

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Library says thanks

To the Editor:

Willits Branch Library would like to publicly and profusely thank Pete Swanson and Main Street Music & Video for the technical support they have provided to the library during the past years. Taking time from their busy schedules, Pete and his staff have willingly and expertly cleaned Willits Library's DVDs and books on CD, allowing us to loan well-maintained materials to our library members.

There comes a time, however, when an organization needs to stand on its own two feet and clean its own messes.

Through the generosity of the Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL), Willits Library has recently purchased a new disc cleaning machine and will no longer need to depend on the kindness of our friends at Main Street Music & Video.

The staff and patrons of Willits Library say thank you to Main Street Video. Our hats are off to each and every one of you for service above and beyond to the Willits community.

Anne Shirako, branch librarian, Willits Library

Vote Woodhouse

To the Editor:

My father, Tom Woodhouse, is qualified and prepared to become our next supervisor. He has spent his entire adult life in this community, running his business in a socially, environmentally and morally responsible way. He has tended his property and raised his family diligently and lovingly. All the while he has volunteered countless hours to learn the ins and outs of our local boards, councils and agencies.

For many years Tom bolstered the efforts of the Friends of The Willits Library with his endless enthusiasm and goodwill. Through decades of service on the Willits High School Site Council, he learned the inner workings of our school systems on the district and county level, always taking the time to engage with students, staff, teachers, parents and administration with appreciation and an open mind. In recent years he has built a relationship with the Sheriff's Office by running their work-release program. He finds hope and excitement in bringing together local officials, community members and youth for town clean-ups and other positive difference-making projects.

Tom was drawn to Willits 40 years ago by the beauty of our local environment. Walking untold acres of our surrounding landscape with his clients over the years has only deepened his appreciation for our local ecosystems, animal species and resources. This is evident in the way that he has managed his own land for animal habitat, fire safety and beauty. The look on Tom's face when the first salmon show up in the creek behind his office every winter is the look of a man with reverence for the surrounding environment and a commitment to protecting and restoring it.

It may be a bit redundant to write a letter of endorsement for a family member. Who else would I support but the man who has loved and supported me for my entire life? However, my support for and endorsement of Tom goes beyond our father-son relationship. I am a Green Building instructor at Mendocino College, program director at the North Street Collective (a local non-profit geared towards art and education), and I serve as a coach, teacher and mentor to hundreds of young people in Willits.

As someone who is deeply committed to seeing our community thrive now and in the years to come, I will be thrilled to have a supervisor in place who will truly listen to our concerns and ideas and act upon them. Please join me in voting for Tom Woodhouse for Third District supervisor.

Noel Woodhouse, Willits

Holly Has My Vote

To the Editor:

I'm voting for Holly Madrigal because she's energetic, experienced and committed to a safe, prosperous and environmentally sound Mendocino County. Her many years on the Willits City Council give her the knowledge, countywide contacts and experience she needs to wade through government red tape and get things done.

I'm particularly happy that as a supervisor Holly promises to create a countywide water-use policy and plan that guarantees every citizen's right to clean water. Her commitment to legalizing marijuana will help convert our underground, crime-ridden, black-market cannabis economy into a thriving, taxable industry providing healthy products and good jobs for many.

I won't miss this rare chance to vote for a candidate who has the vision, integrity, and conscience to make a great county even greater. Vote Holly!

Jane Futcher, Willits

Check your smoke alarms!

To the Editor:

The volunteer firefighters of the Little Lake Fire Protection District would like to remind our residents that working smoke alarms save lives. It is estimated that 65 percent of home fire deaths occur in homes that don't have a working smoke alarm. Most victims of fire die due to smoke and/or toxic gas inhalation because smoke and gas spread faster and farther than heat and flames.

A working smoke/fire detector can greatly increase the safety of your family, providing early notification of a fire in its earliest stages. This early notification can give your family the time to safely evacuate your structure. This early notification will allow us to get on scene in the developing stages of a fire, helping to limit the extent of damage to your home. On average, you will have less than three minutes to safely escape a fire once the first alarm sounds.

Forming fire-safe habits – such as having a working smoke detector with alarm – is one of the best defenses against having a fire in your home. Owners of all residential rental properties are required to ensure that smoke alarms (Cal. Health & Safety Code 13113.7) and carbon monoxide detectors (Cal. Health & Safety Code 13260) are installed and operable at the time a new tenancy is created (when a new lease or rental agreement is signed).

Currently smoke alarms are required to be installed on every floor or level of a multi-story dwelling, including basements if a sleeping room exists, as well as centrally located outside each sleeping area.

Under the state's "Health and Safety Code - Smoke Detector - 13113.7 and 13114": as of January 1, 2014, owner/landlords of both multi-family and single family rental units are now legally responsible and liable for the testing and maintenance of all installed emergency detection devices within all of their residential units including vacant residential units.

While it is the duty of the landlord to test and maintain any emergency notification devices during the course of the tenancy, the tenant has an obligation to notify the owner/manager once they become aware of a problem with any device. Once an owner or their agent has been notified, the owner/agent is then required to immediately correct any problem under their obligation to "maintain" the device.

If you own your own home, and are disadvantaged, the Little Lake Firefighters Association working with local organizations will once again provide battery changes, smoke detector testing and in home fire inspections on request.

On Saturday, November 1, between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm, uniformed representatives from the Little Lake Firefighters Association will be available to visit your home, as requested through appointments.

If you are a resident living in our district or know someone who would benefit from this service, please call the staff of the Little Lake Fire Protection District at 459-6271 to schedule a free appointment for November 1 between 10 am and 2 pm.

Although this program is designed for our community's seniors and disadvantaged families with young children that own their own homes, we will provide assistance where we can.

For more information on the: Install, Inspect, Protect Campaign and other fire prevention information, please visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms. To learn more about

the Little Lake Fire District's local fire detector campaign activities, please feel free to contact the Little Lake Fire Protection District Office at 459-6271.

Carl Magann, fire chief, Little Lake Fire Protection District

Vote Madrigal

To the Editor:

Holly has not only grown up in the Third District, she understands the needs of local business owners as well as the challenges one must face in the trenches of community governance. AND she has survived — and prevailed through numerous storms of even the handwaviest bandwagoneers, and brought common sense to decision-making in Willits governance.

Witness her forward-thinking, as the mayor of Willits, in developing more local water resources for that town (decisions that secured and began development of more municipal wells to support town needs, long before "drought" became the issue it is today.)

That's leadership.

Holly represents practical leadership that the Third District and Mendocino County can count on for many coming decades.

Mendocino County faces real challenges in the future. Challenges that require more than a fresh coat of paint, and good staging. In this world of beauty-pageant popularity politics, it's refreshing to be able to vote for a hard-working young woman who has a degree in economics, a working knowledge of accounting, and can actually read a spreadsheet.

As well as the proven ability to learn from everyone she meets what their concerns are and work with others in governance to address those needs in practical ways.

Holly actually has real experience in implementing programs and decisions to meet those needs, and is unafraid to approach old problems with creative, out-of-the-box thinking.

This is why the Third District, and Mendocino County as a whole, needs to support the next generation of practical, commonsense leadership that Holly represents.

Cindy Swan, Covelo

Vote for Tom Woodhouse

To the Editor:

I am writing to urge everyone to vote this coming November. I am going to vote for Tom Woodhouse for our supervisor, because I am impressed with his integrity, honesty, and willingness to listen.

I met Tom over 20 years ago when we bought our land. He negotiated what could have been a very messy deal with such heart and gentle skill that everyone involved had an understanding and satisfaction of the transaction. I've come to know him and his family more in recent years, and he is always finding ways to help as many people as he can, in quiet ways. Tom is not one to toot his own horn. Rather he listens, looks, sees what needs doing, and gets busy doing.

I think that Tom's experiences raising his family here in Mendocino County, being involved in the schools and clubs that his children were involved in, have given him an awareness needed for the supervisor position. He continues to look for ways to improve our vocational education opportunities and provide gainful careers locally.

Some folks have expressed concern about Tom's acceptance of the bypass. I don't believe that he necessarily likes it, but rather is concerned about the tax dollars now being spent to fight it after the fact. He is concerned with putting our energies into making sure the development of the northern or southern ends of Willits are environmentally sound and not a bunch of big ugly hotels or something. That is where the energy should be focused. And by the way, Holly voted for the bypass every time when she served on the MCOG.

I know that Tom is hard-working and honest. Wherever I see his signs, I know that he has had permission of the land owner to place the sign there. When he says he will do something, he will follow through with it.

I urge everyone to vote, and I urge you to vote for Tom Woodhouse.

Deb Kvaka, Laytonville



Billy Hetherington poses behind a bust of Stratford Man, who is still thought by some to be the author of the works of William Shakespeare. Photo by Mike A'Dair

Willits Shakespeare Company

On break, but the Bard will be back

Rumors of the death of the Willits Shakespeare Company are premature, according to WSC Artistic Director Billy Hetherington, who talked to Willits Weekly last week.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Instead, after a hugely successful 2013 season, which led to major changes in the lives of Hetherington and his theatrical partner Bryan Arnold, Hetherington and company decided to take a year off.

The successes of the 2013 season included two joint productions with the Ukiah Players Theatre, "The History of America, Abridged" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

In addition, in 2013 WSC experienced its most successful children's summer program ever. In 2011, the company split the children's program into two separate programs, one for 5- to 11-year-olds and a second for 12- to 18-year-old kids. In 2013, those two tracks were in full swing, but Willits Shakespeare also offered workshops in filmmaking, playwriting, acting and directing.

"They were all really successful," Read the rest of [WSC](#) | [Over on Page 11](#)

A world of live music at Shanachie Pub



On an otherwise quiet Monday night in downtown Willits, one just needs to step through a certain gateway at 50 South Main Street to find a world of live music happening inside Shanachie Pub. World Music Mondays is the month-old addition

Kate Maxwell
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

to the pub's weekly line-up, created by owner Pete Swanton in mid-September to complement the ever-popular Open Mic Night, held every Wednesday. Now, for at least the next several months, Willits residents and visitors have two weeknights to enjoy a wide variety of performances by musicians ranging from near and far.

