

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

By donation

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Holly Madrigal to run for supervisor

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Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal has announced she will run for Third District supervisor in next year's June primary.

Madrigal, 36, has extensive roots in the Willits area. She is the daughter of retired Willits realtor April Tweddell and is married to Gabe Madrigal, son of former City of Willits Public Works Director Dave Madrigal and his wife, Bonnie.

Holly Madrigal was first elected to the Willits City Council in 2004. She has served two full terms on the council and is now one



From left: top row: senior candidates Tristen Svendsen, 17, Karina Nieto, 16, and Ryan Hendry, 17.

Middle row shows underclassmen Princes and Princesses: sophomores Will Smith, 15, and Sylvania Friend, 15; juniors Wyatt King, 17, and Dara Collicott, 16; and freshmen Roberto Gonzalez, 14, and Camryn Christensen, 14.

Bottom row: senior candidates Monica Gutierrez, 17, Jon Montez, 17, and Adeja Avansino, 17.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Known Pomo site

'destroyed' by bypass construction, Sherwood tribe reports

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The Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians (SVR) got a notice from Caltrans on Friday, September 13 that an archaeological site with Pomo cultural resources known to Caltrans has "been destroyed by construction activities," said SVR Tribal Chair Mike Fitzgerald in a statement given to Willits Weekly last week.

As per the September 13 notice from Caltrans: "Caltrans has discovered that one of the sites" – CA-MEN-3571 – "is actually located within the ADI [area of direct impact] of the project. "As you know," the notice continues, "wick drains have been installed in that area and 3 feet of fill has been placed."

The exact location of CA-MEN-3571 and specific descriptions of cultural resources found there and at other known archaeological sites – discovered before and after

Read the rest of **Pomo**
Over on Page 13

Crowning of the Court

WHS Homecoming Court nominees were photographed Wednesday morning. See who won Senior King & Queen inside on Page 10. Don't miss your chance to see all the crowned royalty at Friday's Homecoming Parade.



Read the rest of **Holly**
Over on Page 10

Parrish remains free

until trial, judge rules

Cat Lee
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Will Parrish remains free on his own recognizance following a Tuesday morning hearing in Mendocino County Superior Court.

Judge Ann Moorman denied District Attorney David Eyster's "motion to revoke," which would have resulted in Parrish's incarceration pending his November 12 trial date. Parrish faces 16 misdemeanor trespassing charges related to protest activities over the Willits bypass project.

Read the rest of **Parrish**
Over on Page 10

Another look at a downtown plan for Willits

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A city committee is revisiting a written plan meant to help guide economic development and promote people-friendly streets in downtown Willits.

Completed sometime in the late 1990s, the "Downtown Specific Plan" could now shape the future

Read the rest of **Downtown**
Over on Page 13

County workers strike

Members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1021 walked off the job Tuesday to protest what they called unfair labor practices and an unwillingness to bargain in good faith on the part of Mendocino County.

Employees are angry because, although the county government has socked away some \$8.8 million in its general reserve fund, county workers remain stuck with a 10 percent reduction in wages agreed to in 2009.

Moreover, according to employee representatives, the county has not been willing to bargain in good faith with union representatives.

Within the ranks of Mendocino County's 1,053 employees, SEIU represents more than 700 workers, or about 70 percent of county government's labor force.

In Ukiah, about 50 striking employees gathered at the courthouse at 3 pm to demonstrate their anger and united

power. Another 30 gathered at the South State Street entrance to the Social Services complex at State and Gobbi streets.

Workers held signs with such slogans as "Carmel's Got To Go" (referring to county CEO Carmel Angelo), "Keep Our Tax Dollars Local" and "Unfair Labor Practices – On Strike!"

In Willits, about 40 workers manned picket lines Tuesday morning in front of the entrances to the Integrated Services Center at the corner of East Valley and South Lenore streets.

