

The NEW WILLITS WOLVERINE

WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER - EDITION #2

Thursday, December 8, 2016



Above: Sisters Julia and Jamie Johnstone

Senior in the Spotlight

MISS JULIA JOHNSTONE

Two years ago, sophomore Julia Johnstone discovered she had a rare form of cancer. We featured her as a spotlight in our 2014 Mistletoe Yearbook, because we were so impressed by her spirit and determination to heal. This is what she had to say:

"I am honored to be chosen for the spotlight, because it makes me feel like people are acknowledging my serious health issues. Considering all of my challenges in these last few months. I've continued to keep a smile on my face. After four months of hard chemotherapy, we were told my cancer was not responding to the treatment. One month later, we were told that I need to continue chemotherapy until July. Even after all of this, I continue to play sports and go on with my daily life. 'With every breath, there is pain and with every step there is success.'"

This year Julia is a senior. Two years have passed since that interview, and the Mistletoe Yearbook/Wolverine staff checked in with her to see how she is doing. Julia said: "After all the hard work, the weakness, and the treatments, I am finally starting to see positive results. I am thankful for my family, for my friends and teachers who have stood beside and supported me throughout these two years. I have fought this disease my hardest, and it has torn my body up. Although through it all, I've kept my spirits up and continued to live my life joyfully."

"Last summer, I was given an amazing surprise from the Make A Wish Foundation who grants the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses. Make a Wish contacted my family and I by surprise, and within three months, my wish came true, and we were on our way to the island of Bora Bora located in French Polynesia. We spent a week in paradise! We had a warm sandy beach under our feet, an overwater bungalow that we could quickly jump into crystal blue water and snorkel with fish, and we enjoyed amazing family time. Let me tell you, that visit to the island easily took my mind off the nasty monster in my leg for a short amount of time!

"With all that said, now it is my wish to give back. My twin sister Jamie and I are ready to help another boy or girl in need. Together, for our Senior Project, which is mandatory for any senior in English 12, we plan to host a Make A Wish fundraiser this spring. Our goal is to raise money so that we can help make another child's wish come true. We will be putting together flyers with information about our event and will update our readers in the next issue of The Wolverine. Come celebrate with us and help us raise money for the charity that sent my family and I on an amazing and fabulous trip that we will never forget!"

— Julia Johnstone



Above, from left: Ian Watson & Jacob King. Ninja Turtle ornaments. Native American Jewels.



Students sell candy at the Sober Grad Candy Sale table, including from left: Front row: Colton Horger, Aiden Bertolino-Haley, Jamie Johnstone, Miranda Wilson, Tia Lynn Grant

JR. BOOSTERS CRAFT FAIR

By Daisy Barrett

The first annual Jr. Boosters Holiday Bazaar was a huge success. The freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes all had a booth, as well as Yearbook, Jr. Boosters, Peer Counseling, Native American Club, and a few community members that had fishing stuff, jewelry, ornaments, and hand-made knitted goodies for sale. There was lots of yummy treats to eat, especially an abundance of candy. "I really enjoyed helping Jr. Boosters with this event, and I would totally encourage everyone to go to it next year," said Elizabeth Henning.

The Yearbook class made festive swags for the bazaar. "We had fun and did pretty well. Our evergreen bundles were beautiful! And the funds we raised are going to buy a new camera we need for YBK," said Ms. Bakewell. "It was my first craft fair that I had a booth actually. It was lots of fun," said Mr. Cannon.

At right: Isabella Lopez, Ian Watson, Karen Hernandez & Daisy Barrett.

Below, left: Joe Wisdom & Mrs. Summers.

Below, right: Briana Evans, Elizabeth Henning, and Jessica Brown.



Above, from top: Kara Watson. Amaia Hammack, and Joe Wisdom.



WHAT'S WITH WILLITS WATER?

Emerging scientists of AP Environmental Science class test Mill Creek

By Laura Herman

Have you ever wondered if our local creek water is clean and safe? Did the drought affect our town's water quality? Are this year's rains changing the chemistry of our streams? Mrs. Herman's AP Environmental Science class wants to know the answers to these questions. (Spoiler: the results show that everything is fine, according to the tests we have run so far this year.)

The AP Environmental Science class at Willits High School is conducting a year-long lab on Water Quality. Each month we draw water up from Mill Creek, which runs through the southern part of campus. We use a variety of water tests. First we learned how to run each test, and then we established a baseline. This week the students completed their fourth test, and now we have some comparative data.

There are six tests: temperature; pH; dissolved oxygen, turbidity, nitrogen and phosphorus. Here is a brief overview and photos of the class testing water from Mill Creek.

Temperature by Leslie Campusano and Jailline Gonzalez

The water temperature in the creek at Willits High School has slowly decreased as the colder months have arrived. This October it rained 11.44 inches compared to under an inch in October 2015. The air temperature has also decreased with the change in seasons. The temperature has to be taken as soon as we take the water out of the creek, because it starts to change immediately



Leslie Campusano worked on testