

Gravely concerned

To the Editor:

We are a group of retired Willits High School teachers with many satisfying years of experience in our school district. We have been following the changes occurring at WHS under the new administration and superintendent, and we are gravely concerned.

We are not against change; however, we are against the destruction and disruption of successful programs and the loss of a collaborative atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. The morale of the school has never been lower. A current student told us, "The high school is falling apart." A parent told us, "The administration is not responsive." A staff member told us, "Teachers may not want to speak out publicly because they may be afraid of retribution."

In our 30+ or - years, WHS always has earned a six-year Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation. We were shocked to learn that at the three-year interim WASC report (standard procedure), WHS was threatened with the loss of school accreditation. This is extremely unusual; it has not happened in our experience and rarely happens anywhere.

We are aware that the high school has been given a year to address the deficiencies. The two glaring problems pointed out by the WASC committee were that the new administration wrote an inadequate report without faculty input and that the entire counseling program was cut and lost.

Since that time, no counselors have been hired, and the Leadership Team at the high school has resigned en masse. They feel that they have not been listened to and that the work that they do is disregarded. This is unprecedented. The work of this committee over the last 10 years has been critical in developing faculty/staff teamwork, inter-school curriculum, teaching "best practices," and the development and implementation of positive changes which supported students, parents, teachers and staff – in other words, the school as a whole.

The productive and collaborative atmosphere at WHS has been compromised by an undercurrent of anxiety and distrust. Previously administration, faculty, staff, students, parents and community were involved in decision-making. That does not seem to be the current case. Involuntary transfers, teacher experience and expertise often ignored, loss of experienced teachers, an over-extended staff, and fear of retaliation for speaking up create the negative tone.

No one thinks WHS was problem-free and perfect before; however, it was a good small town school getting a lot right. We accept the fact that the Willits Unified School District has financial problems, but we cannot allow finances to dictate and override student success. This is a school, not a corporation.

We cannot sit by and let go what so many have worked so hard to achieve. We should assess what is in place and has worked before gutting the programs – and many programs have been gutted. Our current students deserve to benefit from the supportive academic environment traditionally provided by our school district and community.

We all sent our children confidently to WHS. We question whether we would make that decision again. Parents in our community

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

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

are also asking the same question. Loss of students means the further dismantling of our community's high school. We ask parents, students and community members to become informed and act to save our school. Contact the trustees of the Willits Unified School District board, attend board meetings, or write the superintendent and the high school principal with your concerns.

Susan Walz, Sue Short,
Bill Southwick,
and Jackie Pealatero, Willits

Leadership Team

To the Editor:

[Editor's note: this is a letter sent to the Willits Teachers Association membership, written collaboratively by the Willits High School Leadership Team regarding their recent resignation, which was requested to be published by Willits Weekly.]

Dear Colleagues: Last Friday [May 16], the Leadership Team at Willits High School resigned. We want to thank you all for the honor of holding this position and also share our reasons for leaving at this time.

We started this year with the norms of mutual respect and best intentions. At this point, we feel with continued and renewed best intentions, we have not been listened to; we have not been effective in our roles as "leaders." We have a strong sense that we are no longer the "voice" of the teachers.

We feel that we can be more effective by focusing more time into our students, our curricula and our school. The leadership team started about seven years ago with members attending the meetings at the Sonoma County Office of Education. Our task was to bring what we learned on Instructional Strategies and more recently Common Core back to our departments during PLC [Professional Learning Community] meetings.

From time to time, we were called upon to take on other responsibilities. You may recall that during the last month of school, 2013, we worked to come to agreements on issues like our bell schedule, tutorial and the length of time for staff meetings on Tuesdays.

This year, in addition to learning about Common Core during SCOE meetings, we were involved in the meetings with the WASC [Western Association of Schools and Colleges] reviewers and several job interviews. All of this involvement has given us insights and perspectives that others may not hold.

Some of us have spoken out at staff meetings and board meetings, with little action in response.

We hope that by stepping down, we can become more unified, and pull together to make the best decisions for our students, teachers – new and experienced – and our school.

Jill Walton, Trish Silva-Brown,
Marisela de Santa Anna, Carolyn Bakewell, Laura Herman
and Gwen Rasmussen, WHS Leadership Team

Thanks

To the Editor:

As we close the 2013-14 school year, I want to extend my personal thanks to all staff and community members, parents and guardians, and all students of the Willits Unified School District for the hard work and dedication to make this year a success. I think we can all agree it has been an "interesting" year, with lots of challenges and many

perspectives. In spite of these challenges, I have greatly appreciated the professional approach taken on the toughest of issues. I have noted the increasing sense that we have common goals and a dedication to enhance the educational opportunities and successes of our students.

We have accomplished a lot this year and have a lot to look forward to as we move into the 2014-15 school year. I truly believe that our best times are ahead. We have been able to resolve many of our internal challenges – not the least of which was the bond and related litigation. With the hard work of the WTA and CSEA, we have mutual resolution on both contracts. These accomplishments along with many others will allow us to move forward and focus on the challenges of the future.

I know that the state will continue to place demands on our school district while failing to provide sufficient funding to support student learning. But I believe that we – collectively – have put ourselves in the best position possible to meet the demands and move forward as a TEAM. I am proud to consider myself a part of the WUSD TEAM. Again, I sincerely want to thank the Willits community for their support of student learning and to wish everyone the best during this much-needed summer break!

Patricia Johnson,
WUSD superintendent

Thanks to Caltrans, CHP

To the Editor:

Save Our Little Lake Valley (SOLLV) and Redwood Nation Earth First!, sponsors, would like to thank Caltrans and the CHP for their cooperation in making the Ceremony to Protect the Wetlands last Sunday possible and safe. We appreciate the coordination and communication we received, and hope to develop more of this spirit as we offer viable solutions to the problems with the bypass as currently designed.

Freddie Long, Willits

WHS needs its own credentialed librarian

To the Editor:

[Editor's note: This is a letter sent to the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees, which was requested to be published by Willits Weekly.]

From the WUSD Board Agenda for Wednesday, June 11, 2014:

"Approval of a Secondary Librarian job description for the hiring of a classified employee. The current vacancy created at the high school allows the district to reclassify this position for the upcoming school year. Working under the MCOE [Mendocino County Office of Education] library certificated credential the district will continue to provide library services to students and staff. Background: The district currently has a vacancy in the high school library. MCOE is moving forward with hiring a certificated librarian for all districts in the county to support non-credentialed positions within the districts. Hiring of a classified employee is a cost savings to the district. Funding/Source: Fiscal savings to the district Recommendation: Superintendent recommends approval"

This agenda item concerns me greatly. I was born and raised in Willits, attended Willits schools and raised my children here. All three of my children graduated from Willits High School and went on to graduate from college. I was fortunate during my career at Willits Unified to work as a library clerk at Brookside Elementary School and at the Willits High School Media Center as a library tech. My supervisor was Susan Jones. When I was a student, the librarian was Erma

Conant. Both Mrs. Conant and Mrs. Jones had teaching credentials. Both were credentialed to work in a school library, and both had master's degrees in library science. As professionals, both collaborated with teachers, coordinated use of the library, and designed instructional programs to introduce students to research.

In the later years, Susan Jones facilitated the use of technology in the library, even co-writing a major technology grant. She worked one-on-one with students and was able to impact student success both professionally and personally. Every student knew they could depend on Mrs. Jones for informed information about a career or college choice, a senior project topic, or a book to read on vacation. Until she retired, the libraries of Willis Unified received the support of the school board, and Susan was fortunate enough to have the help of a library technician, freeing her up from the day-to-day work, enabling her to work directly with teachers and students.

This funding allowed her to build an outstanding library collection: reading almost every book that was purchased, book-talking her way around the library with reluctant readers, talking students through senior projects, even taking on senior novel study groups when asked by teachers! She used her time to focus on creating opportunities to educate students not only in the love of books, but in research skills and the use of technology to achieve academic success.

The proposal before the board of trustees creates a classified school librarian position, meaning a non-credentialed position. This is an oxymoron because – according to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing – a school librarian is a certificated position. And, I suspect, this position will be paid from the classified salary schedule.

The proposed position, regardless of what job title is used, does not require that a teaching credential be held, that a library credential be held, or that a master's degree be held. While I assume the person chosen for that position will be dedicated to their job, it must be stated that it is probable that the level of performance will be less than that expected of a credentialed, professional librarian.

There are 12 school districts in Mendocino County. Of those 12, only Ukiah High School and Willits High School have had credentialed librarians.

Classified library techs have done outstanding work in our school libraries, but they are not "librarians" in the professional sense of the word. A classified staff person in the WHS Media Center will be hard-pressed to get textbooks circulated, library books checked in and out, materials shelved, the cataloging done, tables wiped down, the area maintained, and students monitored. I would be surprised if they will be able to arrange book talks, work from the state's Recommended Reading List and review new books to make sure that students have access to popular fiction and non-fiction! How will they also find the time to instruct in research skills, troubleshoot technology, guide students in research projects and collaborate with teachers?

Sad to say, credentialed school librarians are part of a diminishing breed even though the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, in the report on Library Standards for California Public Schools, K-12 Grade adopted by the California State Board of Education in September 2010, wrote the following:

"The school library standards maintain California's respect for local control of schools. They provide guidance to school districts for implementing strong school library programs. Such library programs improve student achievement, foster literacy, produce a technology-competent workforce, and nurture lifelong learning.

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 4



Top row, from left: The temporary tattoo station was a big hit. The prize table was overflowing with loot for the grads. The always-popular Velcro wall. Kelin Adamson holds a thank you card written to one of the prize sponsors.

At left: Hilary Kocher of Hilary's Henna pipes a peacock feather in henna on an ankle.

Left, below: Caleb Bacci, the winner of the red La-Z-Boy chair donated by Willits Furniture.

Left, bottom: Emily Pinnell Stewart shows off some dancing skills during the event emceed by DJ Ken Steely.

Right: The lucky \$1,000 winners, from left: Devina Cash, Dylan Avila, Nicholas Yadon and Erandy Alvarez. Photos by Maureen Moore



Sober Grad 2014

The Willits Community Center was full of excited graduates and happy-to-help volunteers last Thursday during the annual Sober Grad event.

High school graduates from all schools were welcome to attend. Those who checked in before 11 pm and stayed all the way through until 4 am were eligible to win tons of great prizes donated by businesses and individuals in the community.

It was estimated that around 70 percent of this year's high school graduates attended, but the attendee list was also heavy with more than 50 guests the graduates brought to join in the festivities, though only the grads were eligible for the prizes.

