

# Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 126

Thursday, October 8, 2015

## School board report

Mike A'Dair

Reporter  
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In addition to voting to appoint Georgeanne Croskey to the board and to hearing a brief review of the results of the Common Core tests, the school board took care of some important business at its October 6 meeting.

### Hammond hired as Brookside principal

On a 4-1 vote, the board approved hiring Anne Hammond as principal of Brookside Elementary School, effective November 30.

Hammond has been a teacher at Brookside since 1997. She has taught Kindergarten through second grade, plus Special Day classes. She is a math trainer, a teacher-in-charge, a teacher leader, a math committee chairwoman,

Read the rest of **Schools** | Over on Page 15

## New 'Postmark Plus 3' for November election

Jennifer Poole

Editor & Reporter  
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The upcoming November 3, 2015 "consolidated district election" has slim pickings for voters, with those in the Willits area having only one question to decide: who to choose for one seat on the Mendocino-Lake Community College Board of Trustees.

But there is one new wrinkle to next month's election: the state of California's new "Postmark Plus 3" policy for mail-in ballots. Thanks to legislation passed in 2014, mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day, that are received by the county voter

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

## Test results spark acrimony at school board meeting

Mike A'Dair

Reporter  
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Comments from Willits Unified School District Trustee Chris Neary sparked an angry retort from Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak at Tuesday's school board meeting.

Neary's comments were in response to the results of the Spring 2015 Common Core tests in English and math. The test results were reviewed for the board by Baechtel Grove Middle School Principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia.

Read the rest of **Tests** | Over on Page 15



Above, left: The Skunk Train will host the Zombie Train through October 31.

Above, right: Eric Mencis: conductor, zombie, or both?

At right: Eric Mencis invites the community to come ride the zombie train, if they dare!

Below, left: Maresa Kendrick and Eric Mencis are ready to provide delight and fright for riders on the Zombie Train. Below, right: Skunk Train general manager Robert Pinoli snaps a photo of Mencis, who is getting makeup applied by Red Randolph of Screaming Star Productions.

Photos by Maureen Moore



# AlIII aboard!

... if you dare

## Zombie Train: Evacuation starts Friday

Horror fans can delight in the new October activity available in Willits: Zombie Train: Evacuation, hosted by the Skunk Train. Trains will run Friday and Saturday nights from October 9 through 31 out of the Willits station and will give riders a 40-minute ride through the redwoods on a "quest for safety."

"In our post-apocalyptic world, the infection is rampant, cities are in ruin, ammunition is scarce, and we are losing. The last remaining survivors are taking to the rails as their only means of escape," says the ZombieTrain.com

website. General admission tickets are available for \$35 for the family-friendly rides, \$45 for the adults-only more intense experience ride, and \$25 for kids ages 2 to 12.

If watching the evacuation isn't immersive enough, riders have the add-on option of getting a pre-train zombie makeover for an additional \$20.

The Skunk Train event is one of three being hosted

Read the rest of **Zombie** | Over on Page 6



## Henderson to consider Grist Creek arguments

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Richard Henderson said Friday he will consider arguments put forward by Friends of Outlet Creek attorney Jason Flanders opposing a request to dismiss the organization's lawsuit against the county. Henderson had rendered a tentative judgment in favor of the county Thursday evening. However, following a brief hearing Friday morning, Henderson announced he would think things over and render a final decision within 90 days.

The case involves the Grist Creek aggregate processing and asphalt production plant located near Longvale, on Highway 162 about 14 miles north of Willits. The plant is located on a now industrially zoned site that formerly was the home of a lumber mill (from the 1950s to 1972) and then to a gravel processing plant (1972 to approximately 2010).

The site also was home to an asphalt plant from 2002 to about 2007.

The county asserts a use permit issued in 2002 to a previous owner for a previous plant constitutes much of the environmental oversight necessary to allow operation of the current plant. The other portion of the requisite authorization is the guidelines set forth in the environmental impact report that accompanied the county's 2009 revision of its General Plan, plus a 2010 rezoning of the property that had been a home to the Longvale Processing site from rangeland to industrial.

The county argues that, taken together, these three actions satisfy the environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Friends of Outlet Creek contend the approval of the 2002 use permit for a different plant, with different equipment, does

not constitute adequate CEQA review, and neither the 2009 EIR for the General Plan revision nor the 2010 rezoning satisfy the requirement for an environmental review of the project under CEQA.

In addressing the adequacy of the 2009 EIR, Friends of Outlet Creek says, "Because the 2009 EIR was prepared as a Program EIR pursuant to state CEQA guidelines, it is not reasonable for the



The Grist Creek plant.

Read the rest of **Grist Creek** | Over on Page 11

## Croskey appointed to school board

Mike A'Dair

Reporter  
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Willits High School graduate and local large animal veterinarian Georgeanne Croskey was appointed to the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees after a spirited Tuesday night interview process involving four applicants.

Current school board members Cynthia Carni, Christopher Neary, Laurie Harris, Alex Bowlds and Saprina Rodriguez gave Croskey the nod after she answered 10 questions from board members. The results of the scoring were Richard Weinkle (97), Christa Nunez (115), Brian Bowles (160) and Croskey (184).

Read the rest of **Croskey** | Over on Page 15

## Barton sentenced in Laytonville murders

Dan McKee

Reporter  
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Swearing she would do everything within her power to ensure Talen Clark Barton would "never see the light of day again," Judge Ann Moorman on Tuesday sentenced the 19-year-old acknowledged murderer to state prison for the next 71 years.

Barton pleaded guilty last month to fatally stabbing 52-year-old Coleman Palmieri and his 17-year-old son, Teo, to death, and critically injuring Palmieri's wife, Laytonville physician Cindy Norvell, 54, and her visiting brother, Thodore Norvell, 52.

Read the rest of **Barton** | Over on Page 15

## Supes nix Dollar General project – maybe

Mike A'Dair

Reporter  
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Supervisors on Tuesday "tentatively" approved an appeal that could overturn planning commission permission to build a 90,000-square-foot Dollar General discount market in downtown Redwood Valley.

The board voted unanimously to reconsider the issue at its October 20 meeting.

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse said after the meeting he was "very concerned" about the unanimous vote, although he joined the rest of the board in approving the appeal.

Read the rest of **Dollar** | Over on Page 15



Thanks to Dr. Bowen

To the Editor:

In regards to our beautiful, state-of-the-art new hospital I was saddened to not hear more credit and accolades for Dr. Bill Bowen. Back in the late '60s and early '70s, I had the privilege of working with Dr. Bowen during his residency for a few years.

During those times and later, after many medical people moved here due to his dream and encouragement that he shared for Howard Hospital, he has worked tirelessly to build up the hospital and his dream of "The Joint Replacement Center."

I feel the tribute, contribution, years of dedication to this new hospital wasn't justly recognized. Dr. Bowen has given of himself to this community that he so believes in and has dedicated himself to realizing this dream. I believe he deserves at least a wing of the hospital named in honor of him. He, himself, would never say this and, in fact, he and his wife donated a surgery suite to this endeavor.

Many came together to see this dream come true, but it was Dr. Bowen's desire and drive that helped bring this to fruition. A big thank you, Dr. Bowen.

Betty Banham, Willits

Harvest Dinner thanks

"Now THAT was an epic pot pie."

Harvest Dinner attendees this year experienced a culinary masterpiece. A six-course meal, prepared by Rachel Britten, Tim Ward, and a fleet of volunteers working for three straight days, was presented over the course of the evening by yet another fleet of professional volunteer servers. With the ingredients sourced almost entirely from a 30-mile radius around the Grange, we were delighted to taste the flavors mingling together from Potter to Redwood to Ridgewood to Round to Little Lake Valleys.

Clay Hawkins graced us with his steel guitar, followed by a history of the Harvest Dinner and the Grange goddesses from Annie Waters, president of the Little Lake Grange, and grace for the meal was spoken by Lila Ryan, chaplain of the Little Lake Grange. The meal was served family-style, with three rounds of dishes being served, including a kale Caesar salad, cucumber quick pickle salad, sweet potato chips, cornucopia of squash cassoulet, and finally the farm fresh chicken and lentil pot pies (with vegan and gluten-free options!)

Truly amazing anyone had any room at all for dessert, another homemade pie – this time apple with beautiful latticework done in crust made from Mendocino Grain Project's local Sonora wheat and served with hand-whipped cream. Check out the Grange Farm School Facebook page for a video of Tim and Rachel in a cream whipping competition in the kitchen that night.

Every table was decorated with a centerpiece donated by a different business or farm, and auctioned off at the end of the night by the chef herself. The Grange Farm School was raising funds for the Farm Fresh Food Drive, and auctioned items as well as envelopes on the tables all went to sponsor more plot space at the school to be grown for donation to local service organizations. A hugely successful event, for the Farm School, the Grange, and for Mendocino at large. A more local, delicious dinner has never been served. A huge thank you to the many volunteers, farms and businesses that made this event possible. Gratefully, fully yours,

Ruthie King, director, Grange Farm School

Thanks to Emandal

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Willits Public Library, I would like to extend an extremely grateful and heartfelt thanks to Tam Adams and the staff of Emandal: a Farm on a River for the Cowboy Poetry fundraising event to benefit Friends of the Willits Library.

The Cowboy Poetry event took place on Saturday, September 26. It was a beautiful afternoon filled with good company, poetry, music, apple pie and drinks. People could swim in the river, explore the camp sites and enjoy the

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

incredible organic garden. The Emandal staff and friends raised a total of close to \$6,500 for the Willits Public Library and Willits Daily Bread.

A special thank you also goes out to the sponsors of this year's Cowboy Poetry event who contributed \$3,200 to the cause: North Coast Plumbing and Heating; Yokum's Body Shop; Shuster's Transportation; Alfred Kerr, DDS; Sparetime Supply, John Ford Ranch; Savings Bank of Mendocino County; Sanhedrin Nursery; and T&T Salvage and Storage.

Thank you to Frey Vineyards for donating the wine. Other drinks were purchased with gift certificates donated by Safeway, Mariposa and Grocery Outlet. The Friends of the Willits Library coordinated drink donations and sales and raised \$1,111 for the library!

Thank you to all who attended this event and to everyone who contributed apple pie! I am so touched that the Willits community values its library so highly and is willing to come together and support us through wonderful events like the Cowboy Poetry at Emandal: a Farm on a River. Gratefully yours,

Jill Dorman, librarian, Willits Library

Thanks from the kittens

To the Editor:

The kittens at the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County would like to give a shout out of thanks to Coast Hardware and Purple Moose Thrift Store. These two businesses are wonderful satellite adoption centers and between the two have adopted out many, many shelter kittens. All we know, is the shelter has taken in over 100 more of us little fur balls than this time last year and we are still coming out of the woodwork!

And thanks to Dr. Chana and Dr. Emily at the East Hill Veterinary Clinic, they are keeping up with the demand in getting us spayed/neutered. Thank you also to Bill Barksdale and his staff at Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty and to J.D. Redhouse for hosting mobile adoptions and to the newspapers for featuring us and our fellow animal friends. The support the Willits Community has shown our shelter in Redwood Valley is very much appreciated.

