

Please help

To the Editor:
It is important for us to continue to learn about what to do when we are being bullied at school or when we see someone being bullied. October 6 is National Bullying Prevention Day. We are supposed to wear blue.

We are raising money to get Michael Pritchard to speak at our school, Blosser Lane Elementary School. Michael Pritchard does school assemblies on bullying prevention. We need to raise \$1,650 and are asking for your help.

If we are able to get 16 people to donate \$100, and 1 person to donate \$50 we will be able to raise this money. Please let us know if you are willing to donate as much money as you can by writing a check to Blosser Lane PTO, Blosser Lane Elementary School, 1275 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490, by September 21.

You will really help us out if you donate. If you can run our letter about this in the newspaper, it would help us as well. For questions, please call our mom, Deb, at 354-4687. She is helping us organize this project. Thank you.

Olivia, Sydney and Jacob Kubin, Willits

Farm School Picnic

To the Editor:
The Grange Farm School Apple Pressing and Picnic was a completely memorable and really fun event last Sunday!

A 100-year-old apple orchard is located on the Ridgewood Ranch, who has graciously leased it to the California State Grange Center of Sustainable Agriculture for teaching new farmers from the Farm School's on-site methodology. What a lovely spot!

Sitting under leafy laden apple trees while eating delicious potluck food was more wonderful than I can say.

We worked with a cornucopia of apples: I believe we pressed about 30 gallons of cider from the partial harvest to date.

There were folks of all generations working shoulder to shoulder just like in old-time harvest paintings; we chopped apples and squeezed cider, drinking it fresh from the spout, and taking jugs home to share.

Crafts and games and creating a T-shirt design was part of the fun.

Thank you to the Farmers Market Band for their down-home music selections. Thanks to all the volunteers that made the day possible; a huge shout-out to David Partch and Richard Jeske for their generous loan of cider presses and equipment; and a special thanks to Ruthie King, farm manager, for organizing it all.

I hope that it becomes an annual event so that more people can participate next time!

The Farm School can use more help to teach our next generation of farmers. There are work days every week, and you can learn by doing. You can see more at their website & donate too: www.grangefarmschool.org.

Thanks, Farm School.

Annie Waters, Willits

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.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Banned Books Week

To the Editor:
Throughout the country, most children are starting a new academic year. Teachers are sending out their lists of required readings, and parents are beginning to gather books. In some cases, classics like "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "The Catcher in the Rye," and "To Kill a Mocking Bird," may not be included in curriculum or available in the school library due to challenges made by parents or administrators.

Since 1990, the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom has recorded more than 10,000 book challenges. A challenge is a formal, written complaint requesting a book be removed from library shelves or school curriculum. About three out of four of all challenges are to material in schools or school libraries, and one in four are to material in public libraries. The Office for Intellectual Freedom estimates that less than one-quarter of challenges are reported and recorded.

It is thanks to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, and students that most challenges are unsuccessful and reading materials like "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "Slaughterhouse Five," the "Harry Potter" series, and Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's "Alice" series, remain available.

The most challenged and/or restricted reading materials have been books for children. However, challenges are not simply an expression of a point of view; on the contrary, they are an attempt to remove materials from public use, thereby restricting the access of others. Even if the motivation to ban or challenge a book is well intentioned, the outcome is detrimental. Censorship denies our freedom as individuals to choose and think for ourselves. For children, decisions about what books to read should be made by the people who know them best – their parents!

In support of the right to choose books freely for ourselves, the American Library Association and Willits Branch Library are celebrating Banned Books Week, September 21-27, an annual reminder of our right to access books without censorship. This year's observance commemorates the most basic freedom in a democratic society – the freedom to read freely – and encourages us not to take this freedom for granted.

Since its inception in 1982, Banned Books Week has reminded us that while not every book is intended for every reader, each of us has the right to decide for ourselves what to read, listen to or view. Willits Branch Library and thousands of libraries and bookstores across the country will celebrate the freedom to read by showcasing books that have been banned or threatened.

American libraries are the cornerstones of our democracy. Libraries are for everyone, everywhere. Because libraries provide free access to a world of information, they bring opportunity to all people. Now, more than ever, celebrate the freedom to read @ your library! Read an old favorite or a new banned book this week. (letter adapted with permission from the Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association.)

Anne Shirako, branch librarian, Willits Library

New mission for Caltrans

Caltrans today announced a new department-wide mission, vision and goals as part of its ongoing efforts to modernize operations and improve performance and accountability across California.

"Adopting a new mission, vision and goals is a critical step toward aligning Caltrans with state transportation planning and policy goals and better serving all Californians," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "This key change helps focus everyone at Caltrans on improved department performance, employee accountability and communications. The next step will be to set specific performance metrics to communicate honestly and transparently about our progress in meeting our goals."

In coordination with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and on the heels of an external review that called for bold reforms and a more modern department, Caltrans crafted a new mission and vision that is fully consistent with California's planning and policy objectives. Caltrans' old mission was to "improve mobility," which did not capture state efforts to clean up the environment, improve quality of life and strengthen California's economy.

Mission: Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability

Vision: A performance-driven, transparent and accountable organization that values its people, resources and partners, and meets new challenges through leadership, innovation and teamwork

"Caltrans is embracing reform and transforming into a modern transportation agency, equipped to handle today's challenges and those of tomorrow," said CalSTA Secretary Brian P. Kelly in a recent letter notifying the California State Legislature of the new mission at Caltrans. "Next, we will develop new performance measures, which will objectively measure progress toward achieving our goal of transforming into the transportation department we envision for the future."

In order to achieve this mission and vision and give Californians the most efficient transportation system possible, Caltrans also laid out five new goals:

Safety And Health: Provide a safe transportation system for workers and users, and promote health through active transportation and reduced pollution in communities.

Stewardship And Efficiency: Money counts. Responsibly manage California's transportation-related assets.

Sustainability, Livability and Economy: Make long-lasting, smart mobility decisions that improve the environment, support a vibrant economy, and build communities, not sprawl.

System Performance: Utilize leadership, collaboration and strategic partnerships to develop an integrated transportation system that provides reliable and accessible mobility for travelers.

Organizational Excellence: Be a national leader in delivering quality service through excellent employee performance, public communication, and accountability.

Adopting a new mission, vision and goals for Caltrans concludes the department's implementation of four "early action" recommendations made by the State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI) in January, when it called for bold reform and a more modern department:

- Develop a new mission consistent with state planning and policy goals;
- Organize teams to develop implementation plans;
- Work toward successful implementation of SB 743; and
- Modernize state transportation design guidance.

Caltrans will now work with the CalSTA to develop new performance measures, which will objectively measure progress toward achieving state goals.

Here is a link to the SSTI review published in January: http://calsta.ca.gov/res/docs/pdfs/2013/SSTI_Independent%20Caltrans%20Review%201.28.14.pdf.

Here is a description of the new street design guidelines to promote biking and walking: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/paffairs/news/pressrel/14pr036.htm>.

Caltrans Headquarters, Sacramento

Joens-Poulton withdraws

To the Editor:
After much reflection and thoughtful deliberation, I have decided to not engage in an active campaign for the office of Mendocino County superintendent of schools.

My experience since last March, when I decided to run for county superintendent of schools, has been remarkable. It has provided me an opportunity to see our county and the communities within it from a new vantage point.

I have had the opportunity to meet many incredible people who care deeply for their communities and the future of public education, which has truly been a gift. My breadth and depth of knowledge surrounding educational issues has grown through this experience, preparing me to better serve our students.

With this heightened perspective, I have to be realistic about the immediate challenges that face education and the responsibilities of the Mendocino County Office of Education. As many of you know, county offices are going through tremendous change as a result of new legal requirements, new funding formulas, and varying roles for our local school districts.

With all of this in mind, I cannot in good conscience take time away from my work to pursue a political campaign. I also feel very strongly that the position of county superintendent should not be politicized and it should not be partisan.

I have spoken with Warren Galletti [candidate for superintendent of schools who came in first in the June primary, qualifying for the November runoff with Joens-Poulton] and have informed him of my decision. My name will remain on the ballot, and I will wholeheartedly take the office of county superintendent should I be elected.

However, my overall commitment is to the ongoing success of the office, and with that in mind, I also look forward to working together with Mr. Galletti should he be elected. My dedication and commitment to MCOE, specifically the Educational Services Division, remains unchanged. I look forward to contributing to the efforts by MCOE to support school districts, and students in Mendocino County.

Paul Joens-Poulton, former candidate for superintendent of schools

War strategy

To the Editor:
On the 13th anniversary of 9/11, our nation once again honored lives lost, gave thanks to our brave first responders and reflected on lessons learned from that terrible day. I'm proud of the unity and resolve our country demonstrated in response to 9/11 and grateful that we are better prepared to prevent terrorist attacks.

I'm also mindful of mistakes we made in seeking to address security threats in the wake of 9/11 – most notably, the disastrous Iraq war which cost us dearly in blood and treasure and did not make us safer. Today the world is more turbulent and dangerous than at any time since the Cold War. Protecting our national interests and keeping Americans safe requires that we be smart, not just tough. We must learn from past mistakes.

I listened carefully Wednesday night last week as President Barack Obama outlined his strategy for confronting ISIL. I agree with the president that ISIL is a brutal terrorist group that poses a threat to the Middle East and aspires to be more than a regional menace. I share his desire to destroy this group.

However, I believe the strategy outlined by the president – bombing in Iraq and Syria, supporting Kurdish and Iraqi partners on the ground, and recruiting, vetting and arming moderate Syrian rebels – falls short in several key respects.

First, we must restore the constitutional safeguard of war being authorized by Congress. President Obama should obtain congressional authorization – not just to recruit and train Syrian fighters but for the entirety of what has been described as an intense, multi-year military intervention: a war. Because prior Congresses in the wake of 9/11 granted very broad authorizations to use military force, the President may not technically need a new one.

Read the rest of Letters | Over on Page 11



Above: A pink Zinnia in the Emandal garden.
Photo by Mark Bello

Above, right: Don Willis leads the Emandal Chorale in water-themed songs.

Center, left: Judges Tom Woodhouse, Tom Allman, and Jenny Watts studiously examine the apple pie entries; center right: the ballot box for the "People's Choice Award" sits next to prizes for the contest winners: engraved vintage rolling pins.

Photos by Kate Maxwell

Below, from left to right: Emandal owner Tamara Adams and judges announce apple pie winners, including Spring Senerchia, right, with her kids

Photo by Mark Bello

Emcee Mayor Holly Madrigal introduces Congressman Jared Huffman; a decorative entrance to the Emandal gardens.

At bottom, left: The eager crowd lines up for the pie tasting; right: headliner Juni Fisher performs.

Photos by Kate Maxwell



Cowboys, Poetry & Apple Pie at Emandal Farm

the headline act for the 4th Annual Not Just Cowboy Poetry celebration and "Apple Pie Throwdown."

The multigenerational crowd gathered beneath the farm's orchard to watch Jim and Karen Ross perform cowboy poetry, both originals and classics, before Fisher, award-winning Western entertainer, took the stage.