"Thanks, Pete, for making such a great place for all of us to come together and make music," said one singer, ending her set last Wednesday in front of a packed house. A local favorite for local musicians for the last 14 years, at times during peak tourist season, Open Mic at Shanachie's otherwise intimate space can approach capacity – and fall is definitely one of those times. Although the days are getting shorter, that just means the nights get busy early: last week Open Mic was full to the brim by 9 pm, and more people just kept coming.

"There's people from all over the world here right now," said Dan Miller, one of Shanachie's hard-working sound engineers. On both Monday and Wednesday nights, musicians can sign up at 7 pm to play approximately 20 minute sets in slots from 8 to 11 pm. Miller says, in practice, he lets the time slots stay flexible, to keep with the energy of the room, because "that's how the magic

happens."

Although World Music Mondays is just getting started, the event is already very popular, but there's still some room to dance. This Monday, the magic was happening and the floor was full of those both young and old enjoying an impromptu jazz-funk quintet, which luckily went on for a lengthier set. One local woman sat with a young British couple, discussing visa expiration dates. "If this is your only night here, you've got to dance at least once!" exclaimed the regular. A banner reading "WHERE IN THE WORLD are you from???" alongside a map with stuck-on pins, hung on the wall near the stage.

Miller explained that night's musicians included players from Brazil, Ireland, and New Orleans, an accordion gypsy-folk duo, several locals and returning groups, and a threesome of guitar, bass, and drums he'd help connect earlier in the evening. In the spirit of community that such nights often invoke, Miller suggested to the guitar player that he talk with a bassist and drummer already in the crowd; the three took the stage together with ease. Miller himself joined in on a couple songs during the jazz-funk group that so inspired the crowd. "I think Mondays are what Wednesdays used to be," he said.

"It helps takes the edge off Wednesdays a little," Swanton said. "We probably could have started doing this last year, and we'll keep it up as long as the demand is there," he said, as he circulated around the patio.

Read the rest of [Pub](#) | [Over on Page 13](#)



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The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly 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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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Barrel & Cork

A Special Section of Willits Weekly | October 23, 2014

Showcasing Breweries & Wineries in Mendocino County

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Map & Tour Information Limos & Services

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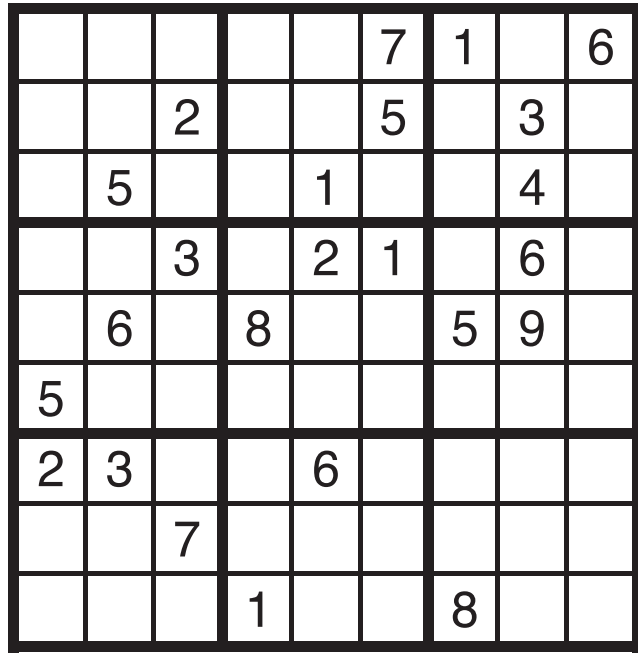
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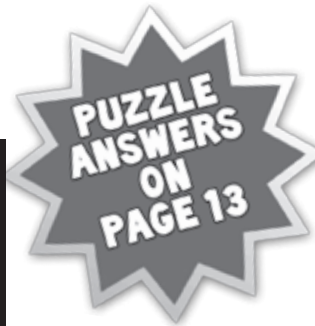
Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate



How To Sudoku:

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

In The Stars

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you begin the week with enthusiasm, but excitement begins to wane quite quickly. Find a way to rally your energy levels so you can complete tasks.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Rein in your emotions as much as possible this week, Taurus. You will feel passionate about a project in the coming days, but you still must remain calm as you tackle the tasks at hand.

GEMINI

May 22/Jan 21

Gemini, commitments at work may keep you from your plans, even if you have had a special event on the calendar for some time. This obligation is unavoidable.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Expect to have some serious feelings about love and romance this week, Cancer. You are empowered by the sweet feelings and what they mean for your future.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you are quite adept at maintaining a stoic outer appearance, but inside your emotions are churning. Find a healthy release and you will be glad you did.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, test the waters before you share a secret. This way you can get an idea of how a small group of people will react before you spread the word.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, use your natural gift for diplomacy to resolve a conflict at work. It is easy to find common ground and steer the conversation toward a reasonable resolution.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, grab some friends' attention as you attempt to garner support for a coming project. Once you have the floor, make the most of this opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, everything in your life seems to be in order. Now might be a great time to schedule some well-deserved rest and relaxation with loved ones.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, listen to your sixth sense as it guides you in a particular direction. Your instincts rarely steer you wrong. Resist the urge to follow what everyone else is doing.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

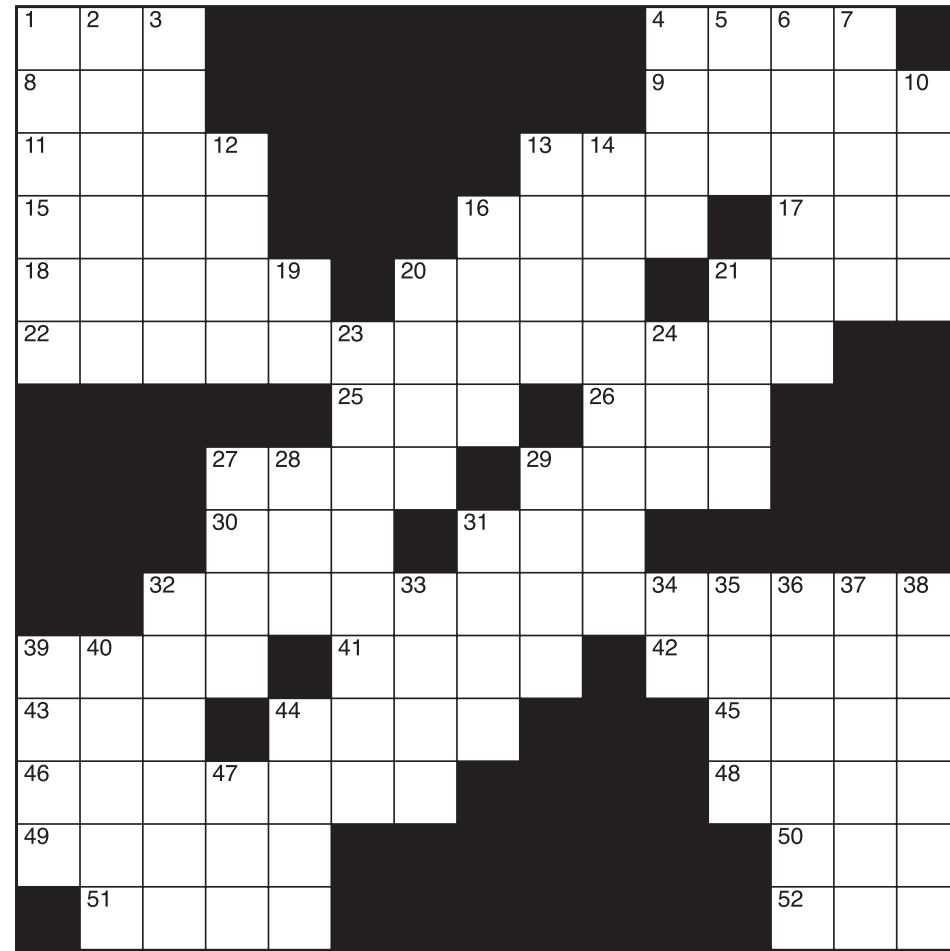
The first step toward change at work is to take the initiative, Aquarius. Once you make the decision to forge ahead, everything will fall nicely into place.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, don't worry if you have to give up something you desire when negotiating with others. The chips will fall into place.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Bunco
- In bed
- Telegraphic signal
- About rune
- lowa State town
- Technique of a pianist
- Grandmother
- Small lake
- Divides evenly into (Math)
- Water's edge
- Combustion residue
- Islamic ruler
- "Good Wife" investigator
- Solid water
- Tibetan gazelle
- Duets
- Common shade trees
- Cancellation key
- "Good Wife's" Gold
- "Good Wife" husband
- Herring-loke food fish
- Self-immolation

CLUES DOWN

- Chief Polish port
- Japanese motor co.
- Carbolic acid
- Mures River city
- Small bread roll
- Inexplicable occurrence
- Thrown in track and field
- Military leader (abbr.)
- Indian dress
- Children's tale bear
- TV delivery system
- Ad ___
- 2nd smallest planet
- First on moon
- Androgyne
- Skating jump
- Remove fat from
- Point midway between NE and E
- London park
- Pig pen
- Opposite of cameo
- Portraiture stance
- 1/2 an em
- Pouchlike structures
- Music awards est. 1973
- Belonging to a diocese
- Memory whose contents cannot be changed
- Transfer property
- Universal Standard Time (abbr.)
- Norse goddess of old age
- A type of salamander
- Appease
- Not common
- Church of Pope Francis
- Common frog genus
- Wild goats
- Customer
- NAACP founder Florence
- Outbuilding
- N.E. Chinese province
- Distribute by measure
- Scoundrel

COLUMN | Specializing in Creativity

Halloween fun!

Halloween crafting/Ghost Pops

What you will need:

- Lollipops of your choice: I used Tootsie Roll pops
- Kleenex/tissue
- Googly eyes, small, big, plain, colored: your choice
- Pipe cleaners (any color)

First, wrap a piece of tissue evenly around the top of the sucker. While holding the tissue still, bunch it around the bottom of the ball of the sucker and wrap pipe cleaner tightly around twice. Then take a pencil and twist one side of the remaining pipe cleaner to make it curl, then do the same to the other side! You may then glue your Googly eyes on however and wherever you want. You can use a glue stick or a hot glue gun. You can put two eyes on some, or one eye on some, or get creative with it and make them all different! Simple, but cute and fun!

