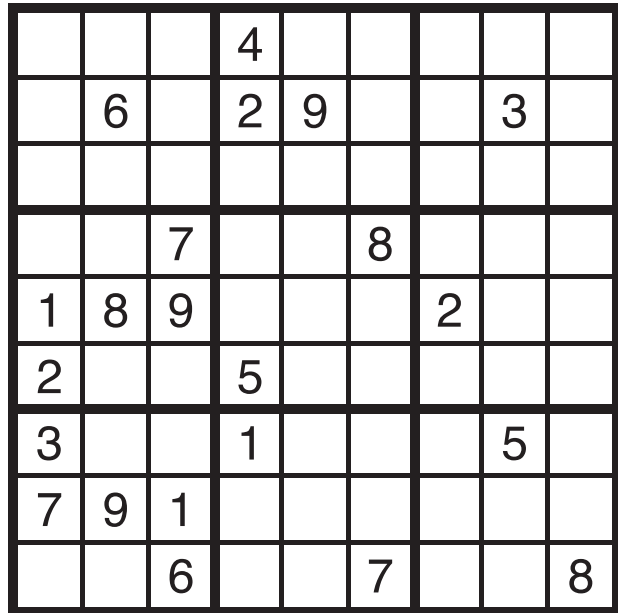


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Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

Sudoku



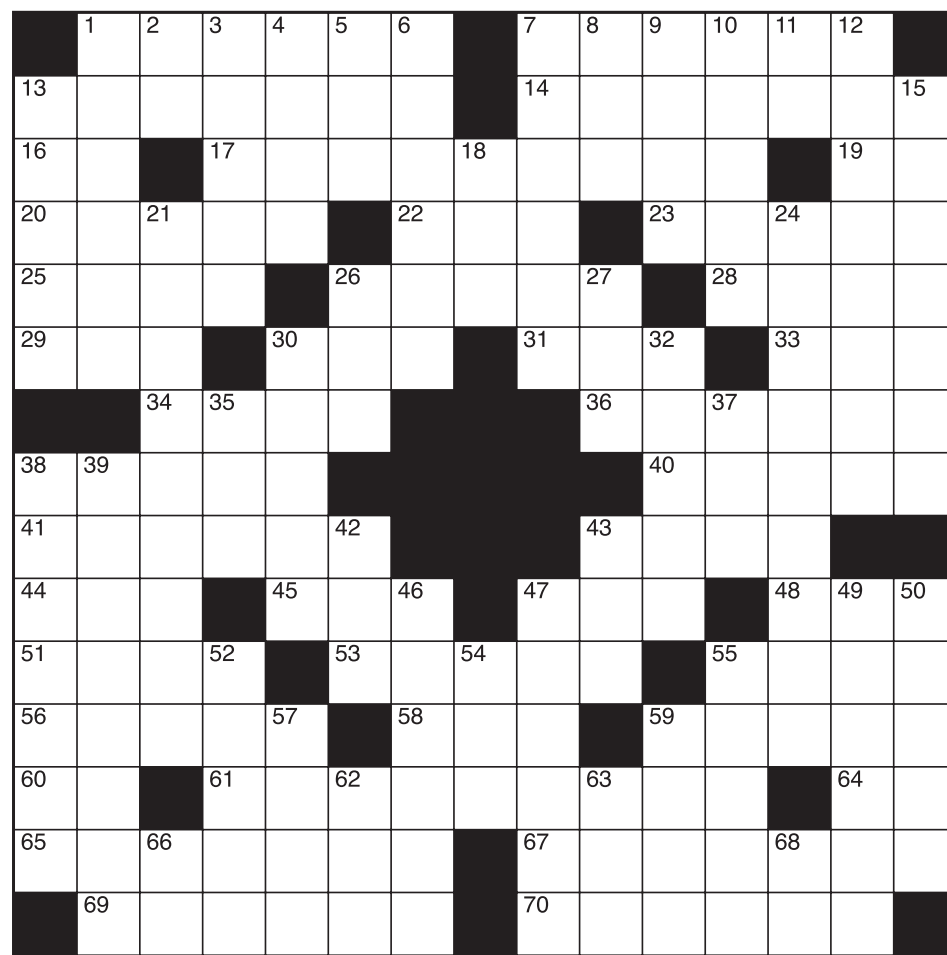
Level: Intermediate



How To Sudoku:

