

The WILLITS WOLVERINE

WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER - EDITION #5



Thursday, November 2, 2017



At left: Members of the cross country team including, from left: Jada Smith, Alyssa Fraser, Briana Evans, Nathan Maples, Mario, Teophil Labus, Martin Henebury and Michelle Kluskiewicz

Below: Jada, left, Briana, Alyssa, Nathan, Martin and Teo take off on a run.



Cheerleaders pose with their coach, Megan Freuderberg, at right, front, including: Dani Campbell, Jessica Buzzard, Kylei Polen, Amarah Potter, Taylor Pardue, Janine Wright, Haley Frahm, Valaria Velasco, McKenna Buckingham, Kyla Hendry, Elizabeth Henning, Angel Avalos, Calen Regalado, Ramneet Mann, Mandy Thurman, Alisabeth Wilcox, Samantha Miller, Jessica Brown, Amaia Hammack, Bianca Guevara, Mychaela Nowlin and McKenna McNelly.

RUNNERS TAKE OFF

By Alyssa Fraser and Jada Smith

A fresh new season of cross country started off successfully. On September 6, Willits High's cross country team left for their first race at Bald Hill in Fort Bragg. Two of the team's runners,



Teophil Labus and Dominic Bertolino paced within the top 10 for this 2.8-mile course. With Teo coming in at third and Dominic coming in at sixth, the team was quite happy with their accomplishment.

One week later, the runners were again faced with Fort Bragg but now at Willits' home course. Here are the times:

Teophil Labus - 19:35
 Martin Henebury - 22:14
 Nathan Maples - 23:47
 Briana Evans - 26:55
 Jada Smith - 28:33
 Alyssa Fraser - 28:52

The freshmen on the team have some things to say about the change from middle school cross country to high school cross country. We asked, "As a freshman, how did you feel about the change in path and distance of the races and practices, compared to how they were done last year?" Here are their responses:

Teophil: "As a freshman, I found it was interesting coming from a team that the hard practices are three miles to a team where the hard practices are six miles. Although the practices are hard, I find them fun. It's always nice competing and trying your old time. All the tracks are beautiful with new dirt under your foot each race."

Jada: "When I went to the first practice and heard we were doing an 'easy' run of two miles, I was not prepared. Now when I look back on that, it

seems silly; with coach Michelle's great training, I can easily run six miles. As for the change in races, I think it's amazing. I always have so much fun hopping into a van and going to a new place every week!"

Alyssa: "The change from middle school was definitely an improvement. It may have been a difficult transition, but it was for the better. I have improved with my running so much more than I thought possible, and continue to impress myself with every practice."

Other runners were asked a new question, because they have already passed their season running as a freshman. When asked, "Why did you decide to run?" We got the following responses:

Briana: "I decided to run because I needed a way to get out all my feelings and running was an easily accessible outlet."

Patrick Turner: "Because I enjoy running."

Martin: "Frankly, Mom made me do it. However, after a while, I decided that running is a decent form of exercise. Plus, it's always better to do something with others than by yourself. Especially with a good team like this one."

Phil: "I think running is a chance to prove your will. And say 'how far am I willing to go?'"

The cross country team had a great time running together this season. We've got a lot of fond memories to look back on and enjoy.

PET OBITUARY: OPHELIA

By Teophil Labus

In room six, at the north end of the main hallway, there lived a quiet spider who didn't do much, but she was always there for someone to look at or to talk to when someone needed a friend.

Her name was Ophelia and she brought joy to all the students in Mrs. Pricilla Dodge and Mrs. Juanita Amador's class.

Ophelia passed away on September 30, 2017 at the ripe old age of 13 due to natural conditions.

Our class loved Ophelia so much that we decided to give her a proper funeral. Sophie deTreville thought that "Ophelia should be burned like a Viking warrior so she could go to Valhalla and dine with the Gods." However, after much debate, her resting place would be behind the blue memorial bench in the little garden by the entry way to the farm.

The fourth-period class worked together and with the strong back of Genaro Meza, dug a lovely grave where Ophelia would spend eternity. Breanna Legere was the first to speak, "Ophelia, you beautiful hairy creature, you lighten everyone's life every time we

walk into the class. Your beautiful evil smile attracts us as you listen to our conversations and laughter. Rest in peace you beautiful creature."

Next, freshman Jordan Scroggins spoke, "Even though I didn't know Ophelia very well, I know that she was loved by all and I hope she rests in peace." Then Pastteall Fischbach added a little history and explained that "in Greek the name Ophelia means 'help' and in Shakespeare's plays Ophelia is the lover of Hamlet."

Then after everyone said their kind words and goodbyes, Mia Jiminez sang "Welcome to the Black Parade" by My Chemical Romance as I, Teo Labus, laid the spider gently into the welcoming hole in the ground. Students placed letters they had written for the spider into the cavern as well, and then everyone slowly covered her with a blanket of earth. When the song was over, there was a moment of silence and then everyone left for class with the memory of Ophelia the spider on their minds and in the hearts.

Ophelia is survived by her beloved owner, Mrs. Dodge, and her bearded dragon friends, Vulcan, Sobette and Moth.

EAT, SLEEP, CHEER, REPEAT!

By Haley Frahm, Ramneet Mann and Amarah Potter

The WHS 2017 cheer season is new and improved; the cheer team has new uniforms and a new coach, Megan Freuderberg. At the start of the season, a total of 45 girls tried out for the team. In the end, 29 girls stayed on. Our committed girls excelled at learning the routines and stunts which are extraordinary and are a lot more complicated than meets the ordinary eye.

We started practices in July, two times a week for 4 hours each day. Then we came to a conclusion that we should get new uniforms and a few other new things like shoes, bags, bows, and pom-poms. We raised enough money doing a car wash and several bake sales, and gratefully received donations which helped us a lot during the process. In the end, we got our brand-new uniforms with the fly-away skirts just before the first game of the season.

