

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 88 Thursday, January 15, 2015

## Brooktrails to look for water

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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The Brooktrails board of directors has authorized General Manager Denise Rose to sign a funding agreement with the state of California for \$60,000 to fund preliminary seismic testing of land in the township's greenbelt for potential sources of underground water.

The funds are available from the California Department of Public Health's Public Water System Drought Emergency Response Program.

The plan is to use seismoelectric technology to "sound" approximately 30 sites in Brooktrails' 2,500-acre greenbelt as a potential source of

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**  
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## Board lays out 2015 legislative agenda

Kate Maxwell  
Reporter  
kate@willitsweekly.com

Sustainable groundwater management, Affordable Care Act funding protection, and proactive preparation for cannabis legalization are some of the newest issues outlined in the state-level legislative agenda for Mendocino County's board of supervisors in 2015.

The agenda, unanimously approved January 6, establishes a slate of issues under County Policy 19 to guide supervisory actions. The agenda reflects "the county priorities for legislative advocacy, state and federal funding, and issues of

Read the rest of **Agenda**  
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## Lobbyist says medical pot legislation will pass this year

Jane Fatcher  
Contributing Writer

Hezekiah Allen, executive director and chairman of the Emerald Growers Association, a trade group for cannabis farmers, believes the California Legislature will almost certainly pass a medical cannabis regulation bill in 2015.

At a strategy session held by the growers association at Harwood Hall in Laytonville on December 18, Allen urged local growers and their allies to remain "focused"

Read the rest of **Pot**  
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Photo by Maureen Moore

# Grab Some Crab

The annual Willits Rotary Club all-you-can-eat crab, minestrone soup, salad, and bread fundraising dinner is set for this Saturday night, January 17, at 6 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.

This year's event features live music by Ed Rinehart on the piano and Bear Kamoroff on the bass, as well as a no host bar. Also this year, for the first time, the Willits Rotary Club will hold a quarter auction at the event: "Bring all your quarters and be prepared for a good time!" Rotarian Ann Alumbaugh laughed.

Many great items will be auctioned off, including a load of rock from Northern Aggregates, a septic pump servicing from

Jim Pinches, a basket of wine, a metal animal sculpture from Willits Furniture, and gift baskets containing everything from gardening goods to ice cream.

The proceeds from the fundraiser will be divided between the old and young: half to the Willits Senior Center and half for scholarships for high school seniors in Willits.

Tickets are \$4, and there are still tickets available. Rotarian Ann Alumbaugh asked anyone still needing a ticket to please contact her or any other Rotary Club member as soon as possible: tickets can be delivered, or held at the door. Alumbaugh can be reached at 459-1440. Tickets are also available at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

## Community ponders educational choices

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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Two dozen community members – parents, teachers, school administrators and longtime school activists – gathered in the Willits High School media center Tuesday evening to discuss how to better educate the district's young people.

An underlying motif of the January 13 discussion was the conviction that the Career Technical Education program (CTE, or vocational education) at Willits High School is currently inadequate, and needs to be strengthened and expanded.

However, Willits Unified Superintendent Patricia Johnson was careful to

Read the rest of **Education**  
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## Woodhouse to push for more

## WHS shop opportunities

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
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Third District Supervisor and longtime community volunteer Tom Woodhouse appeared at last week's school board meeting for two reasons.

First, Woodhouse received a congratulatory plaque from the district at the Wednesday, January 7 meeting for his decades of volunteer involvement at Willits High School.

Woodhouse also used the occasion to tell the board of trustees he is unhappy with how the school has been using its \$1.3 million

Read the rest of **Shop**  
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## Open enrollment for Obamacare ends February 15

For people without health insurance, now is the time to sign up for Covered California, the insurance exchange implementing the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, in California.

Open Enrollment is available through February 15, 2015, and coverage offers many benefits, says Mendocino County's Health and Human Services Agency.

"First, if a health disaster strikes, having health insurance can prevent financial ruin," a press release from HHS says.

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



Above: Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, City Manager Adrienne Moore, Mayor Bruce Burton, Deputy City Clerk Cathy Sanders, and Finance Director Susie Holmes.

## Giants Trophy Tour comes to Willits

In baseball history, the San Francisco Giants winning three World Series championships in five years is noteworthy, and having all three Giants trophies in town Friday was a big deal for Willits, too.

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
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The Giants Trophy Tour stop in Willits last week was a money-raiser for the Willits Junior Giants program that brought in \$1,002 in donations at the door.

It was the third stop on the trophy circuit that kicked off in Sacramento last Wednesday.

Giants fans, many dressed in their finest Giants clothing, jerseys, T-shirts, ball caps, autographed jerseys, and orange shoelaces, waited for a photo opportunity with the trophies.

Read the rest of **Giants trophies**  
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Kathy and Mike Tobin enjoy a quick pic with the SF Giants World Series triplets.



Junior Giant and fan Brannon Petersen and Jim Haggett.



Keleigh, Davin, Tadd & Quinn Schadeck.



Eli and Justin Mosher, Brie and Emma Jones, Rich Venturi, Kim Chin and Jake Jones. Baby Emma's first World Series win! Go Giants!

Left: Willits City Council members, from left to right: Ron Orenstein, Larry Stranske, Madge Strong, Holly Madrigal and Mayor Bruce Burton.

underground water. The \$60,000 will fund the initial seismic study.

According to information provided by Rose, the entire project, including well-drilling and laying a pipeline to move water to a Brooktrails pumping station, could cost 10 times that, about \$562,500.

Rose said the effort is being made in order to augment Brooktrails' chronic water supply problems. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water had earlier asked Brooktrails to explore the possibility of building an intertie with the City of Willits, so that during a drought Brooktrails could use some of Willits' water. However, that project has failed to materialize.

"While the City of Willits did not formally reply to the township's request, it did [say] it was not in a position to consider such a request since it was also in the midst of a declared water emergency," Rose told the Brooktrails board.

During the Tuesday night meeting of the Brooktrails board, directors voted unanimously to renew the township's declaration of a local emergency due to drought conditions.

"While the district has received rainfall and has realized an increase in its stored water at Lake Emily and Lake Ada Rose, late spring rains may fail to materialize as was the case in 2013," Rose told the board. "If early fall rains [also] fail to materialize, the district may face a crisis similar to the one it faced in late 2013 and early 2014. Staff remains concerned about the adequacy of its water supply to stretch through the late winter and early spring [of next year, should no rains come]. Water supply is hovering at approximately 175 days."

The cap on water use in Brooktrails remains at 200 gallons per day, or 6,000 gallons per month, per single-family dwelling.

**Airport trees a liability?**

Brooktrails resident Paul Trexel, an opponent to the siting of a helicopter medical transport operation at the Willits Airport, appeared before the board of directors Tuesday night to warn that a number of trees growing near the airport may be in violation of aviation regulations and may pose a liability both to local property owners and to the township itself.

Trexel cited a December 2013 letter from Caltrans' Division of Aeronautics to Brooktrails claiming numerous trees close to the airport's runway, especially trees to the west side of the airport, had been found by Caltrans to penetrate the "transitional surface" of the airport. State regulations require there be clear airspace around the airfield for some distance away from the runway, and trees growing near the airport, on Madrone Drive, Madrone Court, Maize Drive, Tuck Road, Poppy Drive and Padula Drive, appear to violate that airspace.

"These trees have been identified as discrepancies in previous inspection letters," the letter from Caltrans states. "All trees west of Runway 16/34 that penetrate the ... transitional surface must be removed or topped. This repeat discrepancy could lead to permit action, including suspension of night operations, and expose the airport to liability in the event of an aircraft incident."

Brooktrails is one of the property owners in the area. It owns two small pieces of "greenbelt" that run perpendicular to Maize Drive, just a few feet from the airport's western boundary.

Rick Williams, chairman of the Brooktrails board, thanked Trexel and his colleague Ralph Waldman for bringing the issue to the board's attention. The board asked Brooktrails Counsel Christopher Neary for his advice, and Neary said the district should look further into the matter.