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

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Locates by tracking
- Rail transport charge
- Asserted
- Obstetrics (abbr.)
- Type of puzzle
- Of I
- Strongboxes
- Mow grass
- Passover feast
- Makes a mistake
- Gambling blocks
- Saint Filippo
- Dental organization
- Spigot
- Van Winkle
- Spanish hero El ___
- Chinese weight unit = 1.3 oz
- Flightless birds
- Comb-plate organ
- TV awards
- Infuse with air
- Earthen hollow
- Took part in a race
- Kids' musician Palmer
- Process a hide

- Restaurant bill
- Expression of annoyance
- Music term for silent
- Body fluids
- Runs disconnected
- Seaport (abbr.)
- Wrap brand
- 32nd Pres. initials
- Foodie
- "Dark Victory" actress' initials
- Wood ant genus
- Attacks
- Delicate hue
- Prescribed amount
- Audacity
- 8th-century B.C. prophet
- Mocks
- Animal pouch
- Brotherly
- Metric linear unit
- Decalitre
- Title of respect
- Choppers
- Encomium
- Coin collector group
- Tobacco mosaic virus
- Capital of Wales
- A single tear
- Ingest
- Feline
- Adding machine inventor
- Cultivable land
- Musician groups
- Abounds
- Central processing unit
- Yemen capital
- Cough up
- Impudence
- Frozen water
- Garching astronomy org.
- Egyptian sun god
- Immunoglobulin (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- Knights' garment
- Are You? in texting
- Moose genus
- Rail vehicles
- Self-importance
- Send again
- Twain's Tom
- Macao monetary unit
- One minus a cosine (trig.)
- "As You Like It" forest
- "My Turn" author's initials

In The Stars

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you can have all of the inspiration in the world, but without some practical application, your idea will stall. Spend some time thinking things through.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

You are torn between two choices, Taurus. Family matters are on one side, and work responsibilities are on the other. It may take a few days to work out a decision.

GEMINI

May 22/Jan 21

Gemini, it's difficult to contain all of your enthusiasm, so share your excitement and happiness with others. Try tackling some other people's projects.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you will be front and center in the days to come. Don't be nervous, as you're fully capable of handling the extra attention. Enjoy the spotlight while it lasts.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you will be full of energy this week. Use this energy and enthusiasm to your advantage, tackling projects you have let go unfinished but want to get done.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, immerse yourself in activities that put you first over the next few days. Whether it's a date or simply alone time, enjoy it and start tending to your needs.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, getting back into the swing of things after a long vacation can be challenging. But you will have no problem getting back into a groove and getting all of your work done.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Try turning something you enjoy doing for fun into a career, Scorpio. Loving what you get paid to do is a key to a happy life, so figure out a way to make that happen.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you may be adept at finding an easy way around a difficult thing, but sometimes taking the hard road offers good life lessons along the way.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Family needs take precedence over your obligations at work, Capricorn. Higher-ups will just have to be patient if they want to keep you on as an employee.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, everyone expects you to provide advice, but this week you may be in need of guidance. It could be because you have been tackling so many projects lately.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Few things escape your attention, Pisces. However, this week you can expect to be happily surprised by good news.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS: SEPTEMBER 14, Robert Herjavec, Billionaire (51); SEPTEMBER 15, Oliver Stone, Director (68); SEPTEMBER 16, Amy Poehler, Comic Actress (43); SEPTEMBER 17, Nate Berkus, Designer (43); SEPTEMBER 18, James Marsden, Actor (41); SEPTEMBER 19, Jimmy Fallon, TV Host (40); and SEPTEMBER 20, Phillip Phillips, Singer (24).

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home
Big Stubbs
Photo by Sage Mountainfire
If big dogs are "your cup of tea," Stubbs is the guy for you! Weighing in at 98 pounds, he is fit and would make a great walking partner. He is a neutered male Rhodesian Ridgeback mix with a stubby tail, so the cup of tea you place on your coffee table is safe from his wagging tail! He also loves to cuddle on the couch so a pal while you watch TV is also a possibility.
Please come and meet this great dog at the Ukiah Shelter. 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 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. We have many other wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here as well. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets or visit our shelter. For more information about adoption please call 463-4654.

Willits Weekly
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Please join us in welcoming Dr. Jeremiah Dawson to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital and the Orthopedic Joint Center of Northern California

Dr. Dawson will be joining William Bowen, M.D., and Jonathan Linthicum, M.D.

Dr. Dawson graduated from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA. As a general orthopedic surgeon, he specializes in total joint replacement of the hip, shoulder and knee, shoulder and knee arthroscopy, fracture care, rotator cuff and meniscal tears, carpal tunnel and cubital tunnel.