Our coach, Freuderberg, took on the task of being a cheer coach for 29 girls and helped make the season great. This year Freuderberg has four cheer captains to help her keep things running smoothly. The captains are seniors Danielle Campbell, Shayna Crandall and Haley Frahm, and sophomore Jessica Buzzard.

The captains help choreograph the dances, teach stunts, as well as encourage the girls to laugh, bond and come together like a family. It's not just the captains that make the team, all the girls pull their weight and make the team what it is.

Whether it's their first year or their tenth in cheer, every one of the girls are all part of the team. Each of us is there for one another and tries to help each other through whatever obstacles we may need to overcome. Being in cheer is like being a part of a family, and family is there for each other no matter what.



FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

By Madison Forrester

The National FFA Organization is an amazing institution that has so much more to offer than just showing livestock. You can attend all sorts of conferences, fairs and judging competitions. For example, you can go to the Greenhand Conference if you are a freshman, Made for Excellence Conference if you're a sophomore, Advanced Leadership Academy Conference if you are a junior or senior, and my favorite... the California State FFA Conference. It's the best because of the people you meet, the positive energy, and it's a lot of fun, plus this year is the first year it will be in Anaheim!

We also attend many local fairs like the Redwood Empire Fair in Ukiah where we had the largest chapter involvement. Members in our chapter got Supreme Grand Champion Market Goat, Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer, Champion FFA Steer, Reserve Champion FFA Steer, first in pen of three for goats and steers, first in sheep, dog and goat advanced showmanship, and many other terrific awards and placings.

More recently at the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show, Willits FFA did amazing there too. Our students won Best of Breeds with our New Zealand Jr. Doe, Reserve Champion Unregistered Doe, Reserve Champion Registered Doe, first place Advanced Sheep, Goat, and Dog showmanship and first place Novice Rabbit Showmanship and first place Round Robin.

The showing part of FFA is by far my favorite. I have been showing for 12 years. This is my second year in FFA and before that I was in 4-H. I've shown goats, sheep, cattle and horses. The best part of FFA is showmanship; people get to see how I've raised my animals and it is so rewarding to see all my hard work and time pay off. I definitely encourage all high school students to be a part of FFA.

Our FFA chapter tries to help out the community by doing many service activities such as "Dinner on the Bypass" which we did last year before the freeway opened. We also like to help serve at other dinners and help with local activities or put on a petting zoo for the younger WUSD students.

This week during the horrible fire that struck to the south of us, Mrs. Brackett opened up our school farm for people that had to evacuate with their animals. Many of our members came down to help take care of the numerous livestock and pets that were being housed at the farm. We fed, watered, exercised and cleaned up after the animals and were happy to help and be of service.

Currently we are doing a fundraiser to help support the seven Mendocino County FFA members that lost everything in the fire by selling water bottles. If you are interested in purchasing one they are \$15 dollars each, you can email Mrs. Brackett at kelleycase@willitsunified.com or call her at 707-459-7700 ext. 1539.

Mrs. Brackett is an amazing and inspiring FFA teacher, she really knows how to spark the love for showing livestock and going to competitions and conferences.



FFA members including: front row, from left: Austin Andrade, Jacob Arms, Justin Verdot, Taylor Brown, Alexis Reyes, Morgan Riley, and Madison Forrester. Second row: Ryan Reed, Lucas Branscomb, Jaden Dook, David Mann, Jasmine Mendoza, Sierra Skinner, Claire Case-Brackett, and Caitlyn Forrester. Third row: Austin Wilcutt, Ryan LaCount, Kyleena Amador, Jessica Buzzard, Isabella Lopez, Calle Brown, and Amy Andrade. Fourth row: Devin Heiken, Colten Dook, Keegan Reed, D.J. Buzzard, Bailey Ferguson, Karissa Cornwall, and James Brown. Back Row: Takota Pailson, Ian Seymour, Benjamin Branscomb, and Cheyenne Paulson

skills and you meet lots of new people." – Jessica Buzzard

"I like FFA because I get to show all over the state of California and learn many leadership skills." – Morgan Riley

"I went to the Greenhand Leadership Conference and it was a lot of fun because we got to meet new people and I definitely learned more about FFA." – Amayah Alexander

This year our chapter officers got together over the summer and planned out the entire year's calendar. We have some great things coming up and fundraisers too. Our first fundraiser is the Tri-Tip Lunches (we have two more scheduled throughout the year) that we sell to the local businesses. In November, we will be selling See's Candy, and in January we will sell FFA Cookie Dough. If you are interested in any of these items please contact Mrs. Brackett.

Hope you have a fantastic year!

Here is what a few of our members new and old have to say about FFA:

"I like FFA because it gives me new leadership



Academic Decathlon students pose with their teacher Mary Colvig, including, back row, from left: Elizabeth Henning, Micah Stamps, Ian Watson, Savanna Hofmaister, Nick Hebel, Zachariah Dellet, Jacob Arms, Rene Torres, and Ms. Mary Colvig. Middle row: Mycheala Nowlin, Belen Mendoza, Brieana Evans, Grady Williams, Isabel Grieve, Katie Abernathy. Front row: Ariel Reyes, Naomi Strickland, and Mariela Mendoza

ATHLETES OF THE MIND COME BACK FOR ROUND TWO

By Mycheala Nowlin

The Willits High School Academic Decathlon team consists of 15 wonderful and ready academic minds ranging in grades from tenth to twelfth. We are entering our second year back at Willits High School with determination and a new outlook on the class. We struggled a bit last year because we did not have the resources we needed on time and had no idea how to really approach the class, but this year we are more prepared and have a set plan on how we are going to tackle this year's theme of Africa.

Every year students compete to study and learn about a specific topic, this year the topic is Africa. As a class we are looking at and studying mathematics, literature, science, social science, economics, music and art centered around Africa. So far, we have covered in class the literature guide and the science guide.