Visitors to Emandal – a more than century old farm on the banks of the Eel – came from as far away as Manhattan Beach and included first-timer Congressman Jared Huffman, who brought his family along on vacation.

Attendees enjoyed a range of Western performances during the event, which raised donations for the Willits Public Library, Willits Daily Bread, and the Harrah Senior Center. Willits Mayor and candidate for 3rd District supervisor Holly Madrigal emceed the entertainment over the afternoon, introducing open mic performances by locals Jim Cardwell, Amy Porter, musical duo Twining Time (John Wagenet/Anita Blu), French cowboy tunes sung by Michael Charnes, and a Western dance performed by Jenna Byrne and Melinda Clark.

The barn-shaped stage served as the perfect backdrop to the cowboy songs and was constructed by Emandal staff, who also aided in event preparation.

The Emandal Chorale, led by director Don Willis, performed several drought-inspired and water-themed songs.

Headliner Fisher treated the crowd to two sets, mixed with anecdotes and comedic asides, at one point asking "what's an event in Mendocino without a ukulele?," before taking hers out as accompaniment to several songs.

Husband and wife team Jim and Karen Ross won many laughs and much applause with their lengthy recitations of poetry. "There are two versions of cowboy poetry," said Karen Ross before the performance, "one that is

Read the rest of **Emandal** | Over on Page 13



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(PG) 1 hr 47 mins
Friday: 6:15 & 8:30pm
Sat/Sun: 11:30am, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15 & 8:30pm
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WHEN THE GAME STANDS TALL

(PG) 1 hr 55 mins
Fri: 5:30pm
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All Tickets: \$5.00

GET ON UP

(PG13)
2 hrs 19 mins
Fri: 8:00pm
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Movie Times for 9/19 thru 9/25 This Week's Tigtwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

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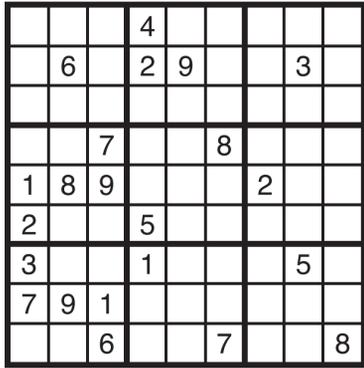
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Sudoku



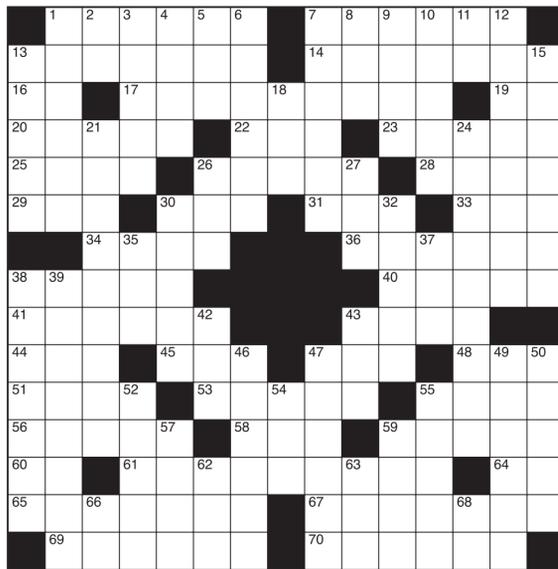
Level: Intermediate



How To Sudoku:

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

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Locates by tracking
- Rail transport charge
- Asserted
- Obstetrics (abbr.)
- Type of puzzle
- Of I
- Strongboxes
- Mow grass
- Passover feast
- Makes a mistake
- Gambling blocks
- Saint Filippo
- Dental organization
- Spigot
- Van Winkle
- Spanish hero El ___
- Chinese weight unit = 1.3 oz
- Flightless birds
- Comb-plate organ
- TV awards
- Infuse with air
- Earthen hollow
- Took part in a race
- Kids' musician Palmer
- Process a hide

- Audacity
- 8th-century B.C. prophet
- Mocks
- Animal pouch
- Brotherly
- Metric linear unit
- Decalitre
- Title of respect
- Choppers
- Encomium
- Coin collector group
- Tobacco mosaic virus
- Capital of Wales
- A single tear
- Ingest
- Feline
- Adding machine inventor
- Cultivable land
- Musician groups
- Abounds
- Central processing unit
- Yemen capital
- Cough up
- Impudence
- Frozen water
- Garching astronomy org.
- Egyptian sun god
- Immunoglobulin (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- Knights' garment
- Are You? in texting
- Moose genus
- Rail vehicles
- Self-importance
- Send again
- Twain's Tom
- Macao monetary unit
- One minus a cosine (trig.)
- "As You Like It" forest
- "My Turn" author's initials

In The Stars

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you can have all of the inspiration in the world, but without some practical application, your idea will stall. Spend some time thinking things through.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

You are torn between two choices, Taurus. Family matters are on one side, and work responsibilities are on the other. It may take a few days to work out a decision.

GEMINI

May 22/Jan 21

Gemini, it's difficult to contain all of your enthusiasm, so share your excitement and happiness with others. Try tackling some other people's projects.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you will be front and center in the days to come. Don't be nervous, as you're fully capable of handling the extra attention. Enjoy the spotlight while it lasts.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you will be full of energy this week. Use this energy and enthusiasm to your advantage, tackling projects you have let go unfinished but want to get done.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, immerse yourself in activities that put you first over the next few days. Whether it's a date or simply alone time, enjoy it and start tending to your needs.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, getting back into the swing of things after a long vacation can be challenging. But you will have no problem getting back into a groove and getting all of your work done.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Try turning something you enjoy doing for fun into a career, Scorpio. Loving what you get paid to do is a key to a happy life, so figure out a way to make that happen.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you may be adept at finding an easy way around a difficult thing, but sometimes taking the hard road offers good life lessons along the way.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Family needs take precedence over your obligations at work, Capricorn. Higher-ups will just have to be patient if they want to keep you on as an employee.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, everyone expects you to provide advice, but this week you may be in need of guidance. It could be because you have been tackling so many projects lately.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Few things escape your attention, Pisces. However, this week you can expect to be happily surprised by good news.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS: SEPTEMBER 14, Robert Herjavec, Billionaire (51); SEPTEMBER 15, Oliver Stone, Director (68); SEPTEMBER 16, Amy Poehler, Comic Actress (43); SEPTEMBER 17, Nate Berkus, Designer (43); SEPTEMBER 18, James Marsden, Actor (41); SEPTEMBER 19, Jimmy Fallon, TV Host (40); and SEPTEMBER 20, Phillip Phillips, Singer (24).

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home
Big Stubbs
Photo by Sage Mountainfire
If big dogs are "your cup of tea," Stubbs is the guy for you! Weighing in at 98 pounds, he is fit and would make a great walking partner. He is a neutered male Rhodesian Ridgeback mix with a stubby tail, so the cup of tea you place on your coffee table is safe from his wagging tail! He also loves to cuddle on the couch so a pal while you watch TV is also a possibility.
Please come and meet this great dog at the Ukiah Shelter. The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. We have many other wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here as well. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter. For more information about adoption please call 463-4654.

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Dr. Dawson will be joining William Bowen, M.D., and Jonathan Linthicum, M.D.

Dr. Dawson graduated from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA. As a general orthopedic surgeon, he specializes in total joint replacement of the hip, shoulder and knee, shoulder and knee arthroscopy, fracture care, rotator cuff and meniscal tears, carpal tunnel and cubital tunnel.

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containment of the blaze.

Regional fire crews that responded to an initial call for immediate mutual aid have returned to their stations or to other wildfires, and residents who had faced evacuation orders in Redwood and Potter Valley have been able to return home. A few CalFire personnel remain to "continue patrol operations" and conclude the demobilization and cleanup effort.

Despite an emergency response by regional crews when the fire first started, there wasn't enough time to protect several residences already aflame.

"We did witness a couple structures burn we weren't able to save," said Little Lake Protection District Training Chief Chris Wilkes who, along with three other Little Lake personnel and one Type III engine (5468), was part of the immediate-need mutual aid teams requested by CalFire incident commander Battalion Chief Tod Patten.

"When we first got there, the house next door to us burned," explained Wilkes, while the crew was first beginning structure protections.

Emergency broadcast system alerts on local TV and radio stations and reverse 911 calls went out right away, requesting residents evacuate immediately and asking additional traffic to avoid the area. The Sheriff's Office also went door-to-door in accessible areas, asking residents to report to the emergency shelter established at Eagle Point Middle School in Redwood Valley and provide contact information as a way for law enforcement to improve communication with potential evacuees and concerned relatives.

The Sheriff's Office is planning to purchase an improved emergency response call system soon, which will include self-selected notifications for family members.

According to Tami Bartolomei, program director for the Mendocino Office of Emergency Services, many evacuees were unable to bring their animals, but no reports of injuries to livestock or pets have been reported.

Bartolomei said she knew of seven people who visited the shelter and four who spent the night. Arrangements were made by the county animal shelter in Ukiah to house animals, and locals - including Parducci Vineyard - offered pens for livestock. It is not known if they were utilized.

The fire grew rapidly the first afternoon, destroying five residences. By Sunday morning, it had burned 150 acres and was 30 percent contained.

"It seems we never get to fight fire on flat ground, and this was pretty steep," says Wilkes, who noted the fire, which burned at high temperatures due to extremely dry fuels and erratic winds, was "fairly dynamic for our area."

By Sunday morning, road closures covered Black Bart Trail East to Black Bart Trail West, and both Horseshoe Circles at Potter Valley, and evacuations extended to Potter Valley.

Brooktrails Fire Department also responded, sending Engine 5285 and three personnel, who were requested for the in-unit mutual aid "initial zone response." "We're always on the ready, any moment," says Brooktrails Deputy Chief Jon Noyer. Both the Brooktrails crew and Little Lake Fire Department were given immediate assignments that included structure containment, as well as putting out hot spots, laying hoses, and water shuttling.

By midday Sunday, a shift later, both crews were able to return to their stations after CalFire strike crews from around the state arrived to assist in the battle.

"Sunday afternoon was definitely our most challenging time," recalled Mendocino Unit District Chief Chris Rowney. Fire crews used water from hydrants run by the Redwood Valley Water District, drew water from the Russian River, and employed fuel retardants sprayed from aircraft onto the blaze.

At its peak, the fire suppression effort ultimately totaled 50 engines, 16 crews, eight bulldozers, two helicopters, seven water tenders, and 499 personnel from more than 15 different agencies (listed below), with resources drawn from around the state.

On Sunday the fire threatened up to 25 structures and consumed an additional six outbuildings. Three local and CalFire firefighters sustained injuries, including minor heat injuries, minor burns, and a contusion.

The fire also overtook three vehicles on Saturday; an engine from Redwood Valley, one from Ukiah, and a CalFire utility vehicle truck. One truck and an engine were destroyed, and the other engine suffered significant damages in an incident that has been reported in the regional press as involving trapped personnel forced to abandon their vehicles. Circumstances are still officially under investigation.

By Sunday evening, most people were able to return; containment was 50 percent; power was restored to all 81 customers who went dark the prior evening; the shelter closed; and mutual aid crews began to be sent away.