Maggie Weaver,  
on behalf of the kittens at HSIMC

Another view

To the Editor:

Wowser was and is an exciting concept. The first time I approached Wowser management about interacting with their facility was in September 2014. There had been a fire up 1st Gate which we held back and ended with CalFire (thank you Brooktrails Fire and CalFire). I realized many of my neighbors had little understanding of firefighting. I asked Roger and Cynthia about classes, and my intent to ask the local fire departments to assist me. I was told there would be a \$50/person Wowser fee. I felt that was high for a Farmers Market Community class. With a chuckle I was told again \$50/person for Wowser, and I could make a sliding scale for pay or teach for no fee. I felt this was not workable and a too costly situation for the community. Many property owners do not have this fee. I left.

The next time I tried to interact with Wowser management was when I was forming my current Garden Dryer business. I was producing my product and showing it about. As I prepared to find a working facility for my saws and other tools, I approached Wowser management. Both Cindy and Roger were very preoccupied with preparing for their high school community Wowser presentation.

It seemed to me what I wanted was a work area and possibly Wowser workers or even a production contract with Wowser to make and store my products that I would sell. This seemed that it was a perfect match. I was a community person, I felt, stepping forward to support the Wowser concept and, perhaps, help them design the concept further. I was told they were too busy to interact with me due to the importance of their community presentation.

It seemed to me I was the perfect example of how the community (people like me) needed and could use a Wowser. I was asked to write them a proposal. I felt this as a put-off and disappointment that they had no time to do

business with me. I never heard from them again. They never seemed to think of me as a prospective client.

The next time I tried to interact with the development of Wowser, I was more along in my business plan and wanted a shop area and a storage for finished goods area. I had a wonderful gentlemen talk to me and guide me through the facility. We had an excellent conversation. He showed me the empty classrooms. I asked if I could rent two of them.

I explained that although a bicycle repair person may wish to leave 1,000 or more broken bicycles and their tools in the middle of a community room, I felt I had a liability obligation and could not leave table saw, chop saw and much more in the open for anyone of any age to have an accident due to non-awareness of the hazard of power tools. Thus for safety I understood the need for supervision with tools: my liability and Wowser's liability. I was then introduced to Roger and Cindy whom I explained about my excellent meeting with the guide fellow and again reviewed my project. I never heard from anyone.

Who would eat at a Wowser Cafe??? It is off any path. There are hardly any people to support the cost to make a code food area, nor patrons to buy at the cafe: to cover wages, insurance, supplies, city and state fees. This seemed to be a change in course: food service?

I write this letter because I feel it was rude to accuse the community for not making Wowser happen [within a written letter to the community from a Wowser manager in the newspaper]. Certainly the creation of a Wowser facility is very hard (any business is). I tried three times to participate. Thank you for attempting your dream.

David Pollin, Willits

Wowser

To the Editor:

Dear Willits Community at large: We have heard so many "I'm sorry I can't help, but it's a great idea" comments over the past three years. Roger and I cannot carry the bulk of this alone anymore.

We were told to be out by October 1; it will take longer than that to get everything sold and out. Maybe someone will take notice; maybe not. It's a shame Willits does not get that Wowser was important to their future.

Why did we start Wowser?

We looked around at our community, and we saw, with eyes open, schools that were sub-par, and a new college that is out of touch with the needs of our community. We saw young people with nothing to do, and seniors with lots of knowledge and no one who would listen.

So, we started Wowser. A Maker Space. What is a Maker? Someone who can solve problems, design an idea, and bring it forth in the physical world as a real object. Someone with the knowledge of how to find the answers to the questions they need answered. Makers take responsibility for their actions, they know how to listen and learn, because they are enthusiastic about making things. They know how to ask the right questions to get the answers they need.

It almost does not matter what you make, making is about the process, the creativity and problem solving. What is a Maker Space? A place where people can take workshops and learn how to use tools or build things; a place where people can be with others that are like-minded; a place where everyone is respectful of each other, and most important, safe.

We used some really wild crazy things as group projects, because that is what engages the youth into a desire to learn. We are teaching people how to handle themselves in the physical world. If you have ever hired someone, you know that is not natural to many people.

Did you know that only 32 percent of the households in Willits have computers? Did you know that most teens are required to turn in typed homework? Our community, the youth who are growing up here. Will the bypass help or hurt our local businesses? Would Wowser have helped Willits in the future? You will never know.

We had a vision for our community. We had a dream. Because it was a big dream, people were free with telling us why it was too big. Even though we are closing, we really did do something BIG in this community. We are not sorry we tried; in fact, we are proud we were able to do as much as we were able to do in the time we were allotted.

We had a Maker Space, in Willits, bigger than any other small town Maker Space. And the idea, apparently, was bigger than Willits.

We were too busy doing, to stop and market ourselves. Our service was to our members, helping them make lives that worked.



Above, left: Diners enjoy the Harvest Dinner including, from left: a friend of the Grange Farm School, Farm School volunteer Takashi Yogi, Karina Cotler, and fellow volunteer Liam UICearhall. Above, right: Farm School Director Ruthie King, left, holds up a set of auction items, while auctioneer Rachel Britton works the crowd.

Below, from left: Kitchen crew Rachel Britton, James Edmonton and Jes Pearce. Sliced tomatoes and sweet potato chips. Clay Hawkins plays his steel guitar.

Photos by Fallon Johnson



10th Annual Harvest Dinner

The 10th annual Harvest Dinner – prepared by and benefiting the Grange Farm School this year – was an "enormous success," said Farm School Director Ruthie King.

The six-course meal featured locally sourced ingredients – mostly from within a 30-mile radius around the Little Lake Grange, which hosted the dinner.

"It was well-attended; we served 100 diners," said volunteer and diner Richard Jergenson. "The food was

fabulous. It was a pie-oriented evening: The all-you-can-eat pies were to die for. And just for pure entertainment, watching Rachel Britton run the auction was worth the price of admission."

Diner Marilyn Boosinger agreed: "The food was fabulous: organic and prepared by a very talented cook.

"The chicken pot pies were really good, and as far as the dessert, I would have loved to have sampled all of them, but by the time we got through

with dinner, I had only one little piece of pie for dessert. It was all wonderful."

Another Grange Farm School benefit is coming up Friday, October 30, a Halloween weekend costume ball featuring Hot Buttered Rum. Opening act is bluegrass from Bruce Burton and Friends. Tickets, \$25, are available at J.D. Redhouse and online at www.eventbrite.com. Doors open at 6 pm; music starts at 7 pm.

– Jennifer Poole



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Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the 3rd District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once a month.  
Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

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Read the rest of Letters Over on Page 4

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**Healing Gift of Music**  
Join us for an Inspirational Concert Featuring Grammy and Dove Award Winner, Gospel Artist Larnelle Harris and Friends, Violinist Jaime Jorge, Pianist Sam Ocampo, and Vocal Violin Artist Margie Salcedo Rice leading an accompanying choir in Concert.  
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Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 13

Table with 10 columns and 10 rows for a crossword puzzle grid. Some cells contain numbers indicating the start of words.

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!

Table with 63 numbered squares for a crossword puzzle grid.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Plural of ascus
5. Repents
11. British School
12. Adhesive to catch birds
15. Male children
16. Oil company
17. Intestinal
19. Money slogan
24. 2nd tone
25. In actual truth
26. Belgian-French River
27. Rural Free Delivery
28. Point midway between S and SE
29. Texas armadillo
30. 2nd largest Hawaiian island
31. Pile up
33. Changes liquid to vapor
34. Yemen capital
37. Byways
38. V-shaped cut
39. Painting on dry plaster
42. Daminozide
43. Papa's partner
44. \_\_\_ -fi: fiction/movie genre
47. 1st Soviet space station

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Race of Norse gods
2. Large pebbles
3. Latin line dances
4. The inner sole of a shoe
5. A French abbot
6. Moves stealthily
7. An alternative
8. 39th state
9. Lotus sports car model
10. River fill
13. Of I
14. Many noises
18. Ghana monetary units
20. Actor Hughley
21. The Cowboy State
22. Jest at
23. America

- 27. Surprise attack
29. Daddy
30. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
31. Express pleasure
32. Cellist Yo-Yo
33. Bronx cheer
34. A more firm substance
35. Essential oil obtained from flowers
36. Company that rings receipts
37. Largest church in Christianity
38. Capital of Wallonia
39. Heroic tale
40. Send forth
41. The Golden State
43. 1/1000 of an inch
44. Angel of the 1st order
45. Ukrainian peninsula
46. Disregard
48. Colophony
49. Spanish be
50. Military policeman
51. Cleopatra's country
53. Br. drinking establishments
54. Removes moisture
56. Liberal Arts degree
60. Execute or perform
61. Atomic #77

WPD Activity Report

September 27 to October 3

Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 241 incidents this week. The detail of that activity is broken down in the chart below.

During this seven-day reporting period, Willits Police Officers were assigned 28 criminal investigation reports, made 17 arrests, issued 1 traffic citation, and investigated 1 traffic collision.

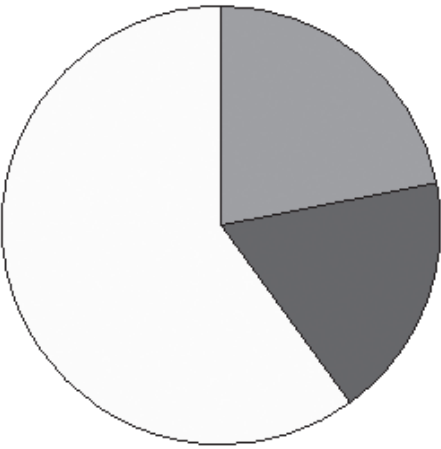
Included in the arrests were: 1 assault with a deadly weapon, 1 DUI, 4 warrants, 4 municipal code violations, 1 theft, 1 animal cruelty, 2 public intoxication, 1 probation violation, 1 driver's license violation, and 1 drug influence.

Of note this week

On Tuesday, September 29 at about 4 am, Willits Police Department officers were dispatched to Howard Hospital to speak with the victim of a reported

attempted sexual assault and robbery. During the course of their investigation, it was determined that the victim had invited the suspect to a local hotel room, where he ultimately attempted to force her to perform unwanted sexual acts. When she resisted, he stole money from her purse and fled the area. The investigation is ongoing.

On Tuesday, September 29 at about 1 pm, a WPD officer initiated an enforcement stop on a vehicle for an equipment violation in the 10 block of Holly Street. As the officer was stopping the vehicle, the vehicle's owner was reporting the vehicle stolen to the WPD Dispatch center. Upon stopping, the driver of the vehicle fled the vehicle, and ran eastbound towards South Main Street, and ultimately into Baechtel Creek creek bed near the 1200 block of South Main Street, where officers lost sight of him. The vehicle was recovered and returned to the owner, and the suspect has been identified.



- Traffic/Parking Enforcement: 53
Officer-Initiated Criminal Investigations: 43
Calls for Service / Requests for Assistance: 145

Cyndee Logan, Willits

Advertisement for Browns Corner Groceries, Beer & Wine, Pay at the Pump Gas & Diesel. Phone: 459-4854, 1799 So. Main St. P.O. Box 428.

Advertisement for Adam's Restaurant, 90 S. Main St, 707-456-9226.

Advertisement for Alfred F. Kerr, D.D.S. Family Dentistry, 12 W. Valley Street, Willits, CA 95490.



Above, left: Willits Wolverine #20 Will Smith gets tangled with Middletown Mustang players during the Homecoming game.

Above, right: Wolverine Blake Leslie #7 throws the football during the varsity game.