Nicole Basler
Columnist



Halloween snack /Vampire Teeth

What you will need:

- Apples, your choice of color and type
- Smooth peanut butter
- Little marshmallows

Now this is a fast and easy snack that is spooktastic! First, cut your apple into slices, and set them aside in twos. Next, spread the peanut butter on the inside of both of your two slices. Then, place marshmallows on the peanut butter on one of the apple slices, then put the second apple slice on top with the peanut butter side facing the marshmallows! You can cut two of the marshmallows to look like canine teeth, if you like!



Halloween dessert/ Baked Pumpkin Donut Holes

What you will need:

- For donuts:
- 1-3/4 cup flour
 - 2 teaspoons baking powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
 - 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
 - 1/2 teaspoon allspice
 - 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
 - 1/3 cup canola oil
 - 1/2 cup light brown sugar
 - 1 large egg
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 3/4 cup canned plain pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)
 - 1/2 cup milk

For coating:

- 6 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2/3 cup of sugar
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon

These are delicious and technically are mini muffins but they look and taste like donut holes!

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, and spray a 24-cup mini muffin pan and set aside.

In a bowl mix the first seven ingredients. Then in a separate bowl mix the next six ingredients. Then combine both bowls and mix together. Divide batter evenly into the muffin cups (no liners), and bake for 10 to 12 minutes. While baking, make the coating: melt butter and set aside in one bowl. In another bowl, combine sugar and cinnamon. Let donuts cool for two minutes. To coat, roll each donut in butter, then roll in the sugar/cinnamon mix. Let them cool before serving.

Original craft inspiration posted on Pinterest, photos by Nicole Basler.



Danielle Barry



Monica Dorro



Lily Caine



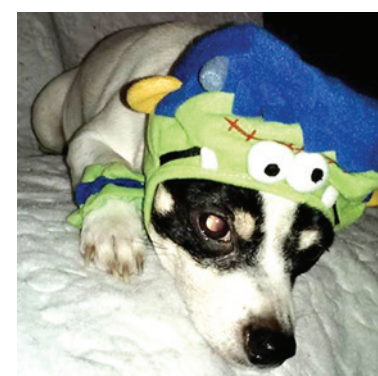
Peetie the devil

COSTUME CALL!

Willits Weekly is once again looking to feature Willits' costume-clad locals and decorated pumpkins in our October 30 edition. The community is welcome to send in photos of kids, friends, wives, husbands, critters and yards – anything decked out in holiday finery. Try on your costume early and get those pumpkins ready, because we need those photos in by the end of day on MONDAY, OCTOBER 27. Please email them to willitsweekly@gmail.com, and make sure to include a caption describing who or what is in the photo! We look forward to seeing all of your photos! We look forward to seeing all your photos! Here are some photos published in our Halloween 2013 issue.



Austin Vigil and her doll



Nemo the monster



Otto Hinchliffe and Tim King



Charlotte Arkelian

COLUMN | Well Mannered Mutts



Halloween and dogs

Sallie Palmer
Columnist

I probably look at Halloween a lot differently than others. That's because I am preoccupied with dogs. What I think of first when Halloween season is upon us is the Halloween costumes made for dogs. There are some amazingly cute costumes available. Dogs dressed as a horse with a little saddle on their back, or a Schipperke with a white stripe painted on the dog's back so he looks like a skunk.

I admit they look funny and make me laugh. Some of the costumes are beyond clever: the wiener dog in a hotdog bun comes to mind or the small dog dressed like a spider. Here is the thing, not all dogs like to be dressed up. Some dogs really don't mind. However, if you have a dog that doesn't enjoy this human activity, it is fair to dress them up?

I think dogs know the difference between being dressed up in a costume and being laughed at, and when they are wearing something such as a vest for working purposes. When I placed a search vest on my German shepherd, he knew it meant going out and searching. When I placed a police shirt on him for Halloween (yes, he was going as a police dog), he acted mortified, embarrassed and

Read the rest of Dogs

Over on Page 11



COLUMN | Cocktails with Candice

Vodka

I heavily debated what would be the best first topic for my first monthly booze blurb. After much consideration I decided to feature my personal favorite liquor, vodka. Vodka is really great for those drinkers who don't enjoy the taste of liquor and the people who do enjoy it, too. Whiskey and gin have very distinct flavors that are built upon when cocktails are made with them. In my experience you don't see very many people who order straight vodka shots, either. Vodka is also great for making jelly shots, if you aren't getting artisanal with your recipes.

Candice Kelley
Columnist

A big trend over the last 10 years that I have noticed is the abundance of flavored spirits (which has been very fun for myself as a bartender). Even substituting a simple citrus-flavored vodka with your cranberry juice can give your go-to beverage a refreshing and subtle change.

A key component to enjoying vodka is quality. I use the word quality with emphasis. Quality does not mean that it has to be the most expensive, top-shelf liquor on the market. Especially if you are enjoying a cocktail as opposed to a shot, as the flavor will be muddled with your mixer. I prefer Stolichnaya vodka myself, but in this column, I want to highlight a brand that is affordable and highly rated in many articles that I have read. According to a July 2013 article at www.forbes.com, Tito's Handmade Vodka, about \$20 a bottle, started out being crafted in a single 16-gallon still in Texas. In 2001 during the San Francisco World Spirits Competition, "Tito's Handmade won the double gold medal for the best vodka over Grey Goose, Bevedere and 70 others." This is proof that higher quality does not equal a higher price tag. Little known to the general public, some top-shelf brands created unique artistic bottles, only distribute six packs (keeping wholesale purchases at a higher price), and have worked marketing magic that has launched their brands to the coveted top shelf. This is something to keep in mind the next time you make your liquor purchase.

I will leave you with a few tips for your Halloween party this year. Buy your booze in bulk: half-gallons are often less expensive than buying two bottles. Take advantage of the Safeway six pack that gives you savings: you can mix wine and different kinds of alcohol. If you are already picking up four bottles, it can be worth it to buy an extra two and get the savings (hint, it can be a cheap extra two bottles).

I have seen a fun trick to make your Halloween cocktails more festive this year: add black food coloring to your vodka (or other clear spirit) and serve up spooky black martinis. Put a spin on the classic screwdriver by starting with ice in a glass of your choice, your desired amount of orange juice (I like to do a half and half mix but adjust to your taste), and then pour your black vodka on top. You will then have a black and orange cocktail for guests. Enjoy responsibly, designate a driver, and drink a big glass of water before you go to sleep. Happy Halloween.

Candice Kelley has been bartending since 2006 and started her mobile bartending business Service With Style in 2013. She is available for parties large and small around Mendocino and Sonoma counties. For info call 707-354-4894 or visit www.servicewithstyle.net

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COLUMN | Relationship

Tending to our own needs

Dear Doris,

I understand that in order to be in a healthy relationship we must tend to our own needs first so that we are as healthy as we can be. This has been one of the most difficult things for me to learn to do, as I wasn't raised that way, but taught to think of others' needs first. Do you have any recommendations/tools/practices on how one changes such behavior?

L.

Dear L.:

I think it all comes down to being able to choose consciously between your needs and those of others. When we are in healthy relationships, we do things for each other because we want to and we enjoy it. It's a flow of giving and receiving. It sounds like you are not yet comfortable with choosing your needs and desires first. Be assured, you already have taken the most important step into this new direction. You are aware of what is going on and of what you would like to change. That is a wonderful start!!!

Here are some effective questions to ask yourself: "Do I feel obligated to do that, can I say no, or can I do it later at a more convenient time?" If you continuously do things out of obligation and neglect your own needs, you risk the danger of resenting that person or yourself for doing something that you feel forced to do. Carrying around resentments can easily hurt the relationship you have with that person in the long run.

In your situation, I recommend you take a moment before you cater to another's needs and ask yourself: "Do I really want to do that?" If your answer is yes, ask yourself: "When is a good time for me to do it?" If the answer is no, then don't. Of course, in emergency situations we often can't choose, we must act, but most of the time we have a choice.

It will take some practice before taking care of your own needs can become a new habit of yours. For now, I recommend you to invest your energy into the questions above. Take your time to answer them for yourself. Not only will you profit, but the relationships you have with others will prosper as well. It might be interesting for you to journal or pay attention to the feelings and thoughts that come up when you start attending to your needs first.

Do not be surprised if you encounter shame, guilt, and/or feelings

Read the rest of Relationship
Over on Page 11

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Shy Calvin

Hi, I am Calvin. I am a Doxie mix, and I weigh 12 pounds. I am a guest of the Ukiah Shelter. I am a little shy and would do best in a quiet home where I can get lots of love and attention. I am scared of big dogs.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. We have many other wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here as well. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets or visit our shelter. For more information about adoption please call 463-4654.

Photo by Sage Mountainfire

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REACH comes to Brooktrails again

Personnel from REACH, the Santa Rosa-based, emergency medical helicopter transport provider, gave a presentation to the public at Tuesday night's meeting of the Brooktrails board of directors.

The meeting was very much like the meeting that occurred two weeks ago, hosted by the Brooktrails Property Owners Association

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Once again, REACH personnel explained that they want to site a helicopter as well as living facilities for a small medical team of three people at Ells Field.

REACH Vice President Anna Blair told the public the company expects that, on average, REACH will respond to one medical call a day for the first three years. After three years, REACH hopes that number will grow to 1.5 trips per day.

When asked how noisy the helicopter will be, REACH Director of Business Development Don Wharton replied he didn't have any data that would provide an objective number, but added, "This is one of the more favorable helicopters flying across the nation."

When Paul Trexel suggested transmission noise from the helicopter was a major concern, Wharton replied he was incapable of distinguishing transmission noise from engine noise.

Brooktrails resident Ralph Waldman asked REACH what it intended to do about dust suppression. Facilities Manager Jim Walker said REACH was going to put crushed gravel around the helipad, adding that naturally occurring vegetation around the site was very good at absorbing dust.

When Blair said REACH is planning to be up and running by November

10, Ramona Waldman commented she didn't see how that could possibly happen, since the City of Willits has not even begun any kind of initial study on the project.