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Grocery Outlet

now open in Evergreen Shopping Center

At top, left: Brock McDowell, independent owner/operator, cuts the ribbon at Thursday's opening ceremony, with store staff behind him.

Photo by Eidon Miller

At top, right: the crowd waits to take a spin on the Wheel of Bargains; and Trina, Alex, and Kurt Durham of Laytonville, who saved \$120.

At right: Lillian Hamel of Willits won a fruit basket.

At bottom: Shopping and socializing at Grocery Outlet's opening weekend.

Photos by Kevin Klav



Kevin Klav
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"This is nice," Willits resident David Lotten said. "I'm so grateful." Many local residents echoed Lotten's words during last week's Grocery Outlet grand opening festivities. The new store opened its doors for business at 7 am Thursday, September 11, to a crowd of eager shoppers.

"Every time we opened the doors to let an employee in, we had customers try to come in also," said store owner Brock McDowell. Over the next three days, nearly 4,500 people made

purchases at the store. "It's blown all of our expectations out of the water," McDowell's sister, Lacy McDowell, office manager for the new store, said Saturday.

Before Grocery Outlet opened, many residents of Willits and Laytonville chose to do their shopping in Ukiah, but some residents went farther. "I used to teach at the college in Lake County, and I'd shop over there." Willits resident Christie Brandt told Willits Weekly. "It's so nice to have [Grocery Outlet] here; we're so excited.

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



Above: Grocery Store mascot "Ben Saven."

At bottom, left to right: the Wheel of Bargains; staffer Tommi Anastasiu hands out flags on Thursday, September 11; and 2-year-old Lexi, with the prizes she won on the wheel.

Photos by Kevin Klav



The rest of **Fly in** | From Page 7

for 10 years to restore.

"I like Willits," Duvander said. "It is a surprisingly diverse town for being so far from what I consider civilization – the North Bay."

On the train, some chose comfortable seats in one of the covered cars, but most stood on the open-air car.

Children clamored and climbed up fences – or on top of anything – for a wave at the train as it rumbled and rattled along Railroad Avenue.

Clarence Mitchell, up from Windsor, accepted his friend Duvander's offer to come along on the trip and was enjoying his visit.

"I want to come up and camp and bring my motorhome," Mitchell said. Mitchell says he rode the Skunk a few years ago from the Fort Bragg depot.

The tracks climb through grasslands and then into the shadows of old-growth Douglas fir trees outside Willits, past Willits Redwood Company log decks, the KOA campground, and a glimpse of Cutter Lumber Products through the trees.

A tunnel at the summit of the rail line is at 1,750 feet above the sea. It is redwood country from then on, as the train travels switchback turns to flatlands near the Noyo River.

For Dietrich Meyer, who flew to Willits from his home in California's Gold Country, the fly-in was a way for him to finally hitch a ride on the Skunk Train. He has traveled Europe and ridden trains there.

"It is quite something, really," said Meyer. "What fascinates me here is the expansiveness of the landscape."

Timber history speaks along the tracks, with names of places like Irving Muir Lumber Company, Shake City, and Clare Mill.

Northspur, a midway point for trains that come from both Willits and Fort Bragg, was a 45-minute lunch break.

Food lines moved fast, with no waiting for the group at all. Tri-tip, chicken, potato salad, green salad, a drink – the entire works was included.

EAA Willits chapter President Trexel, a retired airline captain, said the Willits EAA wanted to show how pilots can fly in and spend money in Willits and at attractions in the Willits area.

Fly-in participants rented 12 rooms at Best Western Inn – 30 showed for dinner at Lumberjack's restaurant – traveled on a specially chartered MTA bus, road the train round-trip from Willits to Northspur, lunched at Northspur and flew back home with a story to tell.

Pilots answered Trexel's call for a fly-in from spots around Northern California, including Reno, Vacaville, Windsor, Garberville and more.

Ron Cassero landed at Elis Field from Santa Rosa. He was raised in Occidental and said riding the Skunk Train was something he'd wanted to do.

"We are going to come back on a motorcycle," Cassero said. "I will bring other people back on the train – my parents want to do it."

EAA's 1027 chapter meets the second Sunday of the month at various locations, including the Willits airport and the Boonville airport. Pilots of experimental aircraft and certified aircraft can attend a meeting, along with anyone interested in aviation. Visit www.eaa1027.org for more information.