Photos by Jeff Cramer

At left: Homecoming floats made by each high school class. From top down: The senior float, the junior float, the sophomore float and the freshman float.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Below: The Homecoming Court: back row from left: Senior Princess Sierra Skinner, Senior Prince Will Switzer, Senior Princess Kacey Tyler, King Konner Reed, Queen Emily Leishman, Junior Prince Tyler Vesey, and Junior Princess Isabel Gurierrez. Front row, from left: Freshman Prince Octavien Smith, Freshman Princess Eden Hinciker Tye, Sophomore Princess Alisabeth Wilcox, and Sophomore Prince Mitchell Hollingsworth. Not pictured: Senior Prince Kyle Martinez.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Homecoming
at Willits High

Wolverines defeated at Friday night games

It was a bitter-sweet Homecoming for both the JV and varsity Willits High School football teams Friday evening, as they lost to visiting Middletown. The JV squad lost 26-0, though they did bounce back defensively in the second half, keeping Middletown out of the end zone. They just couldn't muster up much on offense, getting shut out for the day.

The Wolverines varsity players couldn't get out of their own way, as they racked up more high snaps for losses than first downs in the first half of play. Middletown dominated on both sides of the ball, moving the yardsticks with an efficient balance of run and pass.

The Wolverines finally got things going in the second half, as they managed 8 points and limited the Mustangs to one touchdown. This was by no means enough to erase a 37-0 halftime deficit. The final score: 43-8.

It was quite a letdown for a Wolverines team that came into the game undefeated, playing a Middletown squad that was previously 1-2 (now 2-2).

The Wolverines will attempt to upgrade their 4-1 season record against the Clearlake Cardinals this Friday, October 9 in a North Central contest. The Cardinals hold a 1-4 record after their 48-14 league loss to Cloverdale.

The Wolverines JV squad (3-1) will attempt a similar outcome against the Cardinals JV team. Game times for the Clearlake matchups are 5:30 pm for the JV teams and 7:30 pm for varsity.



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Advertisement for Mpho-tog-ra-phress, featuring a photo of a person and the text 'maureenmoore.com'.

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Advertisement for J.D. Redhouse & Company, featuring a promotion for GET \$10 OFF 4 packs of K9 Advantix II or Advantage II, and contact information for 707-459-1214.

Advertisement for Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty Inc., featuring a promotion for Homes For Dogs Project, and contact information for 707.459.5389 or 707.462.5400.





Above, left: Emily Hentschel watches as Robert Pinoli works on the CO2 backpack worn by Maresa Kendrick.  
Above, right: Pinoli poses by the Skunk Train with a zombieified Eric Mencis.  
Below: Red Randolph applies special effects makeup to Mencis.



## Animal Blessings

### St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church holds annual blessing

A crowd of animal lovers gathered under the arbor at the St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church Saturday morning for the annual "Blessing of the Animals."

One of the church's pastors, Rev. Betsy Bruneau, presided over the ceremony, first reading a prayer for St. Francis Day, and then a Russian prayer for the animals. She then walked around to each of the animals and their owners, placed her hands on the pets, and gave her blessing.

"The idea of 'blessing' is to give thanks to God for that thing, whether it be an animal, human, item, anything," explained Bruneau. "Blessing the object gives it a holy place in the universe and creates a sacrament: an outward and visible sign of inward grace."

Bruneau also read names of animals no longer living, and animals who were unable to come to the ceremony, at their owners' request.

Bruneau reminisced that many years ago, she attended a pet blessing in Palo Alto where the priest blessed two stuffed animals brought in by a young child.

"They were those kind that had Velcro arms that wrapped around each other, like a hug," explained Bruneau. "The priest said 'God bless these two and their love for one another.' I just thought that was so sweet and wanted to carry on the tradition once I started."

Fellow pastor Rev. Mary Fisher started the blessings for the St. Francis church about 20 years ago, before the new straw-bale church was built.

"We held our first ceremony on Dr. Frank Grasse's lawn," Bruneau said. "We didn't have a place to do them, and he gave us permission to hold the blessings there."

Over the years, blessings also were held in the City Park, and at the church's parish hall, just east of the main church building on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets.

Fisher came as an attendee this year, however, with new pup, Buster. Buster, along with around a dozen additional animals, received blessings from Bruneau.

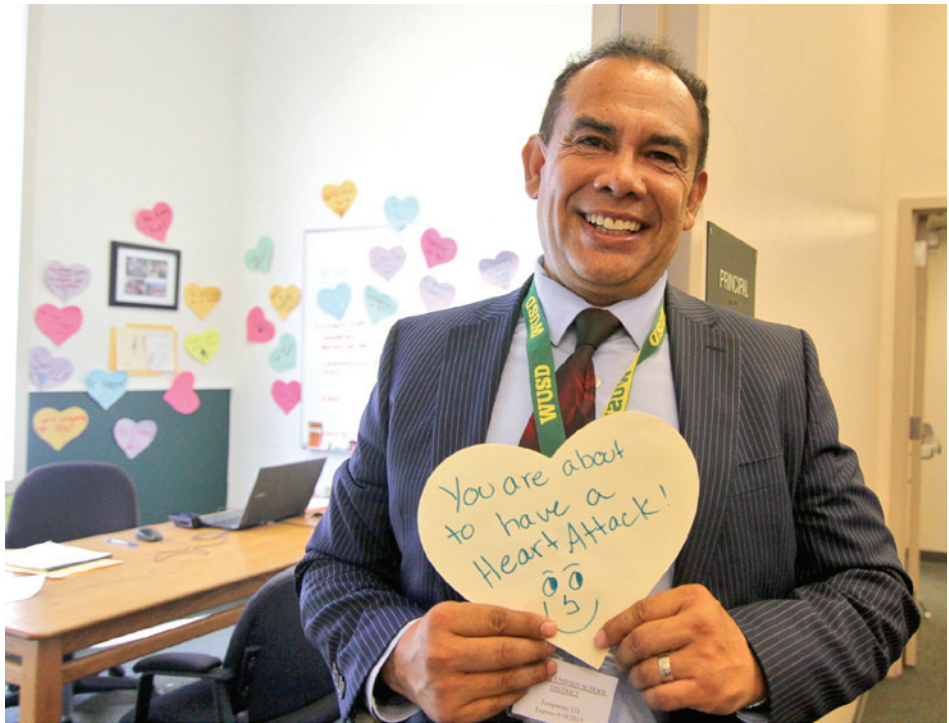
around California for Zombie Train franchise rides; Oakdale's Sierra DinnerTrain and Sacramento's RiverTrain from the Sierra Railroad will also be offering the experience.

Red Randolph of Screaming Star Productions is the artistic and theatrical director of the Zombie Train, and will come back to Willits to help with the Santa Train this holiday season, too.

Randolph and her team, along with the zombie actors, Skunk Train staff and logistics coordinators gathered for a dress rehearsal Wednesday evening, and two team members, Maresa Kendrick and Eric Mencis, had a quick trial run for makeup and costuming, too.

Mencis, usually an actual conductor on the train, received a quick zombie makeover. "This sure wasn't what I was expecting to do today," laughed Mencis.

Though he is going to be working the Zombie Train, Mencis noted his sister, still in Illinois, is the biggest zombie fan in the family. But, Mencis said he has been a fan



## Hearts of Willits

Principal Chavez expresses his appreciation to students and the community

I am a relatively new member of the Willits community, and I am just beginning my second year as a principal in the Willits school system. Recently, during the Valley Fire, my family and I experienced a traumatic experience by having to drive through a fire-laden road to get to our home where my son was waiting.

We also had to pack irreplaceable items while watching homes and trees above our house burning. My wife and I waited a week in anticipation of what we would find when we returned home. We were blessed to come home to an intact house with only fire damage to my backyard weeds.

The most surprising experience of this harrowing ordeal was not the threat of fire, but the response I received from a community that I have just begun to know. I had nearly a dozen people offer their homes and their hospitality. No less than 100 people asked about our welfare and offered anything that we may need.

The offers continued well past the time we were able to return our home. My daughters received care packages that brought them joy and smiles during a confusing time for children. Each and every offer of support was genuine and sincere.

The pinnacle of this wonderful experience was when I returned to my office at Willits High School. Outside my door was a heart-shaped paper that read: "Get Ready for a Heart Attack." I walked into my office, and I found the four walls inundated with paper hearts, all expressing their good tidings and their appreciation for me as their principal.

I could not hold back anymore, and tears flowed in appreciation of the students and the people of Willits that have adopted me as their own.

I love you, Willits.

– Robert Chavez, principal, Willits High School

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**Boys Soccer |**  
Alejandro Lara,  
age 17, Senior

**Football |**  
Lane Wright,  
age 17, Senior

**Position:** Mid-field  
**Breakfast of Champions:** Pancakes with eggs and sausage

**Love for the Sport:** "I love the adrenaline and all the running. Soccer is exciting!"

My "Amazing Athlete" this week is Lane Wright, who made a great touchdown catch and played really good defense. Lane really goes at it every play: on defense he's there, on offense he blocks to the ref's whistle. He's a really hard worker.

– Coach Sean Leslie

Thanks to the coaches for helping Willits Weekly feature great athletes every week

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Friday, October 9

**Closenurf:** back at the Brooktrails Lodge, 24675 Birch Street. Starting at 8 pm. "Come listen and jam with seasoned musicians who love to entertain. If you like to listen to good classic rock 'n' roll come up to the lodge and check it out." Sign-ups at 7:30 pm for open mic jam.



**Shanachie Pub:** Shotgun Jesus. "Prog-rock, Metal, Funk, Jam, Gypsy & Psychedelic." Visit: [www.facebook.com/Shotgun-Jesus](http://www.facebook.com/Shotgun-Jesus). 9 pm, No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 10

**"Future of the Willits Center for the Arts":** The public is invited to attend a community open house to discuss the future of the Willits Center for the Arts, set for Saturday, October 10 from 11 am to 3 pm. At the Great Room, upstairs at the WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Artists, youth and all interested members of the public are encouraged to come "envision a future for the Arts Center." The meeting will be facilitated by Alyssum Wier, executive director of the Arts Council of Mendocino County. "The current WCA leaderships seeks broad, diverse community input for the next phase of planning to ensure that the organization continues with programs that are of interest to the community and that the financial health of the organization is met."

**Brooktrails Fall Festival:** "Come join the Brooktrails Property Owners Association at Ohl Grove Park Saturday, October 10, 2015, and find your perfect pumpkin at The Great Pumpkin Hunt. Pizza, Crafts, Family Fall Photos, Jumphouse and More!! 2 to 6 pm, Ohl Grove Park, Brooktrails.

**New Meditation Center Open House:** The Inner Resource Fellowship announces the opening of its new Meditation Center, at 1500 Hearst Road, in the old Grace Church building. Saturday, October 10 from 2 to 6 pm. Please call The Center at 707-357-4676 to ask questions, book a seat, or come at 2 pm to make the most of our afternoon of free programs. Attend a short class on the practice, benefits and positive effects of Tranquility Meditation on daily life, followed by a group meditation. Our principal founder, Shri Chimayan, will also present sample segments from our "Spiritual Bootcamp 101" class, plus there will be a talk on "How



**"Common Thread":** October's show at the Willits Center for the Arts features three fiber artists who use the dye pot as their palette: Ursula Patch, felt and mixed media; Stephanie Hoppe, woven rugs and tapestries; and Anita Sison, natural dyes on fabric. Runs through October 25. WCA is located at 71 East Commercial Street, 459-1726; regular gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. To arrange for viewing times by appointment, call Ursula Patch at 459-7054.

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

**The Emandal Choral:** ongoing rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5 to 6:30 pm, for the Choral's 21st season, at the Little Lake Grange great hall, 291 School Street. No auditions: Open to all who love to sing.

**Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club:** Monday night workshops at the Willits Center for the Arts, upstairs in the great room. Newer dancers from 7 to 8 pm; plus dancing from 8 to 9 pm. Lawrence Johnstone, caller. Guests always welcome! Info: Jenny Watts, 459-9526.

**Al-Anon Meeting:** Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

**Drop-in Knitting Circle:** Due to popular demand, the Willits Library is holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects – we'll supply the coffee!

to Access Divine Inner Guidance."

**Willits Youth Football Fundraiser:** "at the Willits Youth Football home games against Fort Bragg at Willits High School, on Friday, October 10, we will be having a silent auction. Up for bid will be two helmets, one jersey, two T-shirts and a Pace Supply hat, all signed by Dwight "The Catch" Clark, legendary wide receiver with the 49ers. Please stop by Willits Youth Football's table near the Snack Shack during any of the games to write in your bid. PeeWee game starts at 4 pm; JV approximately at 5 pm; varsity approximately at 7 pm. The bidding will end, and the winners will be announced at half-time of the varsity game. (Willits Youth Football Cougars now accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, and debit Cards!) All of the money raised will go to Willits Youth Football and Cheer to help keep this great program running. Thank you!"

**Willits FFA Alumni Fundraiser Dinner:** The Blue & Gold Willits Future Farmers of America Alumni Fundraiser Dinner is set for Saturday, October 10 at 5 pm at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. \$25 per plate. "Bring your family for food and fun." Info: 459-6588.

**Shanachie Pub:** Them Travelin' Birds. "Appalachian rootsy/folk/punk" duo. Visit [www.themtravelinbirds.com](http://www.themtravelinbirds.com). 8 pm, No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, October 11

**Senior Center Pancake Breakfast:** 8 to 11 am, Sunday, October 11, at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs any style, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon. Adults \$7, Members \$6, Kids \$5. Info: 459-6826.

**95490 Town Hall on Recreation:** 4 to 6 pm, Sunday, October 11 at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "Let's re-create recreation! Would you like to see more art and recreation activities for your children, yourself, your pet? Come discuss your vision, your ideas and information about a new art and recreation district in the 95490 community. Share ideas on how we can improve the existing recreation opportunities in our 95490 area, and what you

Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in."

**Willits Library Public Events:** "Pajama Story Time" for families, Tuesdays at 7 pm. "Stories for Crawlers and Walkers," Thursdays at 11 am. Technology group for help with hand-held devices, Fridays at 1 pm. Youth Game Night, ages 10-14, Fridays from 5 to 7:30 pm. Drop-in Knitting Circle, Saturdays from 3 to 4:30 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. More info: 459-5908.

**Soroptimists International of Willits:** Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets second and third Tuesdays of every month, noon to 1 pm, at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

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

**Volleyball Open Gym:** at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays and Tuesdays at 7 pm. Some experience desired not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

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

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

**Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room:** Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street. Info: 459-2444.

**Laytonville Summer Farmers Market:** Mondays from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, hot soup, baked goods, and more.

want to see here that we don't already have. Also, let's discuss how we can make our vision a reality. Speakers include: Brooke McFadden, who will explain her vision as a member of this community; Councilmember Holly Madrigal, who will discuss the nuts and bolts of creating such districts from his experience as a member of LAFCO (the local Area Formation Commission); and Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde, who will tell us what it was like to create a new district and what the benefits are now that the arts and recreation district is established in Fort Bragg." Questions? Call April at 707-972-2475.

Monday, October 12

**Willits Garden Club Meeting:** The monthly meeting of the Willits Garden Club is set for Monday, October 12 at the Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, 6 miles south of Willits, on the west side of 101 and south of Ridgewood (Seabiscuit) Ranch. With guest speaker Jeff Konicek, who will give a presentation on "Bonsai." Starts at 12:30 pm with coffee and refreshment; presentation starts at 1 pm; meeting ends around 2:30 pm.

Guests are welcome, and there is no charge. Info: Lucille Garcia at 459-9995 or Gary Bodensteiner at 459-2708.

**Senior Center Ice Cream Social:** Monday, October 12, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. This month's entertainment is Erin Fisher. Games, drawings, pie, ice cream, music, friends and fun. Adults \$1.50; members \$1.

Tuesday, October 13

**Willits High School Girls Soccer Home Game:** against Kelseyville, at the Willits High School field. Varsity game starts at 5 pm.

**Willits High School Boys Soccer Home Game:** against Kelseyville, at the Willits High School field. Varsity game starts at 3:30 pm.

**Willits High School Volleyball Home Game:** against Lower Lake, at the Willits High School gym.

JV starts at 5 pm and varsity at 6 pm.

**Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre:** All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Hotel Transylvania" and "The Martian." For showtimes: [www.noyotheatre.com](http://www.noyotheatre.com). 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

**Democratic Candidates Debate Party:** "Watch with friends: the Democratic Party's Presidential Candidates Debate, streamed to the big screen, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Candidates Lincoln Chafee, Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, Bernie Sanders and Jim Webb will debate. Doors open at 5:30; streaming starts at 6 pm. Everyone is invited! Light refreshments provided.

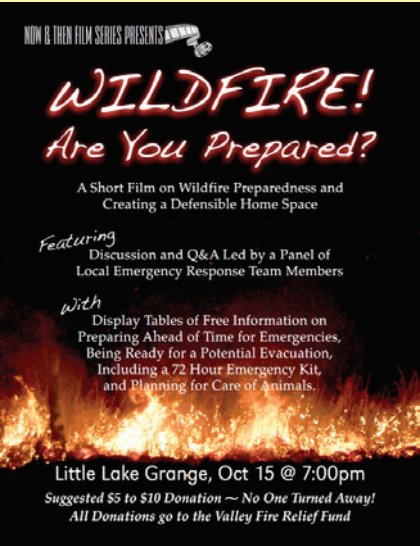
**Shanachie Pub:** Karl Kummerle, songwriting violinist and pianist, with Karla MLugo: melodies, storytelling, comedy, original sons and fiddle/whistle duets. Visit [www.karkummerle.bandcamp.com/](http://www.karkummerle.bandcamp.com/) releases. 5 pm, No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Thursday, October 15

**Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill Day!** "Millions of people worldwide will practice how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10:15 am on Thursday, October 15 during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills!" California already has 9.9 million people signed up to participate; the North Coast is up to 52,329. Why participate? "What we do now will determine our quality of life after our next big earthquake. Are you prepared to survive and recover quickly?" So far the biggest group of participants in Mendocino County are various schools, including the Willits Charter School. You can register as a family, a business, a tribe, an organization, a neighborhood group, or a number of other categories: for more info, including how to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," visit [www.shakeout.org/home.html](http://www.shakeout.org/home.html).

**"Wildfire! – Are You Prepared?":** Now and

Then Film Series presents; "featuring a short documentary film introducing wildfire preparedness and discussion led by experts. 7 pm. What does a 72-hour emergency kit look like? How and when to pack your car, and what about your animals? This invaluable program is for all of us – renters and property owners and anyone living in drought-stricken areas." Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Donation of \$5 to \$10 will go to the Valley Fire Relief Fund. Serving heirloom popcorn with organic butter and Fair Trade chocolate. Info: 459-6362.



**Shanachie Pub:** Aaron Ford, singer-songwriter from San Francisco: folk, Americana, blues. Visit [www.cdbaby.com/Artist/AaronFord](http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/AaronFord). 8 pm, No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, October 16

**Cal Fresh (Food Stamps) Open Enrollment:** Friday, October 16 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Must bring: Identification, proof of where you live, Social Security cards, Earned income, Unearned income, bank statements, immigration status. Info: 459-6826.



**Shanachie Pub:** Mitchell Holman Revue: former member of It's A Beautiful Day. Holman still jams with many original psychedelic players in the SF scene, performing on bowed bass, acoustic piano, and guitar. 9 pm, No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 17

**19th Willits Walk for Wellness:** the annual fall Walk for Wellness is set for Saturday, October 17, starting at a new location: City Park, at Commercial and Humboldt streets. Meet at 9:30 am; walk starts at 10 am. "It's Fun! It's Free! This will be an informal walk, no registration required. We'll walk the 10,000 steps, five miles, in reverse direction, and see our community from a new perspective. Join friends and family for a healthy outing and enjoy the fall weather. Bring water and dress for comfort and joy. Men, women, children, and well-behaved pets on leashes welcome (also our bicyclist friends). Info:

# What's Happening Around Town



Sue Hathaway, Norma Avery and Patrick Hart enjoy a previous walk.

Willits Healthy Action Team (W.H.A.T.), Jed Diamond: 459-5505.

**WFD 4th Annual Ranch Rodeo:** Willits Frontier Days 4th annual Ranch Rodeo is set for Saturday, October 17 at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. Check-in at 9 am; starts at 10 am. Calcutta Auction and BBQ Cook-Off at 12 pm (\$10 tastes). Calf-Branding, Working Ranch Horses, Ranch Doctoring, Trailer Loading, Reverse Team Roping, Team Sorting and Ribbon Roping. Free admission to event spectators. Fun Kids Dummy Roping event at 2 pm. More info: Marcy Barry (272-5395) or Robbie Burgess (489-0476).

Sunday, October 18

**Sock and Undie Sunday:** the Willits United Methodist Church is conducting a sock and underwear drive for adult participants in community mental health programs. "Sock and Undie Sunday" will be held on Sunday, October 18. Adult sizes Large and Extra Large are needed the most. Donations of new, unopened packages of socks and underwear can be brought to the church office, on Monday, Wednesday, or Fridays between 9 am and noon. Donations can also be brought to the church on Sunday morning, October 18. "The community is invited to be a part of our worship service at 11 am, with fellowship time after the service. Our theme for our worship is "Fear and Faith." The church is located across from the Little Lake Grange at 286 School Street.

COLUMN | At the Movies

**‘The Martian’**

**The Story:** Astronaut/biologist Mark Watney (Matt Damon) is stranded on the planet Mars. He struggles to survive. He uses his brain. He's quite resourceful. Also, NASA and his space-going comrades attempt to rescue him.... It becomes a race with Death.

**My Thoughts:** "The Martian" is directed by Ridley Scott "Alien," "Blade Runner," "Prometheus," "Legend" and many more). It's the grueling. It's suspenseful. It's an old-fashioned Robinson Crusoe adventure story. The cast is great. Jessica Chastain as the spaceship captain is especially heroic.... I mean, everyone acts heroically, but she looks heroic.

**Parents:** This is a great movie for children, educational, suspenseful, intelligent.

**More for Parents:** There is no gratuitous swearing. There is, however, realistic and justifiable use of swear words in tense, life and death situations. Oh, and for those who care, there's one shot of Matt Damon getting out of a shower. He's naked. Not to show him naked would have been prissy.

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

**Harvest Moon Celebration**

**Friday, October 23rd**

**Downtown Willits**

**Stores open until 8pm**

**Celebrate FALL at your local stores & restaurants!**

**Great Specials & Sales!**

**Business Pumpkin Decorating Contest**

**VOTE for your favorite!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (707) 459-7910**

## American Legion Oktoberfest Dinner

**Saturday, October 24 from 5 to 7 pm**

American Legion, Post 174, presents its annual fundraising Oktoberfest Dinner, on Saturday, October 24 from 5 to 7 pm. Veteran's Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. Menu: marinated roast pork, red cabbage, white potatoes w/parsley, green beans, salads, dessert and apple cider. \$18 per adult, \$9 per child under 12, children under 5 are free. Tickets may be purchased at the door.