No structures are currently threatened; all evacuation orders and mutual aid ended early Monday; all roads are open; and CalFire has officially declared the fire contained.

The initial cause of the fire remains under CalFire investigation, while rumors circulate online and among community members about suspicious activity.

The agency has its own law enforcement agents and the authority to conduct its own investigations; CalFire can request Sheriff's Office assistance, but that has not yet occurred.

Rowney said that "while most of the work is completed, there are some ongoing elements to the investigation" still being considered. Results will be made public, as "there will be a high level of interest," he said, and residents impacted by the fires will need to make insurance property claims.

"Fighting fires is only a piece of these events," Rowney noted. "Then there are the insurance claims and costs of recovery that affect a large number of people."

Rowney, Wilkes, and Noyer all agree that with "record low levels" of moisture in fuels due to the extreme drought, it will take significant amounts of rainfall before fire alert levels drop.

Wildfires continue to burn throughout Northern California. Little Lake has already sent its Engine OES-260 to assist with the Bowles Fire in Weed. "At this point we're pretty familiar with mutual aid situations," says Wilkes.

Officials are urging residents to prepare emergency response plans, particularly concerning evacuation procedures. The Community Foundation of Mendocino County, along with North Coast Opportunities, has set up a disaster fund to assist affected families, and those concerned should contact them with cash or other donations at 468-9882.

A meeting moderated by Sheriff Tom Allman will be held next Tuesday, September 23, at Eagle Peak Middle School, 8601 West Road in Redwood Valley, from 6:30 to 8 pm. The Sheriff's Office announcement states "the main topics of the meeting will include discussions on the recent home invasion robberies and the Black Fire evacuations that have affected the Redwood Valley community."

List of cooperating agencies in the Black Fire: Potter Valley FD, Redwood Valley-Calpella FPD, Little Lake FPD, Ukiah Fire Authority, Hopland VFD, Cloverdale Fire, Anderson Valley FD, Laytonville FPD, Leggett Valley FPD, Compton VFD, Brooktrails FD, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, CAL OES, American Red Cross, and California Highway Patrol.



A few more views of the Bypass Progress



Above: A view looking southeast over the northern interchange area of the bypass. The current Highway 101 can be seen on the right side of the image.

At left: Looking south over the Coleman Ranch and East Commercial Street.

Below: Looking south over the southern interchange area of the Willits bypass. The current Highway 101 is the curve from the top to the right side of the image.

Photos by Maureen Moore



More of Report | From Page 1

to provide mental health services to adults in Mendocino County. The report says the appearance of a conflict of interest arose when Tom Pinizzatto, a former director of North Valley Behavioral Health, located in Fairfield, was hired as assistant director of the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency, specifically to head HHS's Behavioral Health Recovery Services Division, the county's mental health division.

The report claims Pinizzatto was allowed to help score the applicants who responded to the RFP for the contract, and this may have influenced the result: Pinizzatto's former employer, Ortnr Management Group, was selected to provide adult mental health services here.

"The newly contracted consultant had access to patient records and county MediCal billing information," the grand jury said. "This access was not available to the other bidders."

Supervisors disagree with even the most basic claims of the grand jury report.

For example, the grand jury found North Valley Behavioral Health and Ortnr Management Group are clearly linked in both business and professional matters.

In its response, the county's response partially disagreed with that finding:

"Ortnr Management Group is the administrative services organization (ASO) for Mendocino County for mental health services. North Valley Behavioral Health is a subcontractor of OMG."

The county also disagreed with the second grand jury finding: "As administrator of North Valley Behavioral Health - Fairfield, the Behavioral Health Recovery Services director

had a business and financial relationship with Ortnr through North Valley Behavioral Health, immediately prior to coming to work for the county."

Supervisors disputed part of this finding. "The BHRS director worked for OMG between 2008 and 2010. In September 2010, he was hired by Mendocino County as a consultant for mental health services on an independent contractor basis. He was hired as the BHRS director on April 16, 2012."

The county response does not say how long Pinizzatto was working as an independent contractor, nor when the hiring process for the administrative services organization began. It does not say when in 2010 Pinizzatto ceased to work for OMG. If that cessation occurred in mid-2010, then it would appear the former director of North Valley Behavioral Health - Fairfield could have been unemployed for only a few days, weeks or months before he began working as an independent contractor for Mendocino County.

In the summary section of the grand jury report, the jury states Pinizzatto worked as an independent contractor for the county for 27 hours, between December 2011 and March 2012 - the period of the selection process for an administrative services organization.

The grand jury "perceived a possible conflict of interest in the selection of Ortnr for the privatization contract for adult mental health services."

The board "disagrees wholly with this finding," supervisors shot back. "The grand jury's 'perception' is not a finding. If this finding was meant to assert there was a conflict of interest in the selection of OMG to provide mental health

Read the rest of **Report** | Over on Page 15



Pilots and friends 'fly in' to ride the Skunk Train

It is not every weekend that visitors literally fly in to the Willits area to enjoy local attractions and spend money on dining and lodging.

On a foggy Sunday morning this month, most of the passengers boarding the Skunk Train - 27 in all - were there for fly-in tourism organized by the Willits chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Inc.

"We like to support the community as much as we can," Chapter President Paul Trexel said. "Fly-in tourism is the ideal way," he said.

The group enjoyed its experience in Willits, and some of the guests who flew in to Ells Field were eager to make another trip to the Willits area in the future.

One fly-in participant, Jim Duvander, flew in with a friend from Windsor in a 1959 Champion he said he worked on

Read the rest of **Fly in** | Over on Page 13



Above, left: Packing up Sunday morning, before riding the bus to the Skunk Train depot.

Above right: Skunk Train in the redwoods.

Left: Fly-in guests at the airport.

Below, far left: The Willits 'fly-in' group at Northspur.

Below, left: Getting ready to fly out after the train ride.

Photos by Zack Cinek



WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS 3RD ANNUAL

RANCH RODEO

CHECK IN: 11 AM SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 STARTS AT: 1 PM

CALCUTTA AUCTION & BBQ COOKOFF
BBQ CO-CHAIR BY SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO - \$10 TASTERS / EVENT: 1 PM

CALF BRANDING RANCH DOCTORING SADDLE COW RIDING

ENTER: \$600 per 3 person team Entries due in by 9/8/14
Entries & Info: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

WATCH: Free admission to event spectators
Fun Kids Dummy Roping event at 2 pm

REVERSE TEAM ROPING TEAM SORTING RIBBON ROPING

EVENT SPONSORS
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MORE INFO: MARY FONSEN: 707-354-0112

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Westside of Willits - 2 bd home with detached garage on Laurel Street. Located on about 1/3 of an acre with excellent privacy. This home is a fixer on a beautiful lot in a great neighborhood. Call for details.

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Drawing: Saturday September 27, 2014
100 points = 1 drawing ticket from July 1 to September 27, 2014. Must purchase tickets with points. Drawing will be on Saturday, September 27, 2014.

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Thursday, September 18

Wowsers Work Day: Wowsers is hosting a "drywall finish it up" day to hang all the drywall, starting at 11 am. If you are already a member, come and help, and Wowsers will credit you two hours for every hour you help. Plus, pizza for everyone. More info about Wowsers, Willits' "20,000 square foot, membership-based manufacturing facility that provides a unique working/learning experience where you can learn, build and teach" - and about becoming a member - at www.wowsersllc.com.

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

Friday, September 19

Drive-Thru BBQ Chicken Dinner for 2: a fundraiser for the Harrah Senior Center, from 5:30 to 7 pm, 1501 Baechtel Road. BBQ'd 1/2 chicken, rice pilaf, coleslaw, rolls & dessert. Pre-sale tickets only: \$25, pick up tickets at Harrah Senior Center or Main Street Music & Video. BBQ prepared by Lions Club, and sponsored by Old Mission Pizza & Harrah Senior Center Thrift Store. Info: 459-6826.



"The Nightmare": an unsettling three-act drama written and directed by local playwright Don Samson, will open at the Willits Community Theatre on Friday, September 19 at 8 pm.

In a production intended to keep audiences yearning for relief, soccer mom April Buckley attends an annual teachers' convention in Chicago, has a few too many margaritas and soon finds herself descending into a spiral of sex, lies and blackmail. If there is only some way for Buckley to undo what's been done, but every turn she takes leads an otherwise moral and innocent woman deeper yet into another soul's obsession. "The Nightmare" will run for 10 shows from September 19 through October 5. Performances are Thursdays at 7 pm for \$10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm for \$15, and Sunday matinees (September 28 and October 5) at 2 pm for \$10. Advance tickets are available at Mazahar in Willits; online at Brownpapertickets.com and for credit card orders, phone the WCT office at 459-0895. Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 W. Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Shanachie Pub: Nathan Rivera (accordion, guitar, voice,

piano) and Karl Kummerle (fiddle) of The Black Resonators. "The diverse music they make together is built upon Nathan's original songs, gypsy jazz tunes and Karl's fiddling influence." 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub info: 459-9194.

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

Saturday, September 20

Coastal Cleanup Day: Clean up creeks in Willits today, as part of California Coastal Cleanup Day sponsored by the California Coastal Commission. Coordinated in Mendocino County by Mendocino Land Trust. Meet at 8:30 am at City Hall parking lot for sign-in. Rain or shine. Work: 9 am to 12 noon. Bring boots, pants, long-sleeve shirt and gloves. Then go in teams to zones where there will be a zone captain. Cleanup spots include locations on Baechtel Creek, Broad Creek and more. "In 2013, over 58,000 Coastal Cleanup Day volunteers removed almost 750,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from California's beaches, lakes, and waterways." Info: www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html.

Willits Frontier Days Ranch Rodeo: this 3rd annual event focuses on skills needed by real-life ranch cowboys and cowgirls in their day-to-day activities. Teams of three will complete in activities including: calf branding, ranch doctoring, team sorting, ribbon roping, reverse team roping, saddle cow riding and kids' dummy roping. Admission is free to the public. 11 am check-in; starts at 1 pm; kids' dummy roping at 2 pm. Also on the schedule is a "Calcutta auction" which allows event-goers to win a percentage of the funds raised, by bidding on their favorite teams at the start of competition. A BBQ Cookoff, co-chaired by Sherwood Valley Casino, features great prizes for winning chefs, like BBQ smokers, knives and a BBQ basket. BBQ tasting tickets for the public are \$10. For info visit www.willitsfrontierdays.com/yearround.html or call Mary Fonsen at 354-0112.