"This is a change in use of the Willits airport," Waldman said. "There are going to be changes in frequency, intensity, time of day, noises. Also dust – they haven't been analyzed.

"I'm a nurse and I have to say, sleep disturbance can have detrimental health effects," she said. "There will be effects on wildlife, too. So I am wondering: how are you going to get this thing in, on the day you say, when you haven't even started an initial study?"

City of Willits Code Enforcement officer John Sherman told Waldman no study was needed because the proposed siting of a helicopter was in conformance with existing uses of the airport. His sentiments were supported by REACH's Walker.

"My understanding is we are in compliance with everything required at the airport," said Walker. "We are an aviation operation. We're no different than anything else. We are rotor-wing helicopters, but there are fixed-wing airplanes flying there all the time. So the idea is, we are in compliance with what is the existing use of that airport is."

The presentation before the board of directors was to have been preceded by a demonstration of the helicopter at Ells Field. That demonstration was cancelled when REACH personnel were called out on a medical transport minutes before the scheduled demonstration.

The rest of Traffic | From Page 1

"It's interesting. It's not an everyday occurrence in Willits," U.S. Cellular employee Jon Beck said, shaking his head as he looked at the "parking lot" of cars filling Main Street/Highway 101. "It's really slowed down business."

Reactions to the delays were strong. The social networking website, Facebook, was filled with comments from local residents and people passing through. Some urged readers to take side streets and avoid Main Street altogether. A few suggested back-road routes to bypass the city and the traffic slowdown.

One Facebook post said it took 20 minutes to follow a back-road detour around the slowdown, while others reported wait times exceeding 90 minutes. Another poster reported seeing one driver jumping out of his car, running into a local fast-food restaurant, and returning with dinner before traffic moved any significant distance.

Facebook also recorded more than a few angry comments directed toward bypass protestors and the delays they have caused.

Willits resident Larry Flowers reported a one-way travel time of one hour and thirty-five minutes after going to pick up his grandchildren at a local school. "I can't wait 'til the bypass is done," Flowers told Willits Weekly.

Last Thursday's slowdown was repeated Monday, as Caltrans put the finishing touches on Thursday's work. Notice of the closure was posted on Caltrans' Facebook page just hours before Monday's closure.

In an email to Willits Weekly, Caltrans representative Betsy Totten said Monday's delay was "to touch up some areas to make it easier for trucks to pass through."

Totten added the delays people experienced Thursday were about what Caltrans had expected, and that the process of paving of the detour went smoothly.

"We are not scheduled for any closures in the future and anticipate the detour will flow smoothly," Totten said.

The newly paved section includes a sharp curve with a warning to slow to 20 miles per hour. Rumors that California Highway Patrol officers are issuing tickets to drivers exceeding the posted speed had not been confirmed at press time.

The rest of Parrish | From Page 1

That amount has since dropped several times over the past year due to recalculations of what exact costs in staffing hours, equipment used during the occupation and extraction, and interruptions in work were a direct result of Parrish's bypass protest.

At the opening of last Friday's hearing, Caltrans said it was now seeking \$154,733 in restitution from Parrish, but that amount was reduced that day to \$108,990, with more reductions likely to come.

Judge John Behnke delayed a final decision because Parrish's counsel had just received several exhibits from the prosecution.

The last round of filings in the more than year-long proceedings are due by the end of the month, after which a final decision is expected.

According to a stipulation of the plea agreement between Parrish and the DA's office that Behnke termed "unusual," the restitution judgment has been separated from the sentencing timeline, which means Behnke can decide on a restitution amount even though Parrish was already sentenced.

In January, Parrish agreed to plead guilty to two misdemeanors and complete 100 hours of community service. He has since completed his community service obligation.

Mendocino County Assistant District Attorney Paul Sequiera and Department of Transportation attorney Eric Wong attended Friday's hearing, as did Parrish's attorney Omar Figueroa.

The prosecution called only one witness: Caltrans construction manager Susan Tappan.

Sequiera offered a \$45,743 reduction in the current amount Caltrans is seeking, dropping the proposed restitution to \$108,990, saying Tappan and the DOT had recalculated the costs to reflect only additional hours beyond normal staffing billed by CHP officers during Parrish's protest.

Tappan, a 25-year DOT employee who has worked on the bypass project since 2001, explained her role in managing the office, handling business and construction records during the time of Parrish's protest. She testified she had overseen the calculations for the restitution requests outlined in exhibits from the prosecution, including submitted invoices from bypass contractors.

Figueroa questioned Tappan's personal knowledge of activities on the ground during the period Parrish was in the stitcher, focusing on whether Parrish had been at the project site on June 19, 2013, a day included in the restitution amounts.

Figueroa also wanted to know when and what equipment was halted, or work delayed, due to weather and other factors, as well as actual staff hours expended addressing Parrish's occupation. He also sought to pin down whether those costs were actual, averaged, or extrapolated, and the exact equipment required for Parrish's extraction via cherry picker on July 1, 2013.

When pressed about her involvement in determining the original and much higher restitution request, Tappan replied: "Initially it was considered scheduling had been delayed as a result of the occupation. Later we re-evaluated and determined the interruption did not cause a delay in the total construction schedule."

Other delays occurred due to rain, and only certain work stoppages occurred on equipment located near the stitcher.

Tappan also testified she had no personal knowledge of Parrish's location on June 19, and did not have documents on hand to support specific items in the amount of restitution requested.

Figueroa also questioned the exact purpose of items such as light towers and an additional cherry picker, which he argued were used not for safety purposes as claimed, but to cause Parrish discomfort enough to force him to end his occupation.

A similar argument was made concerning the presence of CHP officers at the site at night, as well as the 32 CHP officers on hand during the July 1 extraction.

Witnesses for Parrish included fellow bypass protestor Amanda "Warbler" Senseman and others, who testified about various aspects of the occupation: the weather at the time, security staffing, the method and time of the occupation, extraction and subsequent arrest, and whether Parrish had access to food and water from supporters.

In his concluding remarks, Sequiera said he "was very sympathetic" to someone "who's doing what this country was built upon: protesting and standing up for his First Amendment rights, but argued that "the bottom line is there's a cost to the taxpayer."

He said he would leave the exact figure calculations to Caltrans but "I don't think it's right for him to pay nothing."

Judge Behnke noted he would honor the request to extend the deadline for filing until October 31, since Figueroa had just received two exhibits (possibly caused by a courthouse employee's maternity leave). He recommended excluding costs caused by rain delays, costs from June 19, and other listed requests that were not "hard costs" of the occupation.

He added that while Parrish's motives would be considered, a defendant's ability to pay could not be.

Behnke will make a judgment as to the exact amount owed after receiving final documents from both sides.



Above, right: Workers preparing for the special sod installation in front of the hospital building.

Above, left, from top: Landscape designers Dave and Jenny Watts pose by one of hundreds of trees on site; a crew member prepares soil for the sod's arrival; Johan Henckell finishes securing a newly planted tree.

Below: Dave Watts works on a stormwater bio-retention area.

Photos by Kate Maxwell



Innovative landscaping at new Howard Hospital

Redwoods, flowering trees, native sod, water conservation, and more.

The completion of the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital this spring will feature a unique and innovative landscaping project, the work of Willits' Dave and Jenny Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery and other local contractors. The landscaping is currently being installed at the new site. The project covers almost 2-3/4 acres and includes features celebrating the local landscape –along with custom plant and irrigation designs – to create a place that is not only beautiful and relaxing, but also water-wise and carefully integrated into the surrounding environment.

Roses, lavender, rosemary, cotoneaster, ceanothus, butterfly bushes, and other touches of color will be woven throughout the landscape, along with flowering trees such as crape myrtles, flowering plums, flowering cherries, flowering crab apples, and pears. Japanese maples and other plants with autumnal color will be planted soon, with different colorful aspects appearing throughout the seasons.

Though the initial planning began almost three years ago, the landscape will continue to grow and blossom over the years, as the plants flourish in their new environment. Right now, flowers, trees and shrubs are arriving in 1- to 15-gallon containers from Sanhedrin and three wholesale nurseries, and crews are scheduled to begin putting in the special native sod at the end of this week. Weather depending, plans are to have finished installing plants by early to mid-November; currently less than half of what will be hundreds of trees, flowers and other plants are in the ground.

"Jenny and I are very proud to be part of this community-wide effort to make the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital a show piece," says Dave Watts, who along with his wife, Jenny, have designed numerous local landscaping projects, including the Babcock Park fountain garden, the Hospice Memorial Gardens, and work on East Commercial Street. The project also includes installation work done by Johan Henckell of Willits' Greenstone Landscaping, Mike Higgins of Redwood Valley's North Coast Horticulture, and irrigation design by Dale Higgins of Ukiah's

Environmental Planning, who all have extensive experience in the county.

"I think it's one of the biggest landscaping projects we've seen in Willits in years, both materials-wise and dollars-wise," says Henckell. "It's definitely the way a landscape should be installed, and it's rare we get to do something on this scale." Henckell, whose clients include Mariposa Market, SHN, and others on Main Street, is collaborating on the installation with Mike Higgins, who has worked on the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah and Edmeades Winery in Boonville. Henckell will install most trees, shrubs, ground covers, and annuals, with Higgins focusing on irrigation, sod, and other hardscape features.

In order to consider not only the varied natural landscape elements but the specific design needs based on the hospital buildings and conservation concerns, the Watts' split up the work: Jenny developed the custom plant elements around the building itself, and Dave took on the stormwater bio-retention facilities and parking lot areas. Dale Higgins contributed the design and installation plan for a state-of-the-art irrigation system.

"A balance had to be struck between aesthetic appearance and functional needs," recalls Dave Watts. The acreage itself includes places sunny and shady, wet and dry; vegetation needed to be colorful, drought-tolerant, low-maintenance, and deer-resistant, among other requirements. The team also had to navigate an array of factors ranging from the compacted soil required for earthquake building standards, federal aviation safety regulations for the helipad's hedge, and other design challenges presented by a large construction project.

By spring, the landscape will full of trees, including redwood groves, as well as a multitude of native and drought-tolerant plants, a Mediterranean garden, and a variety of other landscaping elements that highlight particular features of Willits' natural environment and the city's past. Watts

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

The rest of Solar | From Page 1

is available online and provides a minute-by-minute report on what each of the installations is doing.