Finish "Decathlon" on page 3



Bernardo Lopez, Orion Hernandez, Angel Partridge, Joey Denier, Amanda Figg-Hoblyn, Melody Leon, Cecilia Cramer, Rodrigo Mandujano, Jaeva Cash, Karina Brito, Jairo Carrillo, Ryan Millmore, Celeste Mandujano, Matt McGee and Jeremiah Potter of the band.

WHS WELCOMES DIANA McNALLY-McCALL

By Carolyn Bakewell

Diana McNally-McCall is delighted to have joined Willits High as the new band, choral, guitar, piano and musical theater teacher. She has taught at diverse schools ranging from an International college-prep boarding school where the majority of students were from many Asian countries. "While, most of these students spoke little English, music and music making transcends borders!" said Mrs. McNally-McCall. She received her Bachelor of Music from Sonoma State University in classical piano performance where she studied under Marilyn Thompson; she also completed her California teaching credential in music from SSU. Other experience includes professional work in New York City in theater and film. "Six years ago, I traveled for one month through Northern India studying the rich musical and cultural heritage of India, and performed at orphanages in several Himalayan cities." When not teaching, Diana plays Celtic Irish, Scottish and world music, and is never far from her fiddle. Along with being the proud mom of three young adult children, her students are her greatest joy. "My students at Willits High, along with incredible colleagues, are some of the finest young people I have been honored to work with and to learn from. I'm staying put!"

Mrs. McNally-McCall's students are fond of her as well. "Band is a really fun class and I think Mrs. McNally is a great teacher. She's been giving us more interesting pieces to play, and all of them have been fun so far. I'm excited to see how the band improves over this year," said Orion Hernandez. "While the band is smaller, our spirits are much higher. Matt, Jeremiah and Rodrigo are the heart and soul of this band's sound, so it's gonna be sad to lose them after this year," shared Bernardo Lopez. Jeremiah Potter said, "I am loving being a part of the band. Mrs. McNally-McCall is a great teacher and I know we'll learn a lot from her."

The end of "Decathlon" from page 2

For literature we had to read the book "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe and a series of small short works in the literature guide. We split up the guide by section and a group of students created a presentation on one of the short works and shared it with the class.

We took the science guide disease by disease and presented the first section of the guide to other classes. We are currently taking notes and creating podcasts on the sections that cover HIV / AIDs, Ebola and malaria. As we work on the academic guides, we also are working on improving our interview skills and writing our speeches, as well as practicing our super-quiz skills. We are all so excited to compete at regionals in January and February and even more excited to be competing at State in March. The Academic Decathlon was founded in 1981 by Dr. Robert Peterson, Superintendent of Orange County Schools. The mission of the program is to promote academic excellence through rigorous team work and individual academic competition.

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GIRLS STATE FOR SARA

This summer I was chosen as Willits' delegate to attend California's Girls' State program. Five hundred and thirty girls gathered at Claremont McKenna college for a week-long retreat. My time at Girls' State was amazing. In one whirlwind week, I had a fantastic crash course in government, and made many friends along the way. I learned that while many of us were divided by political parties, we could all still be friends. I learned that I could give a speech in front of 300 plus girls. I learned that being elected isn't the prize, it's the memories you make along the way. I only wish that we all could've spent more time together. It was incredible to see so many young, smart, talented women come together and learn. I am very grateful to American Legion Auxiliary for granting me this unforgettable, empowering experience.

– Sara Strickland



Sara Strickland (front and center) at California's Girls' State 2017 program.

5th Annual

Willits Booster Club Fashion Show

Featuring fashions from local Boutiques being modeled by WHS Students & Local youth

~

November 18, 2017@6pm

JD Redhouse~Tiger Lily's~Monkey Wrench~Off The Cuff~Buttercups~Earth's Treasures~Willits Power/Carhartt

Willits Community Center

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PG. 2

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PG. 3



TRAVEL ABROAD TO ENGLAND WITH MRS. WALTON!

We're going on an Education First tour to England next year! You are invited to participate in an exciting international travel opportunity to England in April of 2018. As our world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is critical for our students to become more culturally aware, explore new ideas, and grow their potential.

When students are able to see literature come to life outside the classroom, they develop a new and valuable perspective of the world. Some of the highlights of the trip are Shakespeare's birthplace, the Globe Theatre, Roman baths, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.

For more information, contact Jill Walton at jillwalton@willitsunified.com.

Junior Boosters, (from left: Elizabeth Henning, Daisy Barrett and Joe Wisdom



JUNIOR BOOSTERS HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The second annual Junior Boosters Holiday Bazaar is coming soon on December 9 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Wolverine Cafe. Last year was a huge success, so reserve your spot now by contacting Christy Wisdom (christywisdom@willitsunified.com) or Jennifer Barrett (jenniferbarrett@willitsunified.com). The table fee is only \$20 and school groups and community members are welcome.

Last year the freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior classes all had a booth as well as Yearbook, Junior Boosters, Peer Counseling, Native American Club, and a few community members that had fishing stuff, jewelry, ornaments and handmade knitted goodies for sale, and there will be lots of yummy treats to eat, especially an abundance of candy. "I really enjoyed helping Jr. Boosters with this event last year and I would totally encourage everyone to go to it," said Elizabeth Henning.



Artists including, from left Nathan Coleman, Johnny Lara Lopez, Cameron Hernandez and Marlene Pena show off their pastels.

PASTELS FOR PEACE

By Carolyn Bakewell

International Day of Peace was first started in 1981 by a United Nations resolution. 1982 saw the first observance of Peace Day and by 2001 the date was set to September 21 after the 9/11 events. Peace Day is devoted to upholding, commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. It's a day of ceasefire and non-violence observed around the world by billions of people. This year's theme for peace is "Together for peace, respect and dignity for all." "I started a tradition at WHS 11 years ago for International Day of Peace. On September 21, my visual arts students quietly descend onto the quad and we make art with chalk pastels. The students have the choice to do an artwork with the

theme of peace or school spirit. Students think about and do thumbnail sketches of what they will create and the result is beautiful public art for all to enjoy and the hope is to raise awareness."