Volunteer Saturday at the Grange Farm School: Bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy under the cool shade of redwood trees or at the reservoir from noon to 2 pm. Then at 2 pm, the farm school will be hosting guided farm and construction sessions for volunteers. Volunteers of all ages and skill levels are welcome to come any time from 2 pm until dusk to assist in projects with the Farm School team and to tour the school. Please bring water and gloves, and your favorite garden tools if you are interested in focusing on



Benefit Concert for the Little Lake Grange: featuring headliners, Candelaria, playing cumbia, dub and reggae, and the Farmers Market Band. Doors open at 6:30 pm, show at 7 pm. With delicious no-host food from Taco Ramirez catering truck and Mama J's soul food. 291 School Street. Tickets (at the door): \$10, kids under 12 are free. A Cosmic Pickle Production. All proceeds go toward the Grange's continuing refurbishment project. "Candelaria combines the infectious rhythms of traditional Colombian cumbia with the dub reggae techniques of the Jamaican studio masters. Bucking the modern trend of programmed beats and computer effects, all of Candelaria's music and effects are 100% live and organic, all performed in real time on stage. This 6-piece, female-fronted world dance band brings together experienced musicians from Mexico, Canada, Colombia, Puerto Rico and the United States." Visit http://www.candelariamusica.com to learn more.



Candelaria

Shanachie Pub: flamenco music by Jason Wright, 7 pm. No cover. "Known for his brilliant rock guitar solos, Jason Wright is also a Gypsy-Flamenco guitarist and will be performing solo this evening." 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub info: 459-9194.

"The Nightmare": 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 19 listing for details.

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, squash and other summer produce, cut flowers, 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 Choral: this community chorus based in Willits is in its 20th season, and you are welcome to join! Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. No auditions necessary. The Choral meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. "We sing songs from all around the world in four-part harmony. Come sing in a fun and supportive environment!"

Willits Center for the Arts: September show features Willits artists Ursula Partch, Peggy Hebrard and Morgan Rex, showing "a multitude of techniques," including fiber art hangings, metal and glass sun sculptures, paintings, textiles, photography, garments and accessories, water fountains and more. Runs through September 28; gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm; and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. 71 East Commercial Street. Info: www.willitscenterforthearts.org or 459-1726.

Junior Grange After-School Program: "an after-school program democratically run by children ages 5 to 14, with guidance from Grange adults." Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Activities - including chess, fundraising projects, organic gardening, cooking, and a new skill each month: September: "Grid Beam Construction" and October: "Sewing Halloween Costumes" - are free to members (except for singing classes on Tuesdays taught by Nancy New, info: 459-1276). Visitors of all ages are welcome! Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or zeyny34@yahoo.com.

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

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

Life Changes: Discussion and support group with Linda

Posner, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Grange Farm School Volunteer Work Days: Every Wednesday at the Grange Farm School, 16200 North Highway 101, south of Willits. Bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy under the cool shade of redwood trees or at the reservoir from noon to 2 pm. Starting at 2 pm: guided farm tours and construction sessions for volunteers, of all ages and skill levels are welcome any time from 2 pm until dusk to assist in projects with the Farm School team and to tour the school. Please bring water and gloves, and your favorite garden tools if you are interested in focusing in the field. One Saturday per month, too: September 20 this month. Contact info@grangefarmschool.org with question or comments.

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Sunday, September 21

"Phoenix Rising": a model village garden. Biodynamic gardening classes will begin on Sunday, September 21, from 10 am to 2 pm. Fred Marshall will speak on composting. Ron Woolsey will discuss cultivation and double digging. Suggested donation is \$20, or \$30 for a couple. Sliding scale. Future classes will be the 1st and 3rd Saturdays same time every month, North Street between Redwood and Pine. Drop in or call Ron to register, for more info, or to be put on a notification list: 489-5408.

"Talking with the Candidates": this first Town Hall meeting of the new season features candidates for 3rd District supervisor Holly Madrigal and Tom Woodhouse, and candidates for Willits City Council Robin Leler, Ron Orenstein and Larry Stranske, 4 to 6 pm at Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. All candidates will speak briefly and answer questions. Public discussion moderated by Carlin Diamond. Info: Carlin at 459-4850 or Carlinvii@aol.com.

Tuesday, September 23

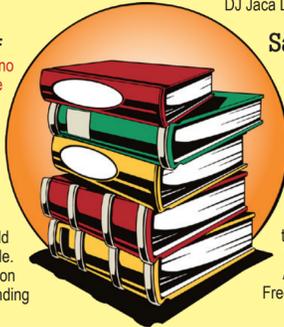
Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies "Dolphin Tale 2," "When The Game Stands Tall," and "Get On Up." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

POSTPONED TO OCTOBER 15: "Coffee with your Congressman"

Cards and games at Willits Library: all activities are free. Tuesday afternoon: bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Info: Donna at 459-9035. Tuesday evening: "Dungeons and Dragons, the adventurers' league," from 6 to 10 pm. Info: Dan at 972-3154.

Wednesday, September 24

Laytonville Library Meeting: Mendocino County Library may establish a satellite library station in Laytonville. County Interim Library Director Wally Clark has called for a Laytonville community meeting for Wednesday, September 24, from 4 to 6 pm at Harwood Hall. Everyone is welcome. This facilitated meeting will begin with a discussion of several options for a library station, including permanently parking the old Bookmobile in a central location in Laytonville. Some of the other options for a library station include an unmanned kiosk, a book vending



Saturday, September 27

Round Valley Indian Days Celebration & Softball Tournament: September 26 to 28, Hidden Oaks Park, Round Valley Reservation. "Everyone is invited to come out and have some fun!!" "Renewing Our Ties to the Earth by Keeping Alive the Ways of Our Ancestors." Classic Amusement Carnival: Kids Ride Free! Hosted by the Round Valley Tribal Council. Today, Friday, September 26: 10 am to 3 pm: 34th annual Health Fair at the RV Indian Health Center, Food, Music, Information Booths, Exhibits, Demonstrations and More!!! 12 noon: BBQ Lunch at the Health Fair. 6 pm: Bingo at Hidden Oaks Park. 9 pm: Street Dance - Hidden Oaks Amphitheater. Info: www.rvt.org, 707) 983-6126, or www.facebook.com/roundvalleyindiantribes.

Susan Bradley at 984-6070 or cahrtosj@mcn.org for more information.

Thursday, September 25

"The Nightmare": 7 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 19 listing for details.

Friday, September 26

Round Valley Indian Days Celebration & Softball Tournament: September 26 to 28, Hidden Oaks Park, Round Valley Reservation. "Everyone is invited to come out and have some fun!!" "Renewing Our Ties to the Earth by Keeping Alive the Ways of Our Ancestors." Classic Amusement Carnival: Kids Ride Free! Hosted by the Round Valley Tribal Council. Today, Friday, September 26: 10 am to 3 pm: 34th annual Health Fair at the RV Indian Health Center, Food, Music, Information Booths, Exhibits, Demonstrations and More!!! 12 noon: BBQ Lunch at the Health Fair. 6 pm: Bingo at Hidden Oaks Park. 9 pm: Street Dance - Hidden Oaks Amphitheater. Info: www.rvt.org, 707) 983-6126, or www.facebook.com/roundvalleyindiantribes.

Family Fun Friday: 6 pm at Grace Community Church, 25 Hazel Street. There will be a free spaghetti dinner, games and a movie. Info: 459-3106.

"The Nightmare": 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 19 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: The Reggae Revival w/Black Emperor Shelter w/I-Trinity and Selecta K / I-Selecta, and special guest DJ/Singers = reggae music from Jamaica. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Pub info: 459-9194.

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

Community Forum

Wednesday, October 15

A community forum with supervisory candidates Tom Woodhouse and Holly Madrigal is set for Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 pm at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street. The evening will also feature information about all contests and propositions/measures on the ballot for the Tuesday, November 4 election. Candidate for county superintendent of schools Warren Galletti (the only active candidate, as Paul Joens-Paulson has withdrawn from the race) has also been invited. Moderated by Joe Oslund. Sponsored by the American Association of University Women, the Willits Chamber of Commerce, and Willits Weekly.

Round Valley Indian Tribes 2014 Indian Days Celebration September 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2014 "Renewing Our Ties to the Earth by Keeping Alive the Ways of Our Ancestors"

Event schedule for Round Valley Indian Tribes 2014 Indian Days Celebration. Includes dates, times, and activities for Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Activities include: Annual Health Fair, Food Music, Information Booths, Exhibits, Demonstrations and More!!!, Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournament, Youth Pageant, Archery/Vendors, Traditional Dancers, Arts/Crafts & Food Vendors, Co-Ed Softball Tournaments, Becky Van Memorial Barred Racing, Cookie Bake-Off, Western Play Day (Mini-Rodeo), Parade, Hidden Oaks Park Activities, Traditional & Bear Dancers, Arts/Crafts & Food Vendors, Co-Ed Softball Tournaments (Adult & Youth), Horse Shoe Tournament, 34th Annual Health Fair, Honoring Our Elders Community BBQ Evening, 50th Anniversary of Hidden Oaks Park, \$7,000 CASH Giveaway, Harvest Show at Hidden Oaks Park.

Call for Vendors: 'Autumn Art on the 101' in Laytonville

"Autumn Art on the 101" in downtown Laytonville is set for Saturday, October 11, from 10 am to 5 pm, and is looking for vendors.

Vendor info: Any and all handmade arts, crafts, and foods. Entry requirements: work should be the creation of the artist. Artist will be responsible for set up and tear down of their own stall (10 x 10 booth space) and for providing their own table/chair, etc.

Booth fee is \$25 plus a donation of artist's work to the raffle. Checks can be made out to Laytonville Healthy Start. Deadline to register is Sunday, October 5. All proceeds will benefit the Laytonville Healthy Start Angel Fund for the Arts. Info: Healthy Start at 707-984-8089.

Rabies Vaccine Clinic and Dog License Amnesty

On Saturday September 20, Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency Animal Care Services will hold a one-day Dog License Amnesty Program in conjunction with a low-cost rabies vaccination clinic at the Ukiah Shelter at 298 Plant Road. The rabies microchipping clinic will be open from 10 am until 2 pm. This "one-stop shop" opportunity will allow county residents to bring their dog license up to date and, if necessary, have their dog vaccinated against the rabies virus. Low-cost microchipping will also be available (\$10). The low-cost rabies vaccine (\$6) will be offered for dogs or cats on Saturday.

License fees are \$25 for altered dogs and \$55 for unaltered dogs. Cats are not required to have licenses, but a rabies vaccine is strongly recommended. Cats must come to the vaccine clinic in a secure cat carrier, and dogs must be on leash.

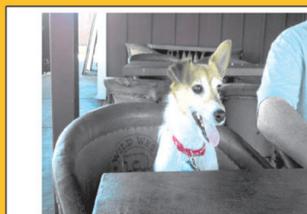
All dogs over 4 months of age are required by Mendocino County law to have a current rabies vaccine and have a dog license. All penalties for expired licenses will be waived if the dog is registered on September 20. Unfortunately, dog owners who have received a citation from Animal Control for failure to have a current license will not be eligible to participate in the Amnesty Program. Please call the Ukiah shelter for info: 463-4427.

Willits Food Bank needs recycled bags

Please help the Willits Food Bank by recycling your clean plastic grocery bags and large brown paper bags at our distribution center at Willits Community Services, 229 East San Francisco, across from Sparetime. Bags may be dropped off on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between noon and 5 pm. "This is a serious need, as we use three to four bags per person every time we open our doors to those who need this service. Unlike the "old days" the local markets no longer make these bags available to us.