"If the airport is going to expand night operations, we ought to take a stab at determining liability, at least for district property. We ought to apply to the Division of Aeronautics for a permit to own those trees, at least to determine if we have any liability," Neary said.

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.

**Willits Weekly**  
A Nonprofit & Member-Owned Community and Life in Willits Newspaper

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

Volume 2, Number 88  
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and "disciplined" in approaching legislators, presenting a single "ask": The California Department of Food and Agriculture must be the agency that regulates cannabis farming.

"We need to figure out a way to regulate cannabis as an agricultural product," Allen said. "There isn't an agency perfect for us, but the Department of Food and Agriculture works for us. They understand rural communities. They're used to working with folks who work the land. They understand that paperwork can choke small business, and they understand a lot of the challenges that we will face over the next few decades as we continue moving forward."

During a strategy session that detailed how laws are made in Sacramento, Allen noted state Senator Lou Correa's Senate Bill 1262, which failed to pass this year, would have put cannabis regulation in the hands of the Department of Consumer Affairs. That would have been a disaster, he said, because the agency is huge, bureaucratic and more comfortable dealing with factories than farms.

"The Bureau of Consumer Affairs is an existential threat to our way of life," Allen said. "We don't speak the same language."

Two hours after California's new legislative session began in early December, Allen said lawmakers introduced two new cannabis regulation bills on the Assembly floor: Assembly Bill 26, nearly identical to state Senator Tom Ammiano's AB 1894, and AB 34. Both bills are "placeholders," to be written during the coming legislative session.

Allen urged famers not to ask for too much now, and not to lose heart because the new bill won't include everything they want.

"It's important to realize that while the vision is there, we can't have it all now," he said. "Many times I've watched perfect get in the way of progress."

With regulation will come challenges, among them taxation for cannabis retailers and distributors, licensing fees and compliance regulations.

But Allen's excitement was palpable as he described recent changes in cultural attitudes toward marijuana, both statewide and in the nation.

"The last few days, in particular, with all of the policy decisions coming out of Washington, D.C., it really does feel like at least with regard to the war on pot that we're finally winning peace terms," he said. "It's my personal mission and goal to ensure the community that has carried that torch, that has been on the front line of this revolution for so many

decades, is part of the conversation now."

Allen was referring, for one thing, to a provision in the omnibus bill passed by Congress on December 11 that has been reported as "ending" the federal government's ban on medical marijuana, and to a December 12 announcement by the Department of Justice that, as reported by the Washington Post, "it will no longer prosecute federal laws regulating the growing or selling of marijuana on reservations, even when state law bans the drug."

The Pinoleville Pomo Nation announced last week they have made a deal with United Cannabis Corporation, a Colorado medical marijuana investment company, and FoxBarry Farms, a tribal development company out of Kansas, to grow marijuana to sell to authorized medical users and dispensaries. The marijuana will be grown in a 2.5 acre \$10 million indoor facility at the Pinoleville Rancheria north of Ukiah.

One reason for Allen's optimism is the fact that Gov. Jerry Brown, fresh from winning an unprecedented fourth term, has made it clear he's ready to sign a medical cannabis regulation bill when it reaches his desk – something he wasn't inclined to do in 2014.

Also hopeful, Allen said, is the fact that newly elected Democratic state Senator Mike Maguire, who represents the area from the Oregon border to the Golden Gate Bridge, has been voted chairman of the Democratic Caucus, the fifth highest-ranking position in the state Senate. Maguire and his aide are both friends of Allen's, and have agreed to talk "right away" about a cannabis regulation bill for next year.

"I do believe on the Senate side our suggestions will carry some weight," said Allen, while cautioning "politics is absolutely a game of compromise, and we absolutely won't get everything that we want."

For one thing, Allen said, the rural counties where cannabis growers live don't have a lot of political clout in Sacramento. Of 80 Assembly seats, 34 come from Los Angeles County. But only one Assembly member represents all the North Coast counties. Even adding votes from counties and communities that share a "culture and a vision" similar to the northern coastal counties, Allen guessed there would only be a total of 10 likeminded legislators statewide. Lawmakers from urban areas, he said, are more likely to be focused on issues such as public transit or inner city schools, rather than cannabis farming and regulation.

What won't be in a 2015 cannabis regulation bill? Definition of the size of

farms or number of plants permitted probably won't be included, or the right of the farmer to sell directly to consumers. Or an end to raids by law enforcement.

"We are trying to go forward positively," said one audience member, upset about this season's busts and raids from the air by unidentified teams. "But we have the sword of Damocles hanging over us."

Allen said he's had no "luck" talking with State Attorney General Kamala Harris' office, which, he understands, is where a lot of the "energy" behind the raids is coming from.

"We aren't organized enough, and we aren't influential enough to ask for everything and to get everything," Allen said. "We are a marginalized community. Prohibition has certainly left me somewhat mistrustful of government and the agencies, and I assume that's fair for most of us."

"We are taking a step in to politics. We need to be realistic in what we're asking for."

As to recreational legalization, Allen said that will come in time, but legislators are likely to leave recreational pot to a vote of the people in a statewide referendum.

Before that, many politicians and stakeholders want to hammer out medical cannabis regulations, Allen said, so they're not caught off guard, as they were when Proposition 215 was passed in 1996.

"Nobody wants us to be in that position, especially when we are talking about expanding from a \$1 billion to a \$40 billion industry," he said. "Nobody wants us to have an unregulated sector of our economy that's that large."

Both Allen and Emerald Growers Association board secretary Casey O'Neill told the group that as cannabis farmers move to "legitimacy," showing their commitment to regulation and compliance and sound environmental farming practices, the court of public opinion will change, and the appetite for busts will fade.

"The prohibitionist culture isn't going to bed quietly," Allen said. "The tantrums it throws as we put it to bed will probably involve more of us getting busted, losing livelihoods, losing crops. There will be more trauma our community must bear, but I hope we can take some solace in knowing we are on the right side of history. Every step we take is another step toward a future where we don't have to worry about that."

Jane Fitcher, author of "Women Gone Wild," a memoir about moving to northern Mendocino County, lives near Laytonville.

vocational education facilities.

The facilities, a metal shop building and a wood shop building, were built using 2010 Measure B bond funds.

"We just spent \$1.3 million on those buildings," Woodhouse said. "We howled about that. And now those buildings are not being utilized to the depth the community would like to see. It is heartbreaking to look back and see the challenges we still have."

When asked the next day how many students are taking shop and metal-working classes in the new facilities, Willits High School Principal Jeff Ritchley said three classes of kids are using the rooms.

According to Ritchley, there is one period of woodshop (18 students) and two classes of agricultural mechanics (metal shop and welding, 34 students) for a total of 52 students..

"Everyone wants to see a big woodshop program, but we don't have the students to fill five periods a day, is the only issue," he said.

During his brief remarks to the board, Woodhouse did not specify what he wants and how he intends to get it. But during a phone conversation

with Willits Weekly, Woodhouse said he wants to foster more community involvement at the high school, and believes a group of parents and community members could come up with a plan to encourage more students to use the facilities.

Woodhouse noted newly elected Superintendent of County Schools Warren Galletti, who possesses a strong background in vocational education, might be an ally in the effort. Woodhouse also said two community members, Warren Lewis and Ron Stamps, have expressed a willingness to help.

When asked how long it might take for positive results to be seen, Woodhouse replied "a couple of years."

"You could see, at the [school board] meeting the other night, how proud the board is at what the district has been doing," Woodhouse said. "We're not trying to diminish that; we're trying to augment it. We need to cultivate more community involvement in the schools."

In his comments about the pride of the board of trustees, Woodhouse

was referring to a ceremony that took place early in the meeting, in which the principals of several of the district's schools handed out commendations to volunteers.

Volunteers who were commended included Dr. Earl Myers, Dr. Alfred Kerr and Dr. David Scollin, who were honored by Brookside Elementary School; Kathleen Lewis and Sharon Brown, who were honored by Blosser Lane Elementary School; Rebecca Smith and Greta and Christopher Kanne of The Book Juggler in Willits, who were honored by Baechtel Grove Middle School; and Linda Matz and Woodhouse, who were honored by Willits High School.