"It is absolutely amazing when you log onto the system and see the screen and see some of the stuff, graphically. It is really amazing," Michel said.

"The report shows dollars," she added. "But it's not telling you how much you use, and it's not telling you what you have generated. And what you're using is at a completely different rate than what you're generating. So you might see that you're paying \$9,000 a month for PG&E service, and you're only generating \$4,000 or maybe only \$2,000.

"When you're generating, it's so discounted you can't really compare the two."

So after two years, Willits area taxpayers still do not know if the \$4.4 million dollars the district spent on the solar installations – part of the 2010 Measure B school facilities project – have benefited the district.

Michel did say the state of California has paid the district \$190,000 in rebates. Those rebates, at the rate of \$100,000 a year for five years, were initiated in 2013 and are set to expire in 2017.

The board asked Michel to go back and try again. District Superintendent Patricia Johnson said she would look into the matter, but added: "I don't want to have to spend any money on it."

District hires new legal team

Trustees voted unanimously to hire the legal team of Haight, Brown and Bonesteel to assist with legal issues facing the district. The contract contains no retainer clause, meaning if the district doesn't use the new legal team, it does not have to pay the firm anything.

At the same time, Superintendent Patricia Johnson acknowledged the district has reduced its commitment with its extant legal team – School and College Legal Services of California – from 150 hours a year to 50 hours a year.

Trustee Christopher Neary, a Willits attorney, said he supported initiating a relationship with Haight, Brown and Bonesteel because labor negotiations with the district's two employee bargaining units, which took place in the spring of this year and were conducted by attorneys from School and College Legal Services, did not go as smoothly as he had wished.

"The negotiations just didn't get off on a good footing," Neary said.

Board doesn't like developer fees

The superintendent proposed the school district reinstate developer fees, which would be paid to the district when developers build homes, commercial or industrial facilities within district boundaries. The board had suspended its right to collect developer fees on January 1, 2010.

Neary spoke against the idea. "I feel we are starting to have just a little bit of growth now, after five or six years of no growth," he said. "I'd hate to negatively impact that, without a very clear benefit to us."

Neary added the Brooktrails administration has just received its first application to build a house in Brooktrails in seven

years. The last home built in Brooktrails was in 2006, he said.

The rest of the board agreed with Neary's comments and voted unanimously to table Johnson's request.

High school in the news

Willits High School Principal Jeffrey Ritchley told trustees he and his faculty continue to push hard on the WASC process, the high school's accreditation question.

Last spring, Dr. Samuel Hill, a representative from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) recommended suspension of Willits High School's accreditation.

Discussion at a subsequent board meeting revealed the main cause of Hill's recommendation was the gutting of the school's counseling program. The school's team of two counselors and a psychologist had been reduced to one employee, who was doubling as a half-time counselor and a half-time psychologist. The change occurred in April 2014, just about the time Hill was visiting Willits High.

Hill's highly unusual recommendation was overturned by WASC administration, and an agreement was made that other WASC personnel would return in spring 2015 to assess how the school is doing in realizing the 64 organizational and academic goals articulated in Willits High's 2011 school-wide plan.

Ritchley has said that meeting looms large on the school's horizon, and he has put all hands on deck to prepare a thorough report on how WHS has met, or will be meeting, those goals.

Ritchley told the board he has created an array of focus groups and student groups which are working to prepare a well-thought out and well-written response to the WASC mandate.

Closed campus still looks good, Ritchley says

Ritchley told the board reviews continue to be positive on his August 2014 decision to close the high school campus for freshmen and sophomores, meaning only juniors and seniors can leave the school campus for lunch.

Ritchley touted the benefits of the closed campus, including issuing many fewer tardy slips after lunch. Superintendent Johnson told trustees under the previous "open campus" system, school faculty would routinely issue some 80 tardy slips a day after lunch. That number is down to 10 a day.

"It's great seeing kids be kids," Ritchley said. "It's great seeing them do stuff together or just hang out, instead of worrying about texting to get a ride back to class."

Naomi Ramirez, student representative to the board, told trustees she didn't mind the closed campus regime, but did not like WHS's split lunch periods.

"We used to be able to play music with our friends," she said. "Now all we can play with are the freshmen and sophomores, because the juniors and seniors are having the other lunch."

Asked if she had any comments about how things are going at the high school, Ramirez said she and her classmates needed new books. "We need new biology and chemistry books. The ones we have are falling apart."

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Friday, October 17

Fall Book Sale for the Willits Library: annual 4-day sale put on by Friends of the Willits Library. 10 am to 6 pm today at the Willits Community Center, 111 Commercial Street.



Shanachie Pub: The Screaming JJ's: North Carolina Boogie Woogie Piano Band, featuring Jake Hollifield on Piano, Jonathan Hess on Bass, and Mike Gray on Percussion. 9 pm. \$5 cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub info: 459-9194.

Friday Night Dance Party: 10 pm at John's Place, 255 East Commercial Street, with DJ Mikey T. October 17 and October 31 (Halloween Party!) this month. No cover, drink specials, pool tables, darts, new dance floor. Light show! 21 years or older.

Diggers Dancehall Fridays: Joey D Productions presents: Dancehall, Dubstep, Hip Hop, Reggae, Trance, Latin: Positive Music /Positive Vibes every Friday at Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street. 21+. 10 pm to close. No cover. Tonight: DJ Selecta Konnex.

Saturday, October 18

Fall Book Sale for the Willits Library: annual 4-day sale put on by Friends of the Willits Library. 10 am to 4 pm today at the Willits Community Center, 111 Commercial Street.

Annual Oktoberfest Dinner: a fundraising event hosted by the Willits American Legion, Post 174. 5 to 7 pm at the 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. \$15; \$7 per

child under 12; free for kids under 5. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Workshop on Measure S: 1 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street (not a library-sponsored event). One of a number of conversation-based, 2 to 3 hour free workshops around the county to explore Measure S, "a Community Bill of Rights Ordinance that Bans Fracking in Mendocino County." "What exactly does the ordinance contain? How will it impact people personally? What are Community Rights? What consequences might occur if the ordinance passes? Who decides that fracking can happen in Mendocino if the ordinance does not pass?" Workshops designed and presented by Willow Rain. Participants will be provided with a hard copy of the ordinance text accompanied by illustrative diagrams designed to aid understanding, remembering and sharing with others. Info: Willow Rain at peoplesvoices@yahoo.com.

Funk for the Farm Costume Ball: A Grange Farm School Benefit featuring Jelly Bread and Living Drums. Jelly Bread (www.jellybread.net) plays music for dancing: "a dash of alt-rock with soul and funk ... highlighted by dual vocals, four part harmonies, in-the-pocket drum and bass grooves, swampy lap steel guitar, dirt under the fingernails guitar licks, and take-'em-to-church organ." Doors open 6:30 pm; show 7 pm. \$15; 12+ under free. No host food by Zocalo Catering; no host local beer & wine. "Dress up and get down!" Sound by Ancestor Radio. Another Cosmic Pickle production.

Shanachie Pub: The Taluna Duo from Italy: "between gypsy and sephardic sounds, syncopated rhythms and the obsessed tarantella!" 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub info: 459-9194.



'Grants 101': a free workshop

Willits Library is delighted to provide a free workshop, "Grants 101: An introduction to grant seeking and grant writing for community organizations," on Monday, October 27, from noon to 4 pm.

This presentation by Michael Kisslinger will teach where to find information on grants and grantmakers, the parts of a good grant proposal, and how to package a grant proposal.

Kisslinger is the supervisor of the Foundation Centers Funding Information Network partnership for the Mendocino County Library. He has been helping local non-profits with grant seeking, fundraising, governance, and management issues for 20 years.

Please call 459-5908 to reserve your seat.

Town Hall Meeting video up online

Part 1 and Part 2 of a video by Willits Community Television of the "Meet the Candidates" Town Hall on September 21 is available online for viewing at <https://vimeo.com/107430192>. With candidates for 3rd District supervisor Holly Madrigal and Tom Woodhouse and candidates for Willits City Council, Robin Leler, Ron Orenstein and Larry Stranske. A DVD available for those without high speed internet: Order DVDs from "Pistachio Films LLC," 75 North Main Street, PMB 230, Willits, CA 95490. Price \$8 (\$5 for the DVD and \$3 for shipping and handling, priced only to recoup costs of the production of the video).

Christian Community Harvest Party & Coat Giveaway

On Friday, October 31 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, Agape Bible Church will host a Harvest Party and Coat Giveaway put on by several local churches. This is Agape's annual costume party, with a giant bounce house and game booths. There will be hot dogs, nachos, chili and cheese, popcorn, cake and candy available for everyone. Families and individuals can choose from a variety of donated gently used coats and hats. This is a community outreach for all ages, and everyone is welcome at no cost. Agape Bible Church is located at 290 South Lenore Avenue. Questions? Call 459-1905.



***** 2014 *****

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What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Sunday, October 19

17th Willits Walk for Health & Wellness: at the New Howard Foundation Medical Campus. East Hill Road & Haehl Creek Drive. Registration opens at 9:15 am. Say goodbye to the old hospital. See the new Medical Campus. View the Commonwealth Garden. Walk the new Haehl Creek Trail. Learn about Avenues to Wellness. "It's Fun! It's FREE! Special Treats at walk conclusion." Info: Willits Healthy Action Team (W.H.A.T.), Jed Diamond: 459-5505.

Fall Book Sale for the Willits Library: annual 4-day sale put on by Friends of the Willits Library. Final day today: 10 am to 3 pm. \$3/bag all day: Bring your own book bag! at the Willits Community Center, 111 Commercial Street.

Monday, October 20

Girl Scouts Founder's Day Program: Girl Scout Troop 10457 hosts this program celebrating the birthday of Juliet Low, the founder of Girl Scouts. Blosser Lane Cafeteria, 6:30 to 8 pm. Including skits about Juliet Low and her story, as well as singing, crafts, and a birthday cake, plus information on Girl Scouting in Willits: all interested families are invited to attend. Troop 10457 is a Junior Age level Troop, ages 9 to 10, led by Ann Maglente and her daughter Emmelia. Meets on alternate Mondays from 4 to 5:15 pm at the Little Lake Grange. Info: Ann at greengables@wildblue.net

Willits Dances of Universal Peace: Sacred circle dances and chants drawn from cross cultural traditions, every third Monday of the month. 7 to 9 pm at the Muse. Joyful & heart opening. Easy to learn, live music. Info: 459-9085.