Holiday Craft Fair Call for Artists

Willits Cultural Arts Center is now accepting entries for the 28th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, set for December 12, 13 and 14, 2014 at the Willits Community Center. All interested artists, hand crafters, and specialty foods entrepreneurs should request application forms by e-mail to Bonnie Belt at Belt.bonnie@gmail.com or by mail: Willits Holiday Craft Fair c/o Bonnie Belt, 2291 Buckeye Drive, Willits, CA 95490 (please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope).



Rascal's Rescue

Mission Statement: Rascal's Rescue is dedicated to raising money to help pets in need whose families cannot afford emergency care. To bring awareness of taking general care of your pets, understanding how important it is to spay and neuter, and to learn about adopting versus breeding. We strive to help our local community and give their pets a second chance.

Come see us at the Hometown Celebration October 11 from 12 to 6 pm

Awareness for general care

Vaccinations

Spay & Neuter

Adoptions

Heart worm Prevention

SPONSORED BY:

Willits Power Equipment & ER Energy

Candidates Forum: Focus on the Environment

The Willits Environmental Center and the Little Lake Grange host a Candidates Forum with a Focus on the Environment, Thursday night, October 2, from 7 to 9 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. First up will be questions for the Willits City Council candidates, Robin Leler, Ron Orenstein and Larry Stranske, followed in the second hour with questions for the Third District Supervisory candidates, Holly Madrigal and Tom Woodhouse. Each half will begin with questions from the sponsors focusing on environmental issues facing the city and the county, such as land use issues, water issues, energy conservation, etc., followed by questions from the public on any topic of concern facing the city and county. Info: Willits Environmental Center at 459-4110.

Focus on the Environment

Harvest Moon Celebration, October 11 (yes it's a Saturday!), downtown Willits

LocaLights with Just Enough and David Partch, October 12, Willits Community Theatre

FFA Farmhouse Dinner, October 12, Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds

Tribal Council. Today, Saturday, September 27: 11 am: Parade (entries show up at 9 am). 12 noon: Hidden Oaks Park Activities: Traditional & Bear Dancers; Arts/Crafts & Food Vendors; Co-Ed Softball Tournaments (Adult & Youth); Horse Shoe Tournament; BMX Racing, Jumper Slide & Kids Activities; Car Show. 4 pm: Honoring Our Elders Community BBQ. Evening: 7th Anniversary of Hidden Oaks Casino; \$7,000 cash Giveaway!!! 10 pm: Fireworks Show at Hidden Oaks Park. Info: www.rvt.org, 707) 983-6126, or www.facebook.com/roundvalleyindiantribes.

"The Nightmare": 8 pm at the Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 19 listing for details.

Sunday, September 28

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: monthly breakfast (every fourth Sunday) at the Little Lake Grange, 8 am to 11 am. Choose Sourdough Wholegrain or Hank's Famous Buttermill 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).

Round Valley Indian Days Celebration & Softball Tournament: September 26 to 28, Hidden Oaks Park, Round Valley Reservation. "Everyone is invited to come out and have some fun!!" "Renewing Our Ties to the Earth by Keeping Alive the Ways of Our Ancestors." Classic Amusement Carnival: Kids Ride Free! Hosted by the Round Valley Tribal Council. Today, Sunday, September 28: 8 am: Activities/Vendors continue at Hidden Oaks Park: Traditional & Bear Dancers; Arts/Crafts & Food Vendors; Co-Ed Softball Tournaments (Adult & Youth). 10 am: Becky Van Memorial Barred Racing. 12 noon: Cookie Bake-Off. 2 pm: Western Play Day (Mini-Rodeo). Sign up before 1 pm. Info: www.rvt.org, 707) 983-6126, or www.facebook.com/roundvalleyindiantribes.

"The Nightmare": 2 pm matinee at the Willits Community Theatre. See Friday, September 19 listing for details.

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT? SEND US THE DETAILS! Send flyers, photos or information to: willitsweekly@gmail.com



2014 girls: Kailee Wisniewski, Karen Hernandez and Daisy Barrett.

AAUW Tech Trek Program

Thursday, September 26

The American Association of University Women presents its September program, Thursday, September 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Willits Library.

The speakers will include the three (now eighth-grade) girls who attended the Stanford University's Marie Curie Science and Math Tech Trek Camp for one week this past summer with girls from all around the state of California. The Willits AAUW spends \$900 for each girl who was nominated by science teachers and interviewed by AAUW members for the honor of attending this prestigious program, which is offered in many California universities.

The girls, Kailee Wisniewski, Karen Hernandez, Daisy Barrett, will speak about their experiences and what they have learned and how they have grown at Tech Trek.

Harvest Moon Celebration. Think Local, Buy Local, Be Local. HOMETOWN CELEBRATION. SATURDAY OCTOBER 11th NOON TO 6 PM - DOWNTOWN WILLITS STORE SPECIALS * FAMILY FUN * MUSIC * FOOD BUSINESS PUNKIN CARVING CONTEST. SPONSORS: T&T MARKET * GEORGE'S GLOVES AND GEMS MARIPOSA MARKET * PRINTING PLUS * KIMBERLY'S JEWELRY STORE * T&T TOWING * CREEKSIDE PROPERTIES * MENDO MILL SCOPPS FROZEN YOGURT & DELI * THE COAST KOZE - BM MAIN STREET MUSIC & VIDEO * SHANACHIE PUB * LISA EPSTEIN STATE FARM INSURANCE * THE WILLITS NEWS MAZAHAR GYPSY CHIC BOUTIQUE * CAT'S MEOW STUDIO M UPSTAIRS * WILLITS FUTURE/FU LA BODEGA * MAIN STREET MUSIC & VIDEO * SHANACHIE PUB * WILLITS WEEKLY * CELTIC HERITAGE DESTINATIONS * WILLITS ONLINE * BUSTERS BURGERS & BREW * EL MEXICANO RESTAURANT * CITY OF WILLITS * WILLITS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 707-459-7910

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 Willits' locally owned and operated newspaper

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Fax: 707 459-1607 Adam Meza, Owner
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"IRENE'S GARDEN" ORGANIC RED LEAF LETTUCE **ON SALE \$1.69 EACH**

IN LAYTONVILLE ORGANIC SWEET ONIONS **ON SALE \$1.49 POUND**

GREEN & BLACK'S CHOCOLATE BARS ASSORTED FLAVORS **ON SALE \$2.49 REG. \$4.19**

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At left: The group poses with award-winner Colton Pinson, including, from left: Chuck Ream, Lory McAsay, Dan McAsay, Melinda Silva, Kaycee Silva held by Tony Silva, and Cassidy McAsay holding Hailey Silva, in front. Below: Colton Pinson grins, holding his new belt buckle and \$250 check.

Outstanding Breeding Award
 Willits' Colton Pinson receives annual award

Willits FFA and 4-H exhibitor Colton Pinson received the Chuck Ream Outstanding Breeding Award last weekend at the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show.

Pinson, 17, took home a silver belt buckle and \$250 check sponsored by McAsay Farms for his rabbit and steer projects.

For some 12 years, Pinson has been raising primarily Netherland Dwarf and New Zealand rabbits, and he completed two science fair projects focusing on their genetics. This attention to breeding allowed Pinson to win 29 Best of Breed Awards at fairs across the county, region and state.

He also raised three consecutive Supreme Grand Champion market pens at the Redwood Empire Fair.

Three years ago, Pinson started his beef project with the adoption of a day-old drop calf which he raised up to a market-ready steer.

Read the rest of **Pinson** | Over on Page 15



Claire Moyle Carlie Scarbery

Congratulations, ladies!

Two Willits ladies were crowned royalty at the 2014 Round Valley Community Rodeo at held in late August in Covelo. Claire Moyle, left, won Round Valley Sweetheart, and Carlie Scarbery, right, won Round Valley Rodeo Queen. Congrats, ladies, on all your hard work!

Willits Weekly CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 2 weeks for 30 words!

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

Barn Sale
 Barn estate sale: Saturday, September 20, 9 am to 3 pm. Barn estate sale, 1411 Buckhorn Road, off of Muir Mill and Highway 101. Watch for large yellow signs.

Community Hu Song
 In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song, Thursday, September 25, 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.

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 macacemargin@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.willitsindependent.com or Sallie: 463-3647. *Dogs must be current on vaccinations, especially Bordetella

For Rent
 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath home, Large yard- no smoking/pets neg. security deposit required. \$900.00 per month. Please Call 354-1224

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 459-1640 or email macemoving@gmail.com.

For Rent, Office Space
 300 sq ft office space, water, electricity, & alarm system included; \$375/month rent and \$375/security deposit. Call Matt for info: 459-4599.

For 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.

For Sale
 Good Quality Furniture: 7 foot couch, like new, \$400. 5-piece king bedset, very nice, approx. 1970s, with extras, \$500. Two tall hutches, \$25 each. Outdoor BBQ w/ tank, \$35. 2-drawer metal Pendaflex file, \$20. Outdoor metal bench, \$25. Come by to see: Space 50, Golden Rule Mobile Village, 16100 North Highway 101, Willits.

For Sale
 Two post car lift 9,000 pound capacity. \$1,800 or offer. 459-2864.

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

Help Wanted
 LIBRARY ASSISTANT
 Mendocino County. Current full-time vacancy in Fort Bragg \$1917-\$2329/Mo and current part-time vacancy in Willits \$958-\$1164/Mo. Requires HS diploma or GED and 1 yr experience performing general office duties that included public contact. For more information & to apply go to: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr

Help Wanted
 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.

Yard Sale
 Saturday, September 20, 9 am to 2 pm? Willits Mini-Storage, 261 Franklin Avenue, space J28, solid wood bedroom furniture, misc. items, no junk.

Zumba Kids
 with Rachel Cash, at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser 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.

707-459-2633
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willitsweekly@gmail.com

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COLUMN | Garden Time
Conserving water

Whatever is grown can be irrigated most efficiently with the least waste using a drip irrigation system. We are fortunate to have Sparetime Supply and DripWorks for materials and advice on what will work best. With any garden, planning is important. Landscaping one's entire property all in one season is not necessary or advisable. Have a flexible overall plan. Then start with one area that is most important.

Why Drip?

One might think that plants would like a cold face wash or shower on a hot day. This is not true. When water hits the leaves, the plant responds, preparing the leaves for cool rainy weather by opening the stomata (pores) to relieve moisture. When the overhead watering stops, and the sun hits the plant, two things can happen.

1. The water remaining on the leaves acts as a magnifying glass and burns spots in the leaves.
2. The plant, misinformed by the overhead watering, will wilt from the heat of the sun.

Not overhead watering is especially important for plants that have been just set out. Water near the plant's base.

A great deal of water is lost to evaporation by sprinkling the areas that do not need water. Weed seeds will germinate with shallow watering and are often adapted to grow with little water. A crust can form on the soil surface, making both sprinkled water and even rain run off onto the path.

Wet leaves and stems during warm weather create spots for molds and fungi to develop. Seeing the whole soil surface damp, like it has just rained, looks pretty. It is very tempting to overhead water. Remove the temptation by covering the soil with mulch, which conserves water and is also a pretty background for healthy flowers and vegetables.