When asked what was unfair about the county's bargaining tactics, Willits branch librarian Donna Kerr explained: Mendocino County "has been marshalling its recovery largely on the backs of the workers. The county knows we are

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Read the rest of **Strike**
Over on Page 12



Service Employee International Union picketers gather at the Willits Integrated Services Center on Tuesday morning during the county-wide one-day strike called by the union. The Willits branch of the Mendocino County Library was also closed Tuesday, with a sign on the door citing "unfair labor practices" by the county and a request for patrons to call the board of supervisors.

Photo by Mike Adair

City approves street use deal with bypass contractors

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The city council has approved an agreement that will allow freeway builders to use five city streets.

Council members ratified the deal Monday during a special meeting, after making several small changes in the agreement's language in the city's favor.

"It should not be an issue, but we do not really know until we take it to them," Mayor Holly Madrigal told the council.

"This is making sure that language in the agreement has proper protection to the city," Councilwoman Madge Strong said. "I cannot imagine they would object to minor changes."

Earlier this year, Madrigal appointed councilmen

Read the rest of **Street Use**
Over on Page 10



HOMECOMING

WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL FRIDAY 9.27.2013



A celebration of Willits High School's Chivalrous Gentlemen

Despite all the forms of social media and instant communication, the halls and grounds of Willits High School have been quite a sight to see in the days leading up to Homecoming as a resurgence of chivalry has taken hold.

Sophomore Price Runberg was the first to make his invitation to 14-year-old freshman Kalia Avansino public, asking her to accompany him to Homecoming. Runberg ended up setting a high bar, that others are now striving to raise.

Maureen Moore
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In their Leadership class, Runberg decided to scribe his invite to Avansino on the whiteboard at the front of the class, which was covered with the pull-down projector screen until the moment it was revealed.

Once everyone was in class and the moment was right, Runberg pulled the screen, revealing his request to Avansino. She happily agreed.

"My brother Palmer helped me with the idea," explained Runberg. "I needed to ask and thought it would be fun to do it with a kinda grand gesture. We brainstormed and came up with a fun way."

As of lunchtime on Tuesday, three other students had followed in Runberg's form.

Damon Niesen set up three large boxes filled with balloons tied with signs, which were strategically opened one at a time, revealing "Will you" on the first, "Go to" on the second and "Homecoming with me?" on the third. Niesen himself popped up from inside the third box holding that last sign. Box-, balloon- and invitation-receiver Leslie Leon happily said yes.

Billy Mann also got creative with his request: a large sign was hung across the lockers in the main cage south of the quad, and two friends tossed rose petals down on Mann and Mikaela Wright as he asked her to Homecoming.

Willits Weekly happily caught the fourth declaration on camera on Tuesday during lunch, when Ankit Patel invited Kylie Santos.

With the help of several friends, five signs were held, forming a tunnel for Santos when she came down the stairs and out of class for lunch. Signs read "Kylie Santos" "Will" "You" "Go" "To" "Homecoming," then Patel himself held the "With Me" sign at the end of the tunnel. Each sign holder handed Santos a white rose as she passed, and Patel presented her with a red rose at the last sign. She said yes.

The lasting question, however, seems to be: are we sure high school boys don't belong to Pinterest.com?



Above from top: Friends help out Ankit Patel, holding the signs and waiting for Kylie Santos' arrival into the quad.

Ankit and Kylie, who will be going to Homecoming together this year.

Ankit presents Kylie with the final rose at the last sign.

Top right: Ankit excitedly awaits Kylie's arrival and answer.

At right: Kalia Avansino and Price Runberg – the two who started the fun this week

Photos by Maureen Moore

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Battle of the Flicks

in anticipation of Willits High School's Homecoming Game

starting tomorrow at 5:30 pm

HOW TO PLAY: Make the football: Carefully cut out brown football column below right. Keeping the brown side out, start at arrow on bottom and fold backwards and up towards opposite corner to form a triangle. Continue to fold into triangles, making your folds on dotted lines and working your way up towards the laces and logos. Once logos wrap around outside of football, you will be left with one last triangle. Using this as a tab, insert into pocket created by last fold to create final football.