Tuesday, October 21

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: "Gone Girl" and "The Equalizer." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.



Free Tire Recycling: Clean out those old tires, for free, Tuesday, October 21 through Saturday, 25 from 9 am to 4 pm, at the Willits Transfer Station. Households can recycle up to 9 passenger or light truck tires per day. There is a 17" diameter size limit. No rims are allowed, and no tire dealers may participate. Sponsored by the Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority in cooperation with Solid Waste of Willits. Info: call the Recycling Hotline at 468-9710 or visit www.mendorecycle.org.

Wednesday, October 22

Free Tire Recycling: See Tuesday, October 21 listing for details.

Thursday, October 23

Second to Last Outdoor Farmers Market: On the first Thursday in November, the Willits Farmers Market moves indoors to their winter location at the Little Lake Grange. This will be the second to last market outdoors at City Park, from 3 to 6 pm.

Free Tire Recycling: See Tuesday, October 21 listing for details.

Day of the Dead Celebration: 5:30 to 8 pm at Little Lake Grange, Pine and School streets. "We will be decorating an altar dedicated to the women in our lives who have passed on but have been an inspiration to us. Everyone is invited to come and bring small photos and mementos representing the women they are honoring. Craft materials are provided but please bring any you would like to share." Remembrances for Maya Angelou and Angeles Arrien will be included. Guest speakers Carlin Diamond, Kitty Norris, and Carolyn Bakewell will share with us the history and traditions of this very special holiday. Children, ages 7 and up, and families are warmly invited. Refreshments. The altar will be displayed at Trillium/Cat's Meow. No admission

charge, but donations may be made to the Grange. Presented by the Willits AAUW (American Association of University Women). More info: Ann Maglente: greengables@wildblue.net.

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 23, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 East 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 www.miraclesinyourlife.org.

Focus on Medical Marijuana Forum: sponsored by the Small Farmers Association. 6 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. With candidates for Third District supervisor, Holly Madrigal and Tom Woodhouse. Moderated by Julia Carrera of the Small Farmers Association, an educational non-profit association. Carrera says the forum "is a way to begin healthy and positive dialogue between elected officials and their constituents on a subject that has historically missed the mark." Questions will be anonymously submitted from the audience that night via index card and read to the candidates by the moderator; three questions per person allowed. For more info, visit the "Small Farmers Association" page on Facebook.

Friday, October 24

Free Tire Recycling: See Tuesday, October 21 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Harvest Party with The Dirt Floor Band and Farafi. Wine tastings from Saimaine Cellars and Eel River Brewing specials and tastings, from 7 to 9 pm. Music starts 9 pm. \$5 cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 25

Free Tire Recycling: See Tuesday, October 21 listing for details.

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A BENEFIT FOR THE MENDOCINO COUNTY MUSEUM

Tim Farrell at Willits Community Theatre

Sunday, November 9

Fingerstyle Guitar Master Tim Farrell will offer an intimate performance at Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, November 9 at 2 pm in celebration of his latest CD release, "Cascadia." As a musician, composer, educator, and recording artist, Farrell has performed with such notable artists as Les Paul, George Benson, Jean Luc Ponty, Rick Wakeman, Alex DeGrassi and Jake Shimabukuru. He has been a featured performer and workshop instructor at major music festivals including Montreal Jazz Show, Montreal International Jazz Festival, Newport Guitar Festival, Healdsburg Guitar Festival, and Woodstock Invitational.

Farrell is a master of the intricacies and melodic grace of fingerstyle playing. He is the rare breed of musician who leads his listeners to experience music on a multitude of levels, while his melodies captivate and enchant, and his playing expresses a simple elegance that celebrates the purity of the acoustic guitar. For his compositions, Farrell's song "Rosewood Alley" won Best Instrumental in the 7th annual International Acoustic Music Awards. Currently his tune "Kindred Spirits" is a finalist in the 9th annual International Acoustic Music Awards. Several of his compositions are included in documentary films "The Missing Piece" and "A Small, Small Film" which are currently showing on the festival circuit.



Tim Farrell

Farrell's album "CODAS" was named Best of Echoes in the 2010 Listener's Poll. His album "Songs From Clearwood" was named as an Essential Echoes CD. Other awards include being honored as an Essential Echoes CD in the Listener's Poll and as a Critics Choice by Billboard magazine.

Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar in Willits, 38 S. Main Street, online at Brownpaperickets.com or by phone with credit card at the WCT office, 707-459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 W. Van Lane, Willits.

- submitted by Steve Hellman

17th Willits Walk for Wellness and Health

Come join us for the 17th Willits Walk for Wellness and Health on Sunday, October 19. Registration begins at 9:15 am, walk begins at 10 am. This one will be big. We'll be starting at the new Howard Foundation Medical Campus, 90 Haehl Creek Drive (corner of East Hill Road), walking to the old hospital to say goodbye and returning to the new campus. Special treats at the end of the walk. Highlights include the following:

- You'll get a chance to offer your "wishes for wellness"
- See the new Medical Campus
- View the Commonwealth Garden
- Walk the new Haehl Creek Trail
- Learn about Avenues to Wellness

Have fun, connect with you community, see what's new for the health of Willits and the surrounding area.

Get included in Willits Weekly's Calendar!

Submissions of community events and happenings in Willits, Laytonville and Covelo are encouraged and welcomed!

Send in your event's information to: willitsweekly@gmail.com or call 459-2633 for more information



Blosser Lane Recycling Fundraiser

Start saving all your plastic bottles and aluminum cans! The Blosser Lane Elementary School PTO (Parents and Teachers Organization) will be having a collection day on Wednesday, October 29 before and after school. Morning collection: 7:30 to 8:30 am and afternoon collection: 2 to 3:30 pm. If it goes well, the PTO might hold a recycling collection once a month. Please bring your recycled items bagged and separated. Let's see how much money we can raise and help keep our planet clean. Recycling can be dropped off from the street in front of the school, near the sign.

Ongoing Events:

Willits Farmers Market: Still at City Park through October: every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. Produce, plus cut flowers, local meats and fish, dinner, baked goods, bread, crafts, live music, and more.

Grateful Gleaners: This volunteer crew is available to pick fruit that you aren't able to use, to donate to local organizations in need of fruit. If you're interested in having fruit picked by the Gleaners, or in volunteering with the group, contact the Gleaners' voice mail, 513-9489, and leave a message, and they will return your call as soon as possible.

The Emmandal Chorus: this community chorus based in Willits is in its 20th season, and you are welcome to join! Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. No auditions necessary. The Chorus meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

"Art in the Key of Life": October show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. 7 to 9 pm. Featured artists: Kat Emerson, Ann Maglente, Laurel Miller, Margaret Pirrouette, Nancy Nazarian Reed, Leslie Rich, Jeannie Smith, Lynne Whiting Robertson and Robert Yelland. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays, 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 3 pm. Visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

Willits Photography Club: meets at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street, on the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 12 noon. All levels of experience welcome. Come to the back door of the Art Center.

Junior Grange After-School Program: an after-school program for kids ages 5 to 14, Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or zeynep34@yahoo.com.

Cards and Games at Willits Library: free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. All activities are free! Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Info: Donna at 459-9035. Tuesday evenings: "Dungeons and Dragons, the Adventurers' League," from 6 to 10 pm. Both newbies and experienced players, ages 13+, are welcome to join. Info: Dan at 972-3154. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

Willits Library Cyber Cafe: Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee in the conference room while browsing the internet. Coffee is \$1 a cup. Bring your own cup from home or buy a ceramic cup from the library for 50 cents. The cafe is open most Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 to noon, or until the coffee runs dry. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

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

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: 459-9322.

Free Zumba for Teens: Zumba is always free for teenagers on Friday nights at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. Class at 6 pm with Melissa. Info: 707-841-7499 or www.studiojoywillits.com.

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

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Monday nights at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, beginners' class from 7 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Info: 459-9526.

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Brooktrails Lodge: Open Mic every Friday at the Lodge's Caminiti's Lounge. Live jams featuring local artists: all performers please see Mr. Larry when you arrive. 24675 Birch Street. Info: 459-1596.

Brooktrails Lodge: Ladies Night every Thursday at the Lodge's Caminiti's Lounge, 8 pm to 2 am. \$3 drink specials. The Dream Capsule Band presents live music and karaoke. 24675 Birch Street. Info: 459-1596.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday. New time: 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. New: World Music Open Mic every Monday this fall at 8 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: every Wednesday night, karaoke in the bar. 207 South Main Street. 459-2444.

Laytonville Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm in downtown Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, jewelry, aprons, children's clothing, knife sharpening and more.

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Harvest Moon Celebration Saturday Fun

Willits residents and visitors strolled Main Street on a beautiful Saturday afternoon during last weekend's Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration. Some were carrying shopping bags, some were pushing strollers, some were dressed up in costumes, but pretty much everybody was wearing a smile.

This year's was the eighth annual fall celebration sponsored by the Local First Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Chamber Executive Director Lynn Kennelly wanted to thank all the sponsors - old and new - for the Harvest Moon event. "Their help makes the costs of the booths reasonable, so that everybody can participate. We couldn't do it without them," she said.