Straw is a good mulch because it is seedless. One never knows for sure what is in hay mixes. If a small family garden is being grown, one bale of alfalfa will prove its worth with winter rain, providing alfalfa tea to feed the winter produce, as well as keeping the roots warm during heavy frosts.

Devi Doree Chase has been gardening since 1941.

The rest of **Letters** | From Page 2

He should seek one anyway. It's what our constitution specifies for going to war, and it's the right thing to do.

Without a specific authorization we cannot have confidence in assurances such as "no boots on the ground." We already have more than 1,500 troops in Iraq. We are told they won't engage in combat roles, but what does that mean? What happens if an American pilot has to eject over ISIL territory, an American adviser is captured or Russia sends more troops and weapons to Assad? What happens if the next President wants to escalate and broaden the war without congressional approval?

I also question some of the strategic assumptions. While I have great faith in our troops, it seems unlikely that the United States can essentially create a "moderate" partner in Syria that can do everything the strategy assumes, including defeating ISIL in Syria while battling Assad to bring about a political solution and then emerging as a moderate governing group in post-war Syria.

I'm concerned that reliance on the Free Syrian Army may become a modern-day Bay of Pigs and that our guns, armored vehicles and missiles may once again fall into the hands of extremist groups who turn them against us and our allies.

In Iraq, the strategy assumes a political reconciliation and alliance between Sunnis and the Shiite majority against ISIL. I'm encouraged that former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is gone, but the new Iraqi government's promise to be more fair and inclusive of the Sunni minority is untested and Iran still wields a destabilizing influence.

We should be honest and realistic about the fact that non-Kurdish

together, you already have navigated through many different chapters in your marriage, full of all kinds of challenges. I have no doubt that the two of you are very resourceful.

I consider it an art to keep a relationship fresh and your sex life exciting, especially when you are together for so many years. It is important, however, when you work at being upfront and honest with yourselves and with each other.

If you haven't yet, I recommend you to pick a relaxed moment and ask your wife how she feels about your partnership and your sex lives. It is important to know each other's perspectives, and how they may differ.

Your dreams for the relationship are also important. For instance, what are your unfulfilled hopes and longings for your partnership now? Our hopes and needs change and might not be the same as 10 (or even one) years ago. When you become aware of each other's current dreams about the relationship, you have goals or a direction to work toward.

For longterm couples, it is especially valuable to look from time to time into what has worked well in your partnership so far, which areas could profit from a brush up, and what are your hopes and dreams for the relationship. There are moments when our partnerships are asking for a new level of commitment, more intimacy, a new chapter, or more dream work about the future, in order to survive. If we miss the signals, we may lose our connection

Devi Doree Chase is a certified relationship system and life coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples, families, and professionals. In addition she offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution and deepening your intimacy and connection in your partnership.

For more information on the process call 707-456-9246. www.embraceconflicts.com and www.facebook.com/doriswier

Kale for Dinner

Kale is now producing locally. If it is not in your garden, check Mariposa Market. Will children eat kale? Yes!

- 1 package organic firm tofu
- 1 1/2 cups raw organic sunflower seeds
- Tamari sauce
- 2 bunches Dinosaur Kale, Russian Kale, or Collards
- 1/2 finely chopped onion (if kids like it)
- 2 garlic minced cloves (optional)

Slice tofu into 1/2 slabs and gently press between layers of paper toweling to remove excess water. Stack the slabs and cut into 1/2 inch cubes. Toss with tamari in a bowl.

Carefully wash the kale, watching for aphids and cabbage worms if your garden has them.

In a large iron skillet or non-stick fry pan, roast the sunflower seeds, stirring until golden brown. Turn off heat and sprinkle a little bit of tamari over the seeds while stirring quickly. Remove the seeds to cool.

In the same skillet add 1 tablespoon of water to mix and loosen the tamari residue. Add the marinated tofu cubes and a little canola oil. Fry cubes until browned slightly on all sides. Add some extra tamari if needed. When cooked, remove cubes and set aside.

Remove the stems and larger midribs of the kale leaves. Stack the leaves and roll them up. Cut across the roll every 1/4 inch. Several rolls may be necessary. With each sliced roll, also cut the long strips in pieces. Smaller pieces cook faster and are easier for little children to chew.

In the same skillet, begin frying the onions, then add some kale. As it shrinks, add more kale along with the garlic. Use tongs to keep turning the mixture for 7 to 10 minutes until tender (taste test).

When cooked, mix in tofu cubes, and serve with seeds sprinkled on top. Give children extra seeds to sprinkle. Demonstrate that chewing is necessary. Children can be told to chew their food well about as successfully as telling the tides to cease moving. Parents silently chewing with pleasure will be copied.

With some children, foods may need to be offered and eaten by other family members before being accepted.

Just say "It's OK, when you get bigger, you will like it."

Next meal, the child may say "OK, I'm bigger now. I'll try some."

For happy meal times don't confuse yourself with what you have just cooked. You don't deserve to feel rejected in case the food is rejected, nor do you need to cook extra meals to please everyone. Involve the family in food production and in meal preparation.

A 7-year-old boy, given permission to prepare lunch unsupervised, produced a fruit salad of apples, bananas, and oranges dressed with mayonnaise. He then added green Spanish olives - an amazingly wonderful touch - something I'd never would have tried. It was so good!

parts of Iraq may not provide a stable and reliable "partner on the ground."

Further, America should know better than to commit to a new Middle East war before marshaling a broad international coalition. The countries most affected by the ISIL threat - including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Turkey - must play meaningful, visible roles lest this be perceived as the Christian West fighting the self-proclaimed Islamic State, which would fuel ISIL recruiting. Our European NATO allies, all of whom are affected by the ISIL threat, should also carry their share of the risks and burdens.

Finally, before committing American lives and resources to this war, we must have a clearly defined objective, a realistic timeline in which to achieve it and an honest discussion of how to pay for it. Prior generations knew they had to pay for wars - so they stepped up, raised taxes and sold war bonds. Our generation has allowed wars to be financed by deficit spending which contributes to a national debt that is driving cuts in education, research, infrastructure and social services. Any congressional authorization for war should include the revenue to pay for it. We must stop pretending wars are free.

This week, Congress has an opportunity to debate this critical issue, to reassert its Constitutional authority on the subject of war and to ensure that our response to ISIL is smart and effective. Deciding to go to war is Congress' most solemn responsibility. It should never be taken lightly and certainly never abdicated.

Jared Huffman, U.S. congressman, 2nd Congressional District

with each other, and we may start to look outside of our partnership to get certain needs met, in your case, your sexual needs.

Your partnership may be experiencing one of those moments right now. It is healthy to ask each other during these times if we still want to be life partners. If we do, then we ask ourselves what would we like to improve or change? These fundamental questions can take a lot of courage to ask, but they allow us in the end to make a conscious choice between continuing as a couple or not.

Even if your wife feels satisfied with the state of your sex life and partnership, here are some inspirational questions for you both to answer and share with each other:

* What images or sensations (feel, smell, taste, colors, music) come up in you when you envision an exciting sex life?

* What might be different in your relationship if you could experience exciting sex again?

* Do you have any hopes or dreams that you have never shared with your partner? (They don't need to be limited to your sex life.) If yes, share them and support each other in fulfilling them.

I recommend for the next three months, that the two of you consciously make your partnership the number one priority in your lives, and that you ponder with an open heart (no blame or shame) on questions that are significant to both of you and your partnership. They may look like the questions I mentioned above, or you may come up with your own questions and ideas.

If you have any relationship questions, please send them to doriswier@embraceconflicts.com or to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490. I am happy to answer your questions anonymously in my column every third Thursday of the month. Until then.

Devi Doree Chase is a certified relationship system and life coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples, families, and professionals. In addition she offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution and deepening your intimacy and connection in your partnership.



Grocery Outlet

now open in Evergreen Shopping Center

At top, left: Brock McDowell, independent owner/operator, cuts the ribbon at Thursday's opening ceremony, with store staff behind him.

Photo by Eidon Miller

At top, right: the crowd waits to take a spin on the Wheel of Bargains; and Trina, Alex, and Kurt Durham of Laytonville, who saved \$120.

At right: Lillian Hamel of Willits won a fruit basket.

At bottom: Shopping and socializing at Grocery Outlet's opening weekend.

Photos by Kevin Klav



Kevin Klav
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"This is nice," Willits resident David Lotten said. "I'm so grateful." Many local residents echoed Lotten's words during last week's Grocery Outlet grand opening festivities. The new store opened its doors for business at 7 am Thursday, September 11, to a crowd of eager shoppers.

"Every time we opened the doors to let an employee in, we had customers try to come in also," said store owner Brock McDowell. Over the next three days, nearly 4,500 people made

purchases at the store. "It's blown all of our expectations out of the water," McDowell's sister, Lacy McDowell, office manager for the new store, said Saturday.

Before Grocery Outlet opened, many residents of Willits and Laytonville chose to do their shopping in Ukiah, but some residents went farther. "I used to teach at the college in Lake County, and I'd shop over there." Willits resident Christie Brandt told Willits Weekly. "It's so nice to have [Grocery Outlet] here; we're so excited.

Read the rest of **Grocery** | Over on Page 13



Above: Grocery Store mascot "Ben Saven."

At bottom, left to right: the Wheel of Bargains; staffer Tommi Anastasiou hands out flags on Thursday, September 11; and 2-year-old Lexi, with the prizes she won on the wheel.

Photos by Kevin Klav



The rest of **Fly in** | From Page 7

for 10 years to restore.

"I like Willits," Duvander said. "It is a surprisingly diverse town for being so far from what I consider civilization – the North Bay."

On the train, some chose comfortable seats in one of the covered cars, but most stood on the open-air car.

Children clamored and climbed up fences – or on top of anything – for a wave at the train as it rumbled and rattled along Railroad Avenue.

Clarence Mitchell, up from Windsor, accepted his friend Duvander's offer to come along on the trip and was enjoying his visit.

"I want to come up and camp and bring my motorhome," Mitchell said. Mitchell says he rode the Skunk a few years ago from the Fort Bragg depot.

The tracks climb through grasslands and then into the shadows of old-growth Douglas fir trees outside Willits, past Willits Redwood Company log decks, the KOA campground, and a glimpse of Cutter Lumber Products through the trees.

A tunnel at the summit of the rail line is at 1,750 feet above the sea. It is redwood country from then on, as the train travels switchback turns to flatlands near the Noyo River.

For Dietrich Meyer, who flew to Willits from his home in California's Gold Country, the fly-in was a way for him to finally hitch a ride on the Skunk Train. He has traveled Europe and ridden trains there.

"It is quite something, really," said Meyer. "What fascinates me here is the expansiveness of the landscape."

Timber history speaks along the tracks, with names of places like Irving Muir Lumber Company, Shake City, and Clare Mill.

Northspur, a midway point for trains that come from both Willits and Fort Bragg, was a 45-minute lunch break.

Food lines moved fast, with no waiting for the group at all. Tri-tip, chicken, potato salad, green salad, a drink – the entire works was included.