Trustees also were treated to a brief but well-played Mozart piano sonata, performed by independent study student Keely Ahders, and to a reading of original poems by Sanhedrin High School students.

Kathleen Lewis presented the district with a check for \$14,665 from the Willits Educational Foundation, proceeds from the Garden Party fundraiser held in August 2014 at the Center Valley Road home of Phil and Kathy Shuster.

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**Amanda Mason, 17, Senior at Willits High School**

"I've never done anything like this before, but I'm excited for the fun experience," said Amanda Mason, contestant for the 2015 title of Miss Mendocino County.

Trying something new and, hopefully, enjoying the title, tiara and scholarship awarded to the winner all motivated her to try out for the contest. Each contestant must run on a platform, and Mason chose to focus on "Stand Up Week," something she participated in during her middle school years, also.

Stand Up Week encourages students to find and highlight a global issue (hunger, animal abuse, etc.)

# Tiara & Title!

Four Willits girls run for Miss Mendocino County 2015:

**Amanda Mason, Shyanne Demarco, Michaela Terrell and Emily Oberg**

*Left: Miss Mendocino County contestant Amanda Mason. Right: Miss Mendocino County contestant Shyanne DeMarco.*

Photos by Maureen Moore

and raise awareness on a local level. During her middle school years, Mason focused on hunger and held a food drive, earning around \$800 that was donated to Willits Community Services and Food Bank.

This year, she plans on focusing on hunger again. Currently, Mason is going around to local businesses collecting sponsorships, and is also attending meetings with the pageant mentors, to work on her interview, her talent and the dos-and-don'ts of the contest.

Mason will showcase her dancing skills for the talent portion of the contest; Willits dancer Jaclyn Christian is helping Mason choreograph her routine.



"I've been cheering on the Cheer Squad for nine years," explained Mason. "I haven't really focused solely on dancing, but I'm really enjoying it and enjoying working with Jaclyn."

In her other free time, Mason plays on the softball team, hangs out with her friends, walks her dogs and watches movies, sometimes binge watching "Vampire Diaries" or "House."

"I want to thank my mom, Liesl Hendrix, for supporting

Read the rest of **Miss Mendos** | Over on Page 9

## Mendocino College spring semester starts next week

The spring semester at Mendocino College starts next week, on Tuesday, January 20.

Many classes at the North County Center in Willits, and also classes in Covelo, are still open, said Peggy Randrup, operations supervisor at the Willits center, including a large variety of basic skills classes.

Some of the transfer and general education classes that are still open in Willits include Sign Language: Level II (Tuesdays from 5:30 to 8:20 pm); Creative Activities (Thursdays from 9 to 11:50 am); Child, Family and Community (Fridays from 9 to 11:50 am); Weather and Climate (Tuesdays from 1 to 3:50 pm); Reading and Composition (two Willits sections, one on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 8:20 pm, and one on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 10:20 am); Critical Thinking (Thursdays from 9 am to 11:50 am); Lifeguard Training (Wednesdays from 6 to 8:20 pm, with a lab on five Saturdays from 9 am to 4:20 pm; these classes are held at the Little Lake Grange); Women in American History (Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:20 pm), Introductory Psychology (Tuesdays from 5:30 to 8:20 pm); Social Psychology (Tuesdays from 9 to 11:50 am), and Marriage and Family Relations (Mondays from 1 to 4:05 pm).

For more information on these and other classes, including classes at Mendocino College in Ukiah, check out the Mendocino College website at www.mendocino.edu. You can use the "Web Advisor" tool as a guest, to see which classes are open or have a waiting list. You can also register for college online, or drop by the North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street, to look at the printed catalogue or for help with registration or signing up for classes. Info: 459-6224.

The college will celebrate the new semester with a Welcome Back BBQ at the North County Center on Thursday, January 15 from 3 to 6 pm. The Mendocino College Bookstore will be present at the BBQ.

*Right: Laura Ream and Avery Cash, students at Mendocino College.*

*Below: Laura hands her registration card to Kim Pinson at the front desk at the Mendocino College North County Center.*

*Laura will be ready to transfer at the end of the spring semester, to complete her Child Development BA in the East Bay.*

*Avery is also a Humboldt State University student, who is studying Critical Race, Gender and Sexuality and also Women's Studies and Multicultural Queer Studies. She plans to transfer to San Francisco State in 2016 to study human sexuality.*

Photos by Maureen Moore

— Jennifer Poole



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Thursday, January 15

Coffee or Tea with the Principal: an opportunity for parents and community members to talk with the school administration informally about current events at the high school while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea. "Coffee" at 8:30 am or "Tea" at 3:30 pm. Questions? Contact Principal Ritchley at 459-7700 or email jeffritchley@willitsunified.com.

Mendocino College Welcome Back BBQ: Mendocino College's North County Center in Willits hosts this Welcome Back BBQ for the Spring 2015 semester. 3 to 6 pm, at the center, 372 East Commercial Street. Mendocino College Bookstore will be present. Info: 459-6224. See article on page 3 for information about signing up for spring classes.

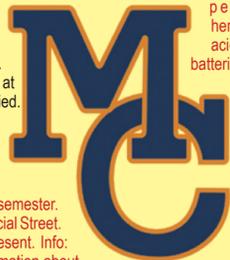
"The Culture High": Presented by Now and Then Film Series, 7 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "A riveting documentary that tears into the very fibre of modern day marijuana prohibition to reveal the truth behind the arguments and motives governing both those who support and those who oppose the existing pot laws." Visit www.theculturehigh.com. \$5 suggested donation. Organic popcorn and chocolate, refreshments for sale by the Grange. Info: 459-6362.



Friday, January 16

HazMobile in Willits: The HazMobile household hazardous waste collection team will be at the Willits Corporation Yard, 380 East Commercial Street, on Friday, January 16 and Saturday,

January 17 from 9 am to 1 pm. HazMobile accepts toxic materials like paint, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, solvents, acids, bases, toxic cleaners, auto and household batteries, mercury and fluorescent light tubes, that can't go in the trash, for recycling or special disposal. Free to households; 15 gallon limit/per day. Info and schedule, call the Recycling Hotline, 468-9704, or visit www.mendoRecycle.org.



Saturday, January 17

HazMobile in Willits: See Friday, January 16 listing for details.

Rotary Club Crab Fest: this annual all-you-can-eat crab, minestrone soup, salad, and bread fundraising dinner starts at 6 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Tickets are \$45; advanced purchase is recommended. Live music by Ed Rinehart on the piano and Bear Kamoroff on the bass. No host bar and this year, for the first year ever, the Willits Rotary Club will hold a quarter auction at the event: "Bring all your quarters and be prepared for a good time! The proceeds will be divided between the old and young: the Willits Senior Center and scholarships for high schools seniors in Willits." For tickets call Ann at 459-1440, or drop by the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.



Sunday, January 18

Patrick Ball in concert at WCT: Celtic harpist and story-teller Patrick Ball returns to Willits Community Theatre after a sold-out performance last year, with his spellbinding stories and mesmerizing sounds from his Maplewood harp. "Ball spins together his Irish wit, tales from the old country, and compositions from Ireland's national treasure, Turlough O'Carolan. The crystalline, bell-like resonance of the legendary Celtic harp is guaranteed to take Ball's listeners into deepest realms of the imagination." 2 pm. Advance tickets are \$15 and available online at brownpaperickets.com; in person at Mazahar 38 South Main Street; or call the WCT office at 459-0895 and leave a message. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.



Tuesday, January 20

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 movie: "Taken 3." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Thursday, January 22

Shanachie Pub: Steven Bates, guitar. 6 pm. No cover. Visit www.myspace.com/stevenbatesmusician or www.stevenbatesmusic.com. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, January 24

Shanachie Pub: The Stringtown Ambassadors, from Swannanoa, North Carolina, combine Old Time and Celtic roots with a modern awareness. Visit www.stringtownambassadors.com. 8 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Rash and Helen Falandes; the Emandal Choral; and young singer-songwriter-cellist Sarah Rose McMahon. Suggested donation for the concert is \$10 and for the supper \$8, with all sales at the door the night of the concert. The church roof is original to the building, constructed in the 1960s, and leaks. Estimates for replacing the roof are near \$100,000, but the church has already raised or set aside about a third of that. The church hopes to replace the roof this summer but this will depend on the success of ongoing fundraising.

