

# Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 69 Thursday, August 28, 2014

## Lodge Fire 97 percent contained

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
[zack@willitsweekly.com](mailto:zack@willitsweekly.com)

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection says firefighters have achieved 97 percent containment of the Lodge Fire after nearly a month of battling the blaze. More than 12,500 acres have been consumed. The estimated cost of this fire is now up to \$41 million.

Firefighting activity peaked in past weeks as a tent city swelled with firefighters from across the state. About 15 helicopters flew in and set up camp among the oak trees at the site of the Kate Wolf Music Festival.

CalFire reports that, as of Wednesday evening, there were three fire engines, zero helicopters, zero water

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

Supes approve  
county response to  
**grand jury report**

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
[mike@willitsweekly.com](mailto:mike@willitsweekly.com)

Supervisors approved an official response to the county grand jury's 2013-14 report Tuesday on a 4-1 vote. The item came up for discussion late in the day, and the board took very little time to review the county's response, written by acting County Counsel Doug Losak.

In fact, supervisors only took a few moments to consider the responses to two chapters of the report, dealing with alleged misappropriation of library funds by county administration and claims that privatization of the county's mental health

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

**Teen in fatal**  
Willits accident  
identified

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
[jennifer@willitsweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@willitsweekly.com)

The Mendocino County Coroner's Office has identified the 18-year-old victim of a fatal accident on Eastside Road in Willits on Thursday, August 14. Lawrence Warden of Calpella was killed after being ejected from the Toyota Sequoia he was riding in, when the vehicle hit a tree and overturned several times. Warden, a passenger in the right front seat, died at the scene. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

Driver Sparrow Brown

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



## Back to School Round Two!

A second round of Back to School is almost here, as private schools and charter schools in Willits start their 2014/2015 school year after this weekend's Labor Day holiday. Willits Weekly's second Education Edition includes letters from alternative school directors and principals, photos of new and returning schoolkids, group photos of 26 new Willits teachers and a reunion of the Willits High School Class of 1964, and much more.

*Above: Willits Charter School staff and teachers posed for a quick "Welcome Back!" photo op, including, left to right, from back: Erin Vaccaro, Aurelie Clivas, Scott Lamon, Ralph Mandeville, Michel Chenelle, William Travis, Gaea Reid, Jane Applebee, Elizabeth McMahon, Wendy Copperfield, Jason Erlick and Carina Lopez. Sitting: Luke Allen, Kirsten Turner, Jennifer Lockwood, Gwyn Ware, Kate Craig and Chris Wood.*

*Right: WCS director Jennifer Lockwood looks forward to the coming school year.*

*Below left: WECS students (and future students) pose in the school's garden, including, left to right, back row: Xavier, Danny, Ezra; second row: Griffin, Blaze, Kadie, Cayleigh, Knight, Audrey, and Abigail, and in front: Lucy.*

*Below right: Lucy shows off a basket of garden beans.* Photos by Maureen Moore



I had an interesting offer the day before I was to file my papers to run for Willits City Council. City Manager Adrienne Moore asked me if I would be interested in forming a nonprofit corporation and operating the Willits Center for the Arts. After an agonizing 24 hours, I said "yes." That was about three weeks ago.

In the intervening time, a great board of directors has been assembled, and the incorporation of the center as a nonprofit corporation has begun. The new corporation will be called Willits Art Center, WAC. It's our hope people will be asking themselves on a regular basis: "What's at the WAC?"

Silly? Yes! Will you remember "the WAC"? We're counting on it.

## The new Willits Art Center: The future of the arts in Willits

by Bill Barksdale

With the formation of the WAC as a nonprofit, the corporation will have to pay the bills. City support of the day-to-day expenses will pretty much fall away. That's only one benefit to the taxpayer, citizens and local artists.

We will now be able to help artists create a marketing venue for their work, if they so choose.

Let me introduce our dynamic board of directors. Ross Walker was Willits city attorney and then city manager. June

Ruckman is not only a very talented photographer, but also a former management-level executive. Barbara Willens was a founder of Leaves of Grass Book Shop, a fixture in Willits for many years. Barbara also has experience as a community organizer and history with the Art Center.

Emmy Good also is a successful businesswoman with a background as an educator, with many years of classroom experience.

In short, we have a board with business experience and a deep appreciation of the arts.

I have a background firmly rooted in the performing arts, having been trained at The Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theater in New York with Sanford Meisner and William Esper. I've had a long career in business and as a local theater director and member of a number of boards, both for-profit and nonprofit. I will be serving as executive director of the new WAC.

Why is "art" important? Isn't it kind of frivolous and "just for fun"? The answer is "yes" and "no." It's a fact that in the U.S. today only about 17 percent of our national economy is based in manufacturing – a big change from the 1940s through 1960s, when manufacturing jobs were a major source of well-paying jobs in this country.

Today, robots and foreign counties fulfill those manufacturing job demands, at a much lower wage than American workers.

Not only Willits, but our nation is in a time of change, and it is the creative thinkers that will lead the way and invent and discover the new jobs that provide our nation with work. The arts are, perhaps, more important than ever in our history and future. The so-called "inventor" of the Apple computer, Steve Jobs, did not invent the actual computer. That was the work of Steve Wozniak.

Jobs was primarily an

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



Taxes, pot highlight budget road show

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
[mike@willitsweekly.com](mailto:mike@willitsweekly.com)

It's a ho-hum budget in a ho-hum economy in a small rural county that is not growing, and county officials are doing their best to keep expenses down while keeping service levels up.

That's the take-away message from the Mendocino County Budget Town Hall meeting, held in Willits City Council chambers Monday night, to a small crowd of department heads, newspaper reporters and Third District supervisorial candidates.

In spite of the poor turnout and the superficial treatment of issues connected with the county budget, some interesting topics were raised.

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

## Council decides:

Caltrans may cross city land to reach mitigation property

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
[zack@willitsweekly.com](mailto:zack@willitsweekly.com)

The California Department of Transportation gained permission from the city to cross city property for access to mitigation property for the Willits bypass.

Opponents to the agreement who spoke on the matter were against giving Caltrans a right of way to access state land for what they say is unnecessary and wrong-minded mitigation.

Council members voted 3-1 to pass a resolution approving access across city property on the north edge of town. A report from the city says that Caltrans is responsible for permits or clearance from regulators.

"We do not see this as a big deal for staff or operators," City Engineer Rod Wilburn said.

Details about mitigation for the project are in documents hundreds of pages thick. The documents state that in wake of the new six-mile freeway, the work aims to improve "the valley's ecological functions and values through a combination of habitat reestablishment, establishment, rehabilitation, and preservation."

Councilwoman Madge Strong is also opposed to the mitigation work. "The mitigation work is in fact very destructive.... I think this whole issue ought to be deferred."

"These mitigations are a tremendous problem – almost bigger than the bypass," bypass opponent Naomi Wagner warned.

City Attorney Jim Lance

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

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers



**Left:**  
Saprina Rodriguez running across the Golden Gate Bridge.  
**Below:**  
Saprina and Lorenzo Rodriguez.

## San Francisco Marathon

To the Editor:

On July 27, Rosa Pena, Lorenzo Rodriguez, and I set out to accomplish a full marathon run (26.2 miles) in the historic San Francisco annual Marathon. Visitors from all over the world came to compete. It all began two years ago when I trained and competed in the half Marathon. I was bitten by the bug.

This year I convinced my son Lorenzo and friend Rosa to train with me to run the full marathon. We trained hard for six months in Willits. Training consisted of running 30 to 40 miles a week on Willits city streets and loops around the valley. We ran at 5:30 in the morning and 8 pm at night. We all have jobs and commitments, so we gave up sleep to run, all for the dream of completing the full marathon.

Eighteen days before the marathon, I had to have emergency gall bladder surgery and thought my chance to run this year was lost. However, on race day I was emotionally moved to live my dream despite my limitations. I urged my son and Rosa on. I ran with the thought that I would simply try to make it from AT&T Park to the Golden Gate Bridge – every day I ran through the valley, I dreamed of the day I would run across the Golden Gate Bridge.

When that moment arrived, nothing could stop me. With each step my shoes beat on the pavement of the bridge, I thought of my sacrifice. My dream. I could taste the salty breeze.

Lorenzo and I passed each other going opposite directions. I was filled with such pride that he had taken on this journey and was here now giving it all his heart. I yelled with emotional tears to keep running. Ten minutes later, I spotted Rosa. She had sweat dripping from her brow and a smile on her face. This was an experience of a lifetime!

At the lookout point, friends and family were there cheering for each of us. My son Alex joined me, now on mile seven of the race. I pushed my body to run back across the Golden Gate Bridge, now heading south up toward Golden Gate Park. The view out to sea was inspiring. My body ached as I painfully made a decision to stop running at mile 13.1 (halfway).