## Ecology Action Fall Mini-Farming Workshop

**November 6 to 8**

Ecology Action will be holding a Three-Day GROW BIOINTENSIVE® Sustainable Mini-Farming Workshop in Willits, on November 6 to 8. "This will be an exciting opportunity for in-depth learning of highly productive Biointensive food growing techniques and the sustainability philosophy which Ecology Action has developed through 43 years of research, teaching, and hands-on food-growing.

GROW BIOINTENSIVE Sustainable Mini-Farming makes abundant "Green Revolution"-type yields possible – organically – while providing greater nutrient content, using open-pollinated seeds, and using just 1/8th the water per pound of vegetables, 50 percent less organic fertilizer, and 94 percent less energy than conventional agricultural methods – all while building healthy, living soil.

The workshop will be presented by John Jeavons, master farmer, director of Ecology Action and author of the bestselling book "How to Grow More Vegetables" (now in its 8th edition and translated into seven languages, including Braille), Dan and Margo Royer-Miller, graduates of Ecology Action's Three-Year Apprenticeship program), plus current farmers and teachers working with Ecology Action.

The weekend workshop will consist of lectures, discussion and demonstration, and will include a full range of information on: Soil Preparation, Sustainable Soil Fertility, Fertilization, Compost, Compost Crops, Efficient Resource Use, Crops for Full Nutrition, and Crops for Income – as well as the perspective and whole-system approach which tie all these topics together.

The workshop cost is \$375, plus approximately \$70 for the publications. An extensive workshop manual will be provided. Lunches and other meals are included; lodging and other meals are not. This workshop requires pre-reading and pre-registration. Info: [www.growbiointensive.org/workshop.html](http://www.growbiointensive.org/workshop.html) or contact Ecology Action at 459-0150.

## WFD Quilt Raffle

Come by J.D. Redhouse & Company and enter to win a beautiful handmade quilt by Rachel Cash. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, to benefit Willits Frontier Days. Winner will be selected at the 4th Annual Willits Frontier Days Ranch Rodeo on Saturday, October 17.

## Healthy Harvest Workshops

October 20 and 27 at the Little Lake Grange

October "Healthy Harvest" workshops are scheduled for Tuesday, October 20 and Tuesday, October 27 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Presented by North Coast Opportunities and GROWN LOCAL. "Show support for local farms. Cook simple, healthy food like jams, salsas, pickles, pestos, salads and more. Process and preserve seasonal produce. \$20 covers produce, recipes, and a bounty to take home. All other materials provided. Space is limited! Contact April Cunningham for more information and to reserve your spot today! Scholarships are available." Info: [acunningham@ncoinc.org](mailto:acunningham@ncoinc.org) or 707-467-3212.



## 'Fright Night'

Opens October 16 at WCT

"Fright Night," a seasonal selection of four short tales of horror and humor, opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, October 16. From the scary and morbid to the perversely funny, the stage performances will lead audiences into an excursion of the supernatural, an escape from the zombie apocalypse, the presence of a dark talismanic spirit and one classic tale of gripping madness.

The showcase includes adaptations of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" and W.W. Jacob's "The Monkey's Paw," and two short dramas, "10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse" by Don Zolids and "Starla" by David Skeele. Director Jason Edington says "Fright Night" at WCT is guaranteed to leave willing patrons chuckling and cowering in their seats.

The adaptation of Poe's famed short story, "The Tell-Tale Heart," hews close to the original and brings forth the narrative of a raving madman who cannot contain his perverse glee at having committed murder.

In the stage version of Jacob's classic British short story, a family welcomes an old friend who is carrying a powerful talisman – a monkey's paw – that will change their lives forever. "10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse" presents macabre yet humorous strategies for earth's final four human survivors to escape being eaten by the walking dead. In "Starla," the final show of the evening, a theater professor has the perfect evening planned: an intimate rehearsal in a scary abandoned theater with a nubile coed in need of his tutelage and comfort – what could possibly go wrong?

Performances of "Fright Night" are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17 at 8 pm, Sunday, October 18 at 2 pm, Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24 at 8 pm, Sunday, October 25 at 2 pm, Thursday, October 29 at 7 pm, and Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31 (Halloween). Advance tickets are \$10 for the Thursday and Sunday shows and \$15 for the Friday and Saturday shows. Tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com); or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door for each performance until sold out. A special benefit show for the Emandal Choir will be held on the first Thursday, October 22 at 7 pm. The event will be catered by Emandal Farm. Tickets for the benefit are \$15 and available only through Tamara Adams at 459-5439.

– Steve Hellman, for WCT

## Color-A-Thon school fundraiser

Saturday, October 17

Instead of the annual walk-a-thon fundraiser this year, Willits schools have decided to hold a Color-A-Thon color run on Saturday, October 17. Brookside, Blosser and Baechtel Grove students will be collecting donations for the Color-A-Thon fundraiser, while the high school students will simply pay their registration fee for the day. 70 percent of all funds raised go back to each school site to spend on things the district doesn't pay for, such as assemblies, school supplies, free book giveaways, and much much more!! This event is for the whole community! Anyone who would like to participate in the Color-A-Thon can register in advance at <http://shop.schoolathon.org/181389>. The day of the event, registration will start at 9:30 am, and the race will begin at 11 am!! Registration is \$30, including a free T-shirt and a color dye pack. Don't worry if you haven't been training: The run is either a 3K or 5K, whichever you choose, and you can walk, run or dance your way around the track!! Just be prepared to get colorful!

## Oktoberfest at The Center

Saturday, October 24

The Center, at the corner of Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue, invites everyone to come to their first Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, October 24. Welcome fall with beer, barbecue and bands.

## The Mentoring Network youth group for girls

Starts Friday, October 23

"The Mentoring Network" is a part of the Little Lake Grange's Youth Program, and is open to girls in sixth through 10th grades. The free program is organized by herbalist Donna D'Terra, teacher coordinator, and Michelle J. Cummins, L.Ac., student coordinator. Topics include cooking and nutrition, movement, herbal crafts and life skills. Runs every Friday from October 23 through December 11, from 4 to 5 pm in the Cultivate Wellness Studio, Room 4 at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Pre-registration is required. Contact Michelle at 707-972-1601. See article on page 12 for more details.

## Hot Buttered Rum

Bruce Burton & Friends

Friday, October 30

Halloween Weekend Party on Friday, October 30, featuring a return engagement of Hot Buttered Rum, who rocked the Little Lake Grange last time they were in Willits at a sold-out show. This show, too, is a benefit for the Grange Farm School. Opening act: bluegrass from Bruce Burton & Friends. A Costume Ball with the theme: "Where the Wild Things Are," "in dedication to all the wild things on the farm, especially the farmers." Including costume contest with prizes, a silent auction, local beer and wine for sale, and dinner and snacks from Zocalo catering. Doors open at 6 pm; music from 7 to 11:30 pm.



## Halloween with the Dirt Floor Band

Saturday, October 31 at Shanachie Pub

The Dirt Floor Band, together again. Starts at 9 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.





Neary described the test results as “cause for alarm.”

“This is not a test of the students,” Neary said. “This is a test of the teachers. People in the community are coming to me and talking. And there is a perception in the community that we are under-performing. I think we got an ‘F.’”

Later, during his allotted time to speak as president of the Willits Teachers Association, Haschak blasted Neary.

“If you would get out of your office once in a while and visit the schools, you would know what the conditions in the schools are,” Haschak said. “Your remark that the teachers should get a ‘F’ is just totally wrong. Teachers don’t control the curriculum. We don’t control the computers. We don’t control what goes on in kids’ lives. There’s a lot that we don’t control.

“The results of that test are not a reflection on the teachers. I would say, the teachers don’t deserve an ‘F.’ The one who deserves an ‘F’ is the board member who doesn’t really know the conditions in the classroom.”

Outgoing Trustee Saprina Rodriguez attempted to soften Neary’s condemnation of district teachers. She told the board she had recently attended a meeting of area school superintendents and the upper echelon of area school staff with state Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson on September 30 in Talmage.

“What I heard people saying [at that meeting] is that students in rural schools generally perform less well, because as a rural area we have less access to the internet,” Rodriguez said. “A lot of kids in this community don’t have access to a computer. Think of Brooktrails. We know there are lots of areas up there that don’t have internet access. So this is just one of the factors that have played a role in these scores.”

Munguia noted two of the differences between the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress test and the previous generation of tests is that the CAASPP test is a computerized test which can adjust the questions based on the student’s previous answers.

Unlike the previous Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) tests, the student does not fill in the bubbles with a pencil. This can eliminate the element of lucky guessing – an element that sometimes raised the scores of the ignorant but lucky student. With the new tests, the questions are nuanced in such a way to actually determine whether, and to what degree, the student understands the material.

Another aspect of the CAASPP tests is they are more rigorous than the previous array of tests.

In Willits Unified, more than 80 percent of students did not meet state standards in mathematics.

Actual results are: third grade: 83 percent did not meet standards; fourth grade: 78 percent; fifth grade: 80 percent; sixth grade: 84 percent; seventh grade: 88 percent; eighth grade: 78 percent; and 11th grade: 84 percent. Those percentages reflect the combined total of students taking the test in mathematics that nearly met or did not meet the state standards.

Munguia pointed out that in many instances results for both the Willits Charter School and Willits Elementary Charter School were better than the results from the same grade levels in the regular Willits Unified schools.

office vis U.S. mail within three days after Election Day, will now be considered valid.

Previously, mailed ballots had to be received by the voter office by Election Day itself.

Senate Bill 29 author Sen. Lou Correa told Sacramento’s KCRA 3 news he wrote the bill because of the threat of budget cuts at the U.S. Postal Service. “The problem is, as budgets continue to effect the operations of fine agencies like the post office, the timing of that mailing becomes unpredictable,” Correa said.

According to an analysis prepared for the state Legislature on SB 29, about 20,000 ballots arrived too late to be counted in the 2012 statewide election. “By providing more time for completed ballots to reach local election offices, SB 29 will ensure that thousands of voters who take the time to fill out and cast their ballot will have that ballot counted,” the California Secretary of State’s Office stated in an argument in support of Correa’s legislation.

Locally, “we have a few ballots that come in too late,” said Katrina Bartolomie, assistant registrar of voters for Mendocino County. “We might have 50 ballots that come in late, countywide. Most voters are pretty up on getting their ballots mailed on time.”

Bartolomie did caution voters that – if they end up putting their ballots in the mail at the last minute – they should bring them to the post office counter, to ensure the ballots are properly postmarked.

And it’s always a good idea to get your ballots in the mail at least a week early, she said. That way, the voter office can count your vote before Election Day, and it can be included in the first set of results the voter office announces after the polls close at 8 pm on Election Day.

The last day to register to vote in the November 3, 2015 election is October 19, 2015. California does offer online voter registration, at [www. http://register tovot e.ca.gov](http://www.register tovot e.ca.gov).

Local voters should have all received sample ballots for next month’s election by now, and official ballots for mail-in voters were mailed Monday, October 5.

The consolidated district election held in odd-numbered years is for local districts like fire districts, water districts, school districts, and community service districts. Bartolomie said the majority of special districts are happy with off-year elections, because in Presidential or gubernatorial election years, elections for small local districts don’t get much attention. “This way, they get their own attention,” she said.

“We love elections!” Bartolomie added. “We just wish the ballot was full. But we’re going to treat it just like any other election. It will have our top attention.”