Sunday, January 25

Free Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop: Sanhedrin Nursery hosts this free workshop, from 10 am to 2 pm at the nursery, 1094 Locust Street. Led by Dave Watts, nurseryman, and Richard Jeske, orchardist, this workshop will cover fruit tree and grape pruning. Rain or shine. No registration necessary. Info: 459-9009.

"Renew, Reroof": a concert at Willits United Methodist Church, to help raise money to put a new roof on the church. The concert begins at 5 pm and will be followed by a soup supper at 6:30. 282 School Street, across from the Grange. Local musicians scheduled to perform include "Just Enough," an ensemble of Kate Black, Clancy



# Ongoing Events

Willits Winter Farmers Market: from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, with produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Art Works by Robert Nixon, Sr. at WCA: the January exhibit at the Willits Art Center features watercolors and oil paintings, landscapes of local scenes, still lifes, and abstracts, by the late Robert Nixon, Sr. Art works priced to sell; all proceeds to benefit the Willits Center for the Arts. Runs through January 25 at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm.

The Emandal Choral: 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 Choral meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

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.

Alateen Support Group: for teens ages 12-17 that are friends and family members of problem drinkers and addicts. For teens only. Every Thursday, 6 to 7 pm, Room 44 at Willits High School, north of gym near pool. Contact: Aurelie at 707-489-1258 or Cindy at 707-972-4748 or cynlamon@gmail.com.

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 zeyny34@yahoo.com.

"Garb Me!": an ongoing pattern draping evening every Wednesday from 6 to 8 pm at Wowsler, 330 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-9697, or drop by Wowsler.

Cards and Games at Willits Library: free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. 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.

Mondays at Wowsler: Free events at Wowsler, 330 East Commercial Street. 6:30 pm. Lectures, slide shows, flash videos, guest speakers, demonstrations. Info: 459-9697 or www.wowslerllc.com.

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: 459-4932.

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

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.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday and World Music Open Mic every Monday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 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.

Live Open Mic Jam at Al's Redwood Room: hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, now at Al's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street, every Friday night, starting at 9 pm. Info: Mr. Larry at 707-354-3197.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Laytonville Grange. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, and more.

# Relay for Life

Relay For Life's 2015 Willits event is set for Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26 at the Recreation Grove. This is the fourth annual Relay For Life in Willits: funds raised benefit the American Cancer Society's efforts to find a cure for cancer, and also help local people get the services they need to fight back. Last summer's Relay raised more than \$55,000.

The Willits Relay Committee Meeting for Relay 2015 had its first meeting Monday at City Hall: those interesting in volunteering or signing up for Relay 2015 can learn about the next meeting, or find out more about how to get involved, by checking the "RelayForLifeOfWillitsCa" page on Facebook, or visiting www.relayforlife.org/willitsca.

# What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

COLUMN | At the Movies



## Taken 3

Daniel Essman Columnist

The Story: Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) and his damaged family unit are back and are threatened as ever... and there are some ruthless Russian thugs involved, in-your-face-kill-you-as-soon-as-look-at-you types.

Luc Besson produced it. There are clever moments, though my advice for this movie is don't stop and think. The movie is one long chase and escape: fist fights, elbow fights, broken wine bottle fights, and old school automatic weapons blasting holes in walls, those kind of fights, too... but not a whole lotta blood considering the degree of mayhem. Oh, and car destruction.

For those who haven't seen the first two flicks in this series, just think of Liam Neeson as Superman in a world where the Good Guys win, Bad Guys pay...

Parents: Shooting galore. The hero's family member is murdered, and a murdered mother is hard for younger children.

My Own Opinion: This movie was made really quickly... too quickly. That said, fans of "Taken 1" and "Taken 2" will have a good time hanging with the franchise. It's a crunching popcorn movie, and I enjoyed it. Plus, we've got Forest Whitaker as a super clever L.A. police detective.

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

## Harrah Senior Center

### Lunch Menu

Week of January 19 through 23

Monday: Tuna Noodle Casserole

Tuesday: Italian Meat Loaf

Wednesday: Spinach Lasagna

Thursday: Chicken Salad Sandwich

Friday: Pork Roast

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55 \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.



Dave and Laurie Smith, judges last year's event

## 2015 Willits Science Fair

The annual Willits Science Fair is set to start Tuesday, February 10, for set up and judging, then opens to the public on Wednesday, February 11 and Thursday, February 12, at the Willits Community Center. Students must submit an "Intent to Participate" form by Monday, January 26. Willits Science Fair coordinator Sharon Hanna says this deadline will have to be kept this year, and the number of projects might have to be limited due to space constraints. The fair always needs judges, mentors and volunteers, and those interested - or those with questions about participating - can contact Hanna at 459-4116 or sharonhanna@willitsunified.com.

## New venue in Willits: 'Hidden Agenda'

"We opened our new venue, 'Hidden Agenda,' recently in downtown Willits, at the corner of East San Francisco and South Main Street.

"Our business model is a space where it may be a dance class or martial arts one minute, and then we set up for a baby shower or a birthday party the next.

"We arrange the space accordingly to accommodate community need. It's beautiful, newly renovated and centrally located downtown. We are a 'family friendly' business that welcomes anything that empowers Willits and 'Willitsians.'

"Want to teach something? We have blocks of time to accommodate. Want to throw a party? Bring it on.... We'll help with everything and keep it very affordable.

"Want to take a class in something? We plan to offer things from dance to martial arts and from creative writing to drawing.

"Whatever your plan, we help from set up to clean up, and will even help you to get the word out about your classes or event."

For more info or questions, email hiddenagenda@att.net.

## Phoenix Certified Hospice Bereavement Support Group

This professionally facilitated bereavement group starts Monday, February 2, from 11 am to 1 pm at the Phoenix Hospice office, 100 Sanhedrin Circle. "The group will meet twice monthly (first and third Mondays) and provide an opportunity for the bereaved to explore the normal symptoms of grief, as well as recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With fuller understanding of the grief process, and effective techniques to manage stress, we can move toward recovery and affirmation of continuing life." This program is offered free of charge, as a community service. Pre-registration is required. Info: Roland at 456-3248 or 800-606-9596.



## WCA Call to Artists

The Willits Center for the Arts is having its annual Juried Membership Show, January 31 to March 1. Anyone who is a member may submit up to two pieces of artwork: paintings, sculpture, photography, jewelry, ceramics, collage, or mixed media. All local artists are encouraged to participate. You need not be a professional artist. Two-dimensional art must be ready to hang, framed and with wire hangers. Basic annual memberships are only \$35, and you may join when you bring your work in. Pieces need to be brought to the Art Center at 71 East Commercial Street (across from City Park) on Monday, January 26 from 9 to 4 pm. The show opens with an Artist's Reception on Saturday, January 31 from 7 to 9 pm. Artwork needs to be picked up on March 1 after 3 pm or on March 2. "We look forward to another inspiring show from our community. Please come and support our local Art Center."

## WEF Annual Drive Through Tri Tip Dinner

The Willits Educational Foundation has set its annual Drive Through Tri Tip Dinner for Friday, March 6, 4 to 6 pm at the Rodeo Grounds. Dinner for four people - \$60 - includes: whole tri tip, Goss Family Beans, a loaf of Emandal bread, Caesar salad with homemade dressing, homemade cookies, and a long-stemmed rose.

"All proceeds go to benefit teachers, programs and students in the Willits Unified School District. These funds are used for grants made for individual special requests. They are not part of the music, library and art monies that are given with proceeds from the Garden Party." To buy tickets or for more info, call Annette Pinon at 459-6588 or Warren Lewis at 459-4429.