I met up with my family, and we drove to the finish line. Lorenzo and Rosa both had continued the long run throughout the city streets of San Francisco. Lorenzo was the first to arrive. He sprinted so hard the last mile, he

## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the 3rd District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once a month.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

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## Garden Party Thank You

To the Editor:

This is the first of two thank yous that will come your way, not only to the community but more specifically to you, Willits Weekly!

The Garden Party was a *tremendous* success this year.

That was due, in a very large part, to your amazing color coverage of our publicity. The paper is beautiful each week, and you graciously publicize so many worthwhile causes and events. Gail Richards, our fantastic publicity volunteer, was never turned down by you. Every article and photo we submitted was brought to life by you and your staff. We could never find a more supportive newspaper, and our hats are off to you!

To the community – we are so grateful for your support. The individuals and businesses are way too many to be listed here, but we hope to be able to publicize this, and the total amount that our organization and Willits Rotary will give to Willits schools, as soon as all the figures are final.

Willits – and Mendocino County – you are amazingly generous. Our schools, students and teachers are richer because of their caring community.

Kathleen Lewis, secretary,  
Willits Educational Foundation

## Who is Holly Madrigal?

To the Editor:

Meet Holly Madrigal, a young, vivacious, confident woman dedicated to serving the people of Mendocino County. After graduating from Willits High, Holly's mature foresight led her to UC Santa Cruz, where she earned a degree in business management/economics. But it was her high school sweetheart, Gabe Madrigal, who drew her back to Willits.

Early on Holly set her sights on a life of community service, securing her position on the Willits City Council at age 26. As a mother, grandmother, teacher and community activist, I applaud the efforts of this young, educated, caring, capable and energetic Mendocino County-raised person for wanting to assist in improving the lives of Mendocino County people by being involved in local government.

What a notion! A homegrown graduate with the vitality to take on a multitude of issues; someone who has the energy to keep up the pace of governing a geographically large and socially diverse county!

I love knowing that Holly is the kind of representative who receives a message while attending a meeting in Ukiah and makes it her business to turn up in Laytonville among a crowd of concerned and worried citizens for the first Lodge Fire meeting at Harwood Hall. Thank you, Holly!

Smiling and friendly, Holly enjoys friendships among people of different social and political backgrounds. There are folks who appear confused by Holly's fair-mindedness, preferring to mistake her friendliness for an association with one group or another or to characterize her in one role or another.

Susie Bradley, Laytonville

## Live Your Dream award

To the Editor:

The Live Your Dream Training and Education Awards program, formerly called the Women's Opportunity Awards program, was established in 1972 by Soroptimist International of the Americas to assist women with primary financial responsibility for their families to obtain the skills, training and education necessary to improve their employment status and standard of living for themselves and their family.

Live Your Dream Awards applicants have faced economic and social barriers, and personal hardships that have prevented them from pursuing and achieving their educational and professional goals – until now.

Local Soroptimist club participation in the Live Your Dream Awards is a terrific way to "create magic" in the lives of women – and their families. It is a \$750 one-time award.

The Live Your Dream Award changes the lives of women throughout the region: women who need and deserve our support for themselves and their families.

The program begins in September when clubs order and distribute the award applications. It continues through April, with clubs giving awards to women in their local communities. In May, district and region winners are honored at regional conferences, and the program concludes for the year with the announcement of the federation winner in July.

For additional information about this award, contact me, Divora Stern, at [onemindbody@gmail.com](mailto:onemindbody@gmail.com). I was the recipient of this award in 1993, from the Ukiah Soroptimists Club, while attending Mendocino College during my undergraduate degree studies. I am excited to now pass this opportunity onto the Willits community.

Seek out the women in your community who need and deserve your support. We are here to support prospective applicants live their dreams!

Divora Stern LCSW, Willits

## Paws to Read

To the Editor:

Paws to Read, Willits public library's summer reading program, was a great success! Over the duration of the program, we had 12 special events and 749 attendees. We had 46 children sign up to keep track of their weekly reading and collect the incentives provided by the Friends of the Willits Library.

The program ended on August 16 with a super party and an amazing turnout! About 200 people watched the "Wild Things" presentation in the library. We followed the presentation with a party where our teen volunteer, Jenna, and her grandmother, Vicki, handed out about 120 ice cream cups. Terri Wilcox from the Friends of the Willits Library handed out 75 free books to participants in the reading club.

On behalf of the library and the Willits community, I thank the Friends of the Willits Library for their support and funding of this wonderful program!

Jill Dorman, children's librarian,  
Willits Library



## Back on the Tracks at Roots

The Heisler before it even laid wheels on the tracks at the Roots facility, who happened to be a "scrapper."

Parts of the engine were disassembled by Botsford, including the removal of the bell, lights and stack. It's been sitting in the engine house, awaiting the repair of some bearings, which were determined to be the cause of a non-good knocking sound that put the engine into temporary retirement two years ago.

Serendipitously, help was just down the road from Heisler owner and Willits Redwood Company co-owner Chris Baldo, who connected with Franklin Street neighbor, Dave Kennelly, owner of Inter Mountain Manufacturing.

Baldo was able to order, cut, shape and finish a huge chunk of raw "bearing brass" that was shipped all the way from Chicago. His skill set and machining experience from his days at Remco Hydraulics made this seemingly complicated repair possible in just three weeks, much to Baldo's delight.

"It was great that some obscure part for an antique engine could be made, and even better, just down the road in our little town of Willits!" Baldo said.

Once the new parts were in hand, Roots' Troy James and James Anson installed the bearings, and then a crew of five, including James and Anson along with Bruce Evans, Don Ford and Keith Ronney, took the new parts for their first test run a few days later.

Things fit back together smoothly, and the engine will now be ready to be re-debuted at the annual Roots Steam Festival that will be held next weekend, September 6 and 7 at the Commercial Street yard.

The engine came to Roots in a way similar to some of the other engines, including the recently acquired Folsom Prison engine: through the collection of Bert Rudolph of Willits.

The engine was originally built for the Bluestone Mining and Smelting Company of Mason, Nevada in January of 1916, where it pulled ore cars from Mason to Bluestone until 1926.

It was then purchased by Eimco Corporation of Stockton, who sold it in 1939

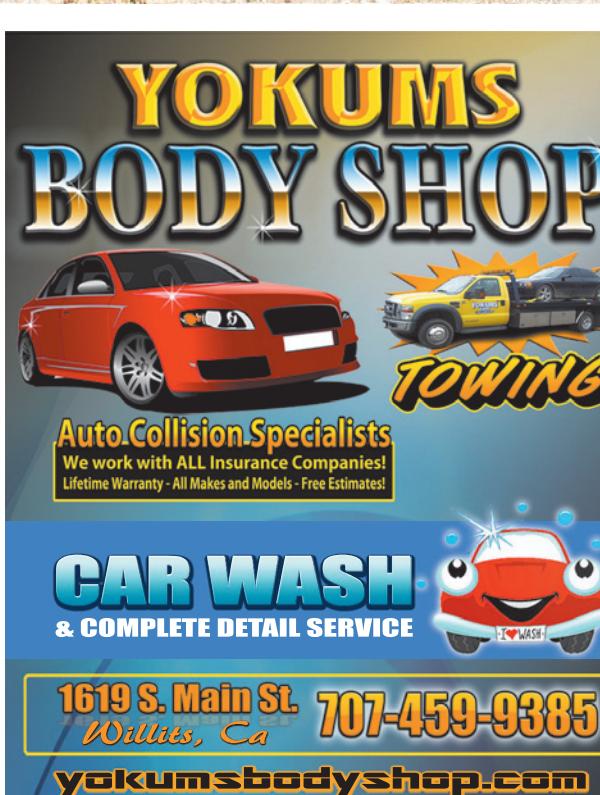


"It's like a four-wheel-drive version," explained Baldo. "It's meant for steeper grades, sharper turns, and uneven ground."

The Roots crew is proud to have the Bluestone Mining and Smelting Heisler Locomotive No. 1 at the yard and for future generations to come and enjoy.

Come see the Heisler and lots more during the September 6 and 7 Roots Steam Festival.

- Maureen Moore





A letter from ...

## The Director of Willits Charter School

Jennifer Lockwood



There are so many aspects of Willits Charter School that made me want to be a part of this school community. From the friendly faculty, the beautiful facilities, the strong focus on academics and the arts, the amazing students, involved parents and hardworking board, and of course the gorgeous surroundings, it was certainly a place that I could not get out of my mind.

Although I have worked with both district and charter schools for the last 14 years in Southern California, my heart was always in Northern California. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend a high school much like this one, where all students were valued and treated with respect. I have carried that experience with me throughout my life and am still connected with teachers and friends from my high school years. One of my life goals was to be able to work at a middle/high school that carried the same values that I have held so dear throughout the years. Willits Charter School is that place

A letter from ....