Peace Quotes

"Pastels in the quad was a great way to start my day. I enjoyed the combination of fresh air and art."

– Genevieve Van Meter

"I really liked how everyone was able to express themselves through art."

– Kristan Frost

"Pastels in the quad was very fun. We got to go outside instead of being cooped up like chickens in a hen house. It was a great experience."

– Jacob Compa

"Drawing the peace artworks outside was really cool but hard cause it was freezing cold that day."

– Johnny Lara Lopez

"I liked being outside making art in the fresh air."

– Cameron Hernandez
Finish "Pastels" on page 6

At right: Link Leaders including from back row: Sara Strickland, Matthew Colvig, Mitchell Hollingsworth, Cody Pedersen, Nicole Burke, Taylor Watts, Karen Hernandez, Naomi Strickland, Isabella Lopez, Amaia Hammack, Kaylee Novo, Lilye Kyne, Araceli Arellano, Fatima Perez, Leslie Campuzano, Daisy Barrett, Haley Frahm, Alisabeth Wilcox, Melissa Loya, Gisele Nieto, Nicole Karkar, Yuseli Campuzano, Jailine Gonzales, Lupe Santamaria and Yotzil Patino.



NEW GENERATION MENTORS: WHS LINK CREW BUILDS BRIDGES WHILE WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS

By Daisy Barrett

Link Crew is a dedicated group of upperclassmen that help the new incoming freshmen feel comfortable at Willits High School. At the end of last year, sophomores and juniors filled out an application explaining why they'd like to be in Link Crew. Senior Alisabeth Wilcox reports, "I joined link crew because it was a way for me to help out in my school community and I wanted to help the freshmen who are struggling while adjusting to high school."

The Link Crew leaders trained for three days during the summer for orientation day. Junior Taylor Campbell says, "Our Link Crew team for 2017 is a really close group. The first couple of days I was a little nervous, trying not to mess up on everything, but our group did nothing but lift me up."

The leaders learned new games and activities that had a twist that related to real events in high school. Junior Taylor Watts shares, "My favorite activity was the ball-tossing one because it showed the more years that you're in high school, the more balls you have to juggle."

On the last day of training during the summer, counselors Nicole Burke and Lucy Kyne partnered link crew members up for orientation day. Junior Melissa Loya states, "I was partners with Kaylee Novo, which I was very happy about. We really know how to work together and we made everything a bit more fun."

Each group came up with a theme; this year we had "The Emojis," "The Water Bottle Stations," "The Glow Sticks" to name a few. Junior Lupe Santamaria shares, "My partner, Yuseli Campuzano, and I were "The Hawaiian Mustache" group. I thought that having a theme for our groups was a fun idea to get to know the freshmen in a new way."

At the end of orientation day, the Link Crew leaders had a true heart-to-heart talk with the freshmen and offered advice before the newbies enter high school. Senior Haley Frahm says, "My biggest advice for the freshmen is not to date their freshman year because it's a year to find out about yourself and sometimes dating can lead to people acting like they think they should instead of being themselves."

Counselor Nicole Burke adds, "This year our Link Crew program conducted a successful freshmen orientation which included ice breakers, games and campus tours. And the leaders are available throughout the year to freshmen for assistance and mentorship as needed. Link members are also called upon to conduct new student tours. We have a great group of leaders this year that are energetic, kind, and genuinely committed to helping freshmen adjust to high school. Here is the link to the Link Crew webpage: <http://whs.willitsunified.com/career-center/link-crew>

What is Link Crew?

- Link Crew is a freshman transitional program that welcomes incoming freshmen and makes them feel comfortable and supported throughout the first year of their high-school experience. Link Crew trains incoming juniors and seniors to support and be positive role models for incoming ninth graders. We are also happy to have incoming sophomores join our administrative team, so Link Crew really is an opportunity for all Willits High School students.
- Link Crew is a year-long transition program with the following components that contribute to its success.
- High School Orientation – Link Leaders and freshmen start building the mentor relationship and freshmen receive information about how to be successful in high school.
- Social Follow-Ups – Link Leaders and freshmen connect outside the classroom at social events to increase student engagement and promote positive school climate.
- Leader-Initiated Contacts – Link Leaders connect with their freshmen on a more individual basis.

Who are Link Leaders?

Link Leaders are upperclassmen (juniors and seniors) who have been successful at Willits High School. Link Leaders' communication skills, leadership, potential, responsibility and personality have helped them succeed in the high-school environment. The lessons they have learned should be shared to help others succeed. You can have a tremendous influence on new students and gain many valuable leadership skills in the process. Plus, it will be fun!

Qualities we are looking for in our Link Crew Leaders:

Accountability, Collaboration, Commitment, Creativity, Enthusiasm, Friendliness, Problem Solving, Communication, Risk Taking and Thoughtfulness.

How can I become a link leader?

First, you must be willing to commit for the duration of the entire school year, and you must be a junior or senior during the 2018-2019 school year. Current freshmen who are interested in being a part of the Administration Team can also apply for that position. Second, all interested students must complete an application. Check in with Counselor Nicole Burke in April 2018 for an application or if you have any questions.



Far left: Kayla Grace Chesser. At left: Kayla's many jerseys are framed in honor of her dedicated sports career.

IN HONOR OF KAYLA GRACE CHESSE

By Holli Woodhouse

I decided to create a memorial for Kayla two years ago when I was coaching the WHS volleyball team. At the time, it had been one year since Kayla's passing. I thought it would be fitting to place this memorial in the same gym she spent so much time in during her high school years.

Steve Short was also our championship team basketball coach junior year (his final year of coaching), so having her memorial in the gym with his name on it was also important to me. The dedication took place on Tuesday, October 24 between the JV and Varsity volleyball matches with former coaches and fellow dancers, family members and friends.