Four years ago, in the 2011 consolidated district election, there were contested elections for the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees and the Brooktrails Township Board of Directors, as well as the Measure A campaign to fund the library system.

This year, there are no countywide ballot measures, and the only contested election in the north county area is for the Willits representative on the Mendocino Lake Community College District board.

Incumbent trustee Paul Ubelhart is running for re-election to the college district board, with two challengers, educator Rick Kale and community volunteer Perri Kaller, both of Willits. Willits Weekly plans an interview with all three candidates in next week’s edition.

**Willits Weekly | October 8, 2015**      **Phone:** 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047      **Email:** [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)      **Mail:** P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490      **Pg. 11**

# Willits residents invest in local public offering

On September 27, a group of Willits residents were excited to learn all about a new opportunity for investing in our local economy. John Kuhry, director of the non-profit Economic Development & Financing Corporation, and Matthew Gilbert of Mendocino Wool & Fiber presented information about the new program and answered many detailed questions from the audience of about 20.

The investment opportunity is called a “direct public offering,” and anyone in California is eligible (not just “accredited investors”). A minimum investment is \$1,000. Kuhry explained that the DPO fund will be loaned to local enterprises that meet the triple bottom line: good for people, profit, and planet.

EDFC, which has 20 years of experience in helping to start up businesses in Mendocino and Lake counties, will administer the fund, overseen by a board of 21 volunteers representing local government, tribes, business and finance.

EDFC has already vetted and approved Mendocino Wool & Fiber to receive the first major loan from this new DPO fund. Owner Gilbert, who has been shearing sheep in our region for almost 20 years, presented his detailed plan for a wool processing plant. “This business fills a need which will help local ranchers get a better return, provide high-quality product for local weavers

## Final Covelo burglary suspect arrested

A 20-year-old man suspected of taking part in a series of recent Round Valley burglaries was arrested September 26 at an Airport Road home following a five-hour standoff with Mendocino County sheriff’s deputies.

Manuel Rodriguez was arrested on a felony warrant charging him with suspicion of making criminal threats, but is considered a person of interest or a suspect in a string of Covelo residential and commercial burglaries, vehicle thefts, and a strong arm robbery, according to sheriff’s Capt. Greg Van Patten. Rodriguez is also a suspect in two separate incidents of attempted murder involving a firearm.

All the crimes occurred within the last 60 days, Van Patten noted.

Acting on information that Rodriguez was holed up in a home in the 22000 block of Airport Road, sheriff’s deputies surrounded the house shortly after midnight. The house was “completely dark,” Van Patten said, “but movement could be heard” inside.

“Due to the threat presented by Rodriguez,” he said, “the on-scene supervisor made the decision to call for the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office SWAT Team.”

For almost five hours loudspeaker announcements

county to rely on it as a complete CEQA evaluation for a new activity.”

The organization also rejects the argument that the 2010 rezoning has any bearing on CEQA. As evidence in support of its contention, the group refers to language accompanying the county’s 2010 action to rezone certain areas in the north county, as part of the 2009 revision of the General Plan: “Because the rezone actions are merely map changes for consistency, many site specific issues will ultimately involve an analysis that would be conducted at the time actual development proposals are presented to the county for consideration.”

The case is made more complex by an action taken by supervisors on June 16, 2015, rescinding the board’s March 17 determination that the Grist Creek project was not a new or changed use from what had been there before.

The June resolution makes for interesting reading. Among other things, it states: “Whereas, litigating CEQA lawsuits requires significant expense and exposes the county to other financial liabilities the county chooses not to pass on to its citizens at this time, given the board’s adoption of Resolution 15-054 [the March 17 resolution] was not required and did nothing to affect Grist Creek Aggregates’ land use entitlements for the site, now, therefore, be it resolved that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors hereby rescinds its approval of Resolution 15-054;

“Be it further resolved that the rescission of Resolution 15-054 in no way impairs the land use entitlements of the site as they existed prior to March 17, 2015.”

According to the county, one of the consequences of the June resolution is there is now no project for which the county can be sued. This is expressed explicitly in the language of the demurrer, written by the county counsel’s office.

“The first cause of action alleging the county abused its discretion in approving the ‘Project’ by failing to

and artisans, and employ eight people full-time,” Gilbert said. The City of Ukiah has approved a use permit for the plant.

The September 27 event was sponsored by Willits Economic Localization/WELL, a non-profit volunteer group promoting a healthy, sustainable local economy. After the presentations and question & answer session, several Willits residents made investments. As a result, EDFC’s DPO fund has now gone from \$102,000 to \$131,000 – more than half of the \$250,000 minimum needed by February to launch the DPO. (The average investment so far is about \$5,000, with investments from a few institutions but mostly from private individuals.)

If you have money sitting in a bank account or CD, earning virtually 0 percent, would you consider directing some of it to benefit our local economy? The fund is projected to pay back investors over a six-year period at 2 percent per year, with interest deferred the first two years to enable “patient” money for new businesses.

For more details, go to [www.edfc.org](http://www.edfc.org) or contact John Kuhry at 467-5953. Kuhry and Gilbert are also available to make presentations to other groups and/or house parties.

For more information about WELL, go to [www. well95490.org](http://www.well95490.org) or call Madge at 459-1493.

Madge Strong is a member of the WELL Coordinating Committee and is also City of Willits representative to EDFC.

were made ordering the persons inside the residence to surrender themselves, but there was no response.

From inside their SWAT vehicle, deputies were able to strip the coverings from two front windows and see into the home. “Rodriguez and three other persons could be seen inside the residence,” Van Patten said.

The suspects “subsequently surrendered themselves.”

Rodriguez was arrested on the felony warrant, while three women – Lucy Bell Lincoln, 33; Deborah Jean Lincoln, 42; and Tasha Nichole Wake, 37, all of Covelo – were arrested on suspicion of harboring, concealing or aiding a principal wanted in a felony.

Lucy Bell Lincoln also had two active arrest warrants, Van Patten said, one for a probation violation and another for failure to appear in court.

All four were booked into Mendocino County Jail.

Rodriguez and Lucy Lincoln are being held without bail. Deborah Jean Lincoln and Tasha Nichole Wake were held in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

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

undertake any CEQA review is moot because the county rescinded its March 17, 2015, action and there is no other action that can be considered a ‘Project,’” the demurrer states.

According to the argument opposing the demurrer filed by Friends of Outlet Creek: “The county cannot avoid CEQA by simply refusing to call an approval an approval, when all circumstances indicate otherwise.”

During the Friday’s brief court hearing, Flanders asked Henderson to overturn the demurrer. He also offered a second proposal, which could have far-reaching impacts on the “project” – or “non-project” as the case may be – requesting Henderson order industrial activity at the site cease immediately if he determines the county is correct and there is no project against which Friends of Outlet Creek can sue.

Henderson said he will consider both side’s arguments and will render a decision within 90 days.

Meanwhile, the Longvale plant has begun production of rubberized asphalt. According to a press release issued recently by Glen Colwell of Friends of Outlet Creek, “The asphalt plant began ongoing daily trial production of asphalt in early September, resulting in at least 20 complaints by neighbors to the Air Quality Management District, county code enforcement and county environmental health.

“Neighbors report being chased from their homes by lingering brown smoke, black dust on their property, strong odors and loud noises as late as 10 pm, emanating from the asphalt facility.

“Smoke and odors are being trapped by the topography of the narrow Outlet Creek valley along Covelo Road where the asphalt plant is located,” Colwell said.

Colwell pointed to a number of photos and videos showing a large plume of smoke spreading out from the asphalt plant over the surrounding countryside, which can be seen at [www.facebook.com/susan.crews.77715](http://www.facebook.com/susan.crews.77715).

## Willits Weekly T-shirts

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Get connected and start living a healthier and happier life today!





# FFA Blue & Gold Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, October 10 at Rodeo Grounds

Above: Barbarie Gonzales and her husband, Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzales, pose with Willits FFA's Kylie Reed and a pineapple upside down cake, purchased at the 2014 auction.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Below: Willits High School football players honored the late Greg Randrup, past FFA advisor, during their homecoming game last week.

Photo by Jeff Cramer



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Starts Friday, Oct. 16th:  
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**PAN in 2D/3D**

(PG) 1 hr 51 mins  
Fri: (2D) 5:45 & (3D) 8:15  
Sat: (2D) 12:45 & 5:45pm  
(3D) 3:15 & 8:15pm  
Sun: (3D) 2:15 & 7:15  
& (2D) 4:45pm  
Mon-Thurs: (2D) 4:45 & (3D) 7:15pm

**THE MARTIAN**

(PG 13) 2 hrs 21 mins  
Fri: 5:00 & 8:00pm  
Sat: 2:00, 5:00 & 8:00pm  
Sun: 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00pm  
Mon-Thurs: 4:00 & 7:00pm

**HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2**

(PG) 1 hr 29 mins  
Fri: 4:30, 6:30 & 8:30pm  
Sat: 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30 & 8:30pm  
Sun: 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 & 7:30pm  
Mon-Thurs: 5:30 & 7:30pm

Movie Times for 10/9 thru 10/15

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5



Above: Alyssa Fraser, Jada Smith and Hannah Kolkman hold pots of their hand-selected herbal tea mix.

# The Mentoring Program

Free Friday afternoon classes for girls start up again October 23 at the Grange

At right: Students Hannah Kolkman, left, and Jada Smith hold herb-drying baskets, and mentor Michelle Cummings holds a drum she made from buffalo hide.

Below: The tea table, with a selection of herbs for tea.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

On Friday, three veterans of the Mentoring Program for girls returned to Room 4 at the Little Lake Grange for a reunion, a lesson on brewing herbal tea, and a preview of this year's activities.

The Mentoring Program is offered – for free – on Friday afternoons from 4 to 5 pm starting October 23, as part of the Grange's Youth Program. Activities include movement and yoga, life skills, cooking and nutrition, home arts and herbal crafts. Any girl in sixth to 10th grade is welcome and encouraged to join the group.

Hannah Kolkman, Alyssa Fraser and Jada Smith all looked forward to a new year of the program, which runs through December 11 and features a variety of mentors and teachers.

"It's really nice to have a place to come relax on the last day of the week," Alyssa said. "It's really calming. I love it."

"It's nice to have people you can relate to," Jada said. "I like to be able to just spend time with no pressure to try to be something that you're not," Hannah said.

The program is "the brain-child of Donna D'Terra," a longtime herbalist in the Willits area, said student coordinator Michelle Cummings, who hosts the sessions in her Cultivate Wellness acupuncture studio at the Grange.

D'Terra coordinates the teachers who come to share their knowledge and skills with the girls, including herbal teacher Jeanie Morawski, cooking and home arts teacher Vicky Salcido-Cobbe, yoga teacher Hannah Jernstad, and life skills teacher Gloria Campise.

"There are so many awesome women teachers in this community that we can connect to," Cummings said. "That's why we're calling it the Mentoring Network." All the teachers are volunteers.

The girls said they enjoyed yoga and stretching last year – "The yoga was a big hit," Cummings said – as well as

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

**32 Acre Super Farm**  
32 Acres near Downtown Laytonville. Water Tanks in place. Wooded with several cleared areas. Includes 2 Bedroom House and Warehouse. Good Seclusion. Deeded water source. Details www.acorn-realty.com/30. BRE# 00307344

**Algebra, Geometry Tutoring, Test Prep**  
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**Community HU Song**  
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, October 15 (a week earlier than usual), at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit [miraclesinyourlife.org](http://miraclesinyourlife.org).