## The Principal of Adventist Christian School

Alyse Knutson

My name is Alyse Knutson. I am the new principal of the Adventist Christian School of Willits. We are a first- through eighth-grade classroom with many exciting experiences to share. I practice Differentiated Instruction, so students get exactly what they need. A small teacher-student ratio makes this school different from all the rest!

When students leave here, they are academically, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually ready to handle anything high school throws at them. At the Adventist Christian School, we focus on the student as a whole person. Based on our Biblical curriculum, it is my job to help students understand the world we live in and prepare them for the world to come.

Along with the fundamental curriculum, we also offer a cooking class once a week, as well as a LegoRobotics team affiliation. We spend time together practicing teamwork and life skills that help when going out into the competitive job market.

The Adventist Christian School of Willits is still accepting applications for this 2014-2015 school year. For more information about our school and our tuition costs, please don't hesitate to contact me at 459-4333 or aknutson1804@yahoo.com. God bless.

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A letter from ...

## The Director of Willits Elementary Charter School

Kara McClellan



The faculty of Willits Elementary Charter School is delighted to welcome so many returning families and all of our new students. Our goal each year is to give students the tools to develop integrity, compassion and confidence through inquiry-based learning.

Many of our innovative programs will continue this year, including Animal Kung Fu, yoga, and music, which is offered four days a week for our students. Tyler Balthrop (aka "Mr. B.") has created a unique music program, weaving academic skills throughout his class while meeting state standards. Our goal is to develop children's understanding and love of music, and also to partner with core teachers to deepen their inquiries. Examples include: discussions on the history of the American South while exploring jazz music; understanding fractions while learning to read music; and supporting our fifth-graders' exploration of

for me.

Willits Charter School is a place where all students can be themselves; a place where all are accepted and honored just as they are. Curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of each individual student. Whether it is

The rest of **WCS** | Over on Page 10

A letter from ....

## The Executive Director of La Vida

Ann Kelly



La Vida Charter School is excited and grateful to have received its five-year renewal from the Willits Unified School District last spring. The school administration is especially appreciative of Superintendent Patricia Johnson for making the process smooth, efficient and successful.

This new five-year period will be marked with many new classes, programs and assessments supporting the La Vida blended independent study program enhanced by Waldorf-inspired on-site classes.

As part of the 2014-15 theme, "Endeavor for Excellence," the classical, higher order pursuits of art history and appreciation and calligraphy will be taught by guest teachers

A variety of new specialty classes by new and visiting specialty teachers will vitalize

The rest of **LaVida** | Over on Page 10

A letter from ....

**Back to School Sale!**  
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Willits Weekly | August 28, 2014

Willits High School Class of 1964

Several members of the graduating class held their 50th Class reunion on August 23 at the Willits Frontier Days grounds and remembered the good times with one another during the event.

Shown here, from left to right, from the back row: Doolie Collier, Steve DeWitt, Ray Cataldo, Mike Smith, Bob Miner, Larry Wharton, Doug Case, Rod Wooley, Cliff Williams, Richard Spangle, Andy Longcrier, Terry Pittman, Mark Clark, Sharon Norris, Lane Whitley, Carol Carrington, Barbara Magbie, Barbara Bucknell, Donna Brown, Paulette Thompson, Marliegh Steadman, Annette Pinon, Patty Hamley, Vickie Lakatos, Linda Kibler, Grant Woodruff, Charles DeRego, John Sharp, John Mayer, and Joe Mondo.

Photo by Carrie Mayfield Photography



## New fall classes for kids

### Zumba Kids

Zumba teacher Rachel Cash is re-starting her Zumba class for kids, at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. Classes, Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am, start September 6. For kids ages 4 to 11 years. \$5 drop-in fee. Info: 707-354-0605. Info on Studio Joy, visit: www.studiøjowillits.com

### Gateway Gymnastics

Fall classes at Gateway Gymnastics, 275 Franklin Avenue, start Thursday, September 2. Classes, held Tuesdays through Fridays include a parent/tot class (for kids 1 to 2 years old, with a parent); "Tiny Tumblers" (for ages 3 to 5); and gymnastics (ages 5 and up). Parent/tot is \$10; other classes \$16. Info: Cathy Warren at 459-3855.

### Cloud 9 Studio

Fall classes at Kathleen Ferri-Taylor's Cloud 9 Studio, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, start Wednesday, October 1. Classes, for age 3 and up, include creative dance, ballet, hip hop fusion, and contemporary dance for children. Also, belly dance for teens and adults, taught by Kayla Chesser. Info: 459-3704 or creativedance@live.com, or visit "Cloud 9 Dance Studio" on Facebook.



## Willits Unified School District welcomes New Teachers

There are 26 new credentialed teachers and counselors in the Willits Unified School District. Here's a picture of 25 of them taken on the steps of Willits High School last week. Districtwide staff: Kathleen Cochran, Nicolle Burke, Lorree Newland, and Jackie Herz. Brookside School: Wesley Re, Julie Muzzy and Julia Sudlow. Blosser Lane Elementary School: Amanda Wilson, Jordan West, Erica Saperstein, Marian Lohne, Coleen Zak and Carrie Bauer. Baechtel Grove Middle School: Brenna Dillman, Tessa Ford, Lisa Materne, Amanda Samana, Nate Thompson and Kristian Hart. Willits High School: Kelly Case-Brackett, Christopher Corniola, Angelica Montelongo, Evan Morgan, Michelle Snider, Cathleen Welling and Alexander Kramer.

Did you miss our first Education Edition? Check out more about other Willits schools and additional back-to-school essentials in our August 14 edition. View it and many other back issues online at [www.WillitsWeekly.com](http://www.WillitsWeekly.com).



Left to right: Kali Kristiansen, Izabella Sims, Nevaeh Hays, and Nina Corona, students in the Tiny Tumblers class at Gateway Gymnastics.

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707.459.6224

To register and for more info: [www.Mendocino.edu](http://www.Mendocino.edu)

### Mendocino College North County Center

Register Now - starting September 8

### Late Start Classes

CCS-60-0282 College Success  
Tuesdays: 8:30am - 11:30am, 3 units

CSC-201-1011 Computers & Applications  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 1:00pm - 3:20pm, 3 units

ENG-10-0202 Basic Reading & Writing  
Mondays & Wednesdays: 8:30am - 11:20am, 5 units

ENG-12-0858 Intermediated Reading & Writing  
Mondays & Wednesdays: 8:30am - 11:20am, 5 units

ENG-80-0884 Academic Reading & Writing  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5:30pm - 7:50pm, 4 units

ENG-60/160/560 Reading & Writing Lab  
Mondays & Wednesdays: 11:30am - 12:50pm, 1/2, 1, 0 units

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Tuesdays & Thursdays: 4:00pm - 5:20pm, 1/2, 1, 0 units

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Thursday, August 28

**Community HU Song:** "In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, August 28, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm." All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit [miraclesinyourlife.org](http://miraclesinyourlife.org).

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

**Shanachie Pub:** twice-monthly Jazz Night: 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, August 29**

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

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

**Shanachie Pub:** the return of 454, high-octane power trio playing blues-based rock and roll. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. 9 pm. \$5 cover. Info: 459-9194.

**Fat Chance Truckin' Band:** Labor Day Willits Labor Day Weekend Kickoff at John's Place with Fat Chance Truckin' Band from Redwood Valley, busting out some tunes at John's Place, No cover, 10 pm, "Keep it local peeps! Come in and feel the music!"



Featuring Richard Rumsey, Maribeth Rumsey, Charlie Varzi, Rovera, Ben Hamilton, Nate Arnolf, Andy Mattern and Jason Beam. Info: visit "Fat Chance Truckin' Band" on Facebook.

**Saturday, August 30**

**North Street Collective Summer Workshop:** "Join us for a day of art and learning in the North Street Garden, led by the current class of North Street Affiliated Artists." 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, August 30, at 350 North Street. Plus a field trip to Fort Bragg on Sunday, August 31. Free workshops, including: Alaskan Milling led by Noel Woodhouse

tunes, with some Latin & Jazz undertones as well as Electro." 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. 9 pm. No cover. Info: 459-9194.

**Sunday, August 31**

**North Street Collective Summer Workshop:** North Street's field trip to Fort Bragg. "We'll visit woodworkers, artisans, galleries, and the forest to gather ideas and learn from the work of our



## Willits Airport Day

Classic Cars and Airplanes

It's the 1960s all over again at the Willits Airport Day & Sixties Fly-In on Saturday, Sept 13, as classic cars and aircraft share Ells Field to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the community airport. Also featured are rock'n'roll oldies music, lots of great food and beverages, airplane rides, helicopter rides, exhibits – and a chance to thank local firefighters. REACH Air Medical Services, soon to serve Mendocino County from the Willits Airport, will show off their EC 135 medical helicopter and answer questions. Aircraft rides for sale offer opportunities to fly over the valley and see the construction of the Willits bypass.