Sponsors for this year's festival: TnT Market, George's Geodes and Gems, Mariposa Market, Printing Plus, Kimberly's Jewelry Store, T&T Towing, Creekside Properties, Mendo Mill, Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli, The Coast KOZT-FM, Lisa Epstein State Farm Insurance, The Willits News, Mazahar Gypsy Chic Boutique, Cat's Meow, Studio M Upstairs, Willits Furniture / La Bodega, Main Street Music & Video / Shanachie Pub, Willits Weekly, Celtic Heritage Destinations, Willits Online, Buster's Burgers & Crew, El Mexicano Restaurant, City of Willits and the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

— Jennifer Poole

Clockwise from top: Corn on the cob from the Nuestra Alianza booth was a big hit for eventgoers. Becky Button stands with a group of students at the Willits Elementary Charter School booth. Paul and Bonnie Riley pose with the Sober Grad Fall Basket in front of The Book Juggler. A performer with flying sticks entertains at the hula hoop booth. Teresa Robertson poses with Handsome, her friendly Bull Terrier. Groups flocked to the WECS fall photo booth - complete with scarecrows - and to the 7th Anniversary Sale at J.D. Redhouse. Mazahar ladies Briallen Hurri, Genevieve Bonnet, Sara Mann and Katie Eiler pose in the store. Healing Central Chiropractic's River, Shawna and Izzy smile for the camera. Booths filled side streets during the event.

Photos by Maureen Moore



THE BOOK OF LIFE 2D/3D

(PG) 1 hr 35 mins
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 Sat/Sun: (2D) 12:45 & 5:15pm
 (3D) 3:00 & 7:45pm

GONE GIRL

(R) 2 hrs 29 mins
 Fri: 5:00 & 8:00pm
 Sat/Sun: 1:30, 5:00 & 8:00pm
 Mon-Thurs: 4:00 & 7:00pm

THE EQUALIZER

(R) 2 hrs 12 mins
 Fri: 5:45 & 8:30pm
 Sat/Sun: 12:15, 3:00, 5:45 & 8:30pm
 Mon-Thurs: 4:45 & 7:30pm

Movie Times for 10/17 thru 10/23

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

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 Ann Maglente 984-6747

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 23, 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.

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Just send to:
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The rest of Pub |
 From Page 3

grabbing empty glasses and checking passports for drinking age.

One result of the inevitably limited sign-ups for Shanachie's stage time is that there's often a second unscheduled performance happening outside. This was true at a recent World Music Night: all outside seats were taken, and a group of young people gathered around a patio bench to join in French songs accompanied by an acoustic guitar. Later in the evening, a quartet including a banjo and trumpet were harmonizing in the same spot, and a few couples twirled around nearby.

Large backpacks with SFO tags were piled against one of the fence corners.

One visitor, a 29-year-old from Italy, told Willits Weekly he'd come to California from picking cherries in British Columbia, where'd he met the Spaniards he was with that night. He said he planned to go to South America next. Mentioning some of his friends had played the week before, he said, "I'll definitely keep coming back here until I leave."

At the door, an unsuspecting local looking for refreshment paused at hearing the different strains of music coming from both inside and out. "Have Mondays here always been like this?" he asked no one in particular. The patio was mostly full of a crowd having too much fun to notice. "I've been here for the last four weeks, and it's just exploded," said a passerby, before heading in.

Along with a wide variety of hand-crafted local and imported beers and wine, and hard pear cider, Shanachie's also has coffee, tea, sparkling lemonade and cranberry juice, and root beer on tap for sober or driving music lovers.

Stop by and enjoy the music: World Music Mondays and Open Mic on Wednesday begin at 8 pm, with sign-ups at 7 pm. Shanachie Pub can be found at 50 South Main Street, or call 459-9194. See Willits Weekly Calendar for other events at Shanachie Pub.



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High School Rodeo

North County kids enjoy learning the ropes of rodeo

Some play football or soccer; some ride bulls and rope. This year nine North County students are participating in the California High School Rodeo Association's District 2 group. District 2 consists of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Marin and Napa counties and, this year, the District 2 group has 50 students overall.

Each of the nine districts from California send their top five contestants in each event to the State Finals Rodeo which will be held in Bishop next summer, June 15 through 19. The top four from each event will move on to the national event in July 2015.

North County riders include Jocey Thieman of Covelo, Hailey Finnegan of Laytonville, Gracie Silva of Laytonville, Sara Caldwell of Willits, and Shanna Gayski of Willits. There are also four North County members participating in the Junior High School division, including Quade Smith of Covelo, Gracie Bauer of Covelo, Kyle McCarty of Covelo, and Claire Moyle of Willits.

During the last High School Rodeo Association event, held at the Willits Frontier Days grounds on September 27 and 28, many of the above riders added points to their scores, hoping for those coveted top five spots at the end of the season. One final rodeo in Willits is planned for the rodeo grounds on November 15 and 16 with a back-up location of Ferndale in case of rain. Come cheer on these young riders! Events are free to attend. More information: www.chsradsit2.com/

Results for North County residents from the September 27 weekend follow:
 For the high school division: Gayski took seventh place in pole bending, first place in breakaway roping, and second in barrel racing. Thieman competed in pole bending and goat tying, but wasn't able to place. Finnegan competed in pole bending, breakaway roping and goat tying, but wasn't able to place. Finnegan did place third in team roping with Emily Machado. Silva and Caldwell did not compete that weekend.

For the junior high division on September 27, Bauer took sixth place in poles, third in barrels, and first in goat tying. Moyle took 11th place in poles and seventh in barrels. McCarty took first place in bull riding. Smith also competed in bull riding, but was unable to get a qualifying score.

On September 28, Bauer took second place in poles, fourth place in barrels, second in goat tying, and first in breakaway. Moyle took seventh place in poles and seventh place in barrels. Both Smith and McCarty rode in Sunday's bull riding event, but did not place.

Results provided by CHRSA.



Riders compete at the September 27 and 28 High School Rodeo event at the Willits Frontier Days grounds.

Photos by Lisa Gray Photography

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Annual Fall Book Sale

October 16-19

Thursday, 6-9 pm (FOWL members only)
Friday, 10 am-6 pm
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Sunday, 10 am-3 pm (\$3 a bag day!)

Community Center
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Bring your book bag.

Rolla the Reading Rooster just loves a good bargain. He'll be first in line at the Annual Fall Book Sale!

Amazing Athletes of Willits High School

Football | Damon Nieson, 17, Senior

Breakfast of Champions: Protein shakes.

Position: Defensive end.

Love for the Sport: I like to tackle, and I tackled lots at the homecoming game!

Coach Sean Leslie picked Damon Nieson, who had seven tackles and two sacks during Friday's homecoming game against Cloverdale.



Soccer | Leslie Leon, 17, Senior

Breakfast of Champions: Protein shake yogurt and fruit.

Position: Right forward or center mid.

Love for the Sport: Forward mid can make goals! I love hearing the sound of the ball hitting the back of the net: it's a great sound!

"Fancy Foot" Leslie Leon scored two goals in a win over Lower Lake and another exciting goal against Middletown. "She's a huge energy force for our team.... She understands the game and plays with mad passion," says coach Melissa Johnson.

Photo by Maureen Moore



Photo by Jennifer Poole

Rotary donates \$1,000 to Willits Community Theatre

Kitty Norris of the Willits Community Theatre accepts a check for \$1,000 from Willits Rotary Club Chair Tom Herman during the Rotary Club's lunch meeting at the Country Skillet last week. The \$1,000 donation (rounded up) came from the proceeds of "Rotary Night at the Theatre": Rotary buys out the house at the WCT Playhouse on West Van Lane for one evening's performance, then sells the tickets to members and friends, and donates the proceeds to the theater. "Many of us attended the play," Herman told Norris. "It was really well-done, really enjoyable - and the snacks you provided were great!"

"We love the night you take over the theater," Norris replied. The funds will help WCT in its efforts to refurbish the playhouse, Norris said. An Indiegogo online crowd-funding campaign this spring raised more than \$5,000 to help fund the reupholstering of 67 of the well-used playhouse seats, now covered in a sturdy silver gray fabric.

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[uh-tog-ruh-friss]

noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

Facebook 707-972-7047 maureengetsmail@gmail.com



The rest of Forum | From Page 1

With less than a month before voting day, Larson rallied the crowd, saying, "We the people should have the power to decide on a local level what happens to [our] water."

Measure S, the only countywide measure on the November ballot, establishes a community bill of rights "to secure clean water, air and soil and freedom from chemical trespass," and specifically bans hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," within the county by imposing heavy penalties for use of fracking equipment, bringing fracking equipment within county limits, and using county water for the practice.

The initiative is similar to almost 200 other local ordinances passed in more than eight states in partnership with the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund. The ordinances establish a legal framework for "the right to local community self-governance, in order to exercise and secure our unalienable right to protect our health, safety, and well-being," according to Mendocino County's voter information pamphlet. If passed, the measure would be the first of its kind in California, and only the second countywide community rights ordinance in the country.

The measure reads: "We the People of Mendocino County ... come together as a community to ensure that local water decisions are made by local communities," elaborating that "the people have responsibilities to future generations to secure their right to local self-government, to protect the natural environment of this county, to preserve the local ecosystems' ability to sustain agriculture, business, and tourism, and promote human health."

The measure cites unalienable rights listed in Article 1 of the California Constitution and a June 2006 Mendocino County Precautionary Policy Number 43.

Those rights include community self-government, right to clean air, water and soil, rights of natural communities and ecosystems, freedom from chemical trespass, as well as provisions to ensure the listed rights are unalienable, that corporations challenging the measure are not granted rights to corporate personhood, and that challenges to the ordinances require the county to hold community meetings "securing the rights of the people to self-governance."

The initiative is specifically focused on banning fracking from the county under the framework of these community rights, stating "hydraulic fracturing ... has been shown to inflict damage, disease, and toxic trespass upon people, flora and fauna, as well as air, water, and soil."

Fracking is a method of drilling for oil, utilizing large volumes of water and chemical compounds that are largely not publically disclosed, which are blasted underground. It has been the source of growing concern and public debate over its impacts, particularly on groundwater.

A statewide fracking moratorium failed earlier this year in California. After a state-ordered study released in August, recent press reports including articles published by The Wall Street Journal have predicted a drastic expansion of the practice in California, both on private and public lands. The Bureau of Land Management has approved oil and gas company permits beginning in 2015.

However, recent reports to the State Water Resources Control Board show evidence of contaminated groundwater near "underground injection wells" in the Central Valley and other locations around the state.

Mendocino County's Measure S was born after several years of community rights discussions, particularly concerning local ecosystems, explains organizer Peter Norris of Willits.

After a series of local meetings, the Community Rights Network of Mendocino partnered with Global Exchange, which recommended adopting a "community bill of rights" modeled after similar ordinances designed to address potential legal challenges if the measure conflicts with state or federal laws.

