

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Online & Print



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Edition No. 24

By donation

Tom Woodhouse will run for supervisor

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Tom Woodhouse, 61, a Willits-based real estate broker and a 40-year resident of Mendocino County, recently announced his candidacy for Third District supervisor.

"My experience, grassroots successes and deep commitment to this community have inspired me to serve the district as supervisor. All around me, I see potential for making our county better," Woodhouse said. "I am confident that I can work with this board of supervisors to accomplish positive results for our district. I am running to get things done, not just talk about them."

Woodhouse has extensive experience as a community volunteer in Willits. He served as a member of the Willits High School Site Council for the past 20 years. In that capacity he helped with many projects including reupholstering auditorium seats, refinishing floors and organizing and directing campus clean-ups. He also volunteered with the Friends of the Willits Library for over a decade. Currently he sits on the Willits Unified School District Bond

Read the rest of **Tom**
Over on Page 11



Tom Woodhouse

Senior center miffed at city's off-site sign rules

Zack Cinek
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If you are a business in town without Main Street frontage, you could feel like the city's sign laws are working against you. The law says Willits businesses are not supposed to have off-property signs.

The Willits Senior Center has been frustrated with the city's Municipal Code since it found it could not hang a sign on a fence at the Lark Motel advertising its Baechtel Road thrift shop. The Lark Motel is located on Highway 101, just south of the Baechtel Road turnoff.

The senior center, Read the rest of **Signs**
Over on Page 11



Photo by Maureen Moore

Steps & Stories

Willits Walk and Historic Home Tour on Sunday, October 20

See the first half of the complete list of homes scheduled for the tour in the Calendar on page 6

Above: WHAT's Jed Diamond, Willits Chamber of Commerce's Lynn Kennelly, and Mendocino County Museum's Alison Glassey stand with the route poster in front of the Little Lake Grange, one of the stops on the upcoming walk

Have you ever wondered about the history of some of Willits' historic buildings? How they were used in past eras? Who once took up residence or held business there?

Luckily, some of these questions will be answered during the 15th Willits Walk for Health and Wellness, which will take participants on a 10,000 step/5 mile walk around town, simultaneously featuring 24 of Willits' historic homes along the route.

The free October 20 walk will start with 9:30 am registration at J.D. Redhouse, and men, women, children and well-behaved pets on leashes will take off for the tour at 10 am, rain or shine.

Bicyclists are also invited to follow the route, marked with white "footprints" on the sidewalks.

This year's event also coincides with the 125th anniversary of Willits' founding back in 1888 – its "sesquicentennial" anniversary – so was the perfect opportunity for the Walk for Health and Wellness to spotlight the historic buildings that still stand today.

"Come enjoy the walk and see these, and many other, historic buildings," encouraged event coordinator Jed Diamond, of the Willits Healthy

Read the rest of **Walk**
Over on Page 11

As they stand today in Willits. Photos by Maureen Moore



154 West Commercial Street



165 Pine Street



393 Redwood Avenue



As featured in "The Architectural Heritage of Willits," printed in 1988.

Ryan Creek crossing fix-up: 'They nailed it'

An upgrade of an old culvert pipe on Ryan Creek this summer was one heck of a project – about 6,000 cubic yards of dirt moved and 4,000 bolts to get it done.

Grant money from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife paid for the project. It's the second fix-up of a Ryan Creek crossing in recent years.

"The folks who did this, they nailed it – they did an amazing job," CDFW fisheries biologist Scott Harris said.

Harris complimented the work of

Bud Garman Construction Services and the oversight of Pacific Watershed Associates.

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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"We do a lot of work with PWA and CDFW projects all over," Heath Garman said. The hardest part of the job was navigating around a utility pole and lines in the middle of the jobsite, Garman said.

In 2011, a box culvert crossing on a county road downstream was also upgraded and replaced with a bottomless arch design. "That county crossing was extremely problematic,"

said Harris.

Harris anticipates December will be the time for spotting Coho salmon in Outlet Creek. "This next year should be interesting," he said. "We are going to get salmon back into Outlet Creek."

It can take years of planning to get a project funded. Mark Lancaster of Five Counties Salmonid Restoration Program explained: "We completed an inventory of over 250 culverts and used a biological ranking criteria vetted by state and federal agencies in determining which sites should be treated and which would be left as they are."

Ryan Creek took a high priority in Five Counties' research. Ryan Creek or Outlet Creek also showed need in a Caltrans fish assessment and the state's Coho Recovery Strategy, Lancaster stated.

"We would not just go target a driveway just because there is a driveway," Lancaster said.

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



Steel beams are placed in the channel to make a temporary ramp for lowering the pipe down the embankment. The mini excavator (tractor) in the back was being used to square up the surface where the pipe would lay.

Photo by Zack Cinek

Fire tax campaign kicks off

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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The campaign to pass Measure I, a special tax to provide funds for the construction of a new firehouse in Willits, is off and running. "Vote Yes on Measure I" signs are starting to pop up, and volunteer firefighters did some pro-Measure I canvassing last weekend.

"We walked Main Street, talked to people and handed out flyers," said Patrick Charlson, a member of the Little Lake Fire Protection District board of directors

Read the rest of **Fire Tax**
Over on Page 11

Brooktrails candidates' night

Mike A'Dair
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Five candidates made their case for election or re-election to the Brooktrails Board of Directors during an October 3 forum at the Brooktrails Community Center.

Three of the candidates have served on the Brooktrails Board of Directors for many years: Rick Williams (two terms, since 2005), George Skezas (four terms, since 1997) and Tony Orth (six terms, since 1985).

Challengers David Paland and Gino Zalundardo appear to support each other's candidacy. Paland endorsed Zalundardo while making his introductory speech to the audience, and both men's names

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**
Over on Page 11

County's bond rating upgraded

Mike A'Dair
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Standard and Poor's upgraded Mendocino County's bond rating last week, moving it from BBB to AA-.

Standard and Poor's is one of the three best-known credit rating agencies in the United States.

"In our opinion the county's budgetary flexibility is currently strong," S&P stated in its October 2 announcement. Mendocino County currently has "reserves above 8 percent

Read the rest of **Upgrade**
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Rally for the wetlands

To the Editor:

There will be music, speakers, workshops and delicious food at the Saturday, October 12 rally, "Take a Stand for the Willits Wetlands," from 12 noon to 5 pm, sponsored by the Coalition to Save Little Lake Valley. Speakers include: tree sitters Amanda "Warbler" Senseman and Julia Butterfly Hill; Barbara Kennedy from the Save Richardson Grove Coalition; Mike Fitzgerald, tribal chair from the Sherwood Valley Rancheria; Sherry Glaser and Swami Beyondananda. Also featured will be music by the Farmers Market Band, the Real Sarahs, Raging Grannies, the Jand Band, Blue Sky Pie and more. Here are a few of the other activities planned:

Send a "Last Chance" message to Governor Jerry Brown: There is still time to scale back the design of the northern interchange of the Caltrans bypass freeway to save some of the wetlands area and reduce the size of the 2,000 acre mitigation plan. All participants in Saturday's rally will be encouraged to write letters or sign postcards to send a strong message to Governor Brown, asking him to scale back the Willits bypass and stop the largest wetlands destruction in northern California in 50 years.

Oak Tree Planting Workshop: Many people have been gathering acorns this fall season, and we will be potting them out during the oak tree planting workshop. The workshop will discuss how best to gather the acorns, sort, germinate, sow, care for, and then pot out the oak tree seedlings. Handouts will be available, and everyone will be encouraged to take home acorns for planting.

Wetlands Healing Ceremony: The Rally for Little Lake Valley will include a wetlands healing ceremony with religious, spiritual and community leaders. The ceremony is linked with the gathering at Sonoma State University, "A Celebration of Water and Belonging," hosted by the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. Water from Little Lake Valley will be sent to this ceremony, where it will be combined with water from many places across the United States and other countries, including Egypt, Lebanon, Sweden, India, Nepal and then returned to the rally site.

Rally participants should bring water from the creeks, ponds and other water sources in Little Lake Valley and other local areas. All of these waters will be poured together during the wetlands healing ceremony.

It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to deliver this water to the wick-drained wetlands area as part of the healing ceremony. Negotiations are continuing with Caltrans, although, initially, permission has been denied. A training in non-violent civil disobedience will be offered at the rally site that afternoon.

How to get there: Park and walk, bike or shuttle from Recreation Grove Park to the rally site, a half-mile north of Willits on Highway 101.

For more information, contact Robin Leler at 459-0155 or Sara Grusky at 367-5202, email savellittlelake@gmail.com, or check www.savellittlelakevalley.org.

Sara Grusky, Willits

Open letter to county supervisors

To the Editor:

In 2009, county employees represented by Service Employees International Union Local 1021 agreed to take time off without pay when the county experienced fiscal crises. In 2011 12.50 percent cuts to wages and benefits were imposed on employees, but were lowered to 10 percent during state mediation. Dear Board of Supervisors: Please come back to the table and negotiate with Local 1021 without declaring impasse.

As an employee working for the Department of Social Services, the 10 percent cut to our wages each year has affected my family's discretionary spending,

but the losses to local businesses and the county is much greater. The 10 percent cuts to Social Services employees represented by Local 1021 cost the county about \$2.6 million in federal and state funds cut from our local economy each year, funds that employees and our families would spend throughout the county. The county savings for social services employees represented by Local 1021 is minimal, as many programs are funded entirely with federal and state funds only.

There are many ways the county can save money. Since enacting the 10 percent wage cuts, departments such as social services have saved even more due to the exodus, attrition and hiring freezes experienced in county departments. These cuts lead to increased workloads and more responsibility for the remaining employees.

I would like to ask the Board of Supervisors to help protect our Protected Services Workers and restore the recent 10 percent cuts to all Eligibility and Social Workers at the Department of Social Services, based on the 2008 CPS Salary Parity Study.

Please come back to the table and negotiate with Local 1021 and give our Social Workers and Eligibility Workers a fair wage for the work they do. If we do not match the wages of other California counties for these vital mandatory protective services employees, we risk losing our most experienced and dedicated professionals to other counties, which impacts the delivery of our public assistance programs that provide services to those most in need.

Respectfully,

Lance Vannorsdel, Willits

Critical Mass

To the Editor:

1. crit+ical mass, noun

1. 1. PHYSICS: the minimum amount of fissile material needed to maintain a nuclear chain reaction.
2. 2.: the minimum size or amount of something required to start or maintain a venture.

"Visibility, safety and fun can be created through achieving a critical mass of bike riders on the roads."

The light of the day faded slowly to dusk as the bikes rolled in to the Little Lake Grange, the meeting spot for Critical Mass Willits on the last Friday of the month (September 27).

There was a surge of energy and anticipation, as people arrived wearing turtles, pointy hats and bard-like costumes. Other folks, with safety in mind, wore road-cycling garments and neon vests. As per Critical Mass standard procedures, there were no leaders and no set route: only people wanting to ride together in safety and fun.

As the bike ride began, the police chief, sitting in a black vehicle, conveyed a friendly message of advice that everyone should have road-worthy bike lights. Second, the group members became the subjects of a social experiment, naturally forming a Critical Mass without governance or protocol. When the group took courage and squared themselves solidly in the lane of traffic, creating a fluid block of riders, motorists behind the group gave ample space and respect. Third, a young man from the coast who happened to be testing out his Burning Man audio equipment, showed up on a trike, lugging huge speakers and a car battery, with

the base turned way up. The mass of bike riders were drawn to him like moths to the candle as he played lively beats to which they could bounce and roll down Main Street and beyond.

However, the group started out as a scattered herd. The "strong" sped down Main Street a la Tour de France mode, meanwhile, the "young," "sick" and the "injured" got left behind at red lights, with flat tires or other mishaps. And as we became engulfed in the black of night, there were those of us without bike lights or reflective/light-colored clothing who presented themselves as the archetype of the "weak" of the herd.

The inspiring part of this was reconvening at the park, amongst a wildly appropriate drum circle that was perhaps drawing us together. There formed a natural circle of cyclists who now knew what to do. Without the social hierarchies in place, all contributed words of encouragement and advice, and we set off anew, this time, slowly, solidly, calling out directions to one another, riding in pairs, talking, laughing, singing, and dancing as far as that is possible on bikes.

Vehicles in the opposite lane tooted horns in support and solidarity. People came out to cheer us on. In summary, we were feeling safe, sharing the road at night with cars and trucks, having achieved Critical Mass! We hope that our ride had a positive and visible impact on the motorized vehicular community here in Willits. Join us on the next Critical Mass bike ride on the last Friday of the month. Stay tuned for time and place!

Note: We were riding quite slowly Friday night in order to let everyone riding at slower paces to stay as a group. Bicycle riders often feel uncomfortable taking the lane of traffic, and drivers aren't often aware that legally, bicycles have equal status as cars and must be given the same space on the road.

The reader is probably aware of the following common scenarios: the bike rider pedaling along at the far right edge of the road and the cars all swiftly passing, or of the bike rider on the sidewalk, weaving between pedestrians who are jumping out of the way of the bike. This is where Critical Mass comes in: to gently educate the whole community.

Car drivers must yield to a large mass of bicycles and cannot safely pass, and so must drive behind, just as they would for a slow vehicle. Pedestrians see that bicycles are sharing the road with motorized vehicles, and the sidewalks are safe for those on foot. Bicyclists feel safety and courage in mass numbers and, as a group, can take up the space on the road that they are meant to use, which is the entire width of the lane. It is a visual and visceral education for all, as we ponder and experience a new paradigm on the road.

Erica Yoshimoto, Willits

Where are the WW boxes?

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Old Mission Pizza | 5. Ardella's |
| 2. Brewed Awakening | Downtown Diner |
| 3. Ace Copy and Shipping | 6. Scoops |
| 4. Willits Post Office | 7. J.D. Redhouse |
| | 8. The Country Skillet |

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Hometown Business

All about commerce, life, and the need-to-know info

Congratulations Column

Natural Radiance

Organic spray tanning and skin care services in downtown Willits

"I dedicate my business to my late grandmother, Gay Mast, and I dedicate my passion for skin care to my community," says Lasalle Spence, of Spray Tan L.A. and Natural Radiance Skin Care.

Cat Lee
Reporter
cat@willitsweekly.com

Spence grew up in Laytonville, and began her business career in a local clothing and gift shop. "It

has always been a dream to have my own shop like my grandmother. I started working at her shop when I was 12 years old," she said.

A 10-year resident of Willits now, and an eight-year licensed esthetician, Spence gained experience offering her services out of several salons in Willits and Ukiah. After six years, she moved her business to a more "spa-like" chemical-free atmosphere, to The Body Shoppe (now Unique Boutique) in the Muse building.

When she established a strong clientele base there, Spence said she decided to invest in an organic spray tanning franchise, Spray Tan L.A., a mobile and in-office spray tanning service.

After a year introducing spray tanning to the services she offers, Spence outgrew her current location and was "forced to relocate to her new and improved amazing space," located at the Chase Bank Business Complex, 234 South Main Street, Suite #5.

Spence offers a wide range of tanning services for those serious about their "tans" and for those who just want that extra "glow" for a special occasion.

The special introductory price for a first-time "Organic Air Brush Spray Tanning" service is \$25, and \$40 is the regular rate. Spence also offers a mobile tanning service which runs \$60 to \$100, depending on drive time and distance.



Above left: Having a young one of her own, Spence understands the convenience, comfort, and sometimes the "opportunity" a "kid play room" can provide for her clients.

Above right: Girls love their tools - Lasalle Spence demonstrates the spray tan process with her tanning air brush sprayer and tent.

At left: "Native Cowgirl Bling" is how Spence describes her jewelry line from Wild N' Woolly Tack.

Photos by Cat Lee

She is proud to offer skin care and products that "no one else" in town offers. Her organic skin care products are from "100% Pure," and her organic sunless tanning products are from "Spray Tan L.A. Essentials."

"I promise to never make you orange," she says, of the Spray Tan L.A. products and process. "A temporary skin stain, that's what I would explain it as ... a temporary body

Read the rest of Radiance | Over on Page 9

New & Consigned Clothing ~ Fashion Accessories

The Unique Boutique

Located inside The Body Shoppe 621-3900

Imagination Station

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Special pricing for all businesses participating in celebration:

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Community Building Community

Vote YES

November 15th

Paid for by Friends of the New Willits Firehouse

In the Stars...

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20
Aries, patience is a virtue you possess, and you must make the most of your patient nature this week. Keep this in mind when dealing with family and coworkers.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21
Taurus, keep things in perspective and you will have your cake and eat it, too. You can coolly handle tough situations, and that ability serves you well this week.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 2
Your imagination is working overtime this week. Gemini, Channel that creative energy and get started on a project you have long been considering.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22
Cancer, you will be very content for the next few weeks. Enjoy these good times and invite those closest to you to enjoy them as well.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23
Leo, your heightened sense of focus on a particular task has left you wondering how to proceed in another area of life. You may want to seek the advice of others.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22
Virgo, you may be tempted to throw caution to the wind. While that may make for a memorable experience, it may not prove wise over the long haul.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23
You could get caught up in a social whirlwind this week. Libra, Keep your feet on the ground or you may be swept away in all of the energy.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22
Staying connected to your feelings is empowering, Scorpio. Even if others don't feel exactly the same way that you do, they may go along with plans to make you happy.

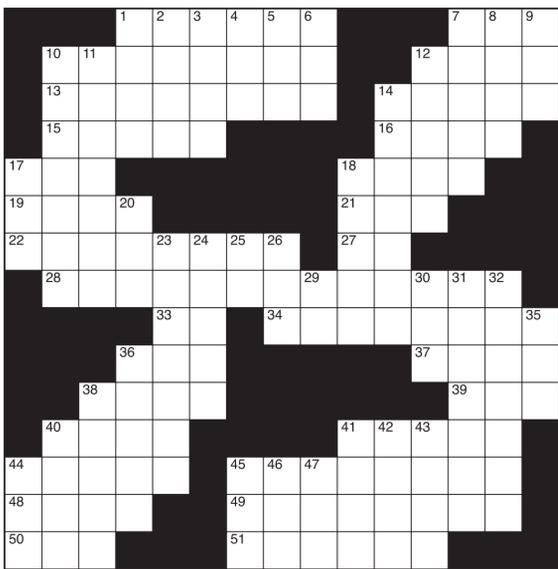
SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21
Sagittarius, indulgent behavior won't pay off in the long run. Moderation works best, and you'll be glad you didn't overindulge after the fact.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20
Capricorn, work and family responsibilities have put you under a lot of pressure recently. You could be in need of a respite, even if that break is brief.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18
Aquarius, it's quite possible you will not get much done this week, as you may be too busy encouraging others rather than focusing on your own needs.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20
Compassion is your specialty, Pisces. Others appreciate your warm nature, so accept their gratitude and affection.