2013 Sip Some Soup winners

## Make some soup for Sip Some Soup!



Shawna and Izzy of Healing Central Chiropractic

Willits Daily Bread is putting out the call for soup-makers for its annual benefit, Sip Some Soup, set for Saturday, February 7 this year at the Willits Community Center. Individuals, businesses or groups can enter. Coordinator Cindy Savage says soup-makers should make "at least 3 gallons of soup," and bring a crockpot. Backup soup can be kept warm on the stove in the center's kitchen. Cold soups and dessert soups are welcome, too. Table decorations and signage are welcome, but cups and spoons are provided.

To sign up, call Savage at 367-5669 or 459-2579, or drop by Willits Daily Bread, 58 Bush Street, Monday through Thursday from 3 to 6:30 pm to pick up an entry form.

## WCS and Food Bank 2014/15 Winter Fund Drive

Willits Community Services and Food Bank announced Tuesday that it is up to \$24,355 in funds received toward making its \$32,000 goal in this year's Winter Fund Drive. Keep track of the rising total of contributions by watching the "thermometer" at the northeast corner of Highway 101 and East Commercial Street.

To help reach the goal, donations can be mailed (checks made out to "Willits Community Services") to WCS, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, or dropped by during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 5 pm.

WCS has been serving the greater Willits and North County communities since 1981. For more than 32 years, said WCS director Jim Marill, WCS has provided a safety-net of human services that help cushion the effects of short- and long-term unemployment, poverty and crisis by providing temporary assistance programs and services to people in need. For more information, call 459-3333 or email willitscs@gmail.com.

### Thanks to the latest contributors:

Bonita Belt & Steven Drake, Rose Bird, John Bothwell & Patricia Wilson, Jack & Alice Cunningham, Dean & Geraldine Durbin, John Ford, Frank R. Howard Foundation, Gerardo & Barbara Gonzalez, Kirk Gustafson, Michael & Patricia Harrison, Galen Hathaway, Edward & Audrey Kimmel, Steve Kovner & Cypress Ross, Donald & Janet Lamprich, MaryLou Leonard & Andrew Stein, Monte & Kathleen Lieberfarb, LNS Welding & Fabrication, Christopher Martin & Lucy Sharp, S. & E. Olson, Ron & Brenda Oresten, Kris & Rick Pierce, Dennis & Katharine Rohrs, Keith & Jane Rongey, Keith Rutledge & Nancy Simpson, Rani Saijo, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Simonson, George Sirizotti, Everett Smith & Marian Hulett-Smith, Jeffrey & Judy Taddai, Dobbe Wattenberg Varney, Theresa & Jeffery Whitty, Bob & Joan Whitney, Don Willis and Anonymous.

# TAQUERIA RAMIREZ

Taco truck back in business

The Taqueria Ramirez food truck reopened Monday at its usual location, Blosser Lane and Franklin Avenue, to the delight of regular customers. "It was really busy today," said Rosa Nunez, co-owner with Atanasio Ramirez of the family business. Taqueria Ramirez has been closed for several months, due to a vehicle accident, but the truck is fixed up, and Atanasio is back at work.

Customers can order pollo, carnitas, al pastor or steak on their tacos, as well as vegetarian tacos (with cabbage). Tacos come with chips and red or green salsa. Ask about other menu options, too.

The truck is open Monday through Friday, starting between 9 and 10 am, and closing sometime around 5 pm. Orders can be called in at 707-367-0324. Taqueria Ramirez also does special events and catering; please call three weeks ahead to schedule.

- Jennifer Poole



From left to right, Rosa Nunez, Atanasio Ramirez, daughter Edith Ramirez, and two nephews: Christian and Rickey Ramirez.

Photo by Jennifer Poole



## New owners at Goods Shoppe

New owners of the Goods Shoppe in downtown Willits Tom and Sara Mann, at left, join hands with former owners Emmy and Bill Good, who have retired after 25 years of offering toys, games, art supplies, gifts and more. Sara Mann says she wants "to keep this gem of a landmark in the same spirit as it exists today," offering "thoughtful, stimulating, fun and well-made toys and gifts."

The Goods met Sara Mann when she first came to Willits more than 30 years ago and to them, they say, it seems like the business is staying in the extended family.

Sara says she and her family enjoyed the workshops that used to be held in the large outdoor courtyard behind the store, and she plans to revive that tradition with mini-events, classes and workshops. Emmy Good will continue to consult on product choices, and hopes to host a "Mad Hatter Tea Party" in the courtyard this spring.

The name will stay the same, with one change: It'll be "Goods Shoppe" (no apostrophe), not "Goods 'Shoppe." Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm.

The Manns, co-owners of Mazahar in Willits, also recently took over Brickhouse Coffee on the corner of East Commercial and Main Street. Tom Mann is hand-crafting delicious healthy soups, like red lentil, spicy coconut veggie, Pappa al Pomodoro (Italian tomato bread soup), and creamy Moroccan pumpkin garbanzo, to add to the menu of salads, sandwiches, pastries and espresso drinks. Brickhouse is open weekdays from 7 am to 3 pm, with plans to open soon on the weekend.

- Jennifer Poole

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# WILLITS

## 1565 S Main St • 707-459-5938

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Always looking for Cars, Scooters, & Motorcycles! '40s thru '60s. Show Car to Parts Car

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## Willits Weekly CLASSIFIEDS

**Algebra, Geometry SAT & ACT Test Prep**  
Mac Smith 459-5488

**Community HU Song**  
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, January 22, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit [miraclesinyourlife.org](http://miraclesinyourlife.org).

**Help Wanted**  
Willits Charter School seeks a Part Time Instructional Math Aide, as well as Yard Duty. Skilled in working with middle/high school students a must. \$10 per hour. Hours from 11:45 am to 3:40 pm. Contact Jennifer Lockwood at [jlackwood@willitscharter.net](mailto:jlackwood@willitscharter.net) or call 707-459-5506.

**Lost Dog**  
Male blue-nose pitbull, neutered, 3 years old, last seen January 2, near Willits Lane in Willits. Had blue color with tags. Large head, very muscular. Uncut ears. Please call 808-896-7157.

**Photography**  
Is there a 2015 graduate in your household? Did you get engaged over the holidays? Have you had a family portrait taken in the last few years? Why not create a different kind of New Year's tradition in your family and schedule a professional and natural photo shoot with Maureen Moore? Low pressure, fabulous results. Check out work online: [www.mphotography.com](http://www.mphotography.com) or call 972-7047.

**For Rent**  
Commercial/office space on Main Street. Near Mariposa Market. 475 square feet, plus common areas. \$450/month plus utilities. Call 459-2643 or 459-4110.

**Gift Subscriptions**  
A subscription to Willits Weekly is a great gift for anybody who wants to keep up with what's happening in Willits. Home delivery (to the greater Willits area; papers arrive early Friday morning) is \$30/6 months and \$50/year. First-class mail delivery (papers arrive in Friday's mail to local addresses) is \$40/6 months and \$75/year. Send a check to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits CA 95490, or call 459-2633 to get a subscription started right away.

**SEWING AND ALTERATIONS**  
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher  
Barbara Carlson  
Visit my webpage: [Zibergirl.com](http://Zibergirl.com)  
707-367-6182, Willits

**Volunteers Wanted**  
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

**Help Wanted**  
Willits Charter School seeks a skilled IT person. 5 to 10 hours per week. Pay DOE. Must be skilled with Apple systems, PCs, servers. Contact Jennifer Lockwood at [jlackwood@willitscharter.net](mailto:jlackwood@willitscharter.net) or call 707-459-5506.

**GET YOUR AD in Willits Weekly's Classified Listings!**  
\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

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

The rest of Miss Mendos | From Page 3

me, getting me my dresses, and helping me 'stay on it!' laughed Mason.

For the evening gown portion of the contest, Mason will be wearing a long sparkly red dress with a left-side slit.

If anyone would like to sponsor Mason, or support her in her race for the title, contact her at (707) 570-9696 or via email: [amandamason@willitsunified.com](mailto:amandamason@willitsunified.com).

**Shyanne DeMarco, 17, Senior at Willits High School**

Miss Mendocino candidate Shyanne DeMarco is excited to run for the title, not only for the scholarship money, but also because she enjoys being a part of the community and making a difference.

"With my dad being a K-9 sheriff, I've gained a love for service dogs, and because I have so many family friends that are war veterans, I've seen the effects of PTSD and would like to make a difference," explained DeMarco.

Her platform and program, "Paws for Veterans," will help bring awareness and help raise money for organizations who rescue shelter animals to train them to become service dogs. On January 31, DeMarco is hoping to hold a Walk-a-Thon at the City Park to start that process.

She also has been out and about, gathering sponsorships from local businesses, including Ukiah Custom Cabinets, who she thanked for being one of her "major sponsors" this year.

DeMarco has also been recently brushing up on her gymnastic skills — something she enjoyed doing in her youth — which she plans to showcase during the talent portion of the contest.

"I was always a floor routine and tumbling kind of girl,"

### Why come to the Harrah Center?

- **Come to lunch!**  
Monday-Friday, 11:45 am to 1:30 pm
- **Love breakfast?**  
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Consider lending a helping hand.
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- **Thrift store!**  
9 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday, Saturday 9 am-4 pm 459-2176

Call for more information  
**459-6826 • 1501 Baechtel Road**

## Fruit Tree SALE

90 Varieties of Fruit & Nut Trees from **\$14.98**

**FREE Pruning Workshop**  
Sunday, Jan. 25, 10-2 at **Sanhedrin Nursery**  
1094 Locust St., Willits 459-9009  
**OPEN SUNDAY - Closed Tuesday**

DeMarco said. "It was something I started in second grade and enjoyed until around age 12."

During the evening gown portion of the contest, DeMarco will be wearing a tan sequined V-neck ball gown.

"I want to thank both of my parents, Joey and Tammy, for pushing me to 'go do it' and motivate," said DeMarco.

If anyone would like to sponsor DeMarco, or support her in her race for the title, contact her at Shyanne.nikkole@gmail.com.

**Miss Mendocino contest details**

Other contestants include Michaela Terrell and Emily Oberg, both from Willits (profiles on Michaela and Emily in next week's Willits Weekly), and Ruby Simonian, Harmonie Roberts, Allora Aikman and Hannah Forbes.

Tickets for the Saturday, February 7 pageant and crowning event held at 7 pm at Ukiah High School will soon be available from the contestants. Tickets are \$20 each.

Girls will be judged in five areas: interview with a panel of judges (25 percent), talent (35 percent), lifestyle and fitness (15 percent), evening wear (20 percent) and on-stage question (5 percent). Kassy Aldaco of Willits was crowned Miss Mendocino in 2014. The Mendocino County contest is the local official preliminary event for the Miss California and, then, Miss America competitions.

Stay up to date on all things Miss Mendocino County at [www.facebook.com/missmendocinocounty](http://www.facebook.com/missmendocinocounty) or [www.missmendocinocounty.org](http://www.missmendocinocounty.org).

**DEATH NOTICE | Harriet Lois Stanley-Rhoades**

Harriet Lois Stanley-Rhoades, of Fort Bragg, passed away in Willits on December 14, 2014, at the age of 78. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

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# Studio Joy

THE place for Zumba Fitness in Willits

## Happy New Year, Willits! Let us help you reach your fitness goals in 2015!

**NEW STUDENTS:**  
Never been to our studio? First class is free!  
New Student special: 5 classes for \$35 (reg. \$47.50). Limit 1 per person.  
Returning Student special: Monthly passes on sale! \$75 unlimited classes within the month! (\$67.50 students and seniors).

- Discounts for teens, students and seniors
- Wellness Program participant with employees of Mendocino County, Howard Hospital and Mariposa Market
- Children under 13 are always welcome and always FREE

**Studio Joy offers Zumba, Zumba Toning, Zumba Gold and now R.I.P.P.E.D. to the Willits community.**  
**Tuesday and Thursday night Zumba is now at 5:30, followed by R.I.P.P.E.D. at 6:30**

For our full schedule, our teachers and pricing, see our webpage: [www.studiojoywillits.com](http://www.studiojoywillits.com) or call: 707-841-7499. And like us on Facebook: Studio Joy, Willits

R.I.P.P.E.D. with **Judy Couglin**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. You are welcome to use your Studio Joy cards and passes. Drop in \$10.

**1262 Blosser Lane • Willits, CA**  
**707-841-7499**

**Willits Unified School District's Elementary School Counseling Program is a grant funded program that currently offers parenting groups and play groups to families interested in both Spanish and English.**

*The Elementary School Counseling Program is also asking for volunteers to help steer and advise us about ways to better serve the social and emotional needs of our elementary students and their families.*

This will meet quarterly (four times a year), with our next Meeting planned for:  
Wednesday, January 21st, 2015  
5:30 p.m.  
at Blosser Lane Elementary School

We also offer individual and group counseling to elementary students who attend Brookside, Blosser, or Sherwood elementary schools. Currently we have openings to families of elementary students interested in confidential family therapy. For more information please contact Katie Cochran, Lead Elementary School Counselor at [katiecochran@willitsunified.com](mailto:katiecochran@willitsunified.com) or at (707) 459-5385, ext 1440.

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## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

# Siberian Ginger

Ginger is a 2-year-old female Siberian Husky mix who weighs 56 pounds. She was brought to the shelter as a stray dog from the Ukiah area. Ginger loves other dogs and playing with them, so she'd especially love a home with a canine pal. We also think she'd enjoy going on adventures with older kids. As long as this girl gets the love and attention she's always deserved, she will thrive in any kind of home.

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 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: [www.mendoshelterpets.com](http://www.mendoshelterpets.com) or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Photo by Sage Mountainfire



# Cauliflower Crusted Pizza

Elizabeth Sinofsky of the Mendocino Tea Lady (1611 South Main Street, Willits; [www.mendocinotealady.com](http://www.mendocinotealady.com)) sends in this great alternative for gluten-free and carb-watching pizza lovers. "Simply a wonderful light pizza that is healthy and good for you!"

### Ingredients:

- 1 head cauliflower
- 2 cups of Italian blend cheese (with cheeses like Mozzarella, Provolone, Parmesan, Fontina, Romano and/or Asiago)
- ¼ cup Parmesan
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 teaspoon garlic
- 1 lightly beaten egg
- 1 tablespoon almond meal (optional)
- 2 tablespoons Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ cup pizza sauce
- Toppings of your choice

### Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
- Remove stalks from cauliflower, and cut head into small pieces.
- Place pieces into food processor. Pulse until the heads have become like tiny rice bits: 12 pulses. (If you don't have a food processor, you can grate the cauliflower into tiny pieces with a box grater.)
- Cook the bits in the microwave for 6 minutes.
- Put the cooked cauliflower bits (when they've cooled enough to handle) into a clean tea towel or cloth, and squeeze all the water out.
- Put in a bowl.
- Add Italian seasonings, salt, garlic, almond meal, 1 cup of cheese, and lightly beaten egg.
- Mix together.
- Oil a piece of parchment paper.
- Place the whole mixture in the center, and press the ingredients into the shape you like for your pizza.
- Place on pizza round, or baking sheet.
- Bake for 20 minutes at 450 degrees; check often. Crust will become golden brown.
- Take out and let cool for 5 minutes.
- Add pizza sauce (lightly), red pepper flakes, your choice of toppings and remaining cheeses.
- Sprinkle with love and happiness.
- Place back in oven at 450 degrees for 10 minutes, or until your pizza is cooked to your liking.
- Enjoy!



interest to local government."

The 2015 agenda was drafted by an ad hoc committee led by supervisors Carre Brown and Dan Gjerde, which held meetings during October and November to include input from congressional representatives, county department heads, and community stakeholders. The ad hoc committee also utilized policy input from the California State Association of Counties and the Rural County Representatives of California.

The 2015 state-level lobbying agenda is in large part an expansion of the board's 2014 agenda, with the addition of several topics reflecting recent state and federal legislative changes. The platform introduction says the 2015 agenda reflects "a slowly recovering economy impacting all levels of governmental programs, services, and funding; program and regulatory reform resulting from implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2014; ongoing federal deficit-reduction measures; the continuing congressional earmark moratorium; and anticipated reform measures at the local, state, and national level."

The county agenda is framed around guiding principles for legislative advocacy, including local control, rural county needs, preservation of funding for critical services, regulatory relief and reform, conservation of natural resources, and economic development.

Some issues, including internet sales tax, county biomass and biochar projects, and local energy delivery are also listed as federal-level priorities. Willits Weekly will cover the board's federal legislative agenda in a subsequent article.

As in 2014, the agenda does not identify specific projects or "top priorities" – due to the current fiscal climate – but instead outlines a "slate" of policy and regulatory principles and priorities for "engagement in the coming year." One change, however, is an expected increase in available state general funds, with an additional \$2 billion estimated to be available for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

New additions to the 2015 agenda begin with two water-related issues. The first is local control of sustainable groundwater management, which was established in new state-wide legislation in 2014 and will be implemented over the next several years. The legislation requires local agencies to actively develop plans to manage local groundwater resources.

Supervisors also plan to address Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, a bond measure allocating \$7.1 billion in state-wide funding for a variety of water storage and management projects. The agenda states the county – through the Mendocino County Water Agency – will "convene goal-setting sessions with local/regional stakeholders to aggressively pursue available grant funding to assist with drought mitigation infrastructure projects, water supply planning efforts, and other water board mandates" under Proposition 1 funding.

"Second, Covered California offers free preventive care – including screenings and immunizations – providing peace of mind and allowing people to receive treatment early in the disease process for better outcomes.

"Third, the government will begin assessing fines to those without health insurance in 2015, so taking advantage of open enrollment is more important than ever."

After February 15, those without insurance must have a qualifying event, such as getting married, having a child or moving, to sign up for Covered California coverage.

Those without health insurance can apply online at [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com) or can schedule an appointment with a local certified enrollment counselor at Mendocino County Health and Human Services, at any federally qualified health center, and at local Family Resource Centers.

In the North County, appointments to enroll in Obamacare can be made at the Little Lake Health Center in Willits (456-9600), at Laytonville Healthy Start (984-8089) and at Long Valley Health Center (984-6131, ext. 22, and at the Round Valley Indian Health Center in Covelo (983-6181).

In the Ukiah Valley, federally qualified health centers include: ARC Family Resource Center (234-3300); Consolidated Tribal Health (485-5115); Hillside Health Center (468-1010); Healthy Kids Mendocino (463-5437), and the Ukiah Valley Rural Health Center (463-8000).

Some people who have begun the Covered Care application process have discovered they qualify for Medi-Cal, a lower-cost health insurance option. In California, Obamacare expanded Medi-Cal to cover several million Californians under age 65 whose incomes were previously too high to qualify. Now, those with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level will qualify for Medi-Cal.

The new income eligibility requirements are \$16,105 a year or less for 1-person families; \$21,708 for 2-person families; \$27,311 for 3-person families; \$32,913 for 4-person families; \$38,516 for 5-person families; \$44,119 for 6-person families, and on up.

By entering data regarding income and family size at the California Care website, [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com), the site will route your application appropriately to apply for Medi-Cal or a private insurance plan.

Individuals who make up to \$46,680 and families of four that make up to \$95,400 can qualify for financial assistance in paying premiums for private plans, and

portray herself as a supporter of vocational training who is faced with tough administrative choices, coming both from the changing landscape of school funding and from the changing educational hankerings of Willits students.

Johnson had asked for community input on the question of how to shape the district's educational program in light of a new funding paradigm coming from Sacramento.

The new approach to funding is called the LCAP – the Local Control and Accountability Program. Under the LCAP, which is in its first year and appears to be the model for education funding for the next few years, the state will give the district money with very few strings attached.

This is different than the previous model, in which state money was often restricted to specific uses.

Baechtel Grove Middle School Principal Maria de Los Angeles Mungia explained the difference in the previous and current funding paradigms.

"It's like, in the old model, the state used to give you a gift card. You got the money, but you had to spend it in certain stores for certain items. Now this LCAP program is like the state is giving you money. You can spend it however you want. That is the difference between the old way and the LCAP."

According to Johnson, there are only three requirements for getting and spending LCAP money. A district's programs funded using LCAP money must be used for one of three categories of students: programs must address the needs of either low-income students, students who are classified as "English language learners," or students who are foster children.

Johnson said 74 percent of Willits students meet the requirements of one of the three categories. She also told the group that, this year, the total amount of LCAP funding available is \$780,000, about 6.5 percent of the district budget. Over the next few years, she said, the LCAP portion will increase to about \$1.3 million.

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse, who appeared at last week's meeting of the school district's board of trustees, where he informed the board that many of his Willits constituents feel the new CTE portion of the Willits High School campus is not being used as fully as it should be, was also present at Tuesday's meeting.

Woodhouse had earlier urged his supporters to attend the Tuesday night meeting and, possibly as a result, 25 people were present. At a meeting on the LCAP held in November, only five people attended.

Many of those present Tuesday agreed with Woodhouse that the CTE wing of the high school campus is being underutilized.

Baechtel Grove Middle School teacher Mary Colvig urged Johnson to beef up the vocational training portion of the district's program.

"We have this fantastic wood shop and metal shop, but we've lost all these programs," Colvig said. "Frankly, in Willits, for kids who don't leave Willits, the jobs that are here are in the skilled trades. So that's what needs to be taught."

"Have kids changed that much? I can't believe it," said former Willits High Principal Chuck Davison. "When I was principal, we had six periods of

shop. Larry Stranske taught it, and we had to turn kids away. I know if I had wanted to, I could have taught 14 periods of [shop]."

Chris Wilkes, a former Willits High School shop teacher who now works as a training chief for the Little Lake Volunteer Fire Department, painted a grim picture of how ill-prepared high school graduates are to function in the real world.

"It used to be when we had kids come to us for a job, we would hire them and we would have to teach them things like basic firefighting techniques," he said. "But now, we have to teach them much more basic stuff, like how to sweep a floor. How to show up on time."

"The kids I am seeing now – and I mean this is all over, not just in Willits – have zero hands-on skills. They literally don't know how to do anything. The skilled labor force in our community is dying," Wilkes said.

Becky Bowlds, an ag teacher at Willits High, charged that the district has failed in its responsibility to fully utilize the CTE center, and that failure is rooted in the district's inability to attract a qualified teacher, one who could teach a variety of vocational ed classes.

"When we built that facility, we said we would hire someone who could teach shop, and construction, and electrical, and small engine repair, and welding," Bowlds said. "But when those buildings were completed, that wasn't done."

"That kind of teacher is hard to come by, but you have to start now, and it has to be done in the correct way and in the correct places," she said. "We are in desperate need of someone to fill those facilities and make them available to the general public so they can have the CTE classes they need. It's where we need to go."

Johnson told Bowlds the district had put out a notice that such a position was available but had received no applicants.

Principal Mungia said people claiming CTE training was the only way to go were wrong.

"I think when you look at the world out there, it's clear a lot of the jobs that will be out there are going to be college track jobs," she said. "And I think that's true in Willits, both now, and in the future. So it would be wrong to just focus on CTE, as important as that is. Because you need both."

Johnson tended to agree with Mungia. "We are not getting rid of CTE. We will never get rid of CTE," she said. "The goal is to enhance it and to move forward. But how do we do that with all the other things on our plate?"

"It's the same with all of our other programs. We are not going to abandon our English language learners. We're not going to abandon our staff development, although we are focusing more on behavior intervention and restorative practices, that sort of thing, this year, and not some of the other things."

"All of those things are still on our plate. We are going to move forward."

When asked what the next steps in the budget development process would be, Johnson said: "My next step is to attend each of the school site council meetings. The school site council is made up of parents, students and staff. And hear their input as well. And then we will probably have one more community meeting to sort of share out what all of that stuff looks like."

"And then our job, for that last meeting, is to put some numbers to things and see where we're at."

# Amazing Athlete

## of Willits High School

Photo by Maureen Moore



**BASKETBALL** |  
Chanel Alexander,  
15, Sophomore

**Breakfast of Champions:**  
Cereal – I like all kinds!

**Position:** Point Guard

**Love for the Sport:** I love the speed and intensity of the game, and the contact element is fun too!

Chanel is a sophomore on the varsity girls basketball team. Chanel's preparation for this season has been nothing short of extraordinary. It's coming full circle just at the right time.

In our first two league games this last week, Chanel played a huge role: playing huge minutes in both games and displaying tremendous skills on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball.

Chanel's efforts in Tuesday's win at Clear Lake were critical, and she put together a scoring clinic Friday night at home vs. Cloverdale!

– Coach Jody Ward

# Weekly Promotions for January



## MONDAYS - Rooster & Owls

Earn 3X Points all day.  
Morning Session: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 9, 10, 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.  
Evening Session: 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$30 Cash at 7, 8, 9 and 10 p.m.  
May win once per promotion day!

## TUESDAYS - Guy's Night

Earn 2X points all day, 6:00-10:00 p.m.  
Play 50 coin-in (100 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay, Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00-9:30 p.m. for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

## WEDNESDAYS - Ladies Night

2X points all day, 6:00-10:00 p.m.  
Play 50 coin-in (100 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay, Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00-9:30 p.m. for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

## THURSDAYS - Super Senior Day

The Senior Freeplay will be precluded to the Players Club Card from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawings each hour. Winners receive \$40 Cash. Half off lunch coupon for those participating.

## FRIDAYS - Friday Fun

Specials posted at Creekside Café, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.: Earn 100 points, receive \$10 freeplay  
2:00-8:00 p.m.: Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$75 Cash  
9:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawing for \$100 Cash

## SATURDAYS - Winter Wonderland Cash

4:00-10:00 p.m.  
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. Have a chance to win up to \$150 Cash.

## SUNDAYS - Snowflake Surprise

12:00 Noon-9:00 p.m.  
Random Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. The Winner will choose a Snowflake of their choice and have a chance win up to \$150 Cash.

Hidden Agenda  
399 S Main St,  
Willits

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**FIRST CLASS FREE**

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Loyal Students  
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12 Punch Pass for \$75.00 (\$6.25/Class)

We have a great safe space for your kids to play while you stay active!

Check us out on FB for updates and specials!

## Watershed Restoration Funds for Fire, Fish, and Flows

# Saturday, January 31

## Noon to 4:00 - FREE!

Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Ave, Laytonville

### Tenmile Creek & Outlet Creek and Other Eel River Tributary Watersheds

- Funding through state and federal grant programs to improve watershed health and drought conditions
- Partnering opportunities with experienced restoration professionals
- Examples of NORCAL projects

Presented by: Mendocino County Resource Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Information: Mendocino County RCD: 462-3664 ext 104

Funding provided by: Fisheries Restoration Grant Program & National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



Ericka & Kassy Aldaco, Minnie Ayers, Mike Martinez, Jose Arreguin, Jill Persico, Diane Schrieber, and Megan.



Tito Duran, Leann Schnitzius, Michelle Schnitzius, Jim Schnitzius, Darrel Schnitzius (back row), Courtney Schnitzius, Hunter Schnitzius, and Kayla Schnitzius (front row).



Emilio and the trophy at El Mexicano.



Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez and Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman.



Jessica and Sam with the trophies.



Willits City Councilwoman Holly Madrigal.



Colleen Pappadakis and Brendan Pappadakis.



Lynda and Heather Walker.



Otto and Drew.



Kathy Shuster.



Alicia & Tinley Logan and Ron Lovell.



Officer Cody Mason, Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, and Officer Matthew Cydzik.



Aedan and Farrow Lockwood. Proud of our Giants!



Anna Flores with the Giants trophy at El Mexicano.



Drew, Kahlia and Judy.



Sanderson / Laughlin family picture, with Ridge, age 1, getting to see the Giants trophies.

## The rest of Giants trophies

From Page 1

In 2012, two trophies from the Giants 2010 and 2012 victories came to the Willits Library, and Giants fans waited in a long line to see the trophies.

More than an hour before the doors opened this year, Giants fans had filled the foyer at City Hall, and a line had formed that went out the Commercial Street entrance and wrapped around the side of the building on Humboldt Street.

The rules were simple: one photo per person or group, and you could use your own camera or have one taken professionally by a member of the trophy tour team.

Members of the Willits Junior Giants teams, part of the Junior Giants community program operated by the SF Giants franchise, were let in before the general public for their chance to look at the trophies.

The Willits Junior Giants baseball program usually has about 100 kids who participate, said Mike Tobin of the Sheriff's Activities League, a Junior Giants sponsor. There are about 130 kids in the Ukiah program and about 30 more in Covelo, Tobin said. The event generated a buzz on social networking site Facebook, where some quickly posted their photos to share the joy of having the Giants trophies in Willits.

Councilwoman Holly Madrigal may have said it best in this Facebook comment:

"They'll be back in 2016, that's my prediction! Thank you Junior Giants for bringing these guys here. Crazy that we won this year, here's to perseverance against all odds! Go Giants!"

# New Rotary Saw at LLFD

Getting into structures with ease is important for firefighters, and knowing that what they need to grab is close at hand can mean one less complicating factor when on a call. Until now, not all the rotary saws used by the Little Lake Fire Department used the same mix of gasoline, requiring firefighters to have more than one gas mix and multiple gas cans on the engines.

With the purchase of a new \$1,500 rotary saw, with funds raised by the Little Lake Fire Department open house and other events, now all the saws will be using the same mix. This saw replaces the last old one, which has been in operation for some 30 years. The "retired" saw will now move to a back-up position for the Urban Search and Rescue team.

The new rotary saw has eight different saw blade configurations, allowing



it to cut through anything from concrete to metal to shingles and comp roofs. Typically a rotary saw is used for vertical ventilation to help prevent back draft, allowing the superheated gas to escape through a hole cut into the structure's roof. LLFD firefighters noted this is a common procedure, used on about 50 percent of their calls.

Another new tool will soon be at the station: a hydraulic wrench that is being custom- and hand-built in Oregon. This wrench was also purchased with donated funds, and Little Lake Fire Association members offer their thanks to everyone who helped make these purchases possible.



Above: The new saw, left, will replace its old counterpart, right.

Left: Firefighters, from left: Michael Wilder, Adam Seminoff, Kevin Reedy, Tyler Yadon, John Thomen, and Chris Wilkes, pose with the new saw in front of the engine at the LLFD substation on Baechtel Road.

Photos by Maureen Moore



## Imagination Station

Preschool/Childcare Center

Enrolling Year Round

Hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Toddler program begins at 18 months • Preschool: ages 3-5 • Elementary program: ages 6-10

Check out our website: [www.preschooldaycarewillits.com](http://www.preschooldaycarewillits.com)

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## Rotary Club Crab Fest

Annual all-you-can-eat crab, minestrone soup, salad, and bread fundraising dinner.

Jan. 17, 2015 • Dinner Starts at 6 p.m.

Willits Community Center  
111 East Commercial Street

Tickets are \$45

Live music by Ed Rinehart on the piano and Bear Kamoroff on the bass.

— No Host Bar —

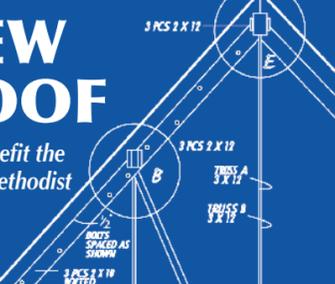
After dinner a quarter auction will be held with proceeds being divided between the Willits Senior Center and scholarships for high school seniors in Willits.

For tickets call Ann, 459-1440 or drop by the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.



## RENEW REEROOF

A concert to benefit the Willits United Methodist Church Roof Reconstruction Fund



Sunday • January 25 • 5 P.M.

Willits UMC  
at School Street and Pine

Suggested donation \$10  
Supper to follow at 6:30 p.m.; suggested donation \$8

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featuring Kate Black, Helen Falandes and Clancy Rash

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