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

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

**Garage Sale**  
Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11. From 9 am to 3 pm. 25092 Robin Circle, in Brooktrails. Furniture; Jet Ski; Books; Clothes; Toys; Lots of Household Goods.

**Help Wanted**  
Mortuary Transport Driver. On call, nights and weekends. Must have valid CDL and pass a drug test. Pick up an application at Anker-Lucier Mortuary, 95 W Commercial St, Willits.

**Help Wanted**  
Red Fox Casino now accepting applications for the following positions: • Security Guard • Video Tech • Kitchen. Please pick up an application at 200 Cahto Drive, Laytonville or call 707-984-6800 and ask for Laurie.

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

the cooking classes and learning about herbs. "The cooking was really fun," Alyssa said. "It was all fun for me, but I liked the cooking and the yoga."

Last year's life skills class "focused a lot on how to say yes and no, our soft, our medium and our hard yes's and no's," Cummings said, "and where we feel that in the body.... Learning about how to say yes and how to say no, and that it's our right to do it."

This year life skills teacher Campise "is going to be focusing on internet presence, cyber-bullying and what to post, and just kind of guide you through that because it's a whole other world," Cummings told the girls.

This Friday, Cummings talked to her students about the different ways of brewing herbal tea: sun tea, decoctions and infusions. She talked about the gentle herbs safe for everyday use, and herbs that are more like medicines. She showed off a plate of roots and barks, too, including licorice, which all three girls said they loved.

Each girl selected her own herbs – including rose petals, red clover, spearmint (harvested from Cummings' neighbor's garden), hibiscus (from her mother's tree), nettle (gathered on the coast), chamomile, and tangerine peels – to make her own pot of tea. And each student got a big reusable muslin tea bag – big enough to make a gallon of tea – to take home for future use.

"I would love to invite all the young ladies in Willits in sixth through 10th grades to come join us," Cummings said. "Just contact me to register for the program." For more information or to register call Cummings at 707-972-1601. The Little Lake Grange is located at 291 School Street.

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Right: Fire Safe Council volunteer Bill Bertram works on the second of two community bulletin boards the council has installed on Pine Mountain this year.

Right, below: Fire Safe Council volunteer Angie Herman shows off the new bulletin board.

# Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council

works to improve their community

The Pine Mountain Firewise-Fire Safe Council, the active volunteer group at the Pine Mountain subdivision southeast of Willits, completed another goal this summer. The group put up the second of two sturdy community bulletin boards, built out of heavy timbers and half-inch rubber mats, one on the top of Ridgewood Road and the other on Old Boy Scout Road.

The first bulletin board, on Ridgewood Road, the main artery for Pine Mountain residents – close to 300 of them – has been in place since early this year. The bulletin board has been used to post everything from notices from the Fire Safe Council about meetings and their wood chipping program, water deliveries, notices from the Pine Mountain Water District, advertisements for tree work, garage sales, lost pets, and more.

The second bulletin board went up at the end of September on Old Boy Scout Road. "The context is the overall public outreach that the council is trying to execute to educate the community as to wildfire prevention and preparedness," said George Britton, president of the Fire Safe Council. Membership in the group is at 291 "and growing," as awareness is also growing of the potential devastating effect of wildland fires on rural subdivisions and of the need for "do it yourself" fire prevention work by community residents.

"Ridgewood Road is the sole egress and ingress for the residents up there, the only way in and out, and that is a major concern," Britton said. "As demonstrated by all the fires we've experienced lately, it really is an urgent matter. I don't know what it takes to shake people out of their complacency, but it takes a lot."

One of the Fire Safe Council's continuing goals is to get the fuel load down along Ridgewood Road and the major roads that feed into it. "If you have hundreds of people trying to evacuate, and emergency vehicles trying to get in, you can't have flames going across the road," said resident Bill Bertram, who helped put up the second bulletin board with Britton and fellow volunteer Angie Herman.

"Old Boy Scout Road is on the western edge of our designated, wildland/urban interface," Britton said. "Fire is of particular concern to the neighborhood there, but their fire could potentially become a real problem to everybody up on the mountain to the east."



Overall, Britton said, response to the bulletin boards has been "overwhelmingly positive," but there's been a little pushback from residents who just want to be left alone.

One aspect of the Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council's education campaign includes an annual event, this year a community BBQ and raffle held in mid-June at "Manzanita Flat" on Ridgewood. Speakers at this year's event included CalFire Mendocino Unit Deputy Chief Norm Brown, Little Lake Fire Chief Carl Magann, Sheriff Tom Allman, Jeff Tunnell, a fire mitigation and education specialist with the Bureau of Land Management, and Erin Creekmur, who was then a vegetation management program manager with PG&E. PG&E has helped the Pine Mountain group with funding for their chipping project.

"Given that fire is a natural component of Pine Mountain's environment and its ecology," Britton wrote in a letter to the editor after the June event, "and given that the Pine Mountain community is an 'intermix' community, meaning that it exists within an abundance of ground vegetation and trees, and given the preponderance of vegetative fuel, unpredictable changes in climate, and the severity of the ongoing drought and its effect on forest health, and the tightening of state and federal budgets, the unavoidable conclusion is that community residents must strive to take continuing steps to provide for their own safety in a wildfire eventuality. This is our ongoing message."

## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home Sweet Pepsi

Photo by Rod Coots

Pepsi is a 3-year-old male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 61 pounds. Pepsi is such a treat! He is just as sweet as his namesake, but better for your health! When taken for walks, he spends most of the time looking back at you adoringly with his beautiful brown eyes. Pepsi loves to play, and will happily catch and return and catch a tennis ball for hours. He also knows basic commands, is very smart, and should be easy to train. He would do great in any loving, active home, including one with another friendly dog or kids.

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# ‘Mind your Ps and Qs’

Roots of Motive Power at SF's Center for the Book fundraiser

In an era of innumerable digital fonts appearing with a keystroke, the “Mind your Ps and Qs” admonishment to an inattentive child will soon be just another

corny and ineffective phrase. But for a young typesetter at a turn-of-the-century newspaper, the phrase had a very real meaning. With trays upon trays of barely visible type before him, only the most conscientious of typesetters could consistently discern the subtle difference between a backwards lower case p and a backwards lower case q. With no spell-check for assistance, only the pride and commitment of the lowly typesetter maintained the reputation of a newspaper.

Such is the charm and importance of the San Francisco Center for the Book and its efforts to preserve both the antique hardware of print, and also the intellectual knowledge that makes it all function.

Tucked in a small building in the former industrial area of Potrero Hill in San Francisco, the center houses dozens of old printing presses, trays of type, book binding equipment, paper and other print mediums in wild array. Printers and artists scurry about the presses, inking rollers and setting type, demonstrating the intricacies of the art form that is print.

“Roadworks” is the annual fundraiser for the Center for the Book, and for the third year, Roots of Motive Power volunteers traveled to San Francisco to join in the fun. While the center’s building is buzzing with people and projects during the event, the focus for most is the street fair that fills a block of Rhode Island Avenue in the Potrero District. Nearly 50 booths are set up, including artists with their wares and vendors of printing products.

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*Above, left: Roots of Motive Power's crew, from left to right: Chris Baldo, Lee Bryant, James Anson (on roller), Troy James, and Ernie Wipf.*

However, the main attraction of Roadworks is street printing, with the assistance of the 1924 Buffalo Springfield steam roller and the Roots of Motive Power crew. Each year, the center commissions a half-dozen accomplished artists to produce 36 inch by 36 inch linoleum carvings to be printed at the Roadworks event. After the linoleum carvings are inked and a special paper applied, the steam roller passes over the art, applying the “press” to the printing press.

The seven tons of pressure from the roller produces a striking product, deeply embossing the paper with the inked image. Over the five hours of the show, close to 40 prints are made from the linoleum cuts of the six artists, which are sold through the Center for the Book as a fundraiser.

Making the trip to San Francisco were Roots members Katherine Houghtby, Troy James, Shanna Drake, James Anson, Lee Bryant, Chris Baldo and Ernie Wipf. Ernie Wipf of Wipf Construction in Ukiah also supplied the truck to transport the steam roller to and from San Francisco. Shanna and Katherine spent most of the day at the Roots information table, convincing San Franciscans to come visit Willits and the Roots collection during one of the major steam-ups.

For small town folks, San Francisco is full of interesting charms that beg a visit. With luck, Roots hopes to have the 1921 Kelly Springfield steam roller in operation by Roadworks 2016. We will return next year.

*At right, from top to bottom: An inked linoleum block is laid before the steamroller.*

*The 1924 Buffalo Springfield steam roller ready to press and print.*

*Artist Rik Olson's grandfather operated a three-wheeled steam roller for the City of Oakland for many years. For 12 years, Olson has been commissioned to make a linoleum carving for the Roadworks event. Each year, the artwork features the three-wheel steam roller performing some extraordinary feat. This year the roller is shown pulling the Trojan Horse in an assault on a mythical castle.*

*Photos by Rik Olson and Chris Baldo*



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

and a grade-level chairwoman. According to district Human Resources Director Laura Sleeper, Hammond is the only nationally certified teacher at Willits Unified.

The hiring of Hammond as Brookside principal follows hard upon the heels of the July 30 hiring of Eileen C. Jones as principal of both Brookside and Blosser Lane Elementary schools. Jones will remain as Blosser Lane principal.

Trustee Laurie Harris cast the lone dissenting vote.

#### Board gives Johnson retroactive raise

On a 3-2 vote, with Harris and Alex Bowlds dissenting, the school board approved a retroactive 5 percent raise for Superintendent Patricia Johnson, plus a 2.5 percent step increase for each year since 2013-14.

The 5 percent increase was equal to the pay increase given to all district staff in June 2014, and the step increase is the same as was given to all district management staff at the same time.

Johnson had not received a salary adjustment since July 1, 2013, when she began working for the district.

However, as pointed out by Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak, both former Superintendent Debra Kubin and former Interim Superintendent Debra Pearson were given salary increases during their terms as superintendent, so the salary for the superintendent position has already been increased twice in recent years.

With the two salary increases, Johnson's salary goes from \$132,000 a year to \$145,448. She will also collect \$11,082 in retroactive pay.

#### Late hour kills superintendent evaluation

Lengthy interviews with four candidates for the soon-to-be-vacated seat now held by Trustee Saprina Rodriguez pushed the school board meeting to a late hour, and board members decided to reschedule a closed session discussion about Superintendent Johnson's recent evaluation by school board members.

By the close of the meeting, a date to discuss the evaluation had not been set.

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

“I am worried about the message it sends,” Woodhouse said. “Here we have written this update of the General Plan that more or less tells businesses where they can build and what they can build, and we have said if you keep within these parameters we won't get in their way and they can do it.

“Now with this vote, we've sent a message that that's not always true. And I worry about that.”

When asked what was it about the Dollar General issue that caused supervisors to overrule the planning commission, Woodhouse said: “The planning commission had a split vote. And you have to remember the planning commission has a separate job than the board of supervisors. That's why we have them.

“Then there was the local control part. You have that small community coming together in such a positive way,” Woodhouse said. “That group presented itself in a very positive and a very respectful way. Because they are building community, and that business would have torn that down.”

The plan to build the Dollar General store is vehemently opposed by most Redwood Valley residents. Nearly everyone who spoke during Tuesday's three-hour-plus meeting on the issue opposed the project. Only Dollar General's attorneys spoke in favor of the plan.