Crossword Puzzle

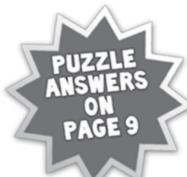


CLUES ACROSS

- Most favorables
- 23rd Greek letter
- Rated higher
- Immature herring
- Malignant skin neoplasm
- Orange-red spinel
- Hunted beings
- Be obedient to
- Excavate with a shovel
- Lose hold of
- Highest card
- Western Union message
- The "Show Me" state
- Early photo process
- A public promotion
- A group of statues
- A single thing
- Ireland
- A raised speaking platform
- Leavened bread
- Farm animal shelter
- Oral polio vaccine

CLUES DOWN

- Stare impertinently
- Address a deity
- Converts hide into leather
- Matrimonial response
- 13th Hebrew letter
- Dentist's organization
- Fleshy fungus caps
- Kill violently
- License & passport
- Refereed
- Arbor framework
- Luxuriant dark brown fur
- Group purchasing protest
- Insecticide
- An island group of the S Pacific
- A wooden hole plug
- A purine base found in DNA and RNA
- Spanish park
- Atomic #18
- Married woman
- And, Latin
- Cantonese dialect
- Causing physical hurt
- Short trips or tasks
- Small craving
- Paddled
- Leuciscus leuciscus'
- Parting phrases: good-_____
- Figure skater Yuka
- Opera song
- Create social or emotional ties
- Opposite of LTM
- Icahn's airline
- Air Reserve base (abbr.)
- Russian manned space station



Sudoku

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

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!



Above left: Colton Weiss focuses on his loop; right: Katelyn Germann, Lijla Lamkin and Ella Garman watch the dummy roping event. Below: Travis Carmesin rides during the Saddle Cow Riding event.



James Anthony of Team P/6 throws his trap to catch the heels of the calf, headed by Hank Davies

Rodeo: Ranch Style

Saturday was warm and the arena was ready for the second annual Ranch Rodeo held at the Frontier Days grounds last weekend.

Seven teams competed for the first-place cash prize of \$1,800 and bragging rights, and the winners who roped and rode their way to the top were Travis Carmesin, Skylar Rice and Scott Cooper of team #21, the Northern Misfits, who were all from the Eureka area.

Not far behind them in second place, and with winnings of \$1,200, was team #25, P/6, with members James Anthony (of Red Bluff), Mike Persico (of Willits) and Hank Davies (of Red Bluff). Third place went to team #22, G&C Auto Body of Ukiah, with Willits members Anthony McKemy, Colter King and Israel Ramirez, who all won headstalls donated by Rainbow Ag and embellished with braided hide knots

made by Bobbie Yokum of Yokum's Body Shop.

The other four teams who competed included: Team #20, McFarland Trucking, with members Mike Prescott (of Laytonville), and Chris and Marta Bartow (both of Willits); Team #23, T Lazy S, with Laytonville members Mike Prescott, Tim Campbell and Lane Sanderson; Team #24, Sundowner Livestock, with members Larry Johnson (of Middletown), Randall Britton (of Covelo) and Billy Harrison (of Middletown); and Team #26, Campbell Falling, with members Dan Campbell (of Laytonville), Cain Finnegan (of Laytonville) and John Weiss (of Willits).

Teams competed in six events: calf branding, ranch doctoring, team sorting, reverse team roping, ribbon roping and saddle cow riding.



First place: from left, Scott Cooper, Travis Carmesin, and Skylar Rice of the Northern Misfits with Lijla Lamkin



Second place: from left, Hank Davies, Mike Persico and James Anthony of P/6 with Lijla Lamkin

Northern Misfits team wins at second annual Ranch Rodeo

In calf branding, first place went to Northern Misfits, second to P/6, third to G&C Auto, and fourth to Sundowner Livestock.

Not even one team was able to achieve the task of ranch doctoring within the rules and constraints of the event, leaving all teams with a "no time" flag.

In the team sorting event, more teams were successful, with first place going to G&C Auto, second place to T Lazy S, and third place to McFarland Trucking.

Reverse team roping also had three placing teams: first to P/6, second to Northern Misfits, and third to Campbell Falling.

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



Third place: from left, Israel Ramirez, Anthony McKemy with Tuff the dog, and Colter King of G&C Auto Body with Lijla Lamkin



The New WHS | A Willits Weekly four-part series

Ag Mechanics & Welding

Kids with flammables, face shields and sharp objects? That sounds like the recipe for a fun new class: aggies enjoying learning essential rural skills under the watchful eye of fearless leader and FFA advisor, Becky Bowlds.

The Ag Mechanics class received a new home last spring in the old building where the auto shop class once met, on the southeastern corner of the school campus. Freshly remodeled and completely redone with funds from the Measure B school bond measure, the room is now filled with safety-minded equipment, organization, lighting and more. Students in this year's official first class are already hard at work learning about the art and practical application of welding.

"One of the first lessons is how to turn off the torches," laughed Bowlds. "We have a protocol to make sure everyone is safe and knows how to turn on and off the

Photographress' note: As an alumni of Willits High School myself, I know we all have the feeling that the glory days of our alma mater had to be those of our own residence on campus, but, even I must admit, the kids at WHS now have it pretty good, with the improvements and changes that have happened over the last year. Willits Weekly toured the grounds to see these impressive changes, and will showcase them in this four-part series: "A New WHS."



Clockwise from top left: The class poses in the new classroom. Brett Baker grinds on a piece of metal, and Tim Buzzard works behind. Hayden Skinner makes a lovely display of sparks as he cuts the metal. A wide view of the students at work. Becky Bowlds talks with Tate Heiken about his mini-truck project, held in his hands.

Maureen Moore
Designer & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of **Welding**

Over on Page 9



Photos by Maureen Moore

\$16,012.75

WEF and Rotary raise money for Willits School District



Left to right: Kathy Shuster and Kathleen Lewis of the Willits Educational Foundation and John Cross of the Willits Rotary Club hold a check for the \$16,012.75 that was raised at this summer's "Garden Party" benefit for the Educational Foundation.

"This is not a check from us to you," emphasized Cross, who was Rotary chair of the event. "This was a joint effort. Thanks to everybody who helped in Willits, and all over Mendocino County." The Rotary Club and WEF are joint sponsors of the benefit, which raises funds for libraries, art and music in the Willits Unified School District.

"Thanks to Phil and Kathy for their beautiful place," WEF's Lewis said, also telling the crowd at the Rotary Club lunch at the Country Skillet last week: "You should all pat yourselves on the back for all the good you do for this community."

Photo by Jennifer Pool

m•pho•tog•ra•phress

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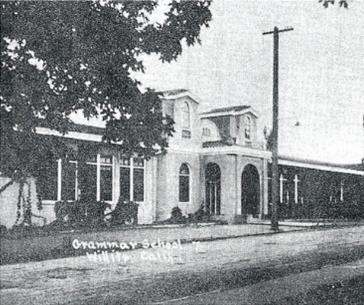
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1 dumpster = 4 truck loads!

Buildings of historical interest

along the 10,000 Step Willits Walk for Health and Wellness, courtesy of Jed Diamond and compiled from "The Architectural Heritage of Willits"

Part 1 - see second half in next week's edition!



Do you recognize this building? Once the Grammar School in Willits, its current life will be revealed on the WHAT walk.

#1 at 212 South Main Street - built in 1921

J.D. Redhouse Mercantile, formerly the Country Mall, has undergone many changes over the years. The original building was actually built in 1865 to house the new store opened by Kirk Brier in that year. The business was later taken over by Hiram Willits, and also was the location of the first post office in Willits, as Hiram Willits was the first postmaster. The business was acquired by Charles Irvine, who formed a partnership with Henry B. Muir in 1883. This store building survived the fires of 1896 and 1901, as well as the 1906 earthquake. However, it was deemed outdated by the early 1920s and was replaced with the current brick building.

#2 at 50 South Main Street - built in 1923

The building at 50 South Main Street is perhaps best known as the site of the Willits Creamery, which was operated for 50 years by the Colli sisters, Anita, Alta and Lena. These ladies, with the assistance of their brother, Phillip, took over the building previously used by the Redwood Highway Bakery, and opened their ice cream and soda store in 1935. In 1985, they donated the artifacts of their creamery, from stools to counter, to ice cream cone dispenser, to the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, where their business has been recreated in a special exhibit.

#3 42 South Main Street - built in 1902

The small rectangular business office at 42 South Main Street, built for the realty firm of Auten & Drenkle, and later used by E. H. Roth for the same purpose, features a low gable roof facing Main Street. It has a boxed cornice, sloped soffit, and plain frieze. The one-story building is covered in wide ship-lap boards, and the corners of the structure are marked with end boards.

#4 2 South Main Street - built in 1924

The Van Hotel was originally visualized by the then-owner of the Hotel Willits, G. Van Cleemput, as an addition to his existing hotel. The main entrance to the Van Hotel, therefore, faces Commercial Street towards the location of the Hotel Willits, which originally stood on the northwest corner of Commercial and Main Street. Because of his fear of fire in the wooden Hotel Willits, Van Cleemput had the Van Hotel built of bricks.

#5 126 West Commercial Street - built in 1915

The significance of the house comes mostly from its association with its first owner, F. W. Haselwood. Haselwood had come to the Willits area in 1911, when he was appointed Assistant Division Engineer of the California Highway Commission. The one-story house features a gable roof parallel with the street, with another center gable facing the street and covering an open veranda. The roof has projecting eaves that are supported on the main gable ends by exposed brackets. The front windows, in the porch, have decorated transoms, while the rest of the windows are simple double-hung affairs. The house is covered in overlapping boards.

#6 135 West Commercial Street - built in 1912

The house at 135 West Commercial Street is important as it was the home of Dr. G.A. Woeffel, a physician and surgeon who moved to Willits in 1900. The one-story wooden structure at 135 West Commercial Street is rectangular in plan, with a steeply pitched roof with overhanging gables. The majority of the house is covered smooth, flush boards, with the exception of the columns that support the entrance to the house and the enclosed porch.