The rest of **Grocery** | From Page 12

We're all excited to have another store here and choices ... choices are good."

Shoppers Michael Jacobson and Lucienne de Souza were also impressed by their choices. "They have a lot of organic food, which is what we like to buy," Jacobson stated. "You can feel good about what you're eating and not have to pay an arm and a leg for it."

Throughout the weekend, laughter could be heard throughout the store. Saturday's ribbon-cutting ceremony attracted a vocal crowd and included Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal, and representatives from Willits Community Services, there to receive a pallet of \$1,000 worth of food for the Willits Food Bank.

Also in attendance were McDowell's parents and grandparents. "It's unbelievable; it feels good," said Joe Cramer, McDowell's grandfather. "He makes us pretty proud."

McDowell grew up involved in the grocery business. McDowell's parents owned a Grocery Outlet in Fountain Valley, where their son worked for three years, and then the McDowells bought the Ukiah Grocery Outlet. "Brock

worked for us in Ukiah for about a year and a half," she said.

McDowell then decided to follow in his parents' footsteps. "I joined Grocery Outlet's Aspiring Owners in Training program. They shipped me to the Lakeport store; I was there for three months. I applied for this store, and I got it. I've been in the grocery business for about 10 years now, total. I started bagging groceries and worked my way up."

When asked what makes his store different from other grocery stores, McDowell replied: "We've got amazing deals: 40 to 60 percent off a conventional grocery store. The deals are amazing. I've taken everything I've learned at the Ukiah [Grocery Outlet], Lakeport, and Clearlake, and am trying to put them all together to make a fantastic store."

So far, it seems that shoppers agree with McDowell. Brooktrails resident Sayuri Litchfield said, "It feels remarkable," after saving \$123 on her purchase. "I like having this store here, so I don't have to go to Ukiah," she said. "I just love this; this is the greatest thing."



The rest of **Emandal** | From Page 3

about a cowboy's work and the lifestyle, and the other that is poetry that cowboys love."

The two covered both types by incorporating original pieces by Jim Ross, based on his personal ranching experiences, along with skillfully told classics by Karen Ross, drawn from works by Sunny Hancock, Robert Service, and other cowboy poetry favorites.

The Apple Pie Throwdown, which last year had more pies than tables, was a source of much delight for all tasters involved. Official judges Sheriff Tom Allman, 3rd District supervisorial candidate Tom Woodhouse, Jenny Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery, and Lori Dorholt of Ardella's carefully considered 12 entries before retreating inside to deliberate over winners.

The pies were all delicious and ranged from classic recipes – with top crusts and without – to apple whiskey pies, pies with caramel sauce, miniature pies, and even a "Mendocino homegrown probiotic pie" that included cultured and fermented ingredients, introduced as "It's alive!"

Next came a pause in performances, and it was the audience's turn to decide who would win the people's choice award, with Madrigal calling for everyone to "take a break and taste the pie, judge the pie!"

The eager crowd lined up to take forkfuls of each dessert, along with homemade ice cream and cookies, until all the pie dishes were scraped clean and the voting tickets collected.

Emandal's Tamara Adams, who explained that she had been entering pies pseudonymously for the last four years without success, won best overall pie under the show name "Eulalia Hitchcock."

Regarding the judges' picks, Adams said: "Their deliberations took plenty of time, and although they

wanted to award every pie a prize," they selected the following: Spring Senerchia, who won both the people's choice award and "most delectable filling"; Earlynn Schmidbauer, who won "most creative endeavor"; Kathy Shuster, who was judged "most aesthetically pleasing"; and Roberta Yokum, the winner of "perfect crust." All received engraved vintage rolling pins commemorating their pastry chops.

The silent auction, organized by the Harrah Senior Center's Dorothy Roediger and Sue Sawyers, with assistance from live auctioneer Rachel Britton of Ecology Action, was a big success, raising almost \$2,400 in donations towards a new vehicle for the center's Meals-on-Wheels program.

Auction items featured cowboy-themed items such as a cord of wood, roadkill cookbooks, and cowboy planters, jewelry and picnics, along with metallic flowers by Roediger, wine from Coppola Vineyards, a quartet of Amtrak tickets, and more.

Drinks were served by the Friends of the Willits Library, with donations from Mariposa Market, Safeway, Frey Vineyards and Ember Bowls. Proceeds from event ticket sales also benefitted Willits Daily Bread. Sponsors included Ted Dawson, MD, Sparetime Supply, Savings Bank of Mendocino, West Coast Plumbing, John Ford Ranch, Willits Redwood Company, Shusters Transportation, Yokum's Body Shop, Rich Padula, and Alfred Kerr, DDS.