Vintage and contemporary aircraft, as well as classic cars from across Northern California, have been invited to the celebration, especially honoring cars and aircraft of the 1960s. The airport will be open to visitors from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is free. Willits Airport is located four miles north on Sherwood Road and one mile east on Poppy Drive. Exhibit space is available by calling 841-6252. More info? Visit: [www.WillitsFlyIn.com](http://www.WillitsFlyIn.com).

– submitted by Dan Ramsey, airport manager and event producer

### Community Sock and Undie Drive Underway

"Sock and Undie Sunday" is September 7 at Willits United Methodist Church – and may or may not be what you are thinking.

The church has been gathering new packages of socks and underwear to supply two local elementary schools as well as Redwood Children's Services, so that when a child is in need of either a new set of socks or underwear that need can be filled.

Donations of new, unopened packages of socks and underwear in sizes to fit children from kindergarten through high school can be left in the church office at 286 School Street across from the Little Lake Grange during church office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, between 9 am and noon.

On September 7, "Sock and Undie Sunday," the church will finish the underwear drive and box up the donations for distribution to Brookside and Blosser Lane Schools and Redwood Community Services. September 7 will also be a special worship service at the church to commemorate "Peace with Justice Sunday." Worship begins at 10 am and will feature many songs from the 1960s: the pastoral message is "When Will We Ever Learn?"

"Jesus was a rebel and a pacifist," notes Pastor Rosemary Landry. "We will be looking back at how history repeats itself and how we can seek peace for our planet today."

– submitted by Karen Oslund

(9:30 am); Flutemaking led by Tim Oslund (10:30 am); Garden Lunch and Botanical Printmaking led by Melany Katz (noon); and Soapmaking, led by Alana Rivera (1:30 pm). Community "homemade garden" Dinner at 5 pm. Advanced registration requested. Visit [www.northstreetcollective.org](http://northstreetcollective.org) for more info, or to RSVP.

**Scottish folksinger Ed Miller:** in concert at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, August 30 at 8pm. "Miller has been hailed as one of the finest singers to come out of the recent Scottish folk revival and one of Scotland's best singing exports... Miller entertains and educates his audiences with wonderful songs and droll stories. He offers up a real taste of Scotland with an extensive repertoire that includes old traditional ballads, the timeless songs of Robert

Burns, and contemporary songs of urban change, emigration, nationalism and humor." Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar in Willits, online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com), or for credit card orders, phone the WCT office at 707-459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

**Johnny Sketch & the Dirty Notes:** live from New Orleans, at Boomer's Bar & Grill, 45020 North Highway 101, Laytonville. "For over a decade, Johnny Sketch and the Dirty Notes, a classically trained New Orleans-based band, has delivered a smorgasbord of musical genres every

time they hit the stage. JSND defy easy categorization. Their irreverent funk is cut with rock riffs, a Gypsy/Klezmer flare, a Latin tinge courtesy of a hard hitting horn section, and a wild sense of humor." 9 pm. \$10. Boomer's: 707-984-6534 and [www.boomerssaloon.com](http://www.boomerssaloon.com).

**Shanachie Pub:** House of Love DJ night, featuring all forms of House music, from 1980s to the present: "deep, funky & groovy tunes, with some Latin & Jazz undertones as well as Electro." 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. 9 pm. No cover. Info: 459-9194.



**Speaker Series:** Mendocino County Tom Allman is the eighth and final speaker in the 2014 speaker series, addressing issues related to local law enforcement of cannabis regulations as they now exist in Mendocino County. "Bring questions and comments." Free. 4 to 6 pm at 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville. Sponsored by the Long Valley Garden Club. Info: 984-6587.

**Summer Feast 2014:** San Francisco's Dance Brigade, in collaboration with CubaCaribe, presents this site-specific work of dance, drumming and drama with a Cuban flair. Featured artists: Alayo Dance Company, NAKA Dance Theater, Dance Brigade, CubaCamp artists and more! "Featuring

Ramón Ramos Alayo, founder of Alayo Dance Company.

over 20 artists, the audience will be taken on a two-hour magical journey through the wooded landscape along the Eel River. Taking advantage of the beauty that the land has to offer, these diverse performers will look to the environment for their inspiration, and guide the

audience through their enchanted

world of art, beauty, and sometimes challenging politics." Sunday, August 31, show at 6 pm, gates open 4 pm. Dance Brigade's Dos Rios Retreat Center, 10501 Dos Rios Road, Dos Rios. Directions and parking instructions will be emailed once tickets are purchased, or call 415-826-4441 for this information. \$30 general, \$15 youth 15 and under. Tickets at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or 1-800-838-3006, in Willits at Mazahar Boutique, 38 South Main Street, or (cash only) at the gate. Info: 415-826-4441 or visit [www.dancemission.com](http://www.dancemission.com).

**Holly Madrigal for Supervisor Headquarters Kick-Off Party:** from 4 to 7 pm at Holly Madrigal's

Campaign Headquarters, 716 South Main Street, next to Country Skillet.

"Enjoy refreshments and local wine tasting.

Pick up your bumper stickers, buttons and signs. Or register to vote!" Info: 707-841-0612 or [www.votetholly.com](http://www.votetholly.com).

**Free Zumba for Teens:** Zumba is

always free for teenagers on Friday nights at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. Class at 6 pm with Melissa. Info: 707-841-7499 or [www.studiojoywillits.com](http://www.studiojoywillits.com).

**Roots Annual Steam-Up:** the annual Roots

of Motive Power Steam Festival this weekend

features, for the first time, the Timberjack Show (Saturday at 1 and 6 pm), as

well as a local lumberjacks competition (Saturday at 7 pm).

The Roots crew will be steaming up their

vintage logging and rail equipment, and offering

free steam train rides, on Saturday (9 am to 4 pm) and Sunday at the Roots facility, 420 East

Commercial Street. Saturday's train rides will

include a double-header steam locomotive, with both the Mason County No. 7 Baldwin Locomotive and the Bluestone Mining and Smelting Heisler

Locomotive No. 1 drawing the passenger

cars. Saturday's event also features a

free Classic Car Show, a Beer & Wine

Reception, a silent auction and raffle (the

biggest fundraiser of the year for Roots),

and a BBQ put on by the famous Frontier

Days BBQ crew (all from 2 to 5 pm at the Rec Grove).

The Gas Engine & Tractor

Association will be displaying vintage

and original steam contraptions at the Rec Grove Park both days.

Roots equipment steamed up and on

display includes the 75-ton

Bucyrus Steam Shovel, the 1940

Raymond F440 Steam Crane, a steam

donkey, vintage tractors, a giant diesel

yarder, and a steam roller. Roots will

be doing "Steam Roller Street Printing"

on Sunday: "the power of printing on

a grand scale," using designs carved in

linoleum by local artists. Tickets for Lumberjack

shows: 1 pm show: \$6 adults; \$1 kids; and 6 pm

show: \$8 adults; \$4 for kids. BBQ tickets: \$12; \$6

kids. For more info, to volunteer over the weekend, or to donate items for the silent auction/raffle, call Michael Hammann at 354-1918. More info on Roots at [www.rootsofmotivepower.com](http://www.rootsofmotivepower.com) or the "Roots of Motive Power" page on Facebook.

**Free Bridge Lessons:** "Beyond Basics": a nine-

## What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

always free for teenagers on Friday nights at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. Class at 6 pm with Melissa. Info: 707-841-7499 or [www.studiojoywillits.com](http://www.studiojoywillits.com).

**Saturday, September 6**



week series of free bridge lessons at the Willits Library, taught by ACBL-accredited bridge teacher, Donna Valano. Starts Saturday, September 6 and runs through Saturday, November 1, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm. "Do you want to spruce up your bridge game? Review some new bidding strategies? 'Beyond Basics' is for those students who are already familiar with basic bridge skills." More info: 459-9035 or visit "Friends of the Willits Library" Facebook page.

**Grand Opening Salon 707:** to celebrate the new renovated Salon, with a BBQ and a raffle. "Stop on by!" Stylist Tarrah Irwin is offering a free haircut (anytime) to anyone who has 10 inches or more of hair to donate to Locks of Love. Tarrah was the stylist who shaved the heads of Sharron Kidd and Jennifer Sookee to raise funds for the American Cancer Society at this summer's Relay for Life event. Info: 456-1177.

**"The Lego Movie":** The new Lego movie showing Emmet's epic quest is here! Come and see "The Lego Movie" at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, on Saturday, September 6, at 2 pm. Info: call the library at: 459-5908.