There were five big winners of the night: four students who each won a \$1,000 check, including Devina Cash, Dylan Avila, Nicholas Yadon and Erandy Alvarez, and Caleb Bacci, who won a La-Z-Boy recliner. Mountains of other prizes were given out to all the attendees, including everything from mini-fridges to iPods to cookware to camping gear.

To keep the kids entertained during the overnight event, planners create lots of fun stations and options for party guests. This year, Hilary's Henna and the temporary tattoo tables were back; the popular Velcro climbing wall was up; ping pong and air hockey tables were set; themed photos were taken by Maureen Moore; and custom-drawn portraits were done on site by Cynda Valle, Kat Emerson, Diza Hope, and Judy Hope.

DJ Ken Steely kept the music going and even encouraged several students to come up and sing karaoke.

Below, from left: Artist Cynda Valle shows Erandy Alvarez her completed portrait. The casino tables gave kids a chance to win fun graduate-themed goodies with their tokens. Pam Foster and Kendrick Alexander sang karaoke during the event. Alyssa Alvarez passed some time by playing ping pong.



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In The Stars

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Focus your energies in a positive way, Aries. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to, and now is the time to put your attitude to work.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you are ready for something or someone new. Right now is a good time to reach out and connect with a new passion. Things will get more interesting rather quickly.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

You need to focus and get back to work this week, Gemini. Things have slipped out of your fingers, and it could take a little while before you get back on a schedule.

CANCER

June 22/July 22

Shop around for the best deals before making a big purchase, Cancer. A little extra work can lead to substantial savings. There are deals to be had, so be patient.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23

Expect to reach a milestone in your life, Leo. This may have something to do with your family or career. Either way, the praise you will receive is warranted.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Sometimes it can be easy for you to get fixated on a certain way of doing things, Virgo. There are really many different paths to the same outcome when you are open to ideas.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, do not panic when a glitch arises in your plans. Just approach the situation from a different angle, and you will find a solution in no time.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Try not to push yourself too hard this week, Scorpio. This is a good time to maintain a low profile. Drawing too much attention to yourself might ruffle the wrong feathers this week.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, something will bring a smile to your face early in the week, and there's pretty much nothing that can put you in a bad mood. This is an ideal time to get things accomplished.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

You are never one to walk away from a challenge, Capricorn. This week you will be presented with a big obstacle, and you will have to step up to tackle the hard stuff.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

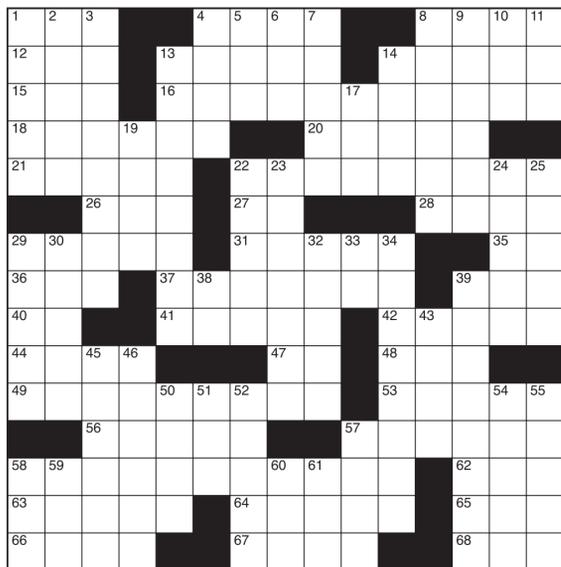
Keep your eyes open and you just may stumble on something new and fascinating this week, Aquarius. This is a good time to explore new ideas and apply them to your daily life.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Someone gets bent out of shape over something that seems laughable to you, Pisces. You may need to adjust your view.

Crossword Puzzle



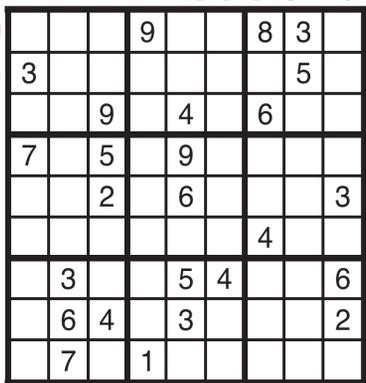
CLUES ACROSS

- The woman
- New Rochelle college
- If not
- Rotating mechanism
- Strong sharp smell or taste
- Squash bug genus
- Eggs
- S. African Anglican bishop
- Draws taut
- One who tears down
- Killed
- Focus during yoga
- Boxing referee declares
- Morning
- Make very hot and dry
- At right angles to the keel
- Basalt layers of earth
- Most abundant rare-earth
- Possessed
- Hess, oil company
- Emblish
- 17th state
- Actress Sarandon
- Nostrils
- Cologne
- Benign glandular tumors

CLUES DOWN

- People of the lochs
- Czech playwright Vaclav
- Gave forth
- Frozen drinks
- Many not ands
- Matchstick game
- African antelope
- Ice hockey fake
- Expression of triumph
- Very fast airplane
- Cologne
- Actor Aykroyd
- Microgram
- Used to cut and shape wood
- King Cole
- Japanese deer
- Vitrines
- Princely area
- Mother-of-pearl
- A ___ is in accord
- Get ___ of
- Bay of All Saints state
- Supernatural forces (N.Z.)
- Promotional material
- Picnic playwright Wm.
- Turner or Danson
- No. diving sea birds
- Place emphasis on
- Reubens' Herman
- Dawdles
- 1st Japanese Prime Minister
- Ruth's Mother-in-law (Bib.)
- "Socrate" composer Erik
- African antelope
- Ice hockey fake
- Expression of triumph
- Dandy
- Actor Aykroyd
- Microgram

Sudoku



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!

The rest of Letters

"We encourage local decision makers and educators to use these standards to design library policies and curricular and instructional strategies that best deliver content to their students. The school library standards reflect our commitment to excellence in school library services throughout the state." Included in the same report on library standards: "Douglas Achterman's 2008 doctoral dissertation on student achievement in California, titled 'Haves, Halves and Have-Nots: School Libraries and Student Achievement,' found that the greater the number of library services offered, the higher students' scores tended to be. 'On the U.S. History test, the library program is a better predictor of scores than both school variables and community variables, including parent education, poverty, ethnicity, and percentage of English language learners.'"

"Examining 60 Southern California schools, Lesley Farmer studied the possible factors correlating student academic achievement and school library programs. The study results identified key indicators in the library program that impact student academic achievement: access to high-quality library resources and facilities and collaborative planning with professional library staff." (www.cde.ca.gov/bel/stss/documents/librarystandards.pdf) Furthermore "(as of 2012) only 8 percent of California schools have a credentialed teacher librarian

on campus part time or longer. A teacher librarian has both a California teaching credential and a California teacher librarian services credential. California continues to rank at the bottom of professional library staffing numbers. In 2012, the California ratio was 1:7,374 (2011-12 CBEDS Report." (www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/schoolibrstats08.asp)

I would like you to carefully consider the following questions before you make this decision:

How many hours of service can the Willits High School Media Center expect of the Mendocino County Office of Education when that librarian will be providing library services to all 10 other districts that do not have a credentialed librarian?

What would be the cost to Willits Unified if other districts opted out of contracting for services?

Can you trust that this credentialed librarian position will be a top priority of MCOE in future budget negotiations?

And, will the loyalty of that MCOE employee will be to MCOE, or to the students and teachers at WHS? With this proposal the WUSD school board has a choice to cede their voice to a large bureaucracy, or to provide the personalized support our students deserve.

Please support a full-time, professional librarian at Willits High School who can, in turn, support the library staff at Brookside, Blosser Lane and Baechtel Grove schools.

Jenny Senter, Willits



Miss Mendocino County Kassy Aldaco greets third graders lined up for free helmets and fittings.

Photo by Kate Maxwell

Bike Rodeos bring cycling safety to Willits

One hundred and one excited students from every grade of Willits Elementary Charter School geared up at the Rec Grove last Thursday for a "Bike Rodeo." The kids learned bicycle safety rules, received free helmets and mechanical checks, and participated in educational obstacle courses. The rodeos are organized by the Public Health unit of Mendocino County's Health and Human Services Agency, in partnership with the Willits Police Department.

Kate Maxwell
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

As temperatures in town heat up, Bike Rodeos about road cycling safety are being held at local Willits schools, just in time for the start of summer season. The WECS event was the second of four in a series planned for the city, designed to provide education on the importance of following bicycle and road safety laws and to encourage cycling. One Bike Rodeo this summer will be offered to the general public.

The students' enthusiasm for bicycling was evident as they patiently waited their turn at each station set up in the park. "I've never seen the kids so excited for a school activity," commented WECS office

Read the rest of **Bikes** | Over on Page 10



The Right Mix

Family-run bakery, Kemmy's Pies, opens for retail

Locally owned and operated bakery Kemmy's Pies has re-opened in a new retail location. You can now buy a fresh-baked Kemmy's Pie at the Skunk Train Depot on East Commercial Street in Willits.

Kevin Klay
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"We're really excited," says Kimberley Mayfield. Mayfield co-owns and runs the pie shop with her daughters Brenda, Jill, and Amy.

Humble Beginnings

Kemmy's started in 2009 as a food truck in front of Les Schwab Tires in Willits. "Our original business plan was to do pies, the sandwich shop, and catering," Mayfield told Willits Weekly. She recalls that things started changing when they got a special request: "Geiger's Market asked if they could sell our pies in their store."

Later Mayfield decided to focus exclusively on pies. "We had been catering non-profit organizations for 25 years, so people knew our pies."

The whole family runs the shop now in one way or another. Mayfield describes the business structure, saying: "Jill is our sales rep; her personality is just so bubbly and good. Brenda is our production manager. Amy's really good with numbers,

so she's the business manager." Mayfield describes herself as the "mixologist." Daughter Jill laughs: "We all come up with ideas and [Mayfield] makes it happen."

Good Ingredients, Good Know-How, Great Mix

What makes Kemmy's Pies so good? "Butter," they cry, "and lots of love!" The pie-makers state that they use "local sources when possible." They name the Frank Howard Memorial Hospital Foundation's Commonwealth Gardens, Barra Wine, the Mendocino Wheat Project, and Filigree Farms as some of their vendors.

"We do as much organic as possible: our shortening is organic, no beet sugar ... only cane sugar, and our butter has no hormones.

"My grandmother taught me how to make pies when I was young," Mayfield smiles. "It's all about the feel of the dough." Kemmy's can make all-organic pies by request, and even offers a gluten-free crust.