EAA Willits chapter President Trexel, a retired airline captain, said the Willits EAA wanted to show how pilots can fly in and spend money in Willits and at attractions in the Willits area.

Fly-in participants rented 12 rooms at Best Western Inn – 30 showed for dinner at Lumberjack's restaurant – traveled on a specially chartered MTA bus, road the train round-trip from Willits to Northspur, lunched at Northspur and flew back home with a story to tell.

Pilots answered Trexel's call for a fly-in from spots around Northern California, including Reno, Vacaville, Windsor, Garberville and more.

Ron Cassero landed at Elis Field from Santa Rosa. He was raised in Occidental and said riding the Skunk Train was something he'd wanted to do.

"We are going to come back on a motorcycle," Cassero said. "I will bring other people back on the train – my parents want to do it."

EAA's 1027 chapter meets the second Sunday of the month at various locations, including the Willits airport and the Boonville airport. Pilots of experimental aircraft and certified aircraft can attend a meeting, along with anyone interested in aviation. Visit www.eaa1027.org for more information.

The rest of **Grocery** | From Page 12

We're all excited to have another store here and choices ... choices are good."

Shoppers Michael Jacobson and Lucienne de Souza were also impressed by their choices. "They have a lot of organic food, which is what we like to buy," Jacobson stated. "You can feel good about what you're eating and not have to pay an arm and a leg for it."

Throughout the weekend, laughter could be heard throughout the store. Saturday's ribbon-cutting ceremony attracted a vocal crowd and included Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal, and representatives from Willits Community Services, there to receive a pallet of \$1,000 worth of food for the Willits Food Bank.

Also in attendance were McDowell's parents and grandparents. "It's unbelievable; it feels good," said Joe Cramer, McDowell's grandfather. "He makes us pretty proud."

McDowell grew up involved in the grocery business. McDowell's parents owned a Grocery Outlet in Fountain Valley, where their son worked for three years, and then the McDowells bought the Ukiah Grocery Outlet. "Brock

worked for us in Ukiah for about a year and a half," she said.

McDowell then decided to follow in his parents' footsteps. "I joined Grocery Outlet's Aspiring Owners in Training program. They shipped me to the Lakeport store; I was there for three months. I applied for this store, and I got it. I've been in the grocery business for about 10 years now, total. I started bagging groceries and worked my way up."

When asked what makes his store different from other grocery stores, McDowell replied: "We've got amazing deals: 40 to 60 percent off a conventional grocery store. The deals are amazing. I've taken everything I've learned at the Ukiah [Grocery Outlet], Lakeport, and Clearlake, and am trying to put them all together to make a fantastic store."

So far, it seems that shoppers agree with McDowell. Brooktrails resident Sayuri Litchfield said, "It feels remarkable," after saving \$123 on her purchase. "I like having this store here, so I don't have to go to Ukiah," she said. "I just love this; this is the greatest thing."



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

about a cowboy's work and the lifestyle, and the other that is poetry that cowboys love."

The two covered both types by incorporating original pieces by Jim Ross, based on his personal ranching experiences, along with skillfully told classics by Karen Ross, drawn from works by Sunny Hancock, Robert Service, and other cowboy poetry favorites.

The Apple Pie Throwdown, which last year had more pies than tables, was a source of much delight for all tasters involved. Official judges Sheriff Tom Allman, 3rd District supervisorial candidate Tom Woodhouse, Jenny Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery, and Lori Dorholt of Ardella's carefully considered 12 entries before retreating inside to deliberate over winners.

The pies were all delicious and ranged from classic recipes – with top crusts and without – to apple whiskey pies, pies with caramel sauce, miniature pies, and even a "Mendocino homegrown probiotic pie" that included cultured and fermented ingredients, introduced as "It's alive!"

Next came a pause in performances, and it was the audience's turn to decide who would win the people's choice award, with Madrigal calling for everyone to "take a break and taste the pie, judge the pie!"

The eager crowd lined up to take forkfuls of each dessert, along with homemade ice cream and cookies, until all the pie dishes were scraped clean and the voting tickets collected.

Emandal's Tamara Adams, who explained that she had been entering pies pseudonymously for the last four years without success, won best overall pie under the show name "Eulalia Hitchcock."

Regarding the judges' picks, Adams said: "Their deliberations took plenty of time, and although they

wanted to award every pie a prize," they selected the following: Spring Senerchia, who won both the people's choice award and "most delectable filling"; Earlynn Schmidbauer, who won "most creative endeavor"; Kathy Shuster, who was judged "most aesthetically pleasing"; and Roberta Yokum, the winner of "perfect crust." All received engraved vintage rolling pins commemorating their pastry chops.

The silent auction, organized by the Harrah Senior Center's Dorothy Roediger and Sue Sawyers, with assistance from live auctioneer Rachel Britton of Ecology Action, was a big success, raising almost \$2,400 in donations towards a new vehicle for the center's Meals-on-Wheels program.

Auction items featured cowboy-themed items such as a cord of wood, roadkill cookbooks, and cowboy planters, jewelry and picnics, along with metallic flowers by Roediger, wine from Coppola Vineyards, a quartet of Amtrak tickets, and more.

Drinks were served by the Friends of the Willits Library, with donations from Mariposa Market, Safeway, Frey Vineyards and Ember Bowls. Proceeds from event ticket sales also benefitted Willits Daily Bread. Sponsors included Ted Dawson, MD, Sparetime Supply, Savings Bank of Mendocino, West Coast Plumbing, John Ford Ranch, Willits Redwood Company, Shusters Transportation, Yokum's Body Shop, Rich Padula, and Alfred Kerr, DDS.

Next year's Not Just Cowboy Poetry event will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2015 and will feature Dave Stamey, "one of the most popular Western entertainers working today."

BIRTH & DEATH NOTICE | Michael Curtis Webb

Michael Curtis Webb

Michael Curtis Webb was born September 14, 2014 at 1:12 pm and passed away September 14, 2014 at 2:15 pm.

Michael gave his strongest organ, his heart valve, so another child will live. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 1/2 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Michael is survived by parents Brenton and Felisha Webb; grandparents Curtis and Lisa Pyle, Margaret Webb, and James Ford; great-grandparents Billy and Brenda McCann, and Larry and Carolyn Carr; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

"We can't express into words how grateful we are to have gotten to meet such an amazing little baby, who has left a huge impact on so many lives. We are left with the wonderful memories of holding his sweet little hands,



Photo by Hollie Nass

getting to kiss his little feet, and showing him all the love in the world we possibly could. We are left at peace knowing one day we will see him again!"

Services will be held at the Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church, 803 Coast Street in Willits, Friday, September 19, 2014, at 3 pm. Gravesite service to follow. All who would like to join are more than welcome!



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Above, left: BGMS Cougars relax at Santa Rosa's Spring Lake, after the Viking Invitational. The course is right next to the lake. Back row: Martin Coughlin, Micah Stamps and Dominic Bertolino. Front: Taylor Campbell, Elizabeth Swoboda, Alyssa Fraser, Alexis Swoboda and Jada Smith. Above right: Taylor Campbell at the finish line. Right, below: Dominic Bertolino after 1 mile. Right, bottom: The start of the junior high race, with Martin Coughlin out in front.

Baechtel Grove cross country off & running

Baechtel Grove Middle School's cross country team got its first look at some high-level competition last weekend in Santa Rosa at the Viking Invitational. The Viking is "a very competitive race," said Coach Dave Smith, "and all eight of the kids ran very good races down there."

Baechtel Grove had a small running club last year. "We ran a little bit last year," Smith said, "but this is the first we've ever taken a team from BGMS down to Viking. It's as good a competition as they're going to see." The BGMS Cougars team includes runners from sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

The eight Baechtel Grove runners raced with more than 130 other junior high runners on a challenging two-mile course. They were led to the finish line by Dominic Bertolino, who finished with a time of 16:39, good for 58th place among the boys. The top girl was Jada Smith, with a time of 18:02, finishing in 31st place among the girls. They were followed by Micah Stamps (19:25), Taylor Campbell (19:40), Elizabeth Swoboda (19:44), Alyssa Fraser (20:03), Martin Coughlin (22:17), and Alexis Swoboda (22:51).

The next race for the Cougars is Wednesday, September 24, at their home course in Brooktrails. Race time is 3:10 pm.

Photos by Laurie Smith

— Jennifer Poole



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'Break the silence; stop bullying'

Rachel's Challenge at Baechtel Grove

"Bullying is NOT original, NOT cool, NOT welcome," says the poster in the office at Baechtel Grove Middle School. Baechtel Grove continues to fight bullying, through education, inspiration and peer support for its sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students.

Last week, the middle school presented the "Rachel's Challenge" program at an assembly for the entire student body.

The program is "based on the writings and life of 17 year-old Rachel Scott who was the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999. Rachel left a legacy of reaching out to those

who were different, who were picked on by others, or who were new at her school. Shortly before her death she wrote: 'I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go.'

BGMS students Makenzie Hansen (7th grade), Laythem Hulsey (7th grade), Daisy Barrett (8th grade), Zoe Schoonmaker (7th grade), and Shea Haley (7th grade) talked to Willits Weekly right after the Rachel's Challenge assembly.

They were all impressed with Rachel's

Read the rest of **Rachel** | Over on Page 15



From left to right: Zoe Schoonmaker, Laythem Hulsey, Makenzie Hansen, Daisy Barrett, and Shea Haley.



Above: Colton Pinson shows his market steer at the 2014 Redwood Empire Fair at the Ukiah Fairgrounds.

Photos by Maureen Moore

The rest of Pinson | From Page 10

With that first calf, Pinson started learning all he could about breeding beef, researching online, attending clinics, speaking with breeders and more to educate himself on the best practices with the new species.

"Colton has been an inspiration with his great attitude, willingness to share all his knowledge with other youth members, his never-ending smile and appreciation of livestock," said Lory McAsey, who presented the award to Pinson during the fair.

After returning from college, Pinson hopes to continue his beef breeding program into a full-scale cattle ranch.

The Rainbow Ag website explains: "This award is dedicated to Chuck Ream, a prestigious livestock breeder in Mendocino County. Chuck is known for his continuous support of youth projects at the local, state and national levels. He has served as a 4H leader, FFA advisor and as youth advisor for the California Suffolk and Hampshire Sheep Association and the National Junior Suffolk Sheep Association. Through his mentoring, many young individuals have succeeded in the livestock field as breeders, ag instructors, livestock judges and 4H leaders. It is because of his vision of the importance of youth in agriculture that we choose to honor Mr. Ream."

Past North County winners include:

2005: Miranda Lucier, Willits FFA, Swine/Poultry/Rabbits

2006: Jenna Berry, Laytonville 4-H, Swine

2011: Breanna Ramsey, Willits 4-H, Sheep

2013: Emma Braught, Laytonville 4-H, Goats

For more information on the award and the judging process for the applicants, see www.rainbowag.com/livestock or contact Lory McAsey at 462-2404.

The rest of Rachel | From Page 14

kindness, they said, and also by her conviction she would make a difference. "She never said 'I wish I could make an impact on the world,'" Zoe said, "she always said 'I will make a difference.'" Rachel wrote diaries, so many of her feelings and ambitions are now shared with the world. "Like Anne Frank," Zoe said.