**"Songs and Poems from the Spirit":** a benefit performance for Nuestra Alianza Family Resource Center of Willits, will be held at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, September 6 at 7 pm.

Musician Marcos Pereda and poet-musician Ricardo Stocker will be joined by vocalist Kristine Robin in a fundraiser for the nonprofit center that provides support services for local Hispanic residents, including: providing skills in employment, language, parenting, nutrition and physical health, along with academic skills for children, computer skills, curriculum writing, and public speaking. The performances will be in Spanish and English. WCT is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub) in Willits. Advance tickets for the benefit show are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com), or phone the WCT office at 459-0895 for credit card orders. Tickets are also available at the door.

**Sunday, September 7**

Bingo at the Senior Center: Sunday Bingo at the

Proud sponsors of Willits Weekly's color Calendar

**Caminiti's**  
707-459-1596  
24675 Birch St., Willits, CA  
[www.brooktrailslodge.com](http://www.brooktrailslodge.com)



Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Doors open at 10:30 am. Snack bar opens at 11 am. Games begin at 11:30 am. Bingo buy-in \$10. Info: 459-6826 or visit [www.willitseniorcenter.com](http://www.willitseniorcenter.com).

## Ongoing Events

**Willits Farmers Market:** Summer market at City Park, every Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. Tomatoes!, greens, onions, strawberries, watermelon,

summer squash, eggplant, cucumbers, peaches, local meats and fish, dinner, crafts, live music, and more.

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

**The Emandal Chorale:** this community chorus based in Willits is in its 20th season, and you are welcome to join! Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. No auditions necessary. The Chorale meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 711 East Commercial Street. "We sing songs from all around the world in four-part harmony. Come sing in a fun and supportive environment!"

**"Drawn Together,"** the August show at the Willits Center for the Arts, will display the works of 13 different artists, all showing work celebrating the human form. Runs through August 31. 711 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are 4 to 7 pm Thursdays and Fridays, and noon to 3 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Info: 459-1726.

**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



## New Online Meal Payment System available at WUSD schools

Willits schools are offering the mySchoolBucks.com online system that allows parents or guardians to make deposits into their students' school meal accounts. Money deposited into mySchoolBucks.com will usually arrive at the school by the next morning. mySchoolBucks.com allows you to check balances, review transaction history, and receive low balance alerts for no charge. A convenience fee may apply for payments to your student account(s). You will have the opportunity to review any fees (and cancel, if you choose) before you are charged.

You can set your low balance settings to remind you when it's time to add more money, or set up recurring payments so the system will automatically add money to the account when your balance reaches the threshold you set.

Visit [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) to sign up or for more information. Questions? email support@myschoolbucks.com or call 1-855-832-5226.

## Willits Area Students Back to School

Many of the new and returning Willits area students making their way Back to School this month!



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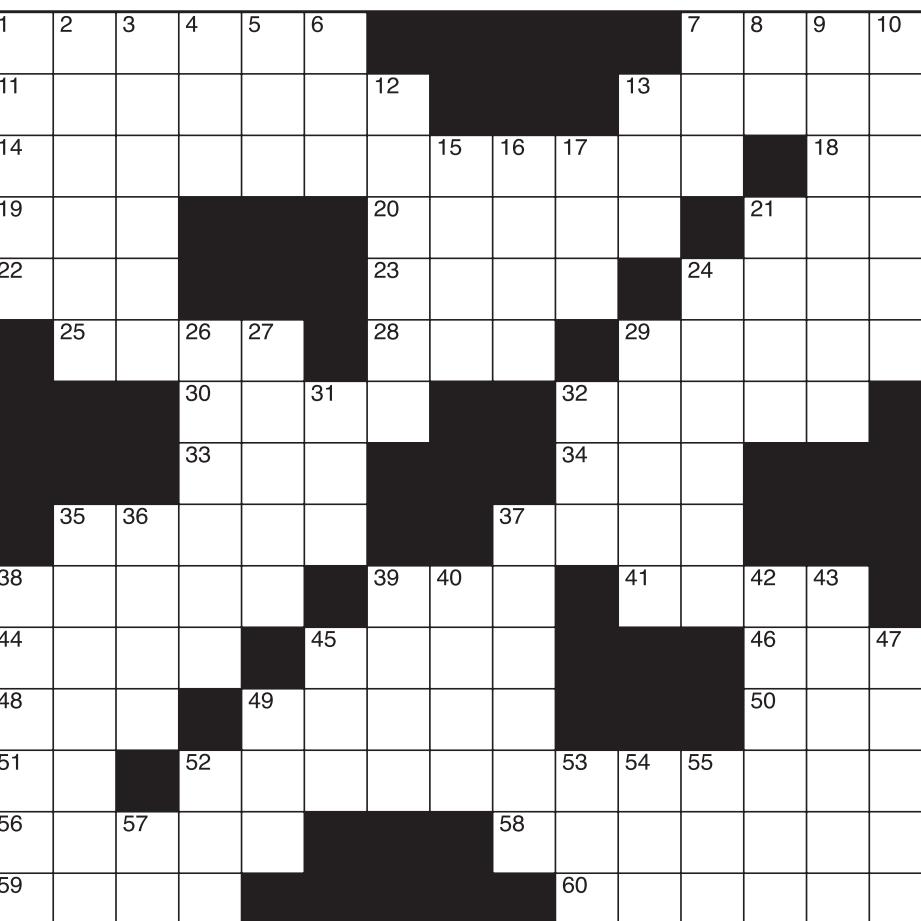
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## Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

### Crossword Puzzle



#### 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!

Level: Beginner

### In The Stars

#### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, exercise caution when expressing your needs. It can be difficult to stop when you are drumming up so much excitement. Now is not the time to take a risk.

#### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may have overextended yourself this week. You didn't realize you had taken on so much until it was too late, but there is still time to backtrack.

#### GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, committing to a daily routine can have a strong impact on your overall health. Consider tailoring a new routine for yourself, and you'll reap the healthy rewards.

#### CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, take things slow with a budding relationship this week. Cancer, you don't want to go too fast and find yourself in over your head. Let things develop gradually.

#### SCORPIO

Oct 22/Nov 22

Scorpio, only now do you realize how much you have on your plate. Think about postponing a getaway until your schedule is less packed and you can enjoy the trip even more.

#### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, on the side of caution with regard to spending this week, Libra. You have to save up for a bigger purchase that's on the horizon, so try to save as much as you can now.

#### AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you secretly enjoy when others come to you for advice. Think carefully before making any suggestions, and your friends will be more appreciative because of it.

#### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, now is the time to further your studies, Pisces. Figure out how to finance a return to school and make the most of the opportunity.

#### LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, carefully consider any offer that seems too good to be true this week. While the person making the offer is not ill-intentioned, you still must exercise caution.

#### SAGITTARIUS

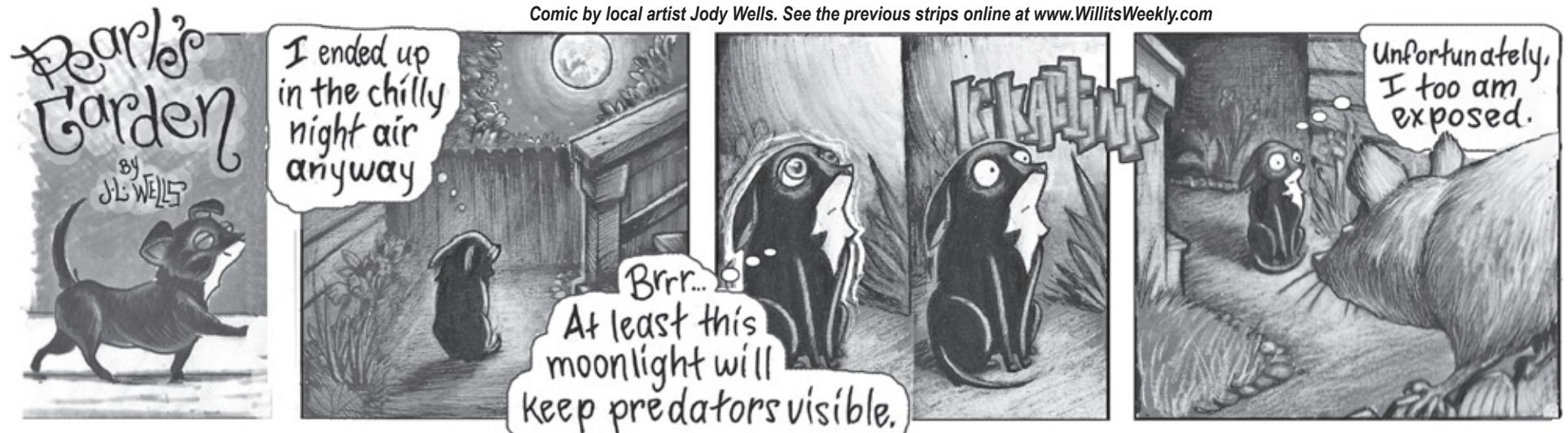
Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, turn work into play and things will move along that much more quickly. Split up the tasks at hand with a friend or colleague, and the week will fly by.