Woodhouse said the vote showed the board of supervisors is doing an exceptional job. “One way you could look at it is, this board is willing to put in the time to gather the facts and treat these issues with the time that it takes to come up with what is best for the county. We are treating each issue as a countywide issue,” Woodhouse said. “I think it is a very engaged board.”

#### Harris, Bowlds don't like bill for district move

Trustees Laurie Harris and Alex Bowlds criticized Johnson for costs associated with the recent remodeling of six small modular buildings on the Blosser Lane campus, into which the district office's personnel moved over the summer.

A cost analysis provided by Johnson showed the move cost the district more than \$139,000. Trustees had approved only up to \$60,000 for paving the driveway, but authorization for the rest of the costs was not explicitly given.

“My biggest problem here is that Sherwood School's play structure is out of compliance,” Harris said. “There's been a brand-new one sitting in a box in maintenance since July. Now we can pay overtime, including a month's comp time, to an employee [who was working on the district office retrofit], yet those poor little kids at Sherwood School cannot even play on a play structure? That to me is a disgrace to our pupils, to the faculty out there, and to the stakeholders in general.”

“I voted for the driveway, at least I think I did,” Harris continued. “I don't think I voted for the rest of this stuff, which, I was led to believe, would be absorbed, and it wouldn't cost that much because we would do it all in-house. I haven't refurbished a 5,000-square-foot anything, ever, but \$51,000 is too darned much to spend on furniture. I don't understand what happened to the furniture ... at the Pearl Street building, but this is just wrong. It is absolutely wrong.”

Trustee Bowlds also said he didn't recall voting to approve the rest of the charges associated with the district office move.

Other board members remained silent on the issue, as did Johnson.

#### Board OKs health assistant positions

For the second time, trustees approved a job description for the position of health assistant. The job description is largely the same as the one approved at the August 12 meeting. However, the August 12 version was given to members of the district's branch of the California School Employees Association, which changed the description somewhat and recommended it should be placed at a salary range of 18, which starts at a little less than \$13 an hour.

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

Two teenage girls, Theodore Norvell's 15-year-old daughter and Cindy Norvell's 14-year-old daughter, escaped uninjured in the bloody Sunday morning rampage at the Norvell home two miles northwest of Laytonville in mid-July.

Moorman told Barton she would be writing to the California Board of Corrections with her recommendation the killer teen be denied parole when he becomes eligible for release at age 89.

“I'll be dead” by that time, Moorman said. “But my letter will be there.”

“That's great,” Barton, dressed in a lime-green prison jumpsuit, replied, smiling. Asked if he had anything to say before sentence was passed, Barton answered nonchalantly, “Not particularly.”

Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster told Barton his “moment of notoriety ... was coming to an end today.” [You're going to] the warehouse of the forgotten.”

According to court documents obtained by the Anderson Valley Advertiser, pathologist Dr. Jacqueline Benjamin described the injuries inflicted on Palmieri and his son as “brutally severe.”

In addition to stab wounds in the neck that cut both men's carotid arteries, the elder Palmieri also was stabbed in the heart and left lung.

Mendocino County Probation Department officers described their interview with Barton as “somewhat disturbing.” The teenager, the report said, “entered the interview room with a smile on his face.” And although he said he felt “bad” about what he had done, and knew he would “probably be spending the rest of his life in jail he indicated he felt good about his life and who he was.”

During their investigation into the killings, sheriff's detectives learned Barton had stated he wanted to do “violent things” and “kill things.” Detectives said he had told a friend, “I just want to kill people.”

“But what it really came down to was, Barton ‘wanted to know what it felt like to die,’ and that is what he told detectives when they interviewed him,” the probation report stated.

In a letter to a friend, Barton said he killed the Palmieris out of “truly, simply, hatred.”

“A lot of it was due to a fermenting hatred for Teo, caused by strife and petty squabbles,” Barton said in the letter. “More than that though, it came about due to a deep self-loathing brought about by years of mistakes and lies, made mostly by me but also by others.

“I simply lost my patience and decided that night to remove the thing that annoyed me most: Teo.”

Following a July 23 interview with Barton, psychiatrist Donald Apostle, M.D., indicated the teenager “suffered from possible methamphetamine exposure in utero and a traumatic and neglectful upbringing, including sexual and physical abuse with a history of self-ingestion of marijuana,” and was “chronically depressed.”

However, Apostle did not believe Barton “was psychotic at the time of the murders, and ... was aware of the nature and quality of his actions as well as the wrongfulness.”

“Barton's callous emotional display, his self-satisfied attitude and a lack of regard for the lives that he had taken is heartless,” the probation report stated. “Murder by its very nature is extremely serious. In this case the victims were ferociously attacked with excessive violence and life-threatening bodily harm was inflicted, displaying a high degree of cruelty and viciousness which is deserving of the years he will spend in prison. Society should be and needs to be protected from someone who is as cold-hearted as Barton.”

Lead sheriff's investigator Clint Wyant described Barton as “pure evil.”

“This murder was very calculated, and I hope to never see him out of prison,” Wyant said. “He is an absolute monster.”

Willits Weekly | October 8, 2015

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Discussion of the position was fiery, with Harris again opposing Johnson.

Harris questioned the need to hire three health assistants, who will take care of paperwork and will perform minor medical procedures, such as applying Band-Aids. The health assistants also are required to oversee the care, condition and activities of five specific students attending various schools.

“You mean to tell me that the school secretaries were doing all this before?” Johnson asked CSEA President Deny Laurent.

“That's another issue,” Laurent said.

Longtime Brookside teacher and Willits Teachers Association negotiator Paula Nunez told board members that she questioned the necessity of hiring three health assistants.

“It doesn't seem to me that these positions are going to be doing all that much,” Nunez said.

But Johnson and Director of Special Education Kelley Labus defended the idea that health assistants were necessary positions.

“I assure you we have been burning the midnight oil on this question,” Johnson said. “A vital need will be met with these hires. If we don't do this, the parents of these children are going to pull their kids out, and they are going to sue us for failing to properly educate their children.”

The board approved the job description on a 4-1 vote, with Harris voting no.

Harris voted no at least four times during the meeting. She voted against hiring Hammond, against the seating Croskey, against Johnson's pay raise, and against the revised job description for the health assistants, as well as criticizing Johnson for what she described as unauthorized expenditures on the district office move.

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

Croskey will be seated on the board at the December 2 board meeting. She will replace outgoing Trustee Rodriguez, who declined to seek a second term of office, after serving for one full four-year term. Croskey's seat will be considered a “short term” seat, which will be up for election in November 2017. Although each of the four applicants demonstrated they were qualified to serve on the school board, none filed to run for office during the upcoming November 3 consolidated district election.

Croskey is the daughter of Dr. Tedd Dawson and his wife, former school board member Carol Dawson, both of Willits. She is a veterinarian and the mother of three children who are in the Willits Unified school system. Croskey graduated from Willits High School in 1995.

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At left: *Zombies*, from left: Dylan Foley and Patricia Salisbury threaten survivors Liz Dellett, Blare Elliott, Shy Silverstein, and Zeek Hadar in “10 Ways to Survive The Zombie Apocalypse.”  
Photo by Ron Greystar

Above, left: The theater’s double doors – decorated for the occasion. Above, right: Director Jason Edington watches his actors on stage, with stage manager Liana Edington and stagehand Jessica Cronin.

Below, from top: Dylan Foley dressed as the son from the classic horror story, “The Monkey’s Paw.” David Partch dressed as the general from Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Monkey’s Paw.”  
Photos by Damian Sebouhian

Fright Night Master of Ceremonies Morbid Grimm played by Aaron Sunbeam.  
Photo by Ron Greystar

# ‘Fright Night’

## Behind the scenes at Willits Community Theatre’s Halloween show

Jason Edington, director of the four-play ensemble “Fright Night,” has a bold declaration for Willits Community Theatre audiences: “Nobody has seen anything like this show at Willits Community Theatre before.”

With a lineup that includes two classic horror stories, “The Tell Tale Heart” by Edgar Allen Poe (adopted for the stage by Jason Edington), and “The Monkey’s Paw,” by W.W. Jacobs, “Fright Night” pays homage to two masters of the genre.

“These were the first two plays I wanted to do,” said Edington, who had conceived of a Halloween-themed event last year during “Scripted,” a showcase of original short plays by local Mendocino County playwrights. He searched for two modern plays to pair with the classics, ultimately choosing “10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse” by Don Zolidis and “Starla” by David Skeele.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of Fright Night is the narrator, Morbid Grimm. “He’s based a little bit on the Crypt Keeper from ‘Tales from the Crypt,’ and a little bit on Rod Serling [from ‘The Twilight Zone’],” Edington explained.

Grimm, played by Aaron Sunbeam, introduces each of the plays, including some witty bantering with the audience, and is a character – the Narrator – in the satirical “10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse.”

“He’s like the Indiana Jones of horror,” Edington said. “He’s the MMC, the Master of Macabre Ceremonies.”

On hand at the costume rehearsal this past Monday evening were some of the actors, to explain their relationship with the play and with theater in general.

Willits High School senior Shy Silverstein, who acts in two of the plays and who’s been involved with theater for the past five years, said: “Acting is addicting. The rush you get on stage is much different from doing other things.” Admitting that the rehearsal period can be long and challenging, Shy concluded: “It’s worth it in the end and makes it worth doing again.”

“I’ve never done a Halloween show,” he added.

The youngest actor of the production is Dylan Foley, a relative newcomer to the stage who plays Herbert in “The Monkey’s Paw.” “This will be my third play, my first outside of the Charter School,” he said. He acted and wrote some of the script for this past summer’s production of “Face Your Fears,” about

the challenges of growing up and trying to fit in with one’s peer group. When asked what he gets out of theater, Foley explained: “It gives me invaluable skills in acting and just being. I think it’s a good thing to do in order to improve as a person overall.”

David Partch, who plays the nameless murderer in “The Tell-Tale Heart,” said of his character’s motivation: “The vulture eyes [of the old man] is a metaphor for my character’s vision of death, and he thinks by being really clever and really careful he can do away with it.” Partch got into theater later in life, explaining that part of its attraction is “the challenge to present yourself in front of an audience and carry out a role.”

Steve Marston performs in a play about the dark side of college theater arts programs called “Starla.” “I play the philandering older college theater professor who has a penchant for his young co-ed,” he said. “I try to convince her that she could be a star, if she would just follow my instructions.” Marston also plays the father in “The Monkey’s Paw.”

Liana Edington, improvising as her stage manager persona, Eye Gouger, said of her duties for “Fright Night”: “I move set pieces and make sure everything’s OK for my master Morbid Grimm. I also eat the disobedient audience members that are late getting to their seats.” Take that as a friendly warning.

Liana and Jason Edington ventured into the world of theater together three years ago as a father/daughter challenge to themselves. With the goal of getting their feet wet, they both auditioned for roles in “A Festival of New Plays.” Today, Liana is a theater major at Mendocino College, and Jason, a math professor at the college, has become a force of nature, having participated in several productions both as director and actor for three different companies. He is also on the creative board for the WCT, and is this year’s producer for “Scripted.”

About “Fright Night,” Edington wanted to remind everyone: “Get your tickets early, the shows are going to sell out.”

“Fright Night” opens Friday, October 16, and continues through Halloween, Saturday, October 31. See Willits Weekly’s Calendar page for more details about showtimes and tickets, or visit [www.willits theatre.org](http://www.willits theatre.org).

Coming up at WCT are auditions for “Scripted,” a production of eight original 10-minute plays. Auditions are set for Monday, October 26 from 7 to 9 pm, with the intention of offering roles to those who have never acted before.



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