Play the game: Hold football so right angle is facing the hand you wish to flick with. Set one of the narrower angles down on table, stand up the football and balance with your index finger of your non-flicking hand. Flick towards your opponent's goal post. Alternate with your opponent. Earn one point per goal. First to 10 points wins.

WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL WOLVERINES

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Name	Grade	Sport
Marcos Diaz	Senior, 17	Football
Jorden Elliott	Junior, 16	Volleyball
Dara Collicott	Junior, 16	Volleyball
Ankit Patel	Junior, 16	X Country
Monica Gutierrez	Senior, 17	Soccer

Marcos Diaz started playing football his freshman year at WHS. He joined the team with one of his friends, Jesus Alvarez, and since then, he has enjoyed running the ball in his position as a running back on the Willits High School football team.

"I love the aggressiveness of the sport," Diaz explained. "It is really fun."

When he gets ready for a big game, his breakfast of champions includes a nice meal of rice and beans.

Jorden Elliott started playing volleyball in sixth grade at Baechtel Grove Middle School. "I was excited to try something new!" said Elliott.

One of the things she enjoys about volleyball is the way it clears her mind and how she can just enjoy playing the game while she's out on the court.

Elliott's breakfast of champions includes a rotation of cereal – "I like to mix it up!" – including Apple Jacks and Chex.

Dara Collicott also started her volleyball career in Baechtel Grove Middle School, but joined when she was in seventh grade.

"A lot of my friends were on the team, and it sounded like fun, so I joined too," explained Collicott.

Her favorite part of the game is spiking the ball and playing the other positions, too – just not "setting!"

Collicott also enjoys cereal for her breakfast of champions.

Ankit Patel started running in seventh grade, but it was a senior named Chris Orr who encouraged Patel to join cross country his freshman year.

"It keeps me in shape for the track team in the spring," explained Patel.

Patel's breakfast of champions starts the day prior, with a carb-heavy meal of pasta or French fries, then usually he enjoys a glass of whole milk in the morning before a big meet.

Monica Gutierrez has been playing soccer since she was very little.

"I love the fun and aggressiveness of the game," Gutierrez explained.

She says that playing the forward position and having the defenders behind her gives her a great feeling of empowerment and excitement that she really enjoys.

Her breakfast of champions includes water, a bagel and peach, or maybe oatmeal – but definitely all organic.

Tires LES SCHWAB OF WILLITS

A harvest tradition...

Farm to Table Dinner at the Little Lake Grange

A sold-out-plus crowd filled the Little Lake Grange hall for the annual Community Harvest Farm to Table Dinner on Saturday night, to chow down on colorful plates of seasonal dishes.

The centerpiece of the regular menu table was organic chicken with rosemary, garlic and lemon. Vegan dishes included stuffed squash, beans and rice, with salad. Plates of thick slices of juicy red, yellow and green heirloom tomatoes starred on both menus, along with salsa fresca and tomatillo sauce. Pasta salads, tabouli salads, purple pesto made with purple basil, stuffed zucchini, garden fresh cucumbers – the choices were many and delicious. Diners were offered a discount to the dinner if they brought a side dish or salad of their own.

The Little Lake Grange has been putting on Harvest Dinners since 1965, said Granger Annie Waters, who was one of 40 volunteers who helped put the dinner together.

A bar served wine and beer, and delicious flavored water – lemon verbena was one unusual choice – was also available to accompany dinner.

Although there were many beautiful pies displayed on the silent auction table, the main dessert was apple crisp that the volunteer cooks in the Grange's certified commercial kitchen had made enough of for 200 dinners (including the volunteers). "I've been cooking for two days," said volunteer Sarah O'Brien. O'Brien wanted to thank all the businesses who donated, or made available at a great discount, food and drink, including Anderson Valley Brewing Company, Shanachie Pub, Frey Winery, Safeway ("they donated the pumpkins," O'Brien said), and Mariposa Market.