#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chafe
- 2. Taps
- 3. Wild llama
- 4. 1930 PA
- 5. East northeast
- 6. AKA consumption
- 7. U.S. capital
- 8. 51st Mexican civilization
- 9. Police radio monitors
- 10. Give advice, explain
- 11. Drab
- 12. Ancient Olympic Site
- 13. Gram molecule
- 14. Internet addiction disorder
- 15. Feline
- 16. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 17. Downwind
- 18. Brooding ill humor
- 19. Makes less intense
- 20. Repletes
- 21. Issue a challenge
- 22. Catchment areas
- 23. Languages of the Sulu islands
- 24. CNN's Turner
- 25. 31st Greek letter
- 26. Merchantable
- 27. Dismounted a horse
- 28. Reclining
- 29. More (Spanish)
- 30. Drilled
- 31. 45. Openly disparage
- 32. Political funding group
- 33. Tiny
- 34. Greatest common divisor
- 35. Piglet's best friend
- 36. Norse goddess of old age
- 37. Yellow-brown pigment
- 38. Merchantable
- 39. 47. More (Spanish)
- 40. Tobacco smoking residue
- 41. United
- 42. 57. 7th state

Comic by local artist Jody Wells. See the previous strips online at [www.WillitsWeekly.com](http://www.WillitsWeekly.com)



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Brussel Sprout

Hello, I am Brussel Sprout. I am a 1-year-old neutered male Terrier mix. I weigh just 13 pounds, so I will fit right into your lap. I like to cuddle and am easy to walk on a leash and, if I do say so myself, I am a playful fellow.

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

Photo by Sage Mountainfire



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**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](mailto:doriswier@embraceconflicts.com)

*Anonymous and Confidential!*

# Willits Weekly CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 2 weeks for 30 words!

**Algebra, Geometry  
SAT & ACT Test Prep**

**Community HU Song**

In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, August 28, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra that can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475 or visit [miraclesinyourlife.org](http://miraclesinyourlife.org).

**Computer Help**

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

**Concerts in Ukiah**

Ukiah Community Concert Association: bringing world class artists to area for reasonable prices. \$70 for 2014-15 season, 5 fabulous concerts, starting Sept. 23. Further info. Maggie Graham, Volunteer, 459-2305.

**Dog Training Classes  
Puppy & Level 1**

Tuesday Sept. 23 - Oct. 28, Level 1, from 5:30-6:30 pm or Puppy, from 6:45-7:45 pm. Willits Community Center, \$150 for six weeks. Info: [www.willmanneredmutts.com](http://www.willmanneredmutts.com) or Sallie: 463-3647. "Dogs must be current on vaccinations, especially Bordetella"

**For Rent**

Commercial Studio for rent. 400 sq. ft., centrally located, off-street parking. \$350 per month, utilities included. Call 707-354-2473.

**For Rent**

Office rentals in Willits for Holistic Practitioners. New workshop & event space. Cleaning/utilities included. \$500/month or \$250/2-3 days per week. Call 459-1840 or email [macmoving@gmail.com](mailto:macmoving@gmail.com).

**The Fruit Group**

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Freestone Peaches, Yellow or White & Freestone Nectarines, Yellow or White; 23-lb. field lug: \$25. Vine-opened tomatoes: 30-lb. Field lug: \$26. Bartlett pears \$21. Pluots \$25. Tomatoes \$26. Willits: Brenda 459-9335. Ukiah: Deanna: 391-7736. Potter & RV: Deanna: 391-7736. Ft. Bragg: Karen: 937-4664. Laytonville: Heather: 984-7430. Lakeport: Linda: 279-8840.

**Garage Sale**

Flat screen monitor, 1000 w. generator, hydraulic jack, picnic table, garden stuff, canned cat food, household items, lots of misc. Saturday, August 30 & Sunday, August 31, 10 am to 3 pm. 2420 Bear Place.

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A letter from ...

## The Principal of Grace Christian Academy

Richard Whipkey

**Help Wanted**  
Currently looking for owner operators and Class A drivers. F/T year-round work. Come by 400 North Lenore Avenue to fill out an application, Mon-Fri, 8 am to 5 pm.

**Help Wanted**  
Now accepting applications at Ardella's Downtown Diner for dishwashers, servers and cooks. Apply in person. No phone calls, please.

**Help Wanted**  
Willits Weekly is looking for a freelance photographer/reporter to do some community feature assignments. Experience a plus, but not necessary. Potential for more work, as Willits Weekly continues to grow. Call Jennifer at 459-2633 for more information.

**Multi-Family Garage Sale**  
Saturday, August 30, 8 am to Noon. 44 Hillside Drive - off Mill Creek Drive.

**Multi-Family Yard Sale**  
Redwood Avenue: annual multi-family yard sale. Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, August 31, 9 am to 1 pm.

**Room for Rent**  
Clean, quiet room, and private bath. Blackout thermal drapes. WiFi, cable. New mini-fridge. \$450/month. Includes utilities. No pets. 354-2520.

**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 webpage: [Zibergirl.com](http://Zibergirl.com). Ph: #707-367-6182 Willits

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
Volunteer Coordinator wanted to help organize and schedule groups and individuals participating in the Saturday Brown Bag Lunch Program for hungry people in Willits. Also looking for more groups. For more information, please call Jan at 707-841-7819.

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

**Zumba Kids**  
With Rachel Cash, at Studio Joy, 1262 Blossom Lane. Starts September 6. Ages 4 to 11 years are welcome. Class time: Saturdays 10:30-11:30 am. \$5 drop-in fee. Info: 707-354-0605.

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[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)**

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

the year. Circus arts will liven up the elementary school, with juggling, mimos and stilts and with students making their own stilts. Brian Maneely of Ukiah Players and Ukiah Circus Jam will teach students circus arts. "The Reluctant Dragon" will be the fall play this year.

In high school, bringing geometry to life will happen in a variety of ways. Tim Owen-Kennedy of Vital Systems will teach woodworking and clay, utilizing geometry in nature principles as well as the "Designing and Building with Nature" class. Archaeologist Chet Hardaker will teach artful geometry in "Landscape Arts." Other on-site specialties will include Mosaics, Collage, Herbal Arts, Readers Theater, Outdoor Adventure, and Computer Science Lab, as well as a Seabiscuit-era class and a Watershed Science Lab.

The Tuesday Tutoring program will be expanded to include a tutor in public places such as the library, and veteran math teacher and former superintendent Bob Harper will join the schools tutoring team in math. Jeff Simon of Mastery Learning Systems will be on hand at La Vida, teaching math with his very effective and humorous method to help students fill in gaps or build expertise.

The year will begin with all students taking a diagnostic test the first week. La Vida is piloting a new online diagnostic from Let's Go Learn for grades five through 12. Designed by a young educational technology team from Berkeley, Let's Go Learn will give detailed reports so that teachers will be able to make personalized assignments and suggest supplemental curriculum based on the student's level.

The MAP test, which La Vida has been using for years as the formative test in its triangulated assessment model, is also going through a change. La Vida is joining the California pilot of the test, with a new online version combined with a new Common Core aligned test. Supporting this shift to online testing, the school will be launching a new portable computer lab. The school purchased 20 new laptops with its Common Core money. Some of the laptops will be available for students to check out, for those meeting certain criteria.

Homeschooling parents will be working with new curriculum this year, primarily in math. Many parents have opted to use Singapore Math in the elementary grades. Triumph Learning and RightStart Math are two other options that are being piloted this year for the Common Core alignments. Junior high and high school students will be benefiting from the artificial intelligence online tutor from Carnegie Learning known as "MATHia" and Cognitive Tutor.

Teachers have done a variety of training over the summer, many through the Waldorf online classes or at Rudolph Steiner College. The faculty as a group is reading "A Beginner's Guide to Constructing the Universe: The Mathematical Archetypes of Nature, Art, and Science" by Michael Schneider, which will inform the program for the next two years.

The La Vida regular faculty for the 2014-15 year includes Cody Dooley Kinder, instructor; Barbara Last, grades 1-2; Emily Gibson, grades 3-4; Marta Wright, junior high; Karen Loyster, art; Michael Chames, music and movement. The high school includes Larry Cole, social studies and language arts; Craig Rohrbough and Andrew Miller in math; Karen Walsh, science; and Suzanne Fariss, independent study coordinator. The special ed team includes Marty Wolff, Michael Chames, and Craig Rohrbough.