#7 147 West Commercial Street - built in 1910

This Craftsman bungalow features a high gable roof, with the roof line parallel to the street. In the middle of the roof, and directly over the large front window facing the street, is a gable roof dormer. The dormer gable, as well as the gable ends of the house, are further supported and decorated by exposed brackets at the center and sides of the gable. The house and the dormer are covered in unpainted redwood shingles.

#8 154 West Commercial Street - built in 1915

The house is important not only for its variation of Craftsman bungalow construction, but also for its association with its first owner, James Heap. The house was actually the second owned by Heap in Willits. Heap first came to town in 1901 to supervise the installation of the first electrical system at the Northwestern mill. This house is a one-and-a-half story wooden structure with a high gable roof.

#9 193 West Commercial Street - built in 1910

The house is significant both because of its architecture and its association with P. I. Lancaster, its first owner. The house was built for Lancaster in 1910 and is an attractive bungalow that is of slightly different style than others built at the same time. A one-and-a-half story Craftsman bungalow, the house features a bellcast hip roof with a gabled dormer window facing the street. The dormer contains three multi-paned windows sharing a continuous sill and trim above and separated by a wide wooden trim. The entire house is covered in overlapping redwood shingles.

#10 411 Redwood Avenue - built in 1913

The house was built and designed by the same contractor, Dan DeShell, who built the offices of the Northwestern lumber offices in Willits. The house was built by DeShell for Jesse and Lenore Fairbanks during the winter of 1913. Both individuals were long-time residents of Willits. Lenore Fairbanks was born in the Little Lake Valley. She was the daughter of Gordon Baechtel and the granddaughter of Samuel Baechtel, the first settler in the Little Lake Valley. Augustus Fairbanks was later elected to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

#11 393 Redwood Avenue - built in 1908

This one-and-a-half story Craftsman bungalow was built by the Northwestern Redwood Company for their civil engineer, F. L. A. Gortinski. Between 1914 and 1916, the house was purchased by H. Goldberg, a prominent lawyer in Willits, who had had a house built for him in the Northwestern addition in 1908. Goldberg also served as the Willits City Attorney in 1916. The significance of the house therefore stems from not only from its unique interpretation of the Craftsman bungalow but also from its association with such professionals in the City of Willits as a civil engineer and city attorney.

#12 332 Redwood Avenue - built in 1905

In addition to its large and imposing architecture, the house is important because of its first owner and first resident. The Northwestern Redwood Company was incorporated in 1901 and was an offshoot of A.W. Foster's Northwestern Railroad. The president of the newly formed lumber company was E.A. Selfridge, originally from San Francisco. Four years later the company built a house for its president, Selfridge, on Redwood Avenue. The house cost \$3,000 to build, and according to the Willits News, was "designed to be a showcase of locally milled redwood." Redwood Avenue was one of the most desirable sections of the new addition.

Thursday, October 10

'A Taste of Theatre': All ages are invited to this free sampling of WCT's upcoming series of Master Classes including Playwriting, Directing, Acting and Theatre Tech. Learn how theatre is really made. 7 pm at Willits Community Theatre, 37 W. Van Lane. Info: 459-0895 or www.willits theatre.org.

Shanachie Pub: bi-monthly E.T. Jazz Jam, featuring Lincoln Andrews on upright and electric bass, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, and Jesse Bessoni on drums. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. 8 pm. No cover. Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments and partake during the second set, so long as it fits. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, October 11

WHS Volleyball Take Home Tri-Tip Dinner: Dinner includes: whole tri-tip, salad, bread, potatoes and dessert. Pick up or delivery. Pick up at Flowers by Annette, 1701 Valley Road, between 4 and 6 pm, \$55. By pre-sale ticket; tickets are limited. Info: 459-6588.

Shanachie Pub: singer/songwriter Darius Lux and Friends, "souful, rockin' pop music," with Susan Stewart on bass and Steve Loeb on congas; . 9 pm. \$5.

Visit www.dariuslux.com. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 12

Rally for the Valley: Rally ½ mile north of town from 12 noon to 5 pm, to "Take a Stand for the Willits Wetlands," with music, speakers, workshops and food. Sponsored by the Coalition to Save Little Lake Valley. Speakers include: tree sitters Amanda "Warbler" Senseman and Julia Butterfly Hill; Barbara Kennedy from the Save Richardson Grove Coalition; Mike Fitzgerral, tribal chair from the Sherwood Valley Rancheria; Sherry Glaser and Swami Beyondananda. Also featured will be music by the Farmers Market Band, the Real Sarahs, Raging Grannies, the Jand Band, Blue Sky Pie and more. Oak tree planting workshop and wetlands healing ceremony (possibility of civil disobedience at the end of the day). Info: Robin Leler at 459-0155 or Sara Grusky at 367-5202, email saveitttlelake@

Sunday, October 13

Pancake Breakfast at the Harrah Center: 8 to 11 am, pancakes, eggs (any style), bacon, sausage or ham, orange juice and coffee. Every second Sunday of the month, 1501 Baechtel Road. \$7 adults, \$6 Senior Center members (with card); \$5 children under 12. 459-6826.

Ongoing Events:

"Instructions Not Included": a romantic Spanish-language comedy starring and directed by Mexico's Eugenio Derbez, plays this week at the Noyo Theatre, 57 East Commercial Street. Derbez, 52, acts the part of a playboy whose life is changed when he is left with a daughter he never knew he was going to have, the result of one of his countless casual flings. Rated PG-12, plays daily at 5:30 pm and 8:15 pm, with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 12:15 pm and 2:45 pm. \$8 general admission; \$6 children 3 to 11; \$6 seniors 62+; shows starting before 5 pm: \$6. Info: 459-NOYO.

"Nancy Reed & Friends" – October show at the Willits Center for the Arts. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1726.

Farmers Market at City Park: Summer produce, including tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant, watermelons and more from area farmers, plus live music, flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and more. Every Thursday at City Park, across from City Hall, from 3 to 6 pm. In the park through October.

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932

Open Mic at Shanachie Pub: Every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm.



VOLUNTEER

It's What You Do That Counts!

Are you a young woman between the ages of 14 and 17 who volunteers in your community or school? Do you see challenges instead of obstacles? Hope instead of despair? If you are a young woman who believes in the power of volunteer action, then you may be eligible to win a Violet Richardson Award.

This award recognizes young women who make the community and world a better place through volunteer efforts such as: fighting drugs, crime and violence; cleaning up the environment; and working to end discrimination and poverty. Volunteer actions that benefit women or girls are particularly encouraged.

Winners are eligible to receive cash awards for themselves and the charitable organizations of their choice. Visit www.scorpminist.org for details.

For information about applying to the Violet Richardson Award program, please contact:

Scorpminist International of Willits California

Name Lisa Epstein

Email Lisa@Lisapeinstein.com

Phone 707-459-4044

Club Application Deadline December 1st 2013

Amount of Club Award \$400.00

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

gmail.com, or check www.saveitttlelakevalley.org.

"Beyond Beyondananda": Cosmic Comic Swami Beyondananda, with writer, humorist, performer and uncommodator Steve Bhaerman, one night only, 8 pm, at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 W. Van Lane. Tickets, \$15, available at Goods' Shoppe, 56 S. Main Street, online at brownpapertickets.com/event/471507, or call WCT at 707-459-0895 to reserve by credit card.



Shanachie Pub: Deep Chatham, from North Carolina, playing folk. 8 pm. \$5. Featuring guitarist Julian Sikes and upright bassist Jeff Loops, with Matt Heckler on fiddle and banjo player and Trevor Grassi, on the piano and accordion. "original songs characterized by driving rhythms, intricate harmonies, and haunting melodies." Listen: www.deepchathammusic.com/music. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, October 13

Pancake Breakfast at the Harrah Center: 8 to 11 am, pancakes, eggs (any style), bacon, sausage or ham, orange juice and coffee. Every second Sunday of the month, 1501 Baechtel Road. \$7 adults, \$6 Senior Center members (with card); \$5 children under 12. 459-6826.

Monday, October 14

Kiwanis Club meeting: 7 pm at the Willits Kids Club, 1265 Blosser Lane. Regular, second Monday of each month meeting, with guest speaker. Anyone 18 or over, male or female with "a passion to better our community" is welcome to come check out the



'Gasland Part II'

Now & Then Films presents "Gasland Part II" at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, on Thursday, October 17, at 7 pm. In "Gasland Part II," "Filmmaker Josh Fox uses his trademark dark humor to take a deeper, broader look at the dangers of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking," the controversial practice of injecting water, sand and chemicals underground to crack rock formations and free up oil and natural gas. "Gasland Part II," says Now & Them Films "shows how the stakes have been raised on all sides in one of the most important environmental issues facing our nation today. The film argues that the gas industry's portrayal of natural gas as a clean and safe alternative to oil is a myth. Fracked wells inevitably leak over time, contaminating water and air, hurting families, and endangering the earth's climate with the potent greenhouse gas, methane. In addition the film looks at how the powerful oil and gas industries are in the filmmaker's words, "contaminating our democracy."

Visit www.gaslandthemovie.com for more info. Suggested Donation of \$5 to \$10 benefits the Now and Then Film Series project Organic popcorn and chocolate, refreshments for sale by the Grange. Info: 459-6362.

Boosters Club

Saturday, October 26 at the Willits Community Center

Abalone Dinner

The WHS Boosters Club is hosting an Abalone Dinner on Saturday, October 26, to help raise funds for Willits High School's sports programs. The dinner at the Willits Community Center will have two seatings: at 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm, and also features ravioli with homemade sauce, salad, garlic bread, and desserts from the WHS cooking club.