Next year's Not Just Cowboy Poetry event will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2015 and will feature Dave Stamey, "one of the most popular Western entertainers working today."

BIRTH & DEATH NOTICE | Michael Curtis Webb

Michael Curtis Webb

Michael Curtis Webb was born September 14, 2014 at 1:12 pm and passed away September 14, 2014 at 2:15 pm.

Michael gave his strongest organ, his heart valve, so another child will live. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 1/2 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Michael is survived by parents Brenton and Felisha Webb; grandparents Curtis and Lisa Pyle, Margaret Webb, and James Ford; great-grandparents Billy and Brenda McCann, and Larry and Carolyn Carr; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

"We can't express into words how grateful we are to have gotten to meet such an amazing little baby, who has left a huge impact on so many lives. We are left with the wonderful memories of holding his sweet little hands,



Photo by Hollie Nass

getting to kiss his little feet, and showing him all the love in the world we possibly could. We are left at peace knowing one day we will see him again!"

Services will be held at the Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church, 803 Coast Street in Willits, Friday, September 19, 2014, at 3 pm. Gravesite service to follow. All who would like to join are more than welcome!!



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OBITUARY | James F. Brandyberry

James F. Brandyberry
1937-2014

Jim was born in Bell, California, on May 8, 1937 and went home to be with the Lord on September 8, 2014, at the age of 77, after fighting a valiant battle with bladder cancer.

Jim spent his early years in Southgate with his parents and brothers Kenny, Ronnie and Jerry. While living in Corona, California he met and married Bonnie Shilling, and they later relocated to Willits in 1971.

While being superintendent of manufacturing for Microphor, Jim and Bonnie built their home on Hilltop Drive. In 1981 they bought the Sears Catalog Store until it was closed almost 10 years later. Jim then became a manager agent for U.S. Cellular, and opened their retail store in Ukiah.

He finished his working career as executive director of the Willits Senior Center, where he was paramount in seeing their Thrift Store go from a dream to a reality. Jim retired in 2008 to enjoy his years with a passion for jigsaw puzzles, RVing with the Lil Stinkers, fishing, and woodturning with the Redwood Empire Woodturners.

Jim's commitment to his community was evident as a lifetime member of Kiwanis, where he was past president of the local chapter and lieutenant governor of the state affiliate. President Reagan appointed Jim to the Selective Service Board to represent our area. He was also elected to serve on the Mendocino Community College Board as a trustee and chairman.

Jim was at one time president of the Willits Chamber of Commerce and led the Christmas Basket effort to feed the hungry of Willits. As a member of The Gideons International, Jim spent many hours devoted to their mission.

Jim is survived by his wife, Bonnie, of 43 years; two brothers, Kenny and Jerry; two sons, Gary and Stephen and a daughter, Pam; along with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 27 at the Redwood Valley Community Church at 1 pm. In lieu of flowers the family is requesting that donations be made to one of the following: Willits Senior Center, Gideons International (P.O. Box 113, Ukiah, CA 95482) or Phoenix Hospice of Willits.



At top: Cowboy-themed items included a roadkill gift basket from the center's thrift shop, and a "cord of wood" from Conservation Camp, a popular item with the crowd.

Center: Event staffers browse the enticing goods available under the porch's shade, including Amtrak tickets, local wines, and metallic flowers by Dorothy Roediger.

Bottom: Prizes ranged from homemade preserves and flowering planters, to books, jewelry, and other useful items.

Photos by Kate Maxwell

Supporting the Senior Center

Emandal Auction raises almost \$2,400 for center

The Harrah Senior Center held a silent auction at the 4th Annual Not Just Cowboy Poetry and Apple Pie Throwdown at Emandal this past Saturday. Organized by Dorothy Roediger and Sue Sawyers, the auction raised almost \$2,400 dollars in donations from the crowd, all of which went towards the center's Meals-on-Wheels program. The program is raising funds towards the purchase of a new vehicle to better make daily trips to the seniors who depend on their home deliveries of fresh-cooked meals.

The silent auction was capped off by a live auction, held at the end of the musical performances. "Rachel Britton, with her lively auction-yard persona, managed to cajole a bit more money from the crowd," said Emandal owner Tamara Adams, which helped push the total auction donations raised to its impressive final number. Some of the goods are pictured here.

- Kate Maxwell



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