High school and kindergarten through second grade orientations have already happened; orientation for grades three and four, and junior high will be August 29 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. The first day of school is September 2. There are openings in high school. For information, call 459-6344.

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

through science, art, drama, writing, mathematics, research, technology, or culinary experiences, each child will find many areas where they can succeed and excel.

One of my goals is to expand on the programs that are already in place as well as bring new programs to WCS. Partnerships have been developed with the community through a wide variety of enrichment courses, where you may find students selling baked goods at the Willits Farmers Market, learning about film at the Noyo Theatre, volunteering at the crafts fair, exhibiting their award-winning Science Fair projects, acting in our neighboring Willits Shakespeare Company, or attending classes at Mendocino College.

Each child has an experience that is tailored to meet their needs, desires and abilities, including students who are enrolled in our rigorous Independent Study program. Our students at WCS have the unique opportunity to work towards their AA degree at Mendocino College before they even graduate from high school, as our high schoolers can take both on and off site courses to achieve their college and career goals.

All of our credentialed teachers will be returning this year. Lead teacher Cristina Baltrop notes: "I've never worked in a school where 100% of teachers returned; it's so nice to know that we can pick up where we ended last year, rather than having to bring new staff up to speed. The best thing about having every single one of our teachers come back is that the kids already know our teachers and our teachers already know our kids."

In particular this year we are delighted to introduce a comprehensive visual arts program, taught bilingually by our Spanish teacher and core teachers. This program was developed by WECS staff (with support from a local artist) and is tailored to our WECS mission and philosophy.

Our garden, under the direction of Becky Button (credentialed teacher, master gardener, and Montessori trained), will continue to be a strong part of our program. Our garden serves many functions, primarily as an outdoor classroom. This year, we look forward to increasing our garden's yield and working with local gardeners to increase the amount of fresh, local produce our food program offers. WECS offers a hot brunch and lunch each day. We participate in the National Student Lunch Program to offer free and reduced-cost meals to qualifying children. These meals are prepared at the Willits Charter School and focus on whole grains, proteins, fresh fruits and vegetables.

WECS has a quality, low-cost before and after school program. Our after-school program coordinator recently completed a "Power Up" training, and she looks forward to implementing her new ideas. We will also offer other after-school enrichment programs for all interested WECS students, including guitar lessons, Dance Club, reading and math support, Science Club and more!

I want to sincerely thank everyone in the Willits community, as everyone contributes to the success of all students here in Willits. If you would like to submit an application to attend WCS, please call our office at 459-5506 or visit our website: [willitscharter.org](http://willitscharter.org). For regular updates, don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook at "Willits Charter School" and follow us on Twitter @willitscharter. We are a community.

WECS students and faculty are so grateful to the Mendocino County Museum and the Willits Library, and their staff, for their support and welcome. We look forward to another year of partnering with these neighbors, as well as regular visits to explore at Rec Grove and other field trip opportunities.

The WECS orientation on Thursday, August 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm will be a great time for new and returning student to visit the campus and get to know their teachers. School always begins the day after Labor Day. This year school starts on Tuesday, September 2, and classes are held from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm each day. Although our classes are currently full, we anticipate there may be openings once school starts; interested parents are encouraged to call 459-1400. We are excited about these new changes and look forward to the new academic year!

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Willits Weekly | August 28, 2014

**Far left: Willits Daily Bread's Cindy Savage holds cans of corn.**  
Photo by Maureen Moore

**At left: CY, Sally and Michael Joy in the kitchen.**  
CY says: "I come to Willits Daily Bread on a regular basis. I find that the meals are very nutritional and that the staff is very welcoming and warm-hearted. I feel blessed to have the Daily Bread open their doors to many of us that are hungry. We are very grateful for Cindy and Sally's love and support to those that come to the Willits Daily Bread dining hall."



**Below left:**

Mother Samantha Tressler with kids Kamren, Kadin, Chloe, and Samuel White, and friends Justin Degeorge and Antony Luca.

**Below right:**

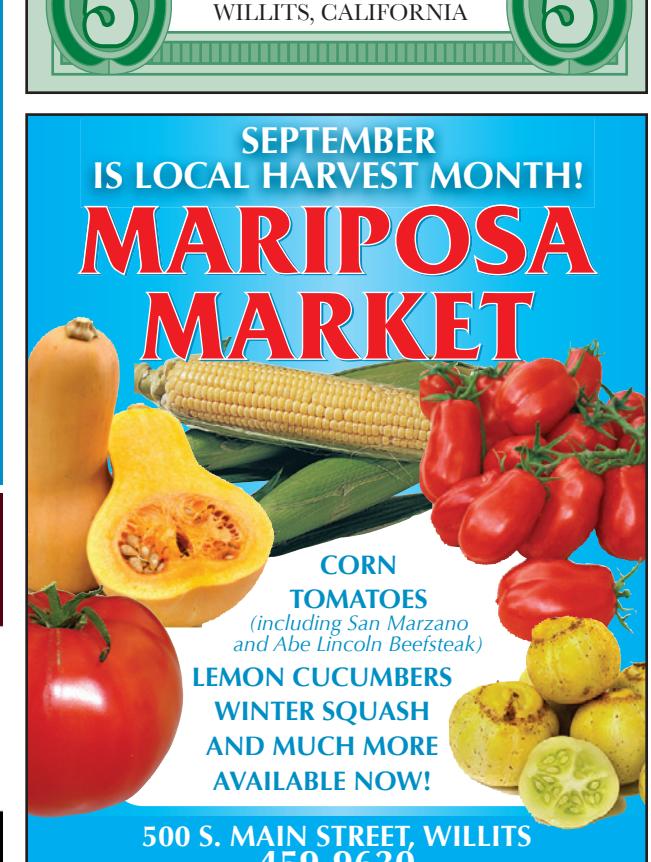
Ricky, Shawn, Osiris, and Alohilani Flynn with mom, Tiffany Flynn, and grandma, Yvonne Hatch. Tiffany says: "Willits Daily Bread means survival, life, and nutritious meals for us every week. We love to come here and feel a sense of community. It's nice to have a place to be where we are wanted and welcome. To see everyone come and sit together from so many different backgrounds of life and know we all will survive another night. No matter what or where home is to us, we can always find a sense of home here."

**Bottom left:**

Christina Ball with her granddaughter Kaylee Lawson and friend Bob Casey at Willits Daily Bread in July 2014. Christina told us that 20 years ago she brought her daughter, Amber Thurman (Kaylee's mother), when she was 4, the same age that Kaylee is now. Twenty years later, the need is still here, and thankfully so is Willits Daily Bread.

**Bottom right:**

JJ, Joli, Kiki, Achailles, and Eli, along with mom, Tashina Tillman. This family came a bit late, and we were already mopping the floors, so they were very happy to eat their meal outside on the steps.



**Who's ready for Senior Photos?**  
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Willits Weekly | August 28, 2014

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## Traditional Salsa Fresca

This recipe comes from the beautiful book, "Secrets of Salsa: A Bilingual Cookbook by the Mexican Women of Anderson Valley." This collection of 31 family heirloom salsa recipes was first published in 2002, as a fundraiser for the Anderson Valley Adult School. The book, now in its 10th anniversary edition, is available for purchase at [www.secretsofsalsa.com](http://www.secretsofsalsa.com).

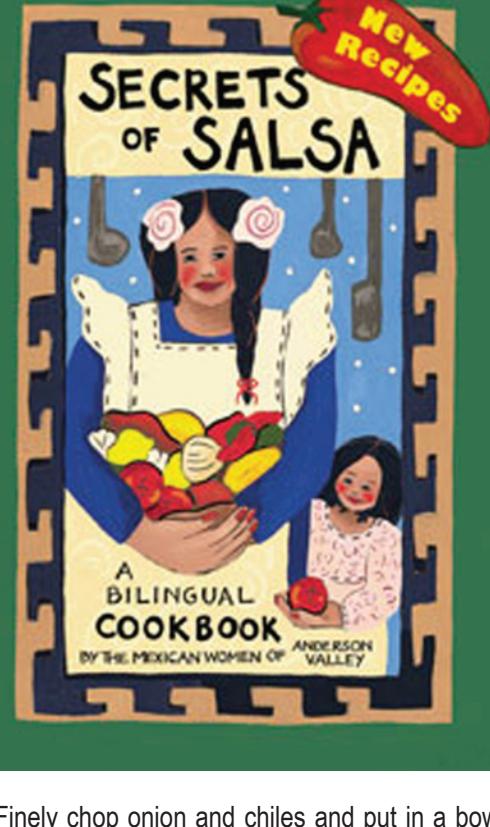
This recipe, one of the "mild/medium" salsas, was contributed by Maria Elena Mendoza.