The abalone is donated by the Department of Fish & Wildlife, from poached abalone that has been confiscated. Tickets are \$20; only 200 tickets will be sold; and pre-sale tickets are preferred, though there might be a few tickets available at the door. Tickets at the House Doctor or call Donna at 459-2752 or Mark and Sheri Mercer at 459-3445 to have tickets delivered. Board members of the Willits Boosters Club will be doing the cooking, Sheri Mercer said.

The Boosters Club is always looking for new members, and those who just want to help out at fundraisers. Volunteers from the Boosters Club run the very successful concession stand at the WHS football games – which were very busy at the Homecoming game on September 27, but because there will only be three home football games this year, the abalone dinner and other fundraisers this year will be very important to keep the Boosters able to donate funds to help keep the WHS sports programs going.

Willits Weekly | October 10, 2013

Kiwanis Club, and learn about their service activities in Willits, focusing on helping out youth and school activities, and also service to seniors. Info: Kiwanis President Matt Rountree, 841-7052.

Willits Frontier Twirlers: starting up again tonight at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance from 6:45 to 8 pm, and dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. "Grab a partner, invite your neighbors or come on your own for free classes every Monday night in October." As the old saying goes: "Square dancing is friendship set to music." The group hopes to restore a longtime Willits Twirlers' tradition next year: performing for Frontier Days on July 4.

Tuesday, October 15

Tightwad Tuesdays

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 Tuesday movies: "Instructions Not Included," "Cloudy 2" and "Gravity" 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Textile Skill Sharing: Tonight's themed session is: Halloween Decorations, with Lara Eventide. 7 to 9 pm. There are sewing machines and some notions & materials available. Materials fee if you use some of our goodies; bring your own recycled stuff and ideas! Room 10 of Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Sponsored by the Grange Women's Association. Donations appreciated. Info: 459-6362.

Wednesday, October 16

Coffee with the Principal: Parents/Guardians are invited to visit with Willits High School Principal Jeff Ritchley, 8:30 to

10 am at WHS. From Principal Ritchley: "Last month was a complete success with eight parents showing up to discuss the various issues at Willits High School. It was an opportunity to listen to the parents I would normally not hear from. Each month you will have the opportunity to voice your concerns to me, and with other parents at this event. This time will also be a time to celebrate student success, talk about college, the military, or anything you may have on your mind. I look forward to this time to collaborate with you as parents in making Willits High School the best it can be."

Willits Stamp Club meeting: from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. This meeting's program is: "United States stamps to trade." Everyone welcome, including beginners, teens and Boy Scouts, who can get a merit badge in stamp collecting. Regular every other month meeting. Refreshments are served.

Thursday, October 17

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: annual event opens today with a preview for members of Friends of the Willits Library this evening from 6 to 9 pm. Open to the public on Friday, October 18 from 10 to 6 pm, Saturday, October 19 from 10 to 4 pm, and Sunday, October 20 from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday, books are \$3 a bag all day.

Now & Then Films: "Gasland, Part II," Josh Fox's film about "fracking." 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Suggested \$5 to \$10 donation. Info: 459-6362. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more information.

Friday, October 18

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: see October 17 listing for details.

Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration in downtown Willits: Don't miss this 7th annual celebration of "Think Local, Buy Local, Be Local," presented by the Willits Chamber of

Willits Grange Pancake Breakfast

The Grange Pancake Breakfast is back, on Sunday, October 27 and Sunday, November 24, from 8 to 11 am, at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street (2 blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of 101). Organic coffee and real maple syrup upon request.

Traditional plate: Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, eggs made to order, real butter, bacon, juice, coffee or tea; still just \$6. Organic "Local Plate" breakfast the way it used to be: multi-grain sourdough pancakes, organic maple syrup from an Amish Farm in Michigan, organic Local Farm Eggs; organic yogurt &/or fresh fruit in season; \$7.

Willits Stamp Club

The Stamp Club's next meeting is on Wednesday, October 16 from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. This meeting's program is: "United States stamps to trade."

"Everyone is welcome," says Marv Talso, including teens and Boy Scouts, who can get a merit badge in stamp collecting. "We will help anybody get started."

The Stamp Club, which has been going for about a year and half in Willits, meets every other month. Refreshments are served.



Calling all artists!

Willits Center for the Arts is accepting entries for the 27th Annual Holiday Craft Fair. Friday, December 13, Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, at the Willits Community Center. All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs should request application forms by e-mail to: Bonnie Belt at belt.bonnie@gmail.com or Willits Holiday Craft Fair c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Drive, Willits, CA 95490 (enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope). Apply early as booths fill quickly.

Save the Date:

15th annual **Willits Walk for Wellness** and Community, October 20
WHS Boosters Abalone Dinner, Community Center, October 26
Halloween Party, Diggers, October 26
Halloween Party, Shanachie Pub, October 31



Commerce's Local First Committee, from 4 to 8 pm in downtown Willits. Enjoy a pumpkin carving contest for all area businesses (vote for the "People's Choice," and "Art in the Alley," an art exhibition in the alley between the Noyo Theatre and The Bistro restaurant. Downtown businesses will be open late, offering specials and goodies. Other businesses, nonprofit and community organizations, crafters, and many other groups will have booths with information about their offerings, special games, and freebies, and musicians and Zumba dancers from Studio Joy will perform. Please stop by Willits Weekly's booth in front of Ardella's to say hello! Info: info@willits.org or 459-7910.

Shanachie Pub: Moon Lady/Moon Man presents The Afro-Funk Experience, following the Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration. 9 pm. \$10. Delivering home-grown Afro-Funk, Afro-beat, reggae and original Bay Area funk, with dual guitars, bass, drums percussion, trumpet and saxophone. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 19

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: see October 17 listing for details.

"Willits On Stage": a variety show featuring friends, neighbors and special guests, showing off their talents, to benefit Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Willits High School Auditorium, 7 pm. Hosted by Les Tarr and Ed Reinhart and friends. \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Advance tickets available at Goods' Shoppe, Main Street Music and Mazahar. Info: 456-9429. (There might be one or two slots left to show off your stuff! Call Kevin at 456-9429 or Marcia at 354-2801 to find out.)

Community Rights Workshop: two day workshop, October 19 and October 20, with Paul Cienfuegos on the creation of a community rights ordinance. Sliding scale: \$60 to \$260. If interested in attending, call Peter Norris at 456-9968. Info at: www.paulcienfuegos.com.

Sunday, October 20

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: see October 17 listing for details.

Below: "Have a friend bring you to the book sale," with Keira Dragness and Madison Lawrence (in the wagon).



Cat takes a trip on the Trudell train

Can you say: "Wow"? My first experience at Area 101 north of Laytonville this past Friday was as potent a first experience as any I've had. After just one evening with John Trudell, I feel my consciousness still traveling along at least a dozen Trudell "thought trains," which have no beginning and no end ... I think.

Trudell and local poets Linda Noel and Dan Roberts shared their poetic gifts for "Re-Planting the Poet Tree" Friday night at a fundraiser benefitting two new Laytonville High School scholarships, the Tina Manning Scholarship and the Leonard Pellier Scholarship (Note: Willits Weekly will have a story about the scholarships in next week's edition.)

Following a delicious rice and curry vegetable dinner, about 100 people, including a good number of Willits folks, gathered in front of the stage to share in the poetic offerings. Roberts and Noel warned the crowd with their readings, priming our minds for the flood of thoughts Trudell set in motion. MY mind still is saturated and swimming with it all.

Trudell read some of his poems, but much of what he shared was stream of consciousness, the "voices" as he calls them, guiding the thought "trains" along various "tracks."

Here's a sample from "Glad To Be Thought" : "A lot of what happened had to do with his me's (plural of me). His me's from the past and his me's from the future used any present for their battleground ... like in some challenged paradise ... the way some started on their own, no apparent beginning with no apparent end,

running off in any ways, looking for any place where the heart won't hurt ... until 'learns how to cry' learns how to cry every day ... Life can be a random thought – glad to be thought."

Though in the flow, the themes Trudell explored were not just "random thoughts." At least this evening, his sharing to me seemed to first provide a macro view of specific ideas and concepts, threads of which he then teased out in a mind-expanding manner.

At points he would lose the "train," or "the voices" would get interrupted or confused, and then he would read from his written poems. Inevitably this would lead to another "train," and off we would go, following the weaving and winding threads of his expression, into the micro minutia of deep topics.

"This self-esteem thing is, hmmm, interesting," he began one such thread. "I think that it's very important that we like ourselves ... that may be one of the most important things ... that we like ourselves. The majority of us don't. We use pride and a lot of masks ... but at the core we don't like ourselves."

"That needs to be looked at," he continued. "I'm not a spiritual leader, person, or anything; I'm just a crazy old man, right, that's got some views, "My spirituality is that I know I have a spirit ... How do I pray to the Creator? How do I show true respect to the Creator if I don't like myself? What does that do to my prayers ... to my communication?"

Trudell explained that we all have reasons not to like some of the things we've done, but that we shouldn't confuse our mistakes with our value of self.

"We were put here to do what we're supposed to do. There's nothing wrong with us," he said. "If you want to be perfect," he said, "be nothing."

– Cat Lee

Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



From far left: Reverend Betsy Bruneau of St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church blesses Bear the dog. St. Francis himself preaching to the birds, portrayed in a mural painted on the old church building by Malakai Schindel. Ruth holds her little Toto.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church held its annual blessing of the animals Saturday, under a beautiful arbor loaded with wisteria vines and noisy starlings.

St. Francis is the patron saint of animals, known for preaching to the birds and calling all creatures of the earth his "brothers" and "sisters."