A huge thank you to those who helped make this memorial come together: Kayla's parents and step-parents, as well as my mother, Jill Walton, who was our volleyball coach in high school and my husband, Noel Woodhouse, who also coached Kayla in tennis.

I played volleyball, basketball and softball with Kayla from sixth grade through senior year. Kayla also played tennis at WHS and was a devoted peer counselor.

Kayla was, of course, more than just an athlete throughout the years; more recently, she fell in love with dance and hoped to open a studio one day. She was also a dedicated student, a devoted peer counselor, and the most loving, supportive friend you could ask for.

You'll see "Love life, live love" at the bottom of the plaque. That was the quote from our volleyball team junior year. Each season, the team would sit down and come up with a mission

statement, a quote that described us as a group, and a list of goals for the season. We were a very close-knit team that year and we credited our playoff wins to that sense of friendship and love we all had for each other. I included the quote on Kayla's memorial because I feel like it accurately symbolizes the way she lived her life.

Although displaying her sports jerseys doesn't fully represent the Kayla we all knew and loved, I can tell you that, having known her as a teammate, her time as an athlete does represent the dedication, drive, and passion she put into all that she did.

"Kayla was a dear friend and beautiful person," shares Marion Lohne. "I am honored to have her memorial here in our gym. I know that her spirit is here with us now and I think of her often. I think of her when a dragonfly brushes close to me or a butterfly settles on a bush. I think of her when I connect with someone and their smile brightens up my day. I think of her when I see the sparkle in someone's eyes and their passion for life."

"Kayla was a ray of light dancing around us while she graced us with her presence. She pursued her dreams and overcame adversity in order to accomplish them. She wowed people on stage as a dancer with her smooth, fluid movements and bright smile. She made everyone feel important and shared her purpose with them. Kayla inspired all who were able to know her."

KAYLA, WE HONOR YOU, WE MISS YOU, WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU. MAY WE SHINE OUR LIGHT DAILY IN YOUR HONOR.



Soccer players pose with their coach including, from back row, left: Coach Tatiana Cantrell, Jairo Carrillo, Aldo Perez, Cristian Arreguin, Adrian Haro, Eddie Leon, Gonzalo Angulo, Mariano Mendoza and Manuel Baruelos. Front row: Angel Jacinto, Nick Karkar, Marcos Cardona, Johnny Lara Lopez and Angel Gannaria.

BOYS' SOCCER KICKING AND RUNNING, WHILE LOOKING STUNNING

By Daisy Barrett

Boys' soccer has been achieving their goals and keeping their winning streak. On September 19, the boys crushed Kelseyville 1-0 and it was the first win against Kelseyville in years.

Center defense player Adrian Haro said, "It was the craziest and most intense game I've ever been in." Six players were yellow carded, there were almost two fights, and many of the boys were injured due to the intensity being so high. Forward Gonzalo

Angulo scored the only goal throughout the game. Angulo shared, "Making the only goal of that game made me feel like I actually helped kick Kelseyville's butt! The feeling of beating a team like Kelseyville is everything that I could've hoped for in the season."

Angel Jacinto blocked the penalty the won them the game. "It felt fantastic beating Kelseyville after losing to them for four years and having the winning block just made the feeling a thousand times better."

SENIOR SOCCER BOY QUOTES

"I'm going to miss everyone on this soccer team. We had a good ride. Best moment was winning against three-time defending champions Kelseyville 1-0 on their home field and almost beating Fortuna in the preseason."

– Adrian Haro

"This has been my fourth year playing varsity soccer for the high school and it's been one of the best ones too! As a captain, it's a lot of responsibility keeping your team together. I'm going to miss every single one of my teammates and every single memory we made. It has been a pleasure to play. My

favorite game is when I scored a goal against Kelseyville and we won 1-0!"

– Gonzalo Angulo

"The soccer season for Willits High School has come to an end. Playing soccer all four years has been nothing but a great experience. I will always carry the good games, memories and my team-mates with me."

– Eddie Leon

"This last year of soccer will be one I will remember for the rest of my life. I couldn't have asked for a better group of friends to play my final year of soccer with. I love every single one like a brother and I will forever miss my soccer family."

– Cristian Arreguin



Above, left: Lucas Branscomb asks Emerald Waters with the help of a volleyball: "I'd DIG it if you'd went to Homecoming with me." Above, right: Matt Colvig made a sign that reads "Homecoming would be RUFF without you" to ask Sara Strickland to the dance. Below: Joseph Denier asks Amanda Figg-Hoblyn to the dance: "I know this is really cheesy but will you go to Homecoming with me?"

POPPING THE QUESTION, HOMECOMING STYLE!

Students worked really hard to come up with new, creative and clever ways to invite their special someone to the Homecoming dance. The excitement was contagious!



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Above: Jacob Arms, Craig Stewart, DJ Buzzard and Elijah DeCent help Cody Peterson ask Naomi Strickland to the Homecoming dance.





HOME TWEET HOME

By Carolyn Bakewell

Captain Sawdust gathered up his WHS woodworking students and traveled over to Brookside Elementary School on October 4 with tools in hand and pre-cut pieces of wood. Their mission? They were about to assemble approximately 50 birdhouses with Mrs. Bowles and Ms. Ostrowski's second graders for their habitat unit.

"The birdhouses were an introductory lesson into habitats," said Mrs. Bowles. "Next week we'll be starting our in-depth habitat unit in Language Arts, so the birdhouse project was perfect." The birdhouses were built with screws and Phillips screwdrivers and were designed specifically to hold the western bluebird that has a diminishing habitat due to human encroachment.

"The woodworking students cut all the wood, pre-assembled the birdhouses, and then took them apart and flat packed them. The design was a simple one-board birdhouse to get my students acquainted with working from a plan and the hole was drilled to 1-9/16 inches to allow for the bluebirds," said Mr. Bowles. "The birdhouses also have a nifty side that flips open so you can clean out the old nesting material after the end of the season."

"Making birdhouses for the second graders at Brookside was a success and a great experience," said Eddie Leon. "Mr. Bowles gave us the assignment to make two birdhouses and once we

finished them we made kits for the second graders. Then we walked over to Brookside and helped the little kids build them. The students were very excited to make their birdhouses and provide a nesting place for their feathered friends and they loved showing them off to their parents!"

Thanks Captain Sawdust and the woodworking team for sharing your time, energy and expertise with the elementary children. You've brought joy and the love of learning into the classroom and made happy happen.

Mr. Bowles is making plans to return with his crew and partner with the other second grade classes in the trimesters to come.



At top: Willits High School students pose with Brookside students and their birdhouses.

Above: Collin Spackman-Rowles with Kiera and Jade.

At left: Eddie, left, Jacob and Caiden.



Artist and their pastels, including: Jacob Compa, left; Kristan Frost, below; and at bottom: Makenzie Hansen, left, and Briana Evans

The end of "Pastels" from page 4

"I thought it was fun and cool to go outside and draw for Peace Day."

- Marlene Pena

"Although it was cold, the Pastels for Peace project was a fun experience. It was outside in a different environment than we're used to and that was cool."

- Nathan Coleman

"Peace pastels was really fun and I enjoyed it."

- Makenzie Hansen

"Going out in the quad and making art was something completely different from any other art I have done and it was really fun."

- Briana Evans



THE WOLVERINE CAFE

By Alyssa Fraser

As a vegetarian, the salad bar opened so many doors. The bar contains a colorful variety of lettuce, carrots, beets, olives, corn, tomatoes and many other items, plus several different dressings.

The salad bar seems to be drawing in a crowd and at the same time, improving the diet of many students. I believe it is a good addition to our school but I wanted to ask around and get the opinion of others.

When I asked Jada, "Do you think the salad bar was a good addition to the school?" She responded with: "I think it's a good plan B for when the school serves meat, so that us vegetarians can still eat."

When Amayah was asked the same question, she gave me the answer: "Yes, because there are lots of healthy options and if you don't like the food that is being served, you can always get a salad."

When students were asked: "Do you think there is a wide variety of choices when creating your salad?" We got answers like: "Always" (Jada), "Yeah" (Jasmine), "Yes" (Amayah), and "It is great to see all the variety" (Teophil). I think we can all agree the salad bar is improving our school.

At top: Kira Humphries and Amayah Alexander are fans of the new salad bar.

At right: Mycheala enjoys a fresh salad in the cafeteria.



Football players including, back row: Ben Branscomb, Justin Verdote, Steven Duran, Coach Branscomb, Lance Burgess, Ryan LaCount, Austin Leek and Mitchell Hollingsworth. Front: Cody Peterson, Tristan Martin, Colten Doak, and Elijah DeCent.

A FEW LAST WORDS FROM VARSITY SENIORS

"I'm going to miss football but lots of good memories."

- Lance Burgess

"This year's team is not only special because it's my senior year team, but it is special because of the bond we all have with each other. I'm going to miss all these guys but I know they will be cheering me on when I play on ESPN in college."

- Tristan Martin

"It was a fun year. I'm going to miss playing football with my friends."

- Ryan LaCount

"I love my team, my town and I love my school."

- Cody Peterson and Ben Branscomb

"I have been playing with these guys for four years now and honestly, it couldn't have been any better. I love my team and a special thanks goes out to Chris Bickford for being an amazing coach"

- Justin Verdote

"My first and last year of football has been an amazing experience. I've gotten so

much closer to my friends and I have major respect for every one of them. It's been a fun year and I'm sad to say it's our last, but the memories we made will never leave. Love you guys."

- Steven Duran

"It was a year to remember. It's going by so fast and adulthood is coming. I'm going to miss the team and the practices. I love football."

- Mitchell Hollingsworth

"My senior year surely came quick. This was definitely a year to remember because friendships and bonds became a lot closer. I'll miss everyone and miss playing under the Friday-night lights here in Willits."

- Elijah DeCent

"I've been with these boys for seven years helping coach. It's been fun watching them grow and improve in all aspects of their football game. Each one of these young gentlemen has a bright future. I wish them luck."

Love, Coach Raybee and Raybee Coach Aaron Branscomb

CLASS NEWS

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY

Upcoming ASB events:

The upcoming ASB event is "Hot Winter's Night Dinner" on December 8. It starts at 5 pm and will go to 6 pm, followed by an art / talent show. ASB will set up a soup and salad bar, open to all who can come before the show. Come support ASB and Willits High School and have a nice dinner! The delicious dinner, provided and cooked by ASB, is a soup of your choice, a salad, a roll and a drink for only \$5.

SENIOR CLASS NEWS

The senior class has been very successful this year raising money for our senior trip to Disneyland which should be loads of fun. We will be doing fundraisers throughout the year and our current one is a Yankee candles sale. We are also helping out Sober Grad by having a homemade candy sale on December 2 at the senior center and December 9 at the Willits High School. Sober Grad is also raffling off a picnic table;

Finish "News" on page 8



Volleyball players, including, from left: Madison Forrester, Karen Hernandez, Daisy Barrett, Sara Strickland, Sequoya Swearingin, Leslie Campuzano, Yuseli Campuzano and Naomi Strickland

KISS MY ACE!

By Sara Strickland

The 2017 Willits High School volleyball season was a blast! This year the 11 of us experienced both wins and losses, all of which brought us closer together. The most important thing was that we all played our hearts out in every game. I think the whole varsity team would agree that even though we weren't number one in league this season, the memories we made together will be treasured in our hearts. Especially for the four seniors graduating this year! The team really came together to show us love on senior night, with personalized handwritten notes and assorted chocolates! We became more than just teammates this season, through the bonding bus rides (singing at the top of our lungs) and whining about wall-sit Wednesday, we became best friends.