All Kemmy's Pies are made by hand. No electric or automated machines are used to produce the pies. "We all gave up our careers for this," Brenda, a former drywall finisher, says. "This is hard work. It's

just as hard as working construction."

What's In A Name

Who is the "Kemmy" in Kemmy's Pies? Mayfield's daughters tell Willits Weekly that the name honors the matriarchs of the company. "The 'K' is for 'Kimberley,'" Grandma Emma "is at the center," Mayfield adds; "and the 'y' at the end is in honor of my daughter Emmaly." Mayfield's daughter, Emmaly, died as a child. "Emmaly was named in honor of Emma. So, all of us together make up 'Kemmy's.' That's our spelling ... that's how that came about."

New Beginnings

"We catered the Skunk Train wine and mushroom train breakfast for four years. Every year [Skunk Train general manager] Robert Pinoli would say: 'I have this prep kitchen if you're interested.' He made us a deal we could not refuse, and we took him up on it. It feels good in here. Now, people can order their pies when they get on the train, and when they get back, they have a hot pie waiting for them."

What's Coming?

Breakfast Quiche, field trips for kindergartners, a pie-making class for adults at night, and lots more. "We're

Above left: The ladies of Kemmy's Pies: Kimberley, center, with two of her daughters, Jill, at left, and Brenda.

Photo by Kevin Klay

Above right: Apple pies waiting for their top crust.

Photo by Becky Button

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At left: A variety of pies are ready to be enjoyed at the retail shop or call 707-367-5498 to place your order!

When my son's first-grade teacher asked me to chaperone a field trip to Kemmy's Pies, it was a no-brainer. She had me at pie.

"Teaching the students to make their own pies is a terrific educational opportunity," explained Jeanette Shribs, my son's teacher at Willits Elementary Charter School. "They can learn about properties, states of matter, and physical and chemical changes. Plus, they get to have an unforgettable experience with the local community."

And then, of course, there's pie. What's not to love about pie? Not to mention, some of Kemmy's Pies have names like RaspberNilla Peach, Fire Bacon Apple and Tequila Blueberry Chevre. Pie is rapidly becoming an art form, and I want to appreciate it.

To no one's surprise, a large number of parents turned out to chaperone the "pie field trip." As we walked to the Skunk Train Depot, ground zero for Kemmy's Pies, the children buzzed with excitement about the pies they were going to make.

Sweetest. Field Trip. Ever.

First-graders visit Kemmy's Pies

Read the rest of **Pies, Part 2** | Over on Page 9



Above from left: Kim Mayfield shows students how to roll dough. Mateya Shuster is almost ready to put her pie in the oven. Kaleb Whitehurst preps his pie.

Photos by Becky Button

Got Relationship Problems?

Send me your questions!

Willits Weekly relationship columnist Doris Wier will answer your burning questions about relationships – with romantic partners, family, friends or co-workers – in Willits Weekly every third Thursday of the month.

Mail your questions to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, attn: Doris or email to doriswier@embraceconflicts.com

Anonymous and Confidential!

Thursday, June 12

Kiwanis Original Redwood Run: annual motorcycle run and weekend camp-out in Piercy kicks off Friday, and motorcycles will be coming through town starting today. For more info about this "true old school biker rally," visit www.kiwanisrwr.com.

ClownSnotBombs Circus: Clowning workshop "for children of all ages" on Thursday, June 12, 11:30 am to 2 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. See Friday, June 13 listing for circus show for more info on ClownSnotBombs. Fundraiser for Grange Youth program. Info: www.clownsnottombs.com or call Zeynep at 459-1360.

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly Jazz Night, featuring vocalist Sarah Ryan, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, Aaron Bellomo on guitar, and Jesse Bessoni on drums. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Thursday, 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, June 13 FULL MOON

ClownSnotBombs Circus: A full stage circus show by this Berkeley-based non-profit community circus troupe that "believes joy and laughter are a fundamental human right." Their show is "a riot of mime and unicycle lariat humor mixed with other cutting-edge clowning around." 7 pm, at the Little Lake Grange. Refreshments provided by the Grange Youth. A fundraiser for the Grange lighting fund. Info: www.clownsnottombs.com or call Zeynep at 459-1360.

Shanachie Pub: Friday the 13th party with new local rock band 454, featuring Adam Manus, formerly of Dumbstruck Genius. 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, June 14

AAUW Yard Sale: The American Association of University Women is having a yard sale at the Main Street parking lot of St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, on Saturday,

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits



June 14. Funds will go towards helping AAUW provide scholarships to Baechtel Grove Middle School girls Daisy Barrett, Karen Hernandez and Karlee Wisniewski can attend the "Tech Trek" math and science program this summer at Stanford University. There will be a barbecue truck, and the Tech Trek girls will be selling baked goods and drinks. 25 spaces will be available for rent, for \$25, to private parties and organizations so they can host their own sale. For info or to RSVP: Susan Johnson at 459-9909.

Shanachie Pub: new acoustic duo (sometimes trio) The Gypsy Thorns. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, June 15 FATHER'S DAY

Laytonville Grange Father's Day Breakfast: "Treat your dad to breakfast" at the Laytonville Grange, 1620 Branscomb Road (1.5 miles from Highway 101). 8 to 11 am. Questions: call Kent at 984-7078.

Relay for Life Fundraiser: the "City Girls" Relay for Life Team is hosting a fundraising Father's Day brunch on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15, at Loose Caboose Cafe. Two settings: 10 am and noon. \$20; pre-sale only (please purchase by June 9). With the volunteer waiter team (this year in tux and tie) and a special musical performance by Julia Hardy, the granddaughter of Jill and Chuck Persico. For tickets: 459-7910.

Fire Department Blood Drive: Blood Centers of the Pacific donor coach visits the Little Lake Fire Protection District Firehouse, 74 East Commercial Street, from 11 am to 3 pm. Walk-ins are welcome, or make an appointment by visiting www.bloodheroes.com, click "Donate Blood," and enter sponsor code "WillitsFire." Be a hero today, and make a difference in someone's life! Participants will receive a "SF Giants T-Shirt!" Prospective donors first complete a health history questionnaire and screening interview; the next step involves a brief physical examination of blood pressure, pulse, temperature and a test for anemia; if the prescribed medical requirements are met, a pint of blood is drawn from the donor. Afterwards, donors are served refreshments while remaining seated for 15 minutes. The entire process usually takes less than one hour.

4th Annual BBQ in the Park and Singspiration: hosted by Willits Christian Churches Fellowship. 1 pm at Recreation Grove. Bring your own table service, beverage, meat to BBQ for your group, and a side dish to share. All

Cannabis Renaissance Series: Dr. Jeffrey Hergenrath, president of the Society of Cannabis Clinicians, speaks on the medical uses of cannabis at the Long Valley Garden Club, 4 to 6 pm. Free admission, bring your questions. 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville. Info: 984-6587.

Monday, June 16

Dances of Universal Peace: Sacred circle dances drawn from cross-cultural wisdom traditions, at The Muse, 30 East San Francisco, 7 to 9 pm. Live music. Simple to learn, fun, and heart-opening. 3rd Monday of every month. Donations welcome. Info: 459-9085.

Tuesday, June 17

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: "Maleficent" and "Edge of Tomorrow." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Thursday, June 19

Hemp Fest: Now and Then Film Series presents "Hemp Festival & Double Feature Night," to celebrate Hemp History Month, Thursday, June 19 at the Little Lake Grange, 219 School Street.

"We will be tasting hemp foods, displaying hemp products and learning about our new future of growing hemp in California, as the laws are changing quickly. Hemp dealers, foods and artists are welcome to display and sell. Call 459-6362 for more info." Double feature of hemp films: documentary "Hemp and the Rule of Law" ("this one-hour documentary traces hemp's legendary past in U.S. agriculture and chronicles the heated debate to return the crop to American farmers") at 7 pm and "Emperor of Hemp" ("tells the tale of cult folk hero Jack Herer, author of the hempster Bible "The Emperor Wears No Clothes") at 8:30 pm. Suggested donation of \$5 to \$10. Organic popcorn and chocolate, refreshments for sale by the Grange. Info: 459-6362.

Shanachie Pub: Steven Bates, 6 pm, and Flashbulb Fires, 9 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, June 20

"See How They Run": English comedy in three acts by Philip King, will open tonight, at the Willits Community Theatre. Directed by WCT veteran Joe Dowling, this fun farce is set in 1943 in the living room of lead character Penelope Toop, a former actress and now wife of the local vicar, the Rev. Lionel Toop. The action is fast and

furious ... in this comedy of errors takes off into a riotous romp of mistaken identities and desperate cover-ups. Add in an escaped Russian convict who takes everyone prisoner to foment a revolution, and the play roars toward a hilarious climax." With Gretchen Anderson as Penelope Toop, and Steve Marston, Kevin Klay, Lee Stipe, Kevin Moore, Mary Burns, Tara Logan and Jason Edgington. June 20 through July 6, at the WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub). Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and Sunday matinees (June 29 and July 6) at 2 pm for \$10. There will be no performance on Friday, July 4. Advance tickets are available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com/event/profile/709960; or phone the WCT office at 707-459-0895 for credit card orders.

Saturday, June 21

Walking Tour of Ridgewood Ranch: Home of Seabiscuit. 9:30 to noon. Docent led tours \$20; children under 11 free. Tours are twice a month through October. Info/reservations (recommended): 459-5992; seabiscuit@instawave.net, or www.seabiscuitheritage.org/tourschedule.php.

Willits Airport: "When Pigs Fly-In": The public is invited to see aircraft from throughout Northern California and enjoy fresh local food on Saturday, June 21, when the Willits Airport hosts "When Pigs Fly-In." The event, from 11 am to 1 pm, features burritos, tacos, enchiladas and other authentic Mexican food catered by Taqueria Ramirez, including the "Orville Burrito." Enter your stuffed pig in the Best Pig Contest. Souvenir T-shirts will be available: "I Piggied Out ... at When Pigs Fly-In!" Info: visit WhenPigsFlyIn.com.

"Woven Worlds: Native Peoples of Mendocino County": opening reception today, at the Mendocino County

Museum's newest exhibit, celebrating the Native American heritage of Mendocino County. The free reception, from 1 to 4 pm, will feature dancers, samples of traditional foods, and an opportunity to experience the exhibit and meet the designers. "This is the first new permanent exhibit remodel at the Mendocino County Museum in many years and represents the coming together of historical research, community outreach, creative design, and fabrication. What started as a simple project has evolved into one of our largest exhibits, with a wide variety of displays and uses

of technology to share information." 400 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendocinomuseum.org and 459-2736. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Pine Mountain Firewise event: hosted by the Pine Mountain Firewise-Fire Safe Council. Raffle for a cord of firewood: tickets \$4 each or \$20 for six. Proceeds go toward helping the Pine Mountain community become firewise and fire-safe. Info or to buy tickets: call Angie Herman, 459-3265.