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Reverend Mary Fisher and Reverend Betsy Bruneau conducted the brief service, calling out police dogs, military dogs, guide dogs, companion dogs and all working dogs for special blessings for the good they do. Blessings went out to tame animals, "the innocent creatures so dependent on us"; animals out in the wild; animals "abandoned and loose in the streets"; and "all animals who live on the edge of town, that they will be protected, and not killed unnecessarily." Our local veterinarians were also blessed for all their hard work.

Reverend Bruneau reminded the crowd that St. Francis "saw god's love shining out of all creation, that he saw all people as his brothers and sisters, too." St. Francis would urge us to bless and care for "the lepers" of our own society, "the poor and hungry and lonely."

Most individual animals brought for this year's blessing were dogs, with one brave cat and a "one-legged" chicken. Bruneau said the church had had spiders, frogs, horses, a goat, and snakes attend past blessing ceremonies.

Evie and Michael brought their dogs, Rossi, 2 years old, and Carlo, 3 years old, who'd been best buddies at the pound, and were lucky enough to find a home together.

Jasmine, the big orange cat, who stayed quietly in the arms of Ruth Rambo-Brown, despite all the dog activity around her, is 10 years old. Mari Brandon brought her Jimmy, a 10- or 11-year old white dog, and Xichitl, only 2

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



Above left: Evie, with Carlo the dog, and her brother Michael, with Rossi. Above right: Ruth Rambo-Brown and Jasmine, the only cat who came to be blessed on Saturday.

Blessing the Pets

performed by Reverend Mary Fisher and Reverend Betsy Bruneau last Saturday

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Classifieds & More

Below left: Lija Lamkin poses with age 6 to 9 winners: Katelyn Germann, Colton Weiss and Kiera Dragness. Right: Lamkin poses with 5 and under winners: Isaac Silva, Shane Weiss and Tessa Simpson.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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Puppy and level 1 dog training class offered in Willits. Mondays, Nov. 4 to Dec. 2. Space limited to 8 students per class; require minimum of 6 to hold class. You must register in advance. Willits Community Center; \$150 for 6-week course. Puppy class: 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm; Level 1 class: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Info: www.wellmanneredmutts.com or Sallie Palmer at 707-463-3647 or 621-3647 (DOGS).

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Puzzle Answers From Page 4

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

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Condolences Column

OBITUARY

Larry Anthony Twardowski, 64, passed away quietly at his home in Willits on September 26, 2013. Larry lived the last 10+ years fighting COPD and atrial fibrillation. He enjoyed spending time with his kids and grandkids. He is survived by his daughter Terri Twardowski of Willits, and his son Timothy Twardowski of Ukiah. He also had numerous other special people in his life that he considered to be his kids and grandkids. There will be no services as per Larry's request. All he asked was for the ones who really knew him, the next time you have homemade cheeseburgers, have one for him! Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

DEATH NOTICE

Anita Gayle Murphy of Willits passed away on September 30, 2013 at the age of 50. A potluck celebration of her life was held at 1 pm on Sunday, October 6, 2013, at the Recreation Grove in Willits. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

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The rest of **Welding** | From Page 5

The rest of **Rodeo** | From Page 4

In ribbon roping, first place went to P/6, second to Northern Misfits, third to G&C Auto, fourth to McFarland Trucking, and fifth to T Lazy S.

Saddle cow riding was the last event, and two riders were able to get a time and score: first place went to Northern Misfits and second to Sundowner Livestock.

The littlest cowboys and cowgirls also had a chance to have some fun of their own in the dummy roping event. Two age groups competed: 6 to 9 and 5 and under. First place winners received \$50 each donated by Tiger Lily's Boutique, Buttercups Children's Boutique and Monkey Wrench

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

stain." "It doesn't stink and isn't sticky like normal spray tans," she said, adding that it's made from a caramel base and has a "true natural caramel scent."

One spray tanning session can last from 5 to 14 days, according to Spence, and some clients choose to come for regular bi-weekly treatments. Her clients also use her services for special one-day events, such as weddings, proms, photo shoots, etc.

She offers tanning parties and packages as well: think "girls night out" or "passion party." She says she also has worked with body builders, helping them get ready for competitions.

In addition to her "tanning" services, Spence specializes in numerous skin care services such as facials, peels, waxing (men as well as women), make-up, and facial massage.

Men's and Women's Ware. Mendocino County Farm Supply donated the second and third place prizes.

Winners of the older group were Colton Weiss in first place, Kiera Dragness in second, and Katelyn Germann in third. Younger winners included Shane Weiss in first, Isaac Silva in second, and Tessa Simpson in third.

Porter Garman, Cole Simpson and Elena Arkelian also competed in the dummy roping event.

Winners of all ages posed with 2013 Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart Lija Lamkin, and received their prizes.

She welcomes walk-ins, but since she runs the business herself, when she is doing treatments, the front door is locked. She encourages appointments, but also says to "check back" if you come when the door is locked and are shopping or taking care of business in the neighborhood.

Spray Tan L.A. and Natural Radiance also has several lines of jewelry for sale made by local artisans.

Spence is looking forward to the upcoming Harvest Moon Festival. "We're extending it, stretching it farther down the street," she says. "I'll be open. Come check me out."

"Thank you for your support," Spence says to the community.

Office hours are 11 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Friday, and credit or debit cards, and cash are welcome. Spence also has gift certificates for sale. Info: 459-8800.

equipment." The class starts with oxy acetylene welding, where students begin by "making a puddle, moving the puddle, then making a bead," explained Bowlds. Students then move on to learning different types of welds, including the pipe to pipe, pipe to plate, butt weld, corner weld, lap weld and more.

They then move onto arc welding, where they can manipulate tougher metals and more heavy-duty and larger projects. MIG and TIG welding, the type of welding that is used in industry, is covered at the end of the season. Skills learned from the earlier lessons easily transfer to this type of industrial welding.

Once the beginning welders' confidence is high, a few projects are planned to help hone their skills, including small branding irons and trick-or-treating baskets that will be available for sale as a fundraiser before Halloween.

Next are individual projects where kids can use their skills to accomplish specific goals and projects, some for more real-life and day-to-day needs. One student is working on welding a mini truck; another is fixing broken shovelheads from the school's farm.

Some lady welders are getting into the action, too, honing their skills during the two classes held first and second period.

"The boys better watch out for those ladies," said Bowlds. "Some of them are really good at it!"

Bowlds is happy to accept donations of mild steel scrap metal from the community that the students can learn to cut, reattach and practice with.

A man from Ukiah is also helping track down machines and projects for the Ag Mechanics class to acquire so they can continue to broaden their skill set. A few lawnmower engines have come in for the kids to learn to take apart and put back together, and a lathe, foundry and forge are all planned to be put into use soon.

If you want to learn more or to donate items to the class, contact Becky Bowlds at 459-7700.

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Condolences Column



Rollin Francis Anderson
OBITUARY

Rollin Francis Anderson of Willits passed away October 3, 2013. Born in Santa Rosa on November 26, 1935, Rollin was a former resident of Scotia, and had been a member of the Willits community for 20 years. Rollin was employed for 40.5 years by the Pacific Lumber Company of Scotia, serving in many positions, including monorail operator. He was a member of the Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church, Sons of Norway Freya Lodge #62 of Santa Rosa, Willits Seniors, Inc., Brooktrails Property Owners Association, and the Pinocchio Club.

Rollin worked with the Fortuna Pathfinder Club until his retirement in 2000, after which he started working with the Willits Pathfinder Club. For 40 years he enjoyed working with the Pathfinder youth.

Rollin is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Lillian A. Anderson; daughter, Susan Joan (Jonathan G.) Erich, and son, Alfred Alan (Laurel Jeanne) Anderson; and grandchildren: Damian Drew (Katey Jolene) Donesky, Ethan Emery Erich, Eric Anthony Anderson, Vincent Maxwell Anderson and Louisa Joy Anderson.

Funeral services will be held at the Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church on Saturday, October 12, 2013, at 1 pm, followed by graveside services at Little Lake Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to "Willits Pathfinders Club," 399 West Mendocino Ave in Willits. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



Steve Marston and Lisa Bower work at painting the home's exterior

Saving the Craftsmans

Steve Marston renovates one of Willits' historic homes

One of Willits' historic homes – at 135 West Commercial Street – is getting a new lease on life after just passing its 100th "birthday."

Built in 1912, this Craftsman bungalow is a true window into our town's architectural past. It is featured in the wonderful resource, "The Architectural Heritage of Willits" – a book showcasing many historic homes in Willits.

it and started work on the renovations in January of this year.

"You can't build like this anymore, economically," explained Marston, a Willits local for 37 years. "It's very important to get these Craftsmans fixed before they fall beyond the state of repair."

Marston has completed renovations like this – working to maintain the integrity and historical value of the Craftsman bungalow – in other areas of Mendocino and Sonoma counties, most recently in Santa Rosa last summer. He is pleased to be able to keep this historical heritage alive closer to home, too: "This one is right in my neighborhood" he said.

Staying true to the tradition of painting colors in sets of five on Craftsman bungalows, Marston is using Benjamin Moore's Flora (the main light blue-green body color), trim and accents in Subtle (creamy off white), Oat Straw (gold) and Oxford Brown (chocolate) and a bright white on the window frames. Friend and fellow painter Lisa Bower is helping Marston with the paint job, which they both noted was carefully – and tediously – done by brush, not rollers.

The interior layout of the 1,450-square-foot house has also received a rearrangement, as years of oddly planned

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

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

otherwise known as the Harrah Center, includes a community center and kitchen serving meals every weekday and a flourishing vegetable garden.

Seniors just wanted to put up a sign for the popular thrift shop so others in the community could find it, but the city demanded its removal after receiving a complaint.

"There is certainly something wrong with this picture," senior center Director Ailyn Nonneman said. "I want to know how we can change it."

Nonneman said the senior center painted the fence at the Lark Motel and received permission to put its sign up.

The senior center thrift shop sells clothing, picture frames, tools, coffee pots, books and knick-knacks, all donated by area residents.

About 62 to 100 people shop at the thrift store each day, Nonneman said, but added that people who come to the center for an event tell her they did not know the store was there.

Around town, the city also pays attention to posters promoting events and yard sale signs.

If yard sale holders would pick their signs up the day after the event, City Code Enforcer John Sherman thinks there would not be a problem.

"I do not think we would be discussing it anymore," Sherman said. "It makes us look like we do not care enough to clean up."

Like the senior center, Kustoms by Spence on Shell

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

Based in Weaverville, the 5C program takes credit for removing 71 road and dam barriers and other projects over the past 13 years, by working with counties, landowners and agencies.

In Willits and Laytonville, an effort geared to engage landowners in fish-friendly projects is underway by the Mendocino Resource Conservation District.

In late September, the RCD met in Willits to get the word out to landowners who would like technical assistance or to compete for grant money.

The rest of **Craftsman** | From Page 10

additions failed to maintain the grandeur and flow of the floor. Now, an impressive master suite and additional private bathroom will accompany the parlor, dining room, walk-through bathroom and other traditional rooms in the home's new life.

Zoned for commercial use, the finished property could be ideal for an office professional to use as a live/work residence. The two front rooms could easily serve as office spaces and still leave private living quarters in the rear. A new deck and railing at the back of the home looks out into the spacious back yard, and the wrap-around front deck will be a lovely place to enjoy a sunny afternoon.

With winter approaching, Marston is ready to work on the interior of the home. The outside will be receiving its final coats of paint in the next few days, thankfully beating the beginning of the rain.

The cherished built-ins, pocket doors, fir floors and coffered ceilings all make this home truly a gorgeous site. Once Marston finishes the renovations, he plans an open house to showcase the restored home to the community.

Come see this and many other homes during the WHAT walk on Sunday, October 20.

The rest of **Blessings** | From Page 8

years old, to be blessed. Another Ruth brought the smallest dog of the day, her 7-year-old Toto, part terrier and part chihuahua, she thinks (Toto was also adopted from a shelter).

Maria Rogers said "Wimpy" the chicken was born with a bad leg, that she keeps curled up behind her. "Wimpy" received blessings through the bars of her cage.

Bear, the wandering black dog familiar to those in the northwest neighborhood of Willits, came to get his blessing, too. Bear, who is reportedly 13 years old, has recently been adopted by CC Young, and has had his matted hair shaved off. Fans of the friendly neighborhood dog are encouraged to contribute

The rest of **Tom** |

From Page 1

Oversight Committee. Woodhouse also runs the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office work release program in Willits. In that capacity, he has organized and led service and clean-up projects around the town, including creek clean-ups, graffiti removal, litter pick-up, hobo camp elimination, and community service days. Woodhouse estimates that he and his workers have put in more than 2,000 hours over the past five years.

"Through my community involvement, I have demonstrated a commitment to young people. As supervisor I will advocate for expanded vocational training, mentoring programs and job creation," Woodhouse said.

"I am uniquely qualified to be an effective county supervisor. We are losing an experienced representative in John Pinches, and I have the business acumen and financial knowledge to carry on his legacy of fiscal responsibility."

Woodhouse said that he is committed to protecting and managing the county reserve. He believes that with a healthy reserve and a well-managed budget, the county can more effectively maintain and upgrade the county roads and support hard-working law enforcement and first-responder personnel.

People wanting to contribute ideas, perspectives or campaign support may call Tom Woodhouse at 707-367-6334.

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

Action Team (WHAT), which sponsors the twice-a-year walks. "Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the 5 mile route: you can walk as little or as much as you like."

Walkers will get a sheet that describes each building briefly, and there will be balloons or some other marker so walkers will be able to identify each building, Diamond said.

The William F. Harrah Senior Center van will drive along the route to offer water and assistance to anyone who decides they are ready to return before the end of the walk.

Cheering students from Willits High School will also be stationed along the route, encouraging participants and marking "milestone" cards, as walkers reach their stations.

Another issue that drew the panel's attention was the relation of Brooktrails to the City of Willits. Brooktrails has sued Willits over what it perceives as injustice associated with the fees the township pays the city for its use of Willits' wastewater treatment system. Each of the incumbents said they did not want to sue Willits, but they felt they had no choice.

"We sat back for 20 years and we tried to resolve it in many ways," said Orth. "We've always been treated as a customer, never as a partner."

"The Willits City Council has consistently taken the position it will not negotiate at all," said Williams. "We've tried really hard. We've tried formal mediation. We've tried informal mediation. We did not want this. We don't like

For info about the walk, or to volunteer, call Diamond at 459-5505.

Donations are also sought by St. Francis Church to help support the costs of training a puppy – named "Francis" – destined to go on to be trained as a guide dog for the blind. Francis, who is due to arrive in Willits in December, will be fostered by Tom and Shirley Schott. "They've done several puppies," Bruneau said, in partnership with the Guide Dogs of the Desert nonprofit. Donations to support this effort can be mailed to St. Francis Church, 66 East Commercial Street, with "guide dog puppy" in the memo line.

For info about the walk, or to volunteer, call Diamond at 459-5505.

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The rest of **Fire Tax** | From Page 1

and a former firefighter himself. "We had a lot of positive response."

Measure I will be on the ballot in the November 5 election and must receive a 2/3s vote to pass. Measure I would add a long-term, temporary assessment to the properties of all area residents who live in the Little Lake Fire Protection District.

The new assessment would be \$14 per unit. With a lot or parcel being one unit, and a single-family home another unit, the average assessment per year would be \$28. Parcels with a second structure on a permanent foundation – not a doghouse or shed-type structure – would pay another \$14 for a third unit.

The assessment would be used to pay back a loan to the district from the USDA Rural Development program: USDA has set aside up to \$2.4 million in community development loan funds for the Willits fire district, contingent on Measure I being passed. No bond sales are involved. "There will be no balloon payments," Fire Chief Carl Magagn said, "no 20 percent interest."

The interest rate on the USDA loan is guaranteed to be no more than 3.75 percent – it could be less – over the 40-year term of the loan. After the loan is paid back – and it could be paid back earlier than 40 years – the temporary assessment would sunset.

Little Lake Fire Protection District, which has been planning for a new firehouse since about 2007, has already saved and raised about \$1.3 million in funds for the construction.

Why is a new firehouse needed?

The current firehouse, on the corner of East Commercial and Humboldt streets, was built in 1952, to house City Hall, the Willits Police Department and the Willits Fire Department. "All the other original occupants have outgrown the building," Chief Magagn said. "We're the last."

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

appear on a flier calling for new direction for Brooktrails.

Both challengers portray themselves as outsiders. Each said they do not belong to the Brooktrails Property Owners Association and do not normally attend meetings of the board of directors because neither feels they would be heard.

When asked by Brooktrails resident Sarah Schuyler why she hasn't seen them at meetings, Paland replied, "Because I feel my voice is not heard." When asked the same question, Zalunardo said, "Because I feel, like David, that no one is going to listen to me."

One of the key topics in the forum dealt with the question of growth. Orth, Williams and Skezas said they supported growth in Brooktrails. "Brooktrails requires average growth," said Orth.

"I do not support no-growth," said Skezas. "I support planned growth."

"We cannot as a district say, 'We like it the way it is now, and all you people who have invested millions of dollars in their properties cannot build here.' We cannot do that," said Williams. "If we stay the same size we are now, it's just going to get more and more expensive to live here. And I don't think we want that."

The challengers largely agreed with the incumbents. "The first responsibility I see is to the present population," said Zalunardo. "That we have enough water, that we have a way to move around safely, on the roads. I don't oppose growth. I just say my first responsibility is to you."

"We have to allow growth up here," said Paland.

Another issue that drew the panel's attention was the relation of Brooktrails to the City of Willits. Brooktrails has sued Willits over what it perceives as injustice associated with the fees the township pays the city for its use of Willits' wastewater treatment system. Each of the incumbents said they did not want to sue Willits, but they felt they had no choice.

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

in fiscal 2012 and no plans to significantly spend them down. The fiscal 2012 audit shows an unassigned fund balance of \$12.1 million and an assigned fund balance of \$222,000, or a combined 10.5 percent of expenditure."

S&P's report cited several areas of what it considered strong performance. "The county's budgetary performance was very strong in fiscal 2012, in our view, with a surplus of 5.9 percent.... The county's debt and contingent liability profile is strong, with total governmental fund debt service as a percentage of total government fund expenditures at 7.5 percent, and with net direct debt as a percentage of total government fund revenue at 49.7 percent. The county has no plans to issue additional debt in the near term.... The county has reduced its other post-employment liability to \$2.1 million in 2012, from \$6.2 million at fiscal year-end 2009."

"The outlook is stable," S&P report concludes.

The credit rating upgrade comes at a propitious time for county government, which is locked in a labor struggle with SEIU Local 1021, the labor union representing 75 percent

The original unreinforced block construction doesn't meet earthquake standards, and remodeling the building was not possible, due to expense and the need to meet current codes for new buildings housing "essential services."

The roof leaks, and the engine bays are too small for standard, modern fire engines. Little Lake's Fire Rescue unit – the most used engine – had to be specially made to fit in the building. At 38.6 feet, Little Lake's ladder truck is too large to fit in the firehouse, and is kept at the Baechtel Road substation.