Superintendent Mark Westerberg and Daisy Barrett

NEW INVESTMENTS AT WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL

Willits Unified School District's Superintendent, Mr. Westerberg, is making Willits High School better than ever. I talked with Mr. Westerberg to hear what he's been up to with Willits High and what he is hoping to see happen.

We first talked about the new tennis courts, where he stated, "I've never seen tennis courts this bad!" He described how he helped fix up the courts by working eight hours a day and explained that it cost the school \$21,000 and the city helped and paid \$20,000. The new tennis courts are great and much more fun to play on; we now have better lights, a new wall, fixed fence, new nets, and a power outlet. Instead of naming the courts by number, Mr. Westerberg is having the courts named by the top two guys and the top two girls in tennis history; Mike Austin, Noel Woodhouse, Radeyn Smith, and Brie and Megan Synder. Mr. Westerberg envisions a new shed and a hitting machine for the tennis team too.

We also discussed his ideas for the new and improved lunches on campus. Mr. Westerberg stated, "70 percent of our school eats for free, so the question I had is, 'why isn't our cafeteria getting any business?' The only solution that made sense to me was to ask our wonderful ladies to make food that students would actually eat. I invited the leadership class to test different kinds of pizza, so we could see what kind of pizza kids liked the best. We also now have a new salad bar with lots of choices and a smoothie bar which has attracted more students to the cafeteria instead of going off campus.

"Lastly, I got rid of the paper plates and bought actual silverware for our students to use. The next step for the Wolverine cafe is to place a big TV in there to make the environment more comfortable for students." Since Mr. Westerberg has encouraged these positive changes to our cafeteria the percentage rate of students has gone up and in turn helps create more money for our school.

Finally, I asked Mr. Westerberg about his future plans for Willits High School. He shared that he plans to get new lights in the gym and LED lights in the foyer by Thanksgiving. He also plans to remove the curtain in the ceiling of the gym. In the winter he wants to update the Hall of Fame by adding new people including our new football coach and teacher Mr. Bickford. In the spring, he hopes to get a new press box out by the football field and he's going to take out the "dead man's corner" on softball's left field.

CREATED BY WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

2017-18 WOLVERINE NEWSPAPER STAFF

AND WILLITS WEEKLY STAFF

WHS Wolverine Editor: Daisy Barrett, WHS Staff: Jocelyn Bebe, Kiley Butler, Haley Frahm, Alyssa Fraser, Teophil Labas, Mycheala Nolin, Jada Smith, Amarah Pitter, Madison Forrester and Sara Strickland, WHS Advisor: Carolyn Bakewell, Contributions by Tom Conrad, Tatiana Contrill, Holl Woodhouse and Marian Lavne, Willits Weekly Assistant Editor: Jackie Cobbs, Willits Weekly Art Director: Maureen Moore, Printer: Western Web.



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The end of "News" from page 7

you can contact Grace Horger for tickets at 707-354-4855, and the winner will be announced in May. Our senior-class officers are, President Yotzil Patino, Vice President Grace Horger, Secretary Steven Duran, and Treasurer Fatima Perez. This is their first time being class officers, and they're doing a good job keeping up with fundraisers and making the senior year for their class of 2018 one to remember.

JUNIOR CLASS NEWS

The Junior Class will be having Prom Meetings starting November 6 at 6:30 pm in Mrs. Case-Brackett's classroom number 22. The meetings will be held every first Monday of the month! Please bring your ideas for our "Footloose" theme.

On December 2, we're having a bake sale in front of J.D. Redhouse and inside on the same day you can get your picture taken with Santa! Bring your family and pets for a Christmas picture!

SOPHOMORE CLASS NEWS

The Sophomore Class is planning to have a snack fundraiser which is coming up soon. We will be selling chocolate items and other snacks such as nuts. Boxes will be sent home with sophomore class students on Monday, November 13. The fundraiser will go on for three weeks through Thanksgiving break until December 1.

We are also planning a holiday movie night for kids in the community. We will show a Christmas-themed movie and that will happen on Saturday, December 2, time to be announced.

Another fundraiser in the works involves the sophomores babysitting on Valentine's Day for parents. We would appreciate everyone's support and help in these upcoming fundraisers for the class of 2020.

FRESHMAN CLASS NEWS

So far this year we have participated in a clean-up at the Recreation Grove after the Roots of Motive Power fundraiser and Col-or-a-Thon. We have also hosted a car wash at Les Schwab, which was a success thanks to families that stopped by.

The freshman class is currently selling World's Finest Chocolate bars for \$1. There are many varieties of candy bars including caramel, dark chocolate, almond, wafer crisp and regular milk chocolate. We will be selling them at local businesses as well as at sporting events.

We are also hosting a winter bake sale on December 16 from 10 am to 2 pm in front of E.R. Energy. Help will be greatly appreciated from our fellow freshman students. We will be selling baked goods, warm drinks and plenty of other goodies!

In addition to our bake sale, we will be having a winter raffle basket. Each ticket costs \$1 and the length of your height in tickets for \$20. If any business would like to donate to this fundraiser, please contact Willits High School and leave a message for the freshman class officers and we'll contact you as soon as possible.

BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER

The 2017-2018 soccer season has been an exciting one for the Wolverines! Both teams were out on the field on the first Monday of summer vacation back in June, and spent four days a week training on the field all summer!

With boys' Head Coach Noel Woodhouse and the rest of his coaching team retiring at the end of last season, and more than half of the starting roster graduating, it was a huge transition year for the boys. Preseason was rocky, with the boys taking some hard losses, but the team didn't give up.

Seniors and captains Gonzalo Angulo, Cristian Arreguin and Eddie Leon stepped up to help lead and inspire the team, and as league games started, the team proved that they wanted to win. As the season comes to an end with just a couple games left, the boys are on their way to a playoff spot, and are in a tight race to take first place in league!