The girls admitted to crying during the assembly, as many students did. "It made me cry a lot," Makenzie said. "Rachel did so much for people."

"I cried too," Shea said, especially when students were asked to close their eyes and think about people that they loved. "I started thinking about my grandma, who was bullied."

Laythem said the information about so many students being tragically killed at Columbine High School was new to him. The kids talked, also, about the tragedy of kids killing themselves after being bullied, and thought many kids who were bullies may not have thought of the consequences of "going down that path."

"Some people don't even know they're bullies," Daisy said. "Their parents never taught them, or they don't have parents with them." Laythem said – and the girls agreed – that girls could be worse bullies than boys. "Gossip is the worst," Zoe said. "Words can be worse than physical violence," Daisy said. "They can stick in your mind forever."

"I wish Rachel would know what an impact she had on so many people," Makenzie said. Rachel's story "definitely impacted this school," Laythem concluded.

The Willits Police Department sponsors the Rachel's Challenge program at BGMS. Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez, who attended the assembly, said he felt the program's strong emotional impact helped stop school bullying and violence. "Even if it just stops one incident, it's well worth the money," he said.

"Rachel's Challenge was a very inspirational presentation for our students," said Maria de los Angeles Munguia, principal of Baechtel Grove Middle School. "It taught them that moving away from violence, bullying, and negativity is challenging, but everyone can do it. Following Rachel's journals, schools can move toward a positive, kind, and empathetic climate."

The rest of Report | From Page 6

services for the county, [the board] wholly disagrees. There has been no evidence brought forward that establishes ... any conflict of interest by anyone involved in awarding the contract to OMG."

In its response, the county did not specifically answer the finding of the grand jury. The grand jury "perceived a possible conflict of interest," the county responded that "no evidence has been brought forward that establishes ... any conflict of interest."

According to Wikipedia: "The conflict in a conflict of interest exists whether or not a particular individual is actually influenced by the secondary interest. It exists if the circumstances are reasonably believed (on the basis of past experience and objective evidence) to create a risk that decisions may be unduly influenced by secondary interests. There often is confusion over these two situations. Someone accused of a conflict of interest may deny a conflict exists because he/she did not act improperly. In fact, a conflict of interest can exist even if there are no improper acts as a result of it."

The grand jury made three recommendations, two of which were rejected by the county. The grand jury recommended "the board of supervisors develop and adopt policies and procedures to require senior management and/or staff to recuse themselves from any board of departmental activity that could have, or might have the appearance, of a positive financial impact on themselves or any of their immediate family."

Supervisors argued this recommendation was already

The rest of Water | From Page 1

current levels.

"Simply put, we would defer maintenance and continue to defer maintenance, and not be able to repair our 3 million gallon tank without taking out a loan," Public Works Director Rod Wilburn replied to questions from Orenstein.

Another choice, increasing rates to the maximum allowed in the city's 2008 Proposition 218 Water Rate Study, was another option presented to council members.

A 30-day notice must go out with water bills in October before the new water rates go into effect in November.

Water bills go up \$7.46 if you use 2,992 gallons of water,

The rest of Pot | From Page 1

Willits prior to legalization so we can be ahead of the curve," Mayor Holly Madrigal said.

In Willits, municipal codes say marijuana cannot be distributed through dispensaries. The city bans dispensaries – and language in the code describes dispensaries as any business that makes medical marijuana available to patients, persons with ID cards or primary caregivers.

Growing marijuana plants outdoors violate city ordinances, too. The city allows no outdoor growing, but does allow six marijuana plants to be grown indoors.

Councilman Larry Stranske, a Willits teacher of 35 years, said he could see changes in students who smoked marijuana.

"I oppose it, and I will never vote for it," Stranske said.

Ron Moorhead also spoke unfavorably on the subject. "We cannot allow this to continue to happen. We are trying to get rid of the cloak of marijuana in the county," Moorhead said.

In Bear Kamoroff's opinion, allowing a dispensary is asking for trouble. "A dispensary is one more attraction to tell the whole world this is marijuana country. Come up here, there is still a lot of money to be made."

Earlier this summer, Willits businessmen Russ Green and Glen Green asked the council to think about lifting its ban on medical marijuana dispensaries.

The Greens would like to open a dispensary in Willits, and were at last week's meeting, too.

"My argument is regulation is better than leaving criminals in control," said Russ Green. He offered to volunteer hours and to sit on an ad-hoc committee if one was formed.

The rest of REACH | From Page 1

REACH includes less fog, a hangar, the airport's close distance to Highway 20, and the ability to serve southern Humboldt County, she said.

Blair said REACH currently has 20 bases in three states and employs 500 people. "The majority of our workload is hospital-to-hospital transport," said Blair.

Rick Williams is president of the Brooktrails Community Services District board of directors. He warned of resistance to REACH in the community.

"Everybody up in Brooktrails, just so you know, thinks helicopters are noisy," Williams said. "There are a lot of people up in Brooktrails having anxiety attacks."

A letter addressed to the residents of Willits from Blair and Randy Lyman, director of service delivery, says REACH currently serves the area by dispatching resources from five other bases.

The letter noted REACH is "dedicated to ensuring that concerns from the community are heard and mitigated in a collaborative manner."

"I say 'Welcome REACH,' we are really happy to have you here," Brooktrails resident Danielle Sherman said.

Sherman, who said her husband has twice flown in a REACH helicopter, was one of the community members who spoke in support of REACH's move to Ells Field.

in effect; the county requires its employees to comply with the conflict of interest code in the California Code of Regulations.

The grand jury recommended a special clause be added to every consultant contract, stating "all information gathered by the consultant under the contract shall be considered privileged and confidential and may not be divulged to a third party...." The county responded such an addendum would be "not reasonable and contrary to law."

"If the information is already deemed confidential, the contractor would be obligated to maintain that confidentiality regardless of the language in the contract," the county argued.

On the third grand jury recommendation, supervisors were more equivocal.

The grand jury recommended "the board of supervisors adopt a policy prohibiting any county employee from participating in any decision regarding the selection or rejection of any RFP or other contract that involves any former employer within three years of the employee's termination from the former employer."

The board said it wanted some time to think about the impact of the recommendation. "The board of supervisors will request county staff to investigate this issue and provide a response within the next six months," according to the official county response.

\$12.10 if you use 5,984 gallons, and \$14.42 gallons for a consumer of 7,480 gallons, according to a chart from City Hall.

Councilwoman Madge Strong proposed a different increase. She suggested a 20 percent meter increase, a 27 percent across-the-board increase, and a free first unit of water for residential users.

Support from Strong herself and from Mayor Holly Madrigal was not enough to send Strong's proposal to the city's Wastewater and Water Systems Committee for further consideration: it failed on a 2-3 vote.

Robin Leler, a challenger to council seats held by Orenstein and Stranske this fall, said she supports a dispensary and supports talking openly about marijuana.

"I have never grown marijuana, and I have not smoked it since high school 40 years ago," Leler said. An experience with cancer allowed her to see others using it to treat cancer.

"We have to make that legal, and even doctors will write prescriptions for it," Leler said. Like Leler, Councilwoman Madge Strong commented on pot's medical use.

"I think it is shameful not to be able to get it legitimately with the proper controls on it," Strong said.

A conversation about a dispensary ban was brought to the council by Mayor Holly Madrigal and Councilman Ron Orenstein.

"By asking it to be put on [the agenda], I was not supporting it one way or another," Orenstein said.

Willits Realtor Roger Wear talked about how those in the marijuana trade may struggle, for example, to apply for a loan.

Wear, who opposes a dispensary in Willits, told council members: "When you allow it, you are violating the law."

Orenstein and Madrigal's written report on the topic cited the intentions of Willits business people to open a dispensary in town and changes to marijuana laws in Colorado and Washington state.

"It needs to be settled in the halls of Washington, DC," Councilman Bruce Burton said. "We cannot give a right to someone we do not have to give."

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OBITUARY | James F. Brandyberry

James F. Brandyberry
1937-2014

Jim was born in Bell, California, on May 8, 1937 and went home to be with the Lord on September 8, 2014, at the age of 77, after fighting a valiant battle with bladder cancer.

Jim spent his early years in Southgate with his parents and brothers Kenny, Ronnie and Jerry. While living in Corona, California he met and married Bonnie Shilling, and they later relocated to Willits in 1971.

While being superintendent of manufacturing for Microphor, Jim and Bonnie built their home on Hilltop Drive. In 1981 they bought the Sears Catalog Store until it was closed almost 10 years later. Jim then became a manager agent for U.S. Cellular, and opened their retail store in Ukiah.

He finished his working career as executive director of the Willits Senior Center, where he was paramount in seeing their Thrift Store go from a dream to a reality. Jim retired in 2008 to enjoy his years with a passion for jigsaw puzzles, RVing with the Lil Stinkers, fishing, and woodturning with the Redwood Empire Woodturners.

Jim's commitment to his community was evident as a lifetime member of Kiwanis, where he was past president of the local chapter and lieutenant governor of the state affiliate. President Reagan appointed Jim to the Selective Service Board to represent our area. He was also elected to serve on the Mendocino Community College Board as a trustee and chairman.

Jim was at one time president of the Willits Chamber of Commerce and led the Christmas Basket effort to feed the hungry of Willits. As a member of The Gideons International, Jim spent many hours devoted to their mission.

Jim is survived by his wife, Bonnie, of 43 years; two brothers, Kenny and Jerry; two sons, Gary and Stephen and a daughter, Pam; along with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 27 at the Redwood Valley Community Church at 1 pm. In lieu of flowers the family is requesting that donations be made to one of the following: Willits Senior Center, Gideons International (P.O. Box 113, Ukiah, CA 95482) or Phoenix Hospice of Willits.



At top: Cowboy-themed items included a roadkill gift basket from the center's thrift shop, and a "cord of wood" from Conservation Camp, a popular item with the crowd.

Center: Event staffers browse the enticing goods available under the porch's shade, including Amtrak tickets, local wines, and metallic flowers by Dorothy Roediger.

Bottom: Prizes ranged from homemade preserves and flowering planters, to books, jewelry, and other useful items.

Photos by Kate Maxwell



Supporting the Senior Center

Emandal Auction raises almost \$2,400 for center

The Harrah Senior Center held a silent auction at the 4th Annual Not Just Cowboy Poetry and Apple Pie Throwdown at Emandal this past Saturday. Organized by Dorothy Roediger and Sue Sawyers, the auction raised almost \$2,400 dollars in donations from the crowd, all of which went towards the center's Meals-on-Wheels program. The program is raising funds towards the purchase of a new vehicle to better make daily trips to the seniors who depend on their home deliveries of fresh-cooked meals.

The silent auction was capped off by a live auction, held at the end of the musical performances. "Rachel Britton, with her lively auction-yard persona, managed to cajole a bit more money from the crowd," said Emandal owner Tamara Adams, which helped push the total auction donations raised to its impressive final number. Some of the goods are pictured here.

- Kate Maxwell



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