It's simple to make, though it does require a bit of chopping. Try adding tomatillos, cut into small pieces; they are sweet, so you can skip the sugar if desired. I use only a pinch of salt, and I use jalapenos if I don't have serranos on hand (take out seeds and ribs if you're cautious about heat). You can use any kind of tomatoes, although the Romas called for are good because they stand up well, and they have less juice than some varieties. If you've got it, cilantro freshly cut from the garden is the best.

- Jennifer Poole

5 Roma tomatoes  
1/2 onion  
Juice of 1 lime  
2-3 serrano chiles  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1/2 bunch cilantro, finely chopped  
1 teaspoon salt

Finely chop onion and chiles and put in a bowl. Add lime juice, sugar, salt and finely chopped cilantro. Dice the tomatoes very finely (discard any juice), and add to mixture just before serving. Tomatoes should always be added last as the salt draws out the juice. This salsa should be eaten soon after being prepared.



COLUMN | Garden Time

## Fall vegetable planting

There are quite a few hardy vegetables that do well in this area that can be planted in September. These plants can be started at home in flats or purchased from local nurseries ready to set out: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Collards, Tree Collards, Walking Stick Kale, Kale, Swiss Chard, Lettuce and Beets. Beets can be sown directly in the ground. Soaking the seeds overnight will speed germination. Also soak chard seed.

Devi Doree Chase  
Columnist

Both Beets and Chard are subject to infestations of "leaf miners," which tunnel their way through the layers of the leaf's epidermis, eating the chloroplasts and leaving white trails through the leaves. This insect can ruin a crop of Chard or Beet greens.

Prevention is best, because once the eggs are laid by mother leaf miners and mother aphids, a gardener vs. insect battle begins. Keep Chard and Beet plants covered with Reemay cloth all the time except, of course, when harvesting. Dispose of any damaged leaves in the garbage. Reemay lets in both rain and sun and is so light in weight that when loosely laid over the plants, edges covered with stones, the plants lift the loose Reemay as they grow.

In 1972 a fall and winter garden was grown by school children in Fairfax, California. It turned out to be the coldest winter in 120 years, yet nothing died in spite of the dire warnings of old timers. The secret was rich soil and deep hay mulch, even romaine lettuce survived, as did cabbage family plants and root vegetables. Children eagerly ate the vegetables they had grown.

When mulching winter vegetables, a light sprinkling of Slugs or Es-cargo under and around the mulch will protect the plants from snails and slugs. Repair after heavy rain. Avoid the extra-strength Es-cargo because it also kills insects on the ground. These insects are the decomposers that also turn compost into soil.

The fall vegetables will not require bees, but bees will still require food. Asters and other perennials will help them. Native California wildflowers and many others can be sown in fall for early spring growth. Many kinds of seeds grow better after being frozen. Small birds enjoy the seeds of the now bedraggled bachelor buttons, so they can be left. Bird seed feeders are now not being recommended, but leaving flowers and plants to go to seed for birds to find is a good thing. Birds need energy for long migrations.

A goldfinch once landed on a sail boat out in the Pacific, 1,500 miles from land. It perched on a sailor's coffee cup while watching the mainsail for insects trapped against the canvas, which it quickly ate up. After about an hour, this fearless, resourceful fellow flew on his way. Twenty-five percent of once-common birds are now endangered. Birds will likely eat a few bites of salad too, as well as insects. Welcome them.

Broccoli will produce one main head, then many side shoots, which can be snipped all winter long for salad, steaming and stir fry. The winter cold improves the flavor of cabbage-related plants, so this is the very best time to grow them.

If adults remember not liking these vegetables as children, it is very likely that they were served over-cooked, which does indeed make them smelly and quite awful. Try again and offer them

to children, too: lots of children really do eat them.

These plants do well in rich, well-drained soil and because they produce for many months, sometimes years, they need food. Compost deeply dug will serve. The Tree Collards and Walking Stick Kale will keep producing for two or three years or more, as side branches touch the ground and root. Give them space to do this.

Fall and early winter, as well as early spring, is a good time to plant the many types of "greens." Pick and snip often for salads and soups as well as steaming. Here are a few: Mustard greens, Turnip greens, Beet greens, Spinach, Radish tops, Napa cabbage, Bok Choy, Chard and many more. The red Russian Kale is quite mild; some are not.

When saving seed from your non-hybrid vegetables use this hint: The very first radish, beet or other root that produces a fat root is the plant whose seeds you should save. The very last leafy vegetable to go to seed is the plant whose seed you should save. You will develop a strong seed base.

A year-round continuing garden of flowers and vegetables for every season can be a balanced habitat and home to many beneficial animals and insects. Toads, Pacific Tree frogs, gopher snakes and garter snakes, and birds are some of the helpful animals; also spiders, butterflies, ladybugs, cicada, preying mantises, green lacewings, and soldier beetles. All of these things fascinate children, and a garden is the best place to learn about them. In addition to nature study, there are chances for children to learn math, ecology, Earth Science, composting, cooking, health and, of course, a sense of gratitude and the feeling of oneness with nature.

### Bees Reprised

In case, my first column about bees was not seen, here is a review: In 2013 the United States lost 30 percent of the honey bee hives due to bee-pollinated crops being sprayed with insecticides containing "neonics" and from seed being treated with this powerful chemical. If a bee visits a plant sprayed with "neonics," it will become so disoriented that it will be unable to find its way back home and it will die. This is also true for bees who visit plants grown from seed treated with this systemic poison.

This product is sprayed on most food crops in this country, including wine grapes. If it kills bees, it cannot be healthy for humans either. Perhaps people just die more slowly. The Environmental Protection Agency needs to do its job and ban the use of neonics on bee-pollinated crops. This government organization can be reminded of its responsibility. Consumers can refuse to buy chemical insecticides and treated seeds. There will be serious global consequences if this bee die-off continues.

Having bee-loving herbs and flowers growing along with vegetables is not a style of gardening. It is a moral responsibility indicating that the health of the children of the future is being considered, for without bees a third of the world's food crops would be gone. Think, no fruit! For these reasons, do not be tempted to buy insecticides, treated seeds, or GMO seed, and do plant Borage and Asters and other bee favorites.

Devi Doree Chase has been gardening since 1941.



**Weekly Promotions for September**

**SUNDAYS – Sunday Funday**  
Earn and Receive begins at 3:00 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m.  
Earn 150 points, receive \$10 Free Play  
Random Hot Seat Drawings: 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. for \$25 Cash

**MONDAYS – Rooster & Owls**  
Morning Session: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 9, 10, 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.  
Evening Session: 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 7, 8, 9 and 10 p.m.  
May win once per promotion day!  
For both Morning and Evening sessions: Play 50 coin-in, receive \$5 Freeplay and a \$2.00 Food Coupon

**TUESDAYS – Guys Night**  
6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.  
Play 50 coin-in, receive \$5 Freeplay.  
Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6-9:30 p.m. for \$25 Cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

**WEDNESDAYS – Ladies Night**  
6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.  
Play 50 coin-in, receive \$5 Freeplay.  
Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6-9:30 p.m. for \$25 Cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

**THURSDAYS – Super Senior Day**  
The Senior Freestyle will be preloaded to the Players Club Card.  
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawings each hour. Winners receive \$40 Cash.  
Half off lunch coupon for those participating. Specials posted at Creekside Café.  
11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Lunch hours.

**FRIDAYS – Super Plinko**  
11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.: Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. Winner will get a chance to play Plinko for a chance to win \$25-\$200 Cash!

**JEEP GIVEAWAY**  
Drawing: Saturday, September 27 after 9:00 p.m.

Use your club card, July 1-September 27, to earn drawing tickets. Every 100 points = 1 drawing ticket for a chance to win a qualifying entry into the Jeep Giveaway. Redeem tickets at Players Club Booth. Tickets must be in the drawing barrel before the 10:00 p.m. ticket drawing. Each Saturday, Random Hot Seat Drawings: 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. for \$50 Cash. Qualifying entry drawing at 10:00 p.m. will be drawn from the ticket barrel. Saturday, September 27, at 9:00 p.m., 3 additional drawings (from the ticket barrel) for qualifying entry into the Jeep Giveaway. Must redeem daily.

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Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:00pm

Movie Times for 8/29 thru 9/4

**THE GIVER**  
**THE GIVER**  
(PG13) 1 hr 37 mins  
Fri: 3:45, 6:00 & 8:15pm  
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 3:45, 6:00 & 8:15pm  
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:15pm

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

**LUCY**  
**LUCY**  
(R) 1 hr 29 mins  
Fri: 3:15 & 8:30pm  
Sat/Sun: 1:15, 3:15 & 8:30pm  
Mon-Thurs: 7:30pm



**BOYHOOD**  
**BOYHOOD**  
(R) 2 hrs 45 mins  
Fri-Sun: 5:15pm  
Mon-Thurs: 4:15pm