Three of the pies were put up to bid by live auctioneer Rachel Britten, whose authentic auction-house patter and gestures delighted and encouraged the crowd: they eventually sold for \$40, \$36 and \$75. Britten also auctioned off a homemade chile relleno dinner for four, cooked by David and Ellen Drell, for \$120.

The after-dinner program included "music, dancing, and inspirational words," with headliners the Dirt Floor Band. Proceeds from the dinner went to benefit Little Lake Grange and Save Our Little Lake Valley.

– Jennifer Poole

At left from top: Marlena River shows off her plate; one of many plates of fresh-picked heirloom tomatoes; Dick and Maggie Graham selling tickets for the bar

At right from top: Bill Bruneau shows off his plate; Alea, left, and Salvio, enjoy extra whipped cream after dinner; a strawberry rhubarb pie up for silent auction

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Orchard gets a work day at Brookside School Farm



Top: Brookside School Principal Olga O'Neill accepted a plaque from PG&E representative Erin Creekmur, surrounded by the remains of the work party at Brookside Farm.

Above left: Though the vineyard was not the focus of the "Tree Blitz," the grapes made a delicious snack as the day heated up. Right: Wendy Copperfield shows her son, Spencer, who earned school community service hours for his farm work, how to scavenge useful parts and hardware from the old drip irrigation system that was replaced in the farm's orchard Sunday.

Photos by Cat Lee

Autumn is here, and Common Vision has launched its Fall Fruit Tree Tour. Brookside School Farm in Willits was on the tour schedule this past Sunday for a "Fruit Tree Blitz."

About 20 volunteers joined the "Blitz" on the Brookside Farm orchard, performing a variety of seasonal tasks in preparation for the new (soon to be announced) farmer who'll be working at the Brookside School Farm.

The entire orchard drip system was replaced, and the old system was scavenged for usable parts. Downed fruit – apples, pears and peaches – were gathered, as were any fruits still hanging in the trees.

The tree trunks were painted with a watered-down latex paint for sun and bug protection. For weed abatement and to keep "suckers" down, the bases of the trees were surrounded by a guard (recycled pot); given a surrounding layer of landscaping fabric (donated by Sparetime Supply); then topped with a fat layer of redwood mulch.

The mulch came from on-site, Wendy Copperfield said, "where the preschool is." Copperfield wears many hats in the school system, as well as at Brookside Farm. She currently serves as "Garden To Table Coordinator" through Willits Charter School and as Brookside School Farm caretaker.

She credits Susan Lightfoot of North Coast Opportunities Gardener's Project with helping her to make fruitful connections to benefit the farm.

"I'm telling you," Copperfield said, "without them, none of us would be here."

Regarding NCO, she added that in getting ready for the new farmer, they helped identify issues to focus on as the

farm "grows."

"One of the issues was accessibility," Copperfield said. The area where the farm is located is in a back portion of the school property with little demarcation for how to access it or where to park.

NCO donated the materials for a fence to be laid which now lines the farm's driveway and parking area. A bonus, Copperfield said, is that NCO contracted with a vineyard management company for the fence installation, and the company donated their labor.

No worries if you missed out on the work party this time. There's always another chance.

"We're focusing on the trees today; gonna leave the grapes alone for now," Copperfield said. "We'll replace the drip on the grapes eventually."

Also on Sunday, PG&E representative Erin Creekmur awarded a plaque to Brookside School Principal Olga O'Neill for the school's participation in its Arbor Day Celebrations.

"Since 2011, PG&E has donated 56 fruit trees for Arbor Day (to WUSD), six of which have gone to the Brookside Farm," Creekmur said.

"The remaining trees have been planted at Blosser Lane, Willits High, and Sanhedrin. PG&E has also held Arbor Day education events in the classroom in both Brookside and Blosser Lane since 2009."

PG&E has distributed hundreds of power-line friendly trees, shrubs and educational literature at Arbor Day celebrations across California via its Vegetation Management Department.

– Cat Lee

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