The girls' team also went through a lot of player changes this season, as well as dealing with injuries that have kept starting players out for much of the season. This hasn't deterred them though!

The team goes out on the field and gives 110 percent every game! The defense led by senior and captain Nicole Karkar and junior Jasmine Mendoza is solid and they have done an amazing job of securing the back half of the field all season. The offense is where most of the player changes have happened this season, giving starting spots to less experienced and younger players, and captains Gisele Nieto and Emily Acevedo have worked hard to train and lead their younger teammates. The team is ending the season strong!

— Tatiana Cantrell, WHS head coach for boys and girls soccer



Coaches and soccer players pose together including, from back row, left: Tatiana Cantrell, Kayla Norton, Marissa Gutierrez, Kira Humphries, Emily Acevedo, Gisele Nieto, Gwyn Hernandez, Odalys Lara Lopez, Merce Villages and Eric Martin. Front row: Kiley Butler, Isabella Nunez, Nicole Karkar, Araceli Arellano, Jasmine Mendoza, Nayeli Rodriguez, and Alexis Reyes.

GIRLS SOCCER

By Kiley Butler

The girls soccer team is a great thing to be a part of because it's always a good time with the team no matter what we are doing. The practices are filled with fun and lots of laughter. The girls have a strong bond like no other. It doesn't matter what happens off the field, once we step on the field, we are a family.

The soccer season has ended with a record of 3-7-1 in league and a seventh-place finish. The freshmen on the team put in a lot of work to prove to the upper class men that they had what it takes to be out there with them.

Our seniors are Alexia Reyes, Gisele Nieto and Nicole Karkar. Alexis Reyes plays as a defender; she is always making the girls laugh because whenever the ball is up in the air, she always screams "mine" and always is first to get the ball. "It was a great year playing with these girls. We have so many inside jokes and memories. It is definitely a year I won't forget," said Reyes. Gisele Nieto brought a lot to the team as well. She was consistently running around trying to get the ball and push it up the field. She said, "It's sad to say that I am no longer playing on the field of Willits High, but I feel very privileged to say I played with some amazing girls. We've made incredible, unforgettable memories and I can't thank them enough. I will sure miss seeing the boys and girls play. Once a Wolverine, always a Wolverine."

Finally, Nicole Karkar is definitely one we can count on to have our back. When Nicole is on defense she gives 110 percent to make sure the ball does not get past her and she's always hustling.



Above, left: Alex Cesena tries out the new snorkel gear. Above, right: Mr. Conrad oversees the PE swim class. At right: Hanna Rodriguez, Martin Alejandro Bravo, Rey Ceja and Randy Hayes have fun playing water sports. Far right: Randy Hayes, Isabella Galten, Briana Sanchez, Sequoia Jones and Savannah Southwick hang out in the pool.



PE ... IT'S MORE THAN JUST PHYSICAL EDUCATION

By Tim Conrad, physical education department chair

The Physical Education Department at Willits High School values many aspects of teaching students through our courses. This year we are offering classes in Co-Ed Physical Education, Competitive Physical Education, and Weight Training. Throughout each course there are great teaching and learning experiences. We learn life lessons like how to demonstrate social and personal responsibility and how to get through a situation that may not be completely comfortable. We learn to put forth effort and challenge ourselves; to persevere and accomplish our goals. Finally, we learn that being active is one aspect of a healthy lifestyle and we encourage our students to be life-long learners.

In PE, we strive to offer a variety of activities to motivate students to get exercise and have fun. This year, we are excited to offer a swim unit. For the first time in my 10 years at Willits High School, we are able to use the pool for physical education! Our department purchased 20 masks and snorkels for the unit. Although definitely not enough, we plan to add more over time so all 40 students can be in the pool with a mask and snorkel. The goal was to get students to breathe properly through the snorkel, dive under water, then

purge the water out of the snorkel, and continue swimming without having to take the mask and snorkel off. I also wanted students to feel comfortable in the water and perhaps even invest time in snorkeling or abalone diving with friends and family. It is my personal goal in the next few years to build a reef that can be taken in and out of the pool every day and enhance the experience for our students.

Over the last several years, I've introduced new games and activities like spikeball, speedball, Tchoukball, and even invented a game called Frisbee Attack with former student Dimitri Betts. The idea is that the more activities we introduce, the greater the chance we get more students involved, outside and staying fit. The goal is a more active lifestyle.

Physical education is an important class that contributes to students becoming responsible adults and making educated decisions about their own health and well-being. The benefits of regular physical activity include being fit, building strength, improved cardiovascular health, teamwork, communication skills, and awareness of good nutrition. It also contributes to a person's overall self-esteem and self-confidence. In essence, PE covers a little bit of everything and we strive to offer the best program we can to our students in our community.

WHERE FROM? THE SYMBOL "30"

The question about the use of the symbol "30"--used by newswriters at the end of stories to indicate "the end", came up for discussion in the journalism class. Many perhaps have wondered where it had its origin.

It cannot be proved for certain how or when the symbol first came to be used, but here are three theories that might have had something to do with the adoption of the sign.

1. A code used by early telegraph editors for talking over the wire went something like this: the figure "1" meant "wait a minute"; "4" meant "when shall I proceed?" "8" indicated "I'm busy"; and "30" was "end of item".

2. Many years ago in the West before newspapers had any special wires, the telegraph operator would write out messages in long-hand and send them to newspapers by runner. At three o'clock his office closed, and at the bottom of the last sheet, he would write "3 o'clock." This was gradually changed to "30c," then to "30" and finally to "30".

3. In Bengali, India, the symbol "30" had a peculiar origin. It seems that there, "80" means "farewell" or "I quit". An English officer once used "80" at the end of a letter he sent to the East India Company in 1758. When the Company later published the letter, it used the figure "80" but made a mistake and printed "30" instead.

The above theories all sound logical, but no single one has yet been proven to be the authentic source for the modern use of "30".

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