"See How They Run": See Friday, June 20 listing for details.

"Get Your Funk On": a tribute to Motown featuring live dance music by "The Bay Area's Dance Kings," Afrofunk Experience and jazz/hip hop trio from San Francisco, The Brown Fellinis. Food and drinks by Zocalo Catering, Drink Me Cooler, Frey Vineyards and Lagunitas Brewing Company. A benefit for the Little Lake Grange Farm School. 7 pm. \$15; \$25 couple; \$10 with student ID; kids 12 & under free (and welcome). Advance tickets at J.D. Redhouse.



Afunk Experience

Sunday, June 22

Grange Pancake Breakfast: The monthly breakfast (every fourth Sunday) at the Little Lake Grange is Sunday, June 22, from 8 am to 11 am. Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order, real

butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$7; \$6 seniors; \$4 under 10. Extra sides of organic fruit in season or Amish maple syrup, \$1. The Grange Youth will be fundraising with a table of yummy baked goods. 291 School Street (two blocks south of Commercial, 1 block west of 101).

2nd Annual Paella @ Adam's Fundraiser: Willits Rotary Club's Relay for Life team will be holding their 2nd annual Paella Feed fundraiser on Sunday, June 22 from 3 to 5:30 pm at Adam's Restaurant, 50 South Main Street. Chef Adam will cook up his famous

paella (lots of seafood and rice), and there will be a live auction in the newly remodeled back courtyard at Adam's. Only 50 tickets, \$25 each, are available. Advance tickets only. For tickets or info, call: Jerry Myer at 472-2940. The 3rd annual Relay for Life Willits will be held July 26 and 27 from 10 am Saturday to 10 am Sunday in Recreation Grove Park.



Above: Rotary Club's Jerry Myer, left, and Lou Celaya, center, with chef Adam Celaya at Adam's Restaurant. Left: A plate of Chef Adam's paella.

Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: Summer market at City Park, every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. Greens, onions, strawberries, and other spring produce, garden starts, local meats and fish, dinner, crafts, live music, and more.

Haehl Creek Trail Work Parties: every Friday morning work parties, to help clear the trail for construction. 9 to 11 am, meet at the Commonwealth Garden greenhouse/ parking lot across from the new hospital construction site. Please wear gloves and work shoes/boots, and bring chain saws, asphalt rakes, shovels &/or weed whackers. Info: Mike Aplet, 513-3337 or mike.aplet@gmail.com.

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 Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932

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

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance, Monday nights at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6:45 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.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Just For Fun Choir: directed and accompanied by Nancy New. Meets Mondays at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 1 to 2:30 pm. Accepting new members of all ages and abilities. Info: call Nancy New at 459-1276.

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.

Blues singer/guitarist Caroline Aiken at WCT

Blues singer and guitarist Caroline Aiken brings her down-home Georgia style to the Willits Community Theatre on Sunday, June 29 at 7 pm. Aiken will be joined by drummer Claudia Paige and guest bass-player Johnny Bush in this special one-night show. Aiken's work spans genres, from folk to blues to rock. With more than seven albums to her credit, she has performed with artists including Bonnie Raitt and the Indigo Girls. She is a Grammy-nominated artist for "Best Contemporary Folk CD" in 2006. Aiken's performances are considered direct and sincere and emanate a high level of infectious energy.

As a drummer and percussionist, Paige has performed with Tito Puente, Grateful Dead, members of Santana, Frank Zappa and more. Paige was picked in 2008 as one of 25 "Best Female Drummers" worldwide, and has been featured in the rock magazines, "Drummer's Digest" and "Sister Rock." Paige incorporates a deep funk style with swampy grooves, and she performs with a drum kit and hand drums from around the world. This female duo with Mendocino County local bass-player Johnny Bush sitting in is sure to rock the house.

Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com/event/profile/667967; or phone the WCT office at 707-459-0895 for credit card orders. Tickets also available at the door.

The performance is sponsored by Willits Furniture/La Bodega and Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits. Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).



Claudia Paige



Caroline Aiken

— Steve Hellman for WCT

'Woven Worlds' illuminates past, present of Mendocino County Native Americans

On Saturday, June 21, the Mendocino County Museum will welcome all to a reception for "Woven Worlds," a permanent exhibit celebrating the Native American heritage of Mendocino County. The free reception, from 1 to 4 pm, will feature dancers, samples of traditional foods, and an opportunity to experience the exhibit and meet the designers.

The exhibit has an interactive focus that engages the visitor through abundant graphics, vintage photographs, and modern portraits; objects creatively displayed; hands-on activities; and a wide range of fascinating topics and information. This is the first new permanent exhibit remodel at the Mendocino County Museum in many years.

A wheel depicting seasonal foods and shelter can be turned to show the life-sustaining tasks and migrations Native Americans engaged in at different times of the year. A map of Mendocino County's tribal homelands has lights to show where tribes originally lived in the county and where their modern-day rancherias and reservations are. A language station allows visitors to listen to words in Central Pomo, Northern Pomo, Yuki and Nomiaki.

At sculptural kiosks, visitors can play claysticks, trying using a pump drill, learn basket-weaving techniques of twining and coiling, find out how archaeologists date findings, and play the Native American game of Staves. A timeline of local Native American history moves from coyotes to casinos, illustrating their earliest origins through contact with Europeans through modern life and tribal reorganizations.

"This is a beautiful and information-rich exhibit that I hope will bring pride to Native Americans and understanding to non-natives," says ethnohistorian Victoria Patterson, who curated the exhibit with the support of design team Kiersten

Willits Kids Club Summer Camp 2014

Register now for Willits Kids Club Summer Camp. June 23-August 1. Full days, half days, weekly and partial weeks available. Reasonable rates. Arts & Crafts, Sports, Games, Swimming, Cooking, Gardening, Mornings at Willits Elementary Charter School; afternoons at Willits City Pool, Field trips to Brooktrails, and local attractions. Info: call Diane: 841-8012 or Tina: 841-8013.

Theater arts classes conclude at WCT

A five-month series of master classes in theater arts has concluded with a successful outcome at the Willits Community Theatre. Project Manager Donna Vaiano reports that overall there were 135 attendees at the classes in acting, auditioning, directing, technical design and playwrighting. Participants included teenage students as well as people already schooled in theater arts and some retired persons who enjoyed learning about the technical aspects of live theater.

Vaiano says: "Personally, I was thrilled with the outcome. The participation was beyond my expectations, the master classes were well-presented by the leaders, and the participants expressed great delight and satisfaction with their experience."

The classes were taught by longtime local theater professionals, including director Bill Barksdale, actress Linda Posner, director Joe Dowling, technical designer Kevin Moore, and playwrights Ann Samson and Don Samson. Vaiano says, "Willits is so fortunate to have these talented professionals in our community, willing to share their expertise with us."

The theatre's goal in presenting the classes was many-faceted: to increase the volunteer pool for all of the theaters in the area, to educate those interested in the theater arts, introduce new people to the excitement of live theater and to offer personal growth opportunities for those inclined to use theater arts experience for their self-development. Vaiano says a \$1,000 grant from the Mendocino County Foundation helped support the project.

— Steve Hellman, for Willits Community Theatre



Indigo Girls

19th Annual Kate Wolf Music Festival

Singer Joan Baez is the Saturday night headliner at the 19th annual Kate Wolf Music Festival this year, June 27, 28 and 29, at the Black Oak Ranch in Laytonville. "A wonderful place to relax and enjoy a great weekend with friends, family and lovers of fabulous music." The list of performers also includes Indigo Girls, Playing for Change, Los Lobos, Garth Hudson (organist for The Band), Darlene Love, Jackie Brown, BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, Tom Paxton, Poor Man's Whiskey, and many more. Kid Zone includes activities all three days, including arts & crafts, workshops, a hay bale slide, and music, including train songs by Willits' Greg Schindler. For more info, to buy tickets, and to listen to music by the performers, visit: www.katewolfmusicfestival.com.

— Roberta Werdinger, for the Mendocino County Museum



Happy Father's Day Niko! We are so blessed to have such a loving, hardworking man in our lives. We love you so much! Love, Emmy and Arlo.



Happy Father's Day John Southwick.

"Lucky little girl has the world's best dad!" Israel Perry and River Handschug.



Happy Father's Day Timmer Southwick.

Happy Father's Day wayne garland we love u.

this one is for my dad he wasn't there for me when i was little at all but he has stepped up and has been there for my family and i. And i am proud to have him, he's an amazing dad.

Erik Kristiansen with daughter Kali and son Judah.

Christian and Rickey Ramirez with their dad, Israel Ramirez, taking a photo with Todd Leduc, the driver of the Metal Mulisha monster truck.

Happy Father's Day Timmer Southwick.

Happy Father's Day Timothy Southwick.

Happy Father's Day Marcus Gomez (1990).

Happy Father's Day Dadi Love Danya.



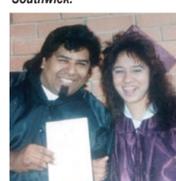
Happy Father's Day Aaron! Love, Ayanna. Photo was the day she was born last year. She was born on Father's Day!



Father Jeremy Pennington and daughter Emma Rose Pennington.



Happy Father's Day Timothy Southwick.



Happy Father's Day Marcus Gomez (1990).



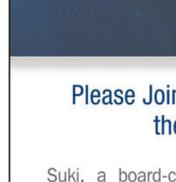
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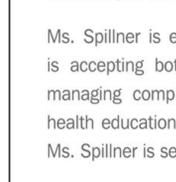
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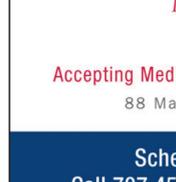
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Happy Father's Day Dadi Love Danya.



Happy Father's Day Dadi Love Danya.



Happy Father's Day Dadi Love Danya.

Happy Father's Day Dadi Love Danya.



Edward Deaton sharing in a special moment with daughter Carissa, teaching her how to aim her new birthday surprise.



Maureen and Christopher Moore. Happy Father's Day!



From Healds Grove to Leggett, so many memories made on Hwy 1. Thank you for being such an amazing Dad! We love you!



Happy Father's Day! Thank you for being the best dad anyone could ask for. We appreciate you being there for us! We love you, Jamie & Julia.



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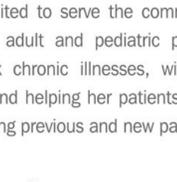
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Happy Father's Day! Thank you for being the best dad anyone could ask for. We appreciate you being there for us! We love you, Jamie & Julia.



Happy father's day to my husband, he's been there for me through thick and thin. And I want him to know he's a wonderful dad to all three of our kids.



Happy Father's Day to Martin Rodriguez.



Happy Father's Day Dadi Love Danya.



Happy Father's Day! Thank you for being the best dad anyone could ask for. We appreciate you being there for us! We love you, Jamie & Julia.



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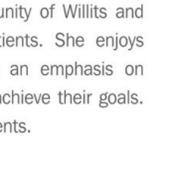
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Classifieds & More

Algebra, Geometry
Individual Instruction
Mac Smith 459-MATH

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

Computer HU Song
In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song. Thursday, June 26, 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.

Rr Rent
3 Bdrm/2 Bath. Custom wood/ tile floors. Westside Willits location, wrap-around deck, drought-tolerant landscape, solar panels. Custom kitchen, Viking range, granite countertop, custom cabinets. Available 6/22/14. \$1,700/month. 459-4757 or 227-5339.

Rr Rent, Office Space
250 sq ft downtown office space plus 105 sq ft waiting room area; shared bath; electricity and garbage included; \$395/month rent and \$395 security deposit. Call Matt for info: 459-4599.

Rr Rent
2 bedroom, 1 bath, close to downtown. No pets. No smoking. Water/garbage paid. \$770/month. Armo: 459-9601.

The Fruit Group
Lug boxes of pesticide-free fruit. Starts in June, order now! Apricots: \$24 Peaches/ Nectarines: \$25
Willits: Brenda 459-9335
Ukiah: JoAnn: 485-7591
Potter & RV: Deanna: 391-7336
Ft. Bragg: Karen: 937-4664
Laytonville: Heather: 984-7430
Lakeport: Linda: 279-8840
Brooktrails: Theresa 456-1041

THE FRUIT GROUP CUSTOMERS!
BRENDA LEWIS NEEDS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES as soon as possible! 459-9335

Garage Sale
Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15, 9 am to 3 pm. 210 East Valley Street. Lots of treasures!

Help Wanted
Farm to Fork Coordinator for NCO Food Hub Project. F/T Exempt position w/benefits, based in Ukiah. \$3,622-\$4,194/mo DOQ. NCO app req. 800-606-5550 ext. 302 or www.ncoinc.org for job desc. Closes 5PM 6/16 (postmarks not accepted). EOE.

Help Wanted
Front desk. Apply in person. 1225 South Main Street between the hours of 9 and 11:30 am, Monday through Thursday. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted Receptionists
Long Valley Health Center is seeking friendly, customer service-oriented Receptionists. Responsible for scheduling appointments, patient intake, and helping patients and families with financial assistance. Excellent communication skills required. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. Apply online: www.longvalley.org; call HR department: 707-984-6131 ext. 156; email to: careers@longvalley.org.

Multi-Family Sale
Multi-Family Yard Sale, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 13-June 15, 8 am to 4 pm. 8199 Uva Drive. Redwood Valley.

Multi-Family Sale
Three-family cut-de-sac. sale. Sat., June 14, 8 am to 3 pm. Crow Place, off Sherwood Road.

Rummage Sale
Every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at 1st Baptist Church, 145 Wood Street. Rain or shine. We accept rummage donations, and have an ever-changing selection of goods!

Sewing and Alterations
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher
Visit my web page: Zibergirl.com
Ph #: 707-367-6182 Willits.

Young Goats for Sale
From Green Uprising Farm's goat herd: Nubians, Nubian-La Mancha crosses and Nubian Oberhasli crosses. Male and female. Approximately 2 to 3 months old. Price variable: \$50 to \$150 or barter. Fed no GMO alfalfa or imported feed; these goats and their parents browse and forage on Little Lake Valley farmland and eat leftovers from local gardens and orchards. 707-216-5549 or homesteadingsara@gmail.com.

On the company website, Grocery Outlet is described as offering brand name products at up to 50 percent off conventional retail prices. "Our offering is wide," the website states: "groceries, frozen, deli and refrigerated, produce, fresh meat, general merchandise - seasonal products, housewares, toys, and gifts - health and beauty, and a most impressive inventory of beer and wine."

The closest Grocery Outlet store is in Ukiah.



OBITUARY | Sylvia Rae Warren

Sylvia Rae Warren

A lifetime resident of Laytonville, Sylvia Rae Warren passed away in Santa Rosa on June 8, 2014 at the age of 63.

Though Sylvia enjoyed working at the Red Fox Casino, her primary role and first love was homemaker for 45 years, during which time she thoroughly enjoyed her growing family. Sylvia was an extremely loving and caring person who always put others before herself. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy. At times you could catch her dancing to songs on the radio; humming or singing to herself while cooking; or cracking

jokes to lighten any situation. She will be loved and missed forever!

Sylvia is survived by her husband of 45 years, Lawrence "Butch" Warren; daughters, Annie Roach (Steve), Tammy Warren, Estelle Warren; son, Dwight (Dawn) Warren; brothers, Dale Teem, Jerry (Cathy) Turner, Mark (Jimmie) Teem; grandchildren: Kimberly Warren, Sarah Roach (Anthony Kelly), Ashley Roach, Jacob Moyles, Nathan Blake-Warren, Rebecca Warren, Adam Warren; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services are scheduled for 1 pm Saturday, June 14, 2014 at the Harwood Hall in Laytonville.

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

Death Notice | Ken Gillespie

Ken Gillespie of Laytonville passed away on June 5, 2014 at the age of 63.

Memorial services will be announced at a later date. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

Although this is only the second school field trip to Kemmy's Pies, there will likely be more in the future. Kim says she enjoys working with children, because they show no fear or intimidation when they take on a pie.

"When you're afraid, you tend to overwork the dough," Kim explained, "Kids aren't afraid of it."

The first-graders in Ms. Shribbs' class showed no fear of pie, and most couldn't wait to tear into their freshly baked desserts. Ultimately, though, the students voted to take their pies home to share with their families. Big win for the parents!

Later that night, when our son proudly unveiled his blackberry pie and offered us a choice of ice cream or bacon as a topping, I knew something beautiful had happened.

"I got this, Mom," Griffin said, "I'm a pro at dough. The pie lady told me."

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m·pho·tog·ra·phress
[fuh-tog-ruh-friss]

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

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Please Join Us in Welcoming Suki Spillner to the Redwood Medical Clinic

Suki, a board-certified family nurse practitioner joins John Glycer, MD, family practitioner, and Bruce Andich, MD, internal medicine, at the Redwood Medical Clinic.

Ms. Spillner is excited to serve the community of Willits and is accepting both adult and pediatric patients. She enjoys managing complex chronic illnesses, with an emphasis on health education and helping her patients achieve their goals. Ms. Spillner is seeing previous and new patients.

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Elimination of the "diamond" part of the interchange, being built to accommodate a future four-lane freeway, will protect an estimated 30 acres of wetlands and some 14 "post-review" archeological discoveries identified within the current project area since Caltrans' final environmental impact report was submitted.

In a healing ceremony similar to one held last September, a group of tribal elders led the crowd and performed traditional songs and rituals.

The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and others consider the Little Lake Valley area "a major ancestral village." The Coyote Valley Band, along with Sherwood Valley Rancheria, have requested government-to-government consultation with Caltrans over the bypass project due to concerns over accountability for Caltrans' cultural resource monitoring process, and lack of clarity regarding the threat of impacts posed to archaeological sites within the current project area.

Before the ceremony took place, the crowd settled in on hay bales to listen to speeches, poems and songs. Car horns of support could be heard from the highway, as speakers reflected on past developments with both humor and contemplation. Several thanked those in the crowd and on stage who were among the more than 50 bypass protestors arrested in 2013, including activist and journalist Will Parrish.

"The last time I was at this spot I was arrested watching CHP extract protestors," Parrish recalled.

Poet Mary Korte read a blessing poem backed by guitar; Naomi Wagner of Earth First!; local author and co-emcee Kim Bancroft; and singer Feather from the band Gypsy Thorns, also performed.

Co-emcee and Willits City Councilwoman Madge Strong lead the crowd in songs such as "Downsize the Bypass." Other speakers focused on connecting bypass protests with larger environmental and indigenous issues, such as

Karen Pickett of the Bay Area Coalition to Save Headwaters.

Local four-piece band Twining Time performed for the crowd.

The longest presentations came from tribal members, who provided the group with background on the ceremonies and actions concerning the archeological sites. Coyote Valley Band tribal elder Priscilla Hunter expressed appreciation for the diversity of organizations and strategies at the protests, presenting Ellen Drell of the Willits Environmental Center with a necklace from the tribe for her work in the negotiations.

Hunter and Lincoln both spoke about the historical importance of the wetlands area for the tribes, their efforts to be included in negotiations, and their current frustration in reaching agreement with Caltrans officials over the monitoring process.

Despite requesting inclusion in monitoring the project beginning last June, the Coyote Valley Band was only given face-to-face access to Caltrans and the sites at the end of April. The tribe believes these sites could potentially be damaged if bypass infill and construction continues according to current design.



Photo by Kate Maxwell

Hunter said the tribe has plans to meet with Congressman Jared Huffman's office later in the week to discuss further action to address their concerns.

When the speeches concluded, Edwina Lincoln, her husband and son, performed traditional songs of healing and invoking miracles before leading a processional walk across the highway to the ceremonial site, as the California Highway Patrol held back traffic.

Hunter, Lincoln and family were joined by other family members, American Indian Movement drummers, and local tribal members, in leading the ritual, which included blessings "for people uniting here today," and healing medicine to "let our ancestors know that we are here for them," Lincoln explained.

Tribal members then proceeded to a second archaeological site already damaged by the project to conduct a private ceremony before returning to a communal dinner concluding the event.

school's various departments. At Willits High, those positions are held by Jill Walton, Trish Silva-Brown, Marisela de Santa Anna, Carolyn Bakewell, Laura Herman and Gwen Rasmussen.

These teachers did not resign their teaching jobs but they did quit the leadership team. The primary job of the leadership team is to assist the rest of the faculty with adjusting to the school's constantly evolving curriculum standards and teaching strategies.

Over the past several years, that has meant going down to Santa Rosa four times a year to seminars held by the Sonoma Leadership Network, assimilating what they learn there, and coming back to Willits and teaching what they have learned to the rest of the faculty. The team's primary focus has been on teaching the faculty about the new Common Core curriculum, a new approach to public school learning adopted by California four years ago and implemented this past year.

According to Walton, the leadership team resigned to demonstrate its frustration with the school's administration, including both WHS Principal Dr. Jeffrey Ritchley and district Superintendent Patricia Johnson.

Walton said there were five specific reasons for the mass resignation.

Team members were dissatisfied with the school administration's approach to decision-making. Walton characterized that process as "unilateral," citing the involuntary transfers that have occurred, including reassigning the junior counselor to Baechtel Grove Middle School, as well as decisions made in the hiring process.

Walton characterized those decisions as "inconsistent and dishonest. We were told one thing and another thing was done."

She also criticized the administration's attempt to create a new school culture, including dismissing the leadership team's input. "The expertise and institutional memory of the leadership team has been largely ignored or dismissed altogether," Walton said. "The school administration has dismissed our culture without wanting to know if it is valuable or viable."

Walton said during the past school year, no teacher meetings were held to discuss tactics and strategies to adapt to the Common Core curriculum.

"There was no opportunity to bring the training to the school staff," Walton said.

Leadership team members also are upset at what the school's failure of its mid-cycle review was handled. That crisis arose in April, when Dr. Samuel Hill of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) flunked Willits High during its third year checkup on its six-year accreditation.

"The school failed because the student services program at the school has been gutted," Walton claims. "At the time the visit took place, we had no college counseling program. There was no career counseling program. There was no alcohol and other drug program at the school. And, since the position of assistant principal had not been filled, there was no one on campus who was responsible for student discipline."

Superintendent Johnson and Principal Ritchley told the press the school came very close to having its accreditation suspended. To avert that, Johnson said she was going to rewrite the WHS's School-Wide Plan. Then the WASC administration overrode Hill's assessment and merely decided to send another team to review the school's progress next year.

However, Walton, who as a member of the leadership team participated in Hill's mid-cycle

review of the school, said events didn't unfold exactly like that. In fact, according to Walton, Hill had offered a follow-up visit at the outset.

"Dr. Hill gave us a choice," Walton said. "Two things could happen. One was, we could lose our accreditation and could start over, which would mean we write a new plan and have our first visit in three years."

"Secondly, we could accept Hill's recommendation. We fail our mid-cycle review and we get an additional year to redeem ourselves."

In a letter to the Willits Teachers Association, the members of the former leadership team characterized this subtle shift in emphasis as "spinning," in the sense of "spinning the truth."

"We were initially given a fail on our three-year mid-cycle review," said the letter. "The administration put a positive spin on it, telling us and the media that this was an opportunity to rebuild, start over, create a new Willits High School."

"The WASC committee has changed its response, giving us an additional year to provide documentation and reflection on our original plan, written in 2011. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but at least we are not rebuilding a place that was doing fine up until August 2013," the letter states.

Walton said the leadership team was disappointed that since the April mid-cycle review, no work has been done to meet the goals in the 2011 school-wide plan.

"Since the notice that we had a year, there has been no talk at all," Walton said.

Leadership team members also note the failure of the school principal, Dr. Jeffrey Ritchley, to adequately perform the ceremonial part of his job. "Dr. Ritchley has made no effort to connect with the students," Walton said. "He's missed four important events and only made a brief appearance at a fifth."

According to Walton, Ritchley failed to attend the "Art Under 20" opening, the spring music concert, the senior portfolio interviews, and the Associated Student Body convention. She said he did show up, briefly, at the "Hot Winter's Night" talent show. His visit there was "duly noted," Walton said.

Finally, Walton said, members of the leadership team resigned to publicly protest their perception that the school seems to be drifting toward a crisis. According to Walton, members of the school faculty are leaving at an unusual pace. Parents are beginning to pull their kids out of Willits High and send them to school elsewhere.

When asked if she knows of any parents who have done this, Walton said, "I know of a handful, personally, who are actively talking about it."

District Administrative Secretary Laura Sleeper acknowledged three teachers are leaving Willits High at the end of the year: Jeffrey Bergmann, Chad Gillis and Patrick Easterwood. Sleeper said it isn't unusual for three teachers to leave at the end of a school year.

However, Walton claims eight teachers plan to leave the high school at the end of the school year. In addition to the three positions confirmed by Sleeper, Walton said another teacher is retiring, one ROP teacher is leaving, one teacher is being transferred to another school within the district, one temporary teacher is not being rehired, and one other teacher will not be returning to Willits High.

work has been permitted to take place at 471 and 464 Mill Street. Another home is due for a remodel at 325 Fort Bragg Road.

Four roofing jobs received permits last month, too. A furnace was replaced at 350 North Street and another at 22 School Street. An Americans with Disabilities Act compliant exit and ramp at 239 South Main Street, and a metal storage building at 351 Franklin Avenue also received permits.

For May, city revenue from permits was \$16,893, an increase from about \$3,900 in May last year.

For the fiscal year, city revenue from permits trailed last year's totals to date. City Hall collected \$47,715 last year and has pulled in just over \$41,400 this year.

Businesses that specialize in architectural salvage, printing and clean laundry were among the eight businesses granted Willits business licenses last month.

Getting on the books with the city in May were: **Rootsy Foods, wholesale foods, Christa Ross; Alkemi Gastronomi, catering, SkyeKoyeh Thunder; Liui's Wash & Dry Service Center, laundromat, Edmund Ko; Monica Carnahan Photography, photographer, Monica Carnahan; Phoenix Salvage, architectural salvage, Samuel De La Paz; Printing Plus Ramming, printing and engraving, Ramming family; and Aimee Arnold, cosmetologist.**

Businesses that take out a business license with the city do the paperwork and pay a quarterly tax.

in the pressure reducing valve was replaced and calibrated. Initial water pressure in the line was higher than normal at first.

"Because the initial pressure was so great, so quickly, it essentially pressure-washed the inside of the pipe," City Manager Adrienne Moore said.

Due to drought conditions, the city had not flushed its water lines this year.

One tipster reported the brown water at his home didn't clear until the next morning.

both the principal and myself came in a point where there was very low morale in this district, and I think that is improving. We are beginning to see there are some positive things going on, and we are moving things forward.

"With the change in leadership, there has come change," Johnson said. "And that's very difficult to deal with, especially when we haven't had to do it. Everything has been the same for many, many years."

"I think we've turned a corner, and I am very pleased with the changes that have occurred at the site, as well as at other sites."

Johnson said she was surprised at the May 16 resignation of WHS' leadership team. When she was told one of the major reasons for the resignation was that the leadership team was not given an opportunity to teach what it had been learning at quarterly meetings of the Sonoma Leadership Network, Johnson expressed surprise.

"I would think that part of that sharing goes on during our minimum-day Tuesdays," she said. "So why wasn't that established? I would have to look at the school site and ask that. That's why we have those particular days set aside, every week, for that type of collaboration to go on."

Johnson was asked about the accreditation crisis that took place at the school in April, when Dr. Samuel Hill of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges was so alarmed at the gutting of the school's student services – including the loss of its former counseling program – that he threatened the school with loss of accreditation.

This issue has been difficult to understand, but the nut of the matter lies here. After visiting the school and talking with parents and staff, Hill recommended a "full accreditation visit," which Johnson said would have taken many days. The WASC Accreditation Council overruled Hill's recommendation, and recommended instead a one-day review in 2015.

"In other words, they recognized the fact that since the original visit three years ago, staffing has changed, programs have changed, administration has changed, and they feel that, in order to give the appropriate amount of time to really make sure that the goals are being met, they would just have a one-day visit," Johnson said.

"However, when the first review got done, when Dr. Hill concluded his visit, it was a crisis. That was why we pulled [reporters] in and said, let's make sure we explain this to the community. And then, lo and behold, we got a letter that said the opposite, and in fact I called up that organization and checked it to make sure, and he said, 'Absolutely. We did not go with Dr. Hill's recommendation.'

"In my conversation with WASC, I also shared my concerns with his visit, and some of the things that were said, and how they were said. And, quite honestly, I requested Dr. Hill

Thank You For 39 Years of Service to our Community

Donald Coursey, M.D.

After 39 years of continued service to our community, it is with deep respect and and gratitude that we announce the retirement of Donald L. Coursey, M.D., otolaryngology.

As of June 2014, Dr. Coursey will no longer be seeing patients. Current patients will have the option to begin seeing Laurie E. Spence, M.D., otolaryngology at the same office located at 1165 South Dora Street, Suite C-2 in Ukiah. The office can be reached at 707.462.8855.

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Far left: Pacific Outfitters mechanic Joel Brisenno works on a student bicycle. Left: Kids and volunteers. Below: Aidyn McFadden, 2nd grade, rounds bike course with WPD Detective Scott Warnock.

Photos by Kate Maxwell

coordinator Jenness Hartley, who helped set up the school program.

Each event includes instruction on bicycling hand signals, road laws, and crosswalk safety coordinated by Tina Tyler-O'Shea, program administrator at HHS, and Detective Scott Warnock of the Willits PD, who visited each WECS classroom before the rodeo.

Happy to show off their new skills and confidence, the students demonstrated their new facility with turning signals and road rules as they entered the course. "One thing we emphasize is that cars don't always do what they're supposed to," explained Warnock, as he guided students around a series of organized "road hazards," which included a variety of road signs, crosswalks, and imaginary encounters with pedestrians and dogs.

In addition to safety instruction, the series is facilitated by donations of equipment and time from local businesses and community members supportive of cycling. Students and participants in need receive free helmets and reflectors through the program, 83 of which were handed out Thursday by Miss Mendocino County Kassy Aldalco and other community volunteers. Funding for this is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic

Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

At least 10 bicycles were donated for Thursday's event by members of the WECS community and by the Covelo Wednesday Bicycle Club, for use by participants without personal bicycles. In addition to these donations, "so many kids are sharing their bicycles [with each other], it's been a dream," remarked office coordinator Hartley.

Each rodeo event also includes a station for free mechanic checks before each ride, provided by local business chain Pacific Outfitters, which has donated mechanics and equipment at similar community events in the North Coast region over the past five years, including 16 planned Bike Rodeos in 2014.

At the WECS event, employee Joel Brisenno checked brakes, tires and general safety for the students before sending them off to ride. Community members, including Public Health employees and school volunteers, then assisted students in navigating the course, and giving out blue ribbons for rodeo completion.

The next Willits Bicycle Rodeos will be scheduled beginning in July and will include an event open to the general public.



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Open for Dinner 3-9

Gymkhana Results

Willits Junior Horsemen Playday Weekend

15 to 18:

Cloverleaf Barrels: first place went to Shanna Gayski on Evil with a time of 18.35 seconds; second place went to Dalli Fonsen on Lewis with a time of 20.48 seconds; third place went to Sara Caldwell on Dexter with a time of 24.14 seconds and fifth place went to Calayan Knight on Comanche with a time of 44.26 seconds.

Washington Poles: first place went to Shanna Gayski on Evil with a time of 28.34 seconds; second place went to Thais Reed on Zephyr with a time of 39.34 seconds and third place went to Calayan Knight on Comanche with a time of 52.68 seconds.

Single Stake: first place went to Shanna Gayski on Evil with a time of 8.53 seconds; second place went to Thais Reed on Zephyr with a time of 9.75 seconds; third place went to Sara Caldwell on Dexter with a time of 10.51 seconds and fourth place went to Calayan Knight on Comanche with a time of 15.27 seconds.

Birangle Poles: first place went to Shanna Gayski on Evil with a time of 14.99 seconds; second place went to Sarah Caldwell on Dexter with a time of 18.25 seconds; third place went to Thais Reed on Zephyr with a time of 24.07 seconds and fourth place went to Calayan Knight on Comanche with a time of 33.34 seconds.

Big T: first place went to Shanna Gayski on Evil with a time of 19.34 seconds; second place went to Sarah Caldwell on Dexter with a time of 23.51 seconds; third place went to Thais Reed on Zephyr with a time of 38.72 seconds and fourth place went to Calayan Knight on Comanche with a time of 41.42 seconds.

Streaking Poles: first place went to Shanna Gayski on Evil with a time of 7.93 seconds; second place went to Sarah Caldwell on Dexter with a time of 8.11 seconds; third place went to Thais Reed on Zephyr with a time of 11.36 seconds and fourth place went to Calayan Knight on Comanche with a time of 15.85 seconds.

15 to 18: High Point: Shanna Gayski, Reserve: Thais Reed

See more results in the next edition of Willits Weekly

seconds:

Washington Poles: first place went to Lindsey Decker on Stella with a time of 27.00 seconds; second place went to Carmen Coleman on DJ with a time of 28.61 seconds; third place went to Jessica Swaney on Serendipity with a time of 32.74 seconds; fourth place went to Erinn Campbell on Buddy with a time of 34.92 seconds; fifth place went to Brandi Mavis on Coco with a time of 37.20 seconds and sixth place went to Rachel Belvin on Annie with a time of 43.92 seconds.

Single Stake: first place went to Lindsey Decker on Stella with a time of 8.35 seconds; second place went to Carmen Coleman on DJ with a time of 8.56 seconds; third place went to Jessica Swaney on Serendipity with a time of 9.79 seconds; fourth place went to Brandi Miner on Coco with a time of 9.98 seconds and fifth place went to Traci Glentzer on Henry with a time of 10.74 seconds.

Birangle Poles: first place went to Carmen Coleman on DJ with a time of 15.52 seconds; second place went to Lindsey Decker on Stella with a time of 15.76 seconds; third place went to Jessica Swaney on Serendipity with a time of 16.33 seconds; fourth place went to Brandi Miner on Coco with a time of 16.78 seconds and fifth place went to Chris Bivin on Buddy with a time of 17.70 seconds.

Big T: first place went to Lindsey Decker on Stella with a time of 19.68 seconds; second place went to Carmen Coleman on DJ with a time of 21.04 seconds; third place went to Brandi Mavis on Coco with a time of 22.37 seconds; fourth place went to Carolyn Simpson on Wrangler with a time of 30.32 seconds and fifth place went to Rachel Belvin on Annie with a time of 36.64 seconds.

Streaking Poles: first place went to Lindsey Decker on Stella with a time of 7.82 seconds; second place went to Brandi Miner on Coco with a time of 8.05 seconds; third place went to Carmen Coleman on DJ with a time of 8.31 seconds; fourth place went to Carolyn Simpson on Wrangler with a time of 12.52 seconds and fifth place went to Rachel Belvin on Annie with a time of 12.70 seconds.

19 to 34: High Point: Lindsey Decker, Reserve: Carmen Coleman

Single Stake: first place went to Misty Gayski on Cash with a time of 8.53 seconds; second place went to Leanne Mills on Tommy with a time of 8.71 seconds; third place went to Jennifer Seymour on Ruby with a time of 8.89 seconds; fourth place went to Melinda Waters on Shorty with a time of 9.60 seconds and fifth place went to Jennifer Irwin on Mad Eyed Jack with a time of 11.91 seconds.

Birangle Poles: first place went to Melinda Waters on Shorty with a time of 19.53 seconds; second place went to Leanne Mills on Tommy with a time of 16.36 seconds; third place went to Misty Gayski on Cash with a time of 16.64 seconds; fourth place went to Jennifer Irwin on Mad Eyed Jack with a time of 20.91 seconds and fifth place went to Bobbi Lippmann on Leekay with a time of 49.08 seconds.

Big T: first place went to Jennifer Seymour on Ruby with a time of 20.23 seconds; second place went to Melinda Waters on Shorty with a time of 20.60 seconds; third place went to Misty Gayski on Cash with a time of 25.28 seconds; fourth place went to Leanne Mills on Tommy with a time of 26.04 seconds and fifth place went to Bobbi Lippmann on Leekay with a time of 33.37 seconds.

Streaking Poles: first place went to Jennifer Seymour on Ruby with a time of 7.68 seconds; second place went to Misty Gayski on Cash with a time of 7.96 seconds; third place went to Leanne Mills on Tommy with a time of 8.34 seconds; fourth place went to Melinda Waters on Shorty with a time of 9.87 seconds and fifth place went to Bobbi Lippmann on Leekay with a time of 14.41 seconds.

35 and over: High Point: Jennifer Seymour, Reserve: Misty Gayski.

19 to 34:

Cloverleaf Barrels: first place went to Carmen Coleman on DJ with a time of 19.71 seconds; second place went to Jessica Swaney on Serendipity with a time of 20.48 seconds; third place went to Brandi Mavis on Coco with a time of 22.19 seconds; fourth place went to Lindsey Decker on Stella with a time of 22.64 seconds; fifth place went to Traci Glentzer on Henry with a time of 25.87 seconds and sixth place went to Erinn Campbell on Buddy with a time of 26.62 seconds.

Jackpot barrels: first place went to Brandi Gamble on Smokey with a time of 18.96 seconds; second place went to Leanne Mills on Tommy with a time of 19.01 seconds; third place went to Dalli Fonsen on Lewis with a time of 19.02 seconds; fourth place went to Jennifer Seymour on Ruby with a time of 20.75 seconds and fifth place went to Becki Bean on Tinkerbelle with a time of 22.50 seconds.

35 and over:

Cloverleaf Barrels: first place went to Jennifer Seymour on Ruby with a time of 19.44 seconds; second place went to Misty Gayski on Cash with a time of 19.75; third place went to Regina Dickson Toby with a time of 19.83 seconds; fourth place went to Leanne Mills on Tommy with a time of 20.30; fifth place went to Melinda Waters on Shorty with a time of 22.98 seconds and sixth place went to Bobbi Lippmann on Leekay with a time of 32.07 seconds.

Washington Poles: first place went to Leanne Mills on Tommy with a time of 25.56 seconds; second place went to Jennifer Seymour on Ruby with a time of 25.67 seconds; third place went to Regina Dickson on Toby with a time of 28.23 seconds; fourth place went to Misty Gayski on Cash with a time of 30.60 seconds; fifth place went to Melinda Waters on Shorty with a time of 32.11 seconds and sixth place went to Jennifer Irwin on Mad Eyed Jack with a time of 39.41 seconds

The rest of Oil Well | From Page 1

bound lane at Oil Well Hill the past two Saturday mornings, and closed traffic in both directions at times.

Heavy equipment was hauled in to do the work, including an excavator and a log skidder, in addition to other smaller machines.

A turnout on top of the hill was converted to a landing, where logs were placed into dump trucks and hauled off.

About 20 dump trucks continue working nights to haul dirt from the southern end of the bypass project to the project's northern interchange.

Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie said he did not know how long dirt-hauling from the south would continue, but it could last another week.

In addition to dirt hauling, the other major bypass work occurring right now is bridge construction.

Frisbie says Caltrans expects all bridges and a retaining wall south of the viaduct to be completed this season.

Mitigation work related to fencing portions of the valley owned by Caltrans also continues. The agency will be installing water lines from wells to water cattle that can no longer water off creeks, according to Frisbie.

The water may also be used to water trees and shrubs planted for mitigation purposes.

Orange fencing seen around the valley indicates areas workers need to stay out of: usually due to a type of plant growing there.

Plans formed for Ryan Creek work

Caltrans engineers released plans in April for stream restoration work on Ryan Creek. The proposal addresses work on both the north fork and south fork of the creek.

The proposed work on two culverts is about 4.5 miles north of Willits on the north side of Oil Well Hill. Caltrans says the project is a condition of permits issued for the Willits bypass project.

On the south fork of Ryan Creek, a 5-foot culvert pipe underneath Highway 101 will be decommissioned. South of the current pipe, Caltrans proposes ramming two 10-foot pipes through the fill.

Just to the north, another culvert will be dug up and removed. A concrete box-type culvert will be installed in its place, according to the initial study.

A public comment period for the Ryan Creek projects ended last month. Frisbie said the next step is to address public comments made concerning the project and then to obtain funding and put the work out to bid.

Some work has already been done on the Ryan Creek watershed. Last summer, a culvert on a private driveway was replaced with a fish-friendly design. Before that a crossing on a county road also was retrofitted.

The proposed projects are about 4,880 feet from Outlet Creek, which flows to the Eel River.

The second reason is that assessed

Furry Friend

Hoping for a Home

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Hello, I am Gretchen. I am 3 years old, and I weigh 30 pounds. I am cute and cheerful. I would like to be your "Main Squeeze." Meaning I would like to be the only dog in your home so that I get all the attention and love! Please come to the Ukiah Shelter, where I am a guest, to meet me.

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. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. Info: Adoption Coordinator, Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us.

Do you love dogs and cats? Would you like to make a difference in the lives of some amazing and deserving animals? Then we would love to have you as a volunteer. We need dog walkers and cat socializers to help our animals become more adoptable.

If you have lost your pet, please visit our shelter during shelter hours to look through our kennels, and also go to www.petharbor.com to look for your pet.



Photo by Rod Coats



COLUMN | Specializing in Creativity

Dolphin Snack

Nicole Basler
Columnist

A fun, healthy and cute summer treat

- What you will need:**
- Bananas
 - Green and red grapes
 - A black Sharpie or marker
 - Little round or square containers/cups
 - A knife

First, you will need to cut the bottom (blossom) end of the banana off at an angle, long enough so it can sit out of your container. Next, make a slot in the stem of the banana where the mouth of the dolphin will be. Make sure you slice the stem horizontally all the way to the start of the banana flesh. Next, draw an eye on each side near the base of the stem, and set in the container. Add the mixed colored grapes as you please around the "dolphin"; the grapes help hold the banana centered in the container. Finish it off by putting one final grape in the dolphin's mouth, and there you have it: cute and fun for kids!

Original craft inspiration posted on Pinterest; photos by Nicole Basler



Congrats to Madi Rae

Named Laytonville Rodeo Sweetheart, 2014

Laytonville's Madi Rae earned the crown and title of 2014 Laytonville Rodeo Sweetheart after selling \$9,419 in tickets and demonstrating her poise, horsemanship and dedication to and appreciation of the sport of rodeo.

"I feel so accomplished and grateful: I get to be the 2014 Laytonville Rodeo Sweetheart! Thank you, everyone!, for your lovely encouragement and support!" said Madi. Look for her at other upcoming rodeos during the grand entry event, when visiting rodeo royalty usually participates.



Haley Schuck



Emily Leishman



Calayan Knight

It's Time for Tickets!

Get your tickets for this year's Willits Frontier Days events now!

This year's contestants:

Haley Schuck, 485-4043, haleyschuck@willitsunified.com. Read about her in Willits Weekly's April 10 edition.

Emily Leishman, 354-0260. Read about her in Willits Weekly's April 17 edition.

Calayan Knight, 841-6343, calayansweheartcontestant.14@gmail.com. Read about her in Willits Weekly's April 24 edition.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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A school bond retrospective: Living with the beast

Part 1 of 3

Things started smelling funny in August 2010, just two months after voters approved Measure B. It was at a meeting of the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees, when Caldwell Flores Winters Program Executive Scott Gaudineer told trustees that much of the construction in the school facilities project would be built off-site and trucked into Willits.

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Construction would be pre-fabricated, something the team of architects and financial wizards advising the district had failed to tell voters before the election.

But that admission was only the tip of the iceberg. As taxpayers now know, the financial bottom line associated with the bond was underestimated. Former Trustee Bob Harper, other board members, and former district Superintendent Debra Kubin told voters the tax burden associated with the bond would be \$29 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

"It is probably true property owners who can afford a \$200,000 property can afford the annual tax increase of \$29 for every \$100,000 of assessed value," Harper wrote in a March 2010 opinion piece. "The property owner of a \$200,000 property would pay an additional \$4.83 monthly; the cost of a hamburger."

It turned out the tax rate has been higher than \$29 per \$100,000 and will climb even higher.

There are several reasons for that.

First, local property owners are still paying on Measure A, the 1999 school bond. According to Greg Isom, a financial consultant who advised the district recently, the Measure A component of the tax rate will be \$31.09 for 2014 and will rise to \$34.14 in 2019. In 2020, the final year of the payback schedule for Measure A, the rate goes down to \$16.55 per \$100,000.

County Auditor Meredith Ford told Willits Weekly she combines the taxes owing on bonds for both Measure A and Measure B into one sum, designated Willits Unified School District. That is the main reason why the school district's tax rate currently stands at \$62 per \$100,000.

In addition, in making its financial

valuation in the area has gone down. It may have taken a few years, but the results of the 2008 stock market crash and its associated nationwide financial meltdown affected home prices in our area. Lower home prices directly affected assessed valuation, which is how much the county assessor says your home is worth.

If assessed valuation goes up, as it usually does, then the rate people pay to redeem the bond stays low, although the amount they pay - because the rate is multiplied against the value of the property - stays the same. But if assessed valuation goes down, then the tax rate, relative to assessed valuation, goes up. This is what happened here recently.

In 2010, when voters approved Measure B, the assessed valuation in the district - not the value of the school buildings, but the value of the homes and properties of the people who live in the Willits school district area - was at its highest dollar value ever: \$1.19 billion. But then County Assessor Sue Ranochak, in conformance with provisions encoded in Proposition 8, began to reassess properties throughout the county. Because the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted to "de-Teeter Brooktrails" - to remove Brooktrails from the county Teeter Plan - Ranochak felt obliged to focus a good part of her staff's energies on vacant properties in Brooktrails.

As a result of both the recession and Ranochak's efforts in Brooktrails, over a three-year period, assessed valuation in the school district declined \$98 million, or about 8.44 percent. The lower property value in the area means residents' tax rates are higher than CFW predicted for the same time period.

The third reason people will pay more than \$29 per \$100,000 is because of the way CFW structured the payback plan for the bond. CFW arranged things so the tax burden would be light during the first few years, when people were still paying for Measure A, would increase sharply in years nine and 10 (2019 and 2020), and then would increase incrementally thereafter.

In addition, in making its financial

estimates, CFW assumed an annual assessed valuation growth rate of 4 percent, which helped to keep its predictions on the low side.

Four percent is not a ridiculous number. At the April 2, school board meeting, Greg Isom reported the 20-year average in assessed valuation growth rate for properties within the Willits Unified School District was 3.80 percent. The 15-year average is 3.82 percent.

But the average for the past five years has been minus 1.05 percent, while the five-year average for the years 2005-2010 was 5.5 percent. Assuming a 4 percent growth rate in assessed valuation payments means the annual tax bill for the \$18.8 million bond will top out at \$60 per \$100,000 per year in 2040.

However, if growth in assessed valuation is weaker than 4 percent, the tax rate will be higher. According to Isom, if assessed valuation in the district grows at 3 percent per year, in 2020 district property owners will be paying \$71 per \$100,000, \$75.54 per \$100,000 in 2025, \$79.45 in 2035 and \$83.79 in 2040.

Assuming a 2 percent growth rate produces an even higher payback scenario. Again according to Isom, under a 2 percent assessed valuation growth rate, taxpayers will be paying \$59.07 per \$100,000 in 2019 and \$76.79 per \$100K in 2020. By 2025 they will be paying \$84.74 per \$100,000; \$90.06 in 2030; \$99.47 in 2035 and \$110.14 in 2040.

Because it remains unknown what the growth in assessed valuation will be, even the experts can't nail down exactly what property owners will be paying on the bond in any given year. But taking Harper's example of a \$200,000 house, and assuming a 3 percent annual growth in assessed valuation, yields a house worth \$475,000 in 2040. Applying the 2040 tax rate of \$83.79 per \$100,000 to that \$475,000 house means the taxpayer will pay \$389 in property taxes in 2040 just to pay off the Measure B 2010 bond. Divided by 12, that taxpayer will be paying about \$32 a month: considerably more, let us hope, than the typical hamburger in 2040.

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Left: the girls Summer Basketball League team.

Photo by Jody Ward

Below: Team members wash cars out in front of Yokum's Body Shop.

Photo by Johnnieann Johnstone

Coach: Eric Mehtlan.

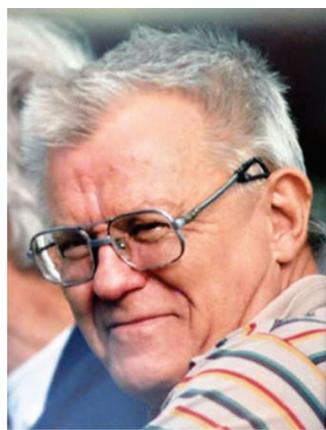
Assistant Coaches: Mariah Escobedo, and Jody Ward.

OBITUARY |
Vernon Dale Tripp

Vernon Dale Tripp

1924 - 2014

Vernon Dale Tripp died March 6, 2014, in Willits, CA, after a short illness. Friends and family were at his bedside. He was 89 years old, just a few weeks short of his 90th birthday. Dale was born on March 24, 1924 in Spokane, Washington.



Vernon Dale Tripp

At age 10, Dale contracted poliomyelitis ("polio"), which left him with no working muscles in his left leg. He graduated from Santa Cruz High School in 1942. Unable to enlist in the armed forces due to his bad leg, in the summer of 1942, Dale rode his bicycle from Santa Cruz, CA, to Seattle, Washington (1,000 miles), to work in the shipyards alongside his father (Rama Forest Tripp, 1897-1978) as a marine wireman. He made the trip in 10 days.

Dale had been trained in drafting while he attended Santa Cruz High School. The drafting trade served Dale well throughout his life. He worked as a mechanical draftsman for many employers, including the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bethlehem Steel, Lockheed Aircraft, Insul-8 Corp. (San Carlos, CA), and Unisys (Santa Clara, CA), among others.

Dale had excellent lettering skills and worked as a professional sign-painter in the early 1950s.

He also had a strong sense of social justice. He worked to advance the progressive movement throughout his adult life. Dale met his first wife, Eleanor J. Wright (1918-2012), while working with a social issues committee at the Unitarian Church of San Francisco in the mid-1950s. Dale put his exceptional sign-painting skills to work for many of the anti-war demonstrations of the 1960s.

He met his second wife, JoMarie King (1927-2013), while working with a progressive organization to feed the homeless of San Jose, CA.

Dale is survived by his sister, Delores J. Braden of Willits, his daughter, Annalisa Guthridge of San Mateo, his son, Galen A. Tripp of San Mateo, his step-daughter, Donna Day, of Willits, and his step-son, Jim King of San Jose. Dale will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

There will be a memorial service for him at the Brooktrails Community Center in Willits on June 14 at 1 pm. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in his honor to The World Wildlife Fund: www.worldwildlife.org.

Summer Basketball League

Girls earn \$736 at Car Wash

Members of the Summer Basketball League joined up to participate in a car wash last Sunday, which yielded the team \$736 to help cover costs of travel, lodging and fees for their upcoming season of tournaments.

This weekend, the group will be headed to Chico State, and in the coming weekends, trips to Cardinal Newman and Windsor are also planned. They also will play local meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays with teams from Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Lake County.

The league offers middle school and high school girls



the chance to keep up their skills in the off-season as well as give them a fun thing to do for the summer.

The girls expressed their appreciation to all who attended, and their thanks to Yokum's Body Shop, which donated all the supplies needed for the car wash, including the soap, hoses and sponges.

The event was a good one, according to Johnnieann Johnstone, mother of team members Julia and Jamie: "We accepted donations for each car, and it was busy all day!"

— Maureen Moore

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