The new firehouse would be built on the same lot as the current firehouse, adding only about 2,700 square feet of space. The architect who drew up plans for the new metal-built firehouse says "it's the smallest footprint he's had to work with to design a new firehouse," Charlson said. The longest bay in the new building would be 41 feet long, just large enough to accommodate the ladder truck.

The building will have a commercial kitchen and sleeping quarters for firefighters, as well as a training area with computers so firefighters can complete online training while on duty. There will also be a fitness room, but the budget doesn't extend to actually buying any fitness equipment.

The funds from the special property tax assessment are required to be spent only on construction; they can't be spent on equipment or salaries.

Chief Magagn invites community residents to visit the firehouse next week, during the Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration on Friday, October 20, from 4 to 8 pm, to learn more about Measure I. Measure I yard signs will be available for supporters. "The firefighters want to say," Magagn said, "this new building is not for us, it's for the community. It will benefit the community for many years to come."

"The main challenge facing Brooktrails is this trial against the City of Willits," said Skezas. "This is going to happen in the next term, and we really have to get that done."

The challengers took a different perspective on the suit.

"I think we would do better with Willits if we were nicer to them," said Paland. "I think we should be nicer to them."

"We should always stay away from lawsuits. We should get out of the suit, because there's nothing to be gained there," said Zalunardo.

Campaign literature provided by Paland indicated his main objective would be to reduce costs associated with living in Brooktrails. He cited two court cases Brooktrails has recently been involved in, one involving the Roseman property and a second involving Brooktrails' suit against Measure D, which Paland authored.

The Roseman family sued Brooktrails after it had initially been offered only \$18,000 in compensation when Brooktrails claimed a portion of the family's property under eminent domain.

According to Paland, when Brooktrails lost the case, "it was left to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages and attorney's fees of its own."

Paland authored Measure D in an effort to force Brooktrails to stop charging a small monthly fee to homeowners (in many cases large banks taking ownership of empty and foreclosed homes) whose service had been turned off, but not discontinued. Voters approved the measure by a simple majority vote in November 2010, and soon after Brooktrails sued the county board of supervisors and the registrar of voters, claiming another ballot resolution passed by state voters in the same election required that measure be approved by a two-thirds majority.

Mendocino Court Judge John Behnke ruled in favor of Brooktrails. Paland appealed and prevailed in the appeals court.

"This is another example of the kind of frivolous litigation entered into by the district that I will seek to avoid if elected as director," Paland said.

People who wish to view the candidates' forum may do so on their televisions or their computers. The forum will be aired on television at intervals by Channel 3; and it will be available on the internet at willits.tv.

County Assistant CEO Kyle Knopp feels the upgrade is "an affirmation of the board of supervisors' policies, and direction and determination to reform and improve the county's financial system and trajectory. It was action on multiple fronts that brings us this credit upgrade in 2012."

County CEO Carmel Angelo noted some of those multiple fronts included "employee compensation, layoffs, administrative restructuring, and consolidation of work spaces and departments."

Board Chairman Dan Hamburg also gave credit to county employees for the upgrade: "This improved credit rating is also the result of the sacrifice and hard work of our employees. The county's improved financial stability is a big step forward in being able to reinvest in our workforce in a sustainable manner."

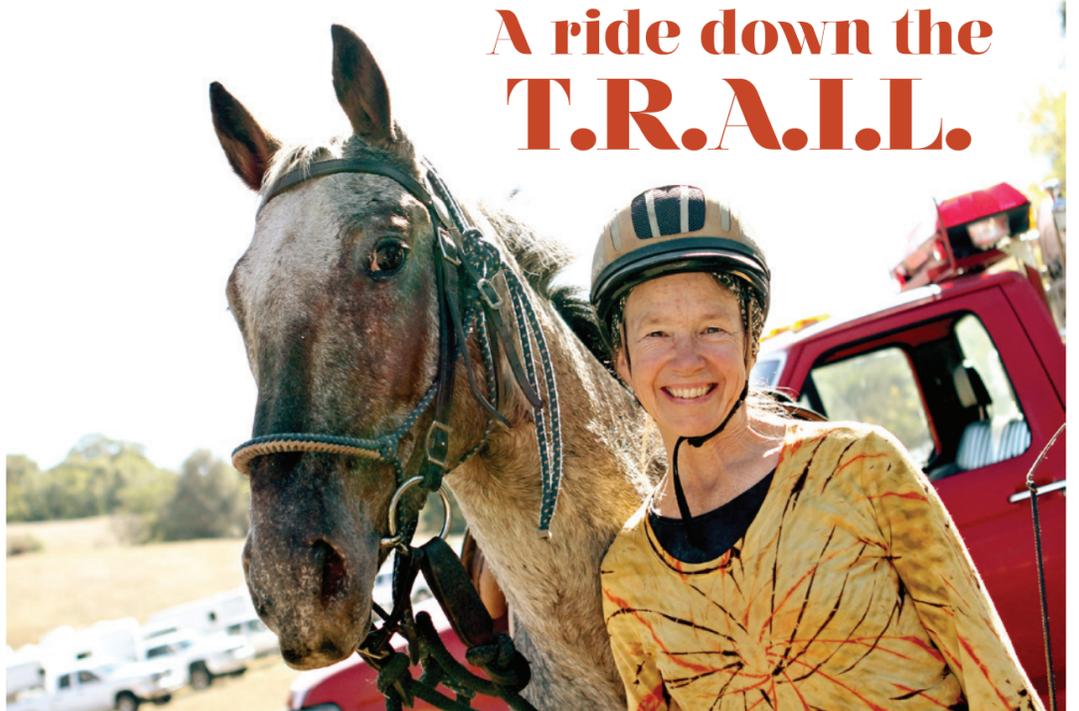
Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Above: Linda Prestly rides her horse out of the creek at the conclusion of their ride.

Right: Lydia Sims and her horse Snow smile for the camera



A ride down the T.R.A.I.L.

Annual fund'ride'ser earns \$3,000 for therapeutic riding program

The first Saturday in October was a beautiful day for the annual T.R.A.I.L. ride on Ridgewood Ranch. Some 35 equestrians came to take advantage of the guided ride on horseback on the historic property, enjoy a good meal, and support a great cause: the T.R.A.I.L. program.

The T.R.A.I.L. program, started back in 1993, teaches riding to those who are physically, developmentally, socially or emotionally challenged and aims to improve their lives through the therapy horseback riding can offer. The program is held at Ridgewood Ranch, the home of famous racehorse, Seabiscuit.

Though traditionally focused on working with kids, the program is hoping to expand to assist adults and veterans soon, too.

Instructor and Director Erin Livingston was pleased with this year's turnout for the ride and noted they were able to raise \$3,000 for the coming winter and next year.

The day started with

the choice of several T.R.A.I.L. rides, each guided by a Ridgewood local. Lunch was served after the rides, and a tour of the Seabiscuit heritage buildings followed.

About 60 guests were served lunch, which included chicken and pulled pork, veggies from the ranch's on-site garden, and apple cake made with apples from the ranch's fruit trees.

Several items were also available for raffle and silent auction, including a plane ride offered by Dan Ramsey and Western saddles.

The buildings tour showcased the Howard family home, Seabiscuit's stud barn, the ranch's mare barn and other historic sites in various states of renovation. These tours are offered to the public in the summer months – one last 2013 tour is set for October 19 – and a schedule can be found at www.seabiscuitheritage.org/tourschedule.php.

T.R.A.I.L. is another volunteer-run and donation-reliant program that serves a real need in our community, and co-founder Livingston encouraged anyone interested in volunteering to get involved, regardless of their horsey background.

organizing to planning to computer work. If you have a talent, we can find a task. There's so many facets to our program, and we appreciate all the help we can get."

Currently, 4-H parent and youth volunteers help with the week-to-week work needed to keep the program running, and volunteer trainings are also scheduled throughout the year to aid new recruits on the ways and happenings at the barn and in the arena.

The next training is scheduled for Saturday, October 26 from 9 am to noon and anyone interested in learning more is welcome to attend. Please register by calling Livingston at 391-3873.

Anyone who might want to make a financial contribution to the 501(c) non-profit group can do so in one of two ways: through the scholarship program or the adopt-a-horse program.

The scholarship program allows donors to allocate \$100 for a month of riding lessons for a child, or \$1,200 for a full year of lessons. The adopt-a-horse program allows donors to make sure the resident horses used for the T.R.A.I.L. riders can receive the best care possible, aiding with medical care, feed and maintenance. A \$250 donation (Quarter Horse), a \$500 donation (Half Horse), a \$750 donation (Three Quarters Horse), or a \$1,000 donation (Full Horse) are all options for the adopt-a-horse program.

And of course, any smaller donation just sent in through the mail (Ridgewood Trail Program, P.O. Box 417, Willits) will be greatly appreciated, too. For more information call: 354-0714.

Maureen Moore
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(In Spanish with English Subtitles)
Daily: 5:30 & 8:15pm
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"We can find a job for anyone," laughed Livingston. "Some of those with more horse-related backgrounds can help care for the animals, and those with non-horse backgrounds can help with a long list of other needs we have, from



Above left: Two ladies rode mules for the T.R.A.I.L. ride this year, and headed off over the bridge at Ridgewood.

Above right: from left: T.R.A.I.L. supporters Joan Craighead and Nancy McFarland stand with Instructor and Director Erin Livingston, board member Jill Scott and volunteer Lynnae Cummings.

At right: Volunteers serve the handmade lunch of chicken, pork and ranch-fresh fruits and veggies to hungry riders and attendees.

Photos by Maureen Moore

See more photos from this year's T.R.A.I.L. ride at <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/trailride2013>



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