When asked about possible court challenges over corporate personhood, Roadshow speaker and democracy activist Paul Cienfuegos compared the issue of community rights to abolitionist and suffragist movements, saying "it may not be legal yet, but this is law which challenges unjust law."

At a recent electoral environmental forum in Willits, organizer Tim Rice asked candidates if they supported the measure, and if they would publically endorse Measure S by "putting their name on the website." Willits City Council candidates Robin Leler, Ron Orenstein and Larry Stranske agreed, and their names are now on the site. Stranske had signed the original petition; Orenstein said he was in favor of the premise, but had concerns "it will be overturned in court" because of the strict penalties clause. Leler said she hoped the measure, if passed, would face legal challenges to inspire "a groundswell of public support."

Candidate for supervisor Holly Madrigal said her name was already on the website as an endorser; her opponent, Tom Woodhouse, said he had previously spoken against fracking, but would attend the Road Show to learn more about the measure. Both Madrigal and Woodhouse were present at the Grange forum.

So far there has been no organized opposition to the measure, and no arguments filed against it for the voter information pamphlet.

Further information on Measure S can be found at www.crmc.org and at www.yesons.me as well as www.celdf.org. The full text of Measure S can be read here: www.crmc.org/ordinance.

Grand jury reports spotlight animal control woes

A trio of grand jury reports criticized Mendocino County's animal services system, citing problems with confidentiality, conditions at the county animal shelter, and prosecution of animal abuse cases.

The focus of the reports centered on animal control, a division of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, and the county-operated animal shelter in Ukiah.

One report looked at allegations of confidentiality violations by animal control officers in large animal abuse and neglect cases.

The grand jury recommended ethics training for animal control officers based on what it called "strong circumstantial evidence."

The grand jury believed animal control officers had released the names of those who had complained, which led to harassment.

Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, in a written response to the report, said there is no independent evidence to support that claim.

The grand jury also said phone numbers for animal control needed to be corrected in phonebooks and on websites.

The sheriff's reply admits animal control is not listed under county services in a 2013/2014 phonebook but adds it will act to make sure phonebooks correctly show it as the go-to agency for animal control outside incorporated areas.

The rest of Spar | From Page 1

"inter-tie" between the water systems of the two jurisdictions.

If Willits was receptive to the proposal, the letter said, then Brooktrails would apply for approximately \$1.7 million to construct a permanent water inter-tie between Willits and Brooktrails.

The city and Brooktrails are presently embroiled in a nasty lawsuit over Willits' treatment of the township regarding Willits' sewer treatment plant.

The episode took place after personnel from REACH had made a presentation to the Brooktrails board about REACH's plans to site a helicopter-capable medical team at Elis Field.

That agenda item took nearly an hour; afterwards the Brooktrails board took up the inter-tie question

After approving the letter asking the city if it was willing to explore the possibility of an inter-tie, the Brooktrails board moved on to the issue of approving an application for a sewer hookup for the REACH installation.

But the city had not yet submitted an application.

City of Willits Code Enforcement Officer John Sherman accused Brooktrails General Manager Denise Rose of deliberately trying to slow the permitting process by failing to respond to his request for an application form in a timely manner.

Sherman asked Rose why she had not provided him with a copy of the fee structure for waste water collection service. Rose replied no such fee

The rest of Hash Lab | From Page 1

According to Little Lake Fire Chief Magann, the attached outbuilding where the explosion occurred was 100 percent involved when firefighters arrived, and "butane cylinders were popping off. It was like gunfire, right on scene."

The house where Madrigal and his family were living was also damaged: "The fire got up into the attic, mainly because of unpermitted construction," Magann said. "We wound up having to strip part of the roof structure to 100 percent mop up the fire."

While firefighters battled the blaze, police were told Madrigal was seeking medical treatment for burns at Howard Memorial Hospital.

Initially blaming an unknown stranger he saw in his yard, Madrigal told investigators he could only remember a "huge explosion" and "giant fireball," which he claimed knocked him out.

Madrigal also claimed he tried to put out the fire, but failed, then left and walked to the hospital. He was

The Sheriff's Office also plans to build an animal control section for the Sheriff's Office website, adding the county lists MCSO dispatch for animal control in unincorporated areas.

A grand jury report examining the county's delivery of animal care services claimed the animal care and control system is "under-funded" and "mismanaged."

The report suggests the system be reorganized so shelter control is under the auspices of the Sheriff's Office.

In 2009, animal control and animal care were split, with the Sheriff's Office taking charge of animal control responsibilities.

In its report, the grand jury shows photos of rat feces, a hole in a wall, and bits of insulation it says accumulated overnight at the shelter.

In his reply, Allman suggested animals at the shelter suffer anxiety-related illnesses and display erratic behavior.

The sheriff proposed the shelter obtain the use of a nearby hazardous materials facility for use as a day yard, where dogs can socialize and exercise.

Realignment of animal control and animal care, the sheriff said, should be determined by the board of supervisors.

Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster was critical of the grand jury in his written response. Eyster says he was never contacted by the grand

jury during its investigation.

In its report the grand jury claimed lack of prosecution leads to animal control putting more emphasis on working with abusive owners in an attempt to alter owner behavior before launching proceedings to remove the animals.

"The 'lack of prosecution' finding by the grand jury necessarily assumes there has been an actual lack of prosecution, an assumption that is not borne out by the facts," Eyster said in his reply. "It would have been preferable for the grand jury to review the prosecution record of the district attorney prior to publishing such a bald-faced statement."

The grand jury report also claims the DA's reluctance to prosecute animal abuse cases has led to abusive owners keeping abused animals longer.

Eyster says the jurors responsible for the report did not ask to speak with him or his staff before making its finding.

According to the report, both veterinarians and animal control officers are also worried.

The district attorney disputed that finding because "there is no information provided to agree with."

Willits animal control services are handled through a contract with the Sheriff's Office.

The grand jury reported the county's animal shelter on Plant Road in Ukiah houses between 100 and 150 dogs daily, as well as 70 to 80 cats.

business with the City of Willits, that you don't know who we are, that you have to go through with this technically. But yet, 15, 20 minutes ago, you're talking about hooking up a water line to take water from the City of Willits, and you're gonna come to us, the city - and I'm not sitting as a city councilman now, I'm not making policy. But I have to think about this, you know.

"We're asking for a stinking sewer line and a water line, and you're making a federal case out of it," Orenstein said, "and you are coming to us, you are going to come to us, to ask us to share our water with you. And you're expecting us to say 'Oh sure, of course, whatever you need.'"

After further discussion it became clear Brooktrails was prepared to consider the application at its next regular board meeting, to be held October 28. This was thought to be inexpedient, since REACH wants to have its facility up and running by November 10. So Brooktrails Director Tim Ramming suggested Brooktrails call a special meeting to consider the application.

Ramming suggested October 20, but Neary told the board he is expecting the State Department of Water Resources will likely declare a moratorium on new water hookups sometime next week. In order to act before the moratorium is imposed, Neary suggested the meeting take place this Friday, October 17.

The board approved the special meeting unanimously and scheduled it to begin at 6 pm.

later transferred to a Sacramento burn center for treatment of "severe burns" to his hands.

Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force agents determined a butane honey oil (also known as hash oil) extraction lab had been operating at the residence.

"The process used in making butane honey oil is extremely dangerous to human life and property," according to a Mendocino County District Attorney Office press release, "and the lab ... exploded, causing the fire."

After questioning by task force agents at the hospital, Madrigal allegedly admitted he was operating the BHO lab just prior to the explosion, and had been selling the finished product in the community.

In a letter to the court, Willits Fire Chief Carl Magann wrote "anyone who willingly releases butane gas into the tight confines of an enclosed building - complete with an operating heating device, attached to an occupied

building - is creating an unjustifiable, objectionable and substantial risk, especially when that exposure includes children."

"Mendocino County criminals who put lives and property at risk by manufacturing honey of hash oil will feel the full force of the law if they survive the fairly common explosions," District Attorney David Eyster added.

Deputy District Attorney Daniel Madow, who prosecuted Madrigal's case, expressed his appreciation to Magann and Little Lake Fire District firemen for their fast response to keep the fire in check. Madow also thanked the Willits Police Department and the task force for their investigative work.

Under the state realignment laws, Madrigal is eligible to earn up to 50 percent credit against his 36-month prison commitment. Assuming all credits are earned, Madrigal could be paroled from prison back to Mendocino County in approximately March 2016 to begin a period of formal parole.



On the Gridiron

WHS Homecoming Game held Friday, October 10

The Willits High School Wolverines Homecoming football game was a battle against the Cloverdale Eagles at Maize Field Friday night. The JV and varsity Willits teams both played well for the October 10 game, but the offense and defense of the Cloverdale teams claimed victory against the JV team, 14 to 8, and the varsity team, 20 to 8.

However, according to varsity coach Sean Leslie, the teams had a few standouts regardless of the final score, including running backs Matt Hollingsworth and Matt Foster and running back and quarterback Ryan LaCount.

"They all did a great job running the ball – I thought the JV team was going to win!" Leslie said.

Leslie also noted that the varsity Wolverines were able to move the ball a lot, too, but just weren't able to get it over the touchdown line as much as they'd hoped. Cloverdale had a 65-yard touchdown called back by the referee's flag, but Leslie noted the visiting team did have an impressive running back and a great defense, both doing well at their jobs during their time on the field.

Wolverine Damon Niesen stood out during the game, though, and also received the honor of Athlete of the Week in this week's Willits Weekly. During his plays on defense, Leslie noted Niesen was "everywhere!" while out on the field.

Running back Dimitri Betts also did well, noted Leslie, as did the coach's son Blake Leslie, who had a 45-yard pass completion with Wolverine Justin Thom, who was able to catch the ball one-handed.

– Maureen Moore



At top: A JV Wolverine throws a pass at his teammate in the foreground.

Above: JV Wolverine Triston Martin #3, heads toward the end zone.

Far left: Ryan LaCount, wearing the #33 JV Wolverine jersey, dashes across the 10 yard line on his way into the Wolverine end zone for a scoring play.

Left: JV Wolverine Justin Hawkins, #24, with football in hand, gets ready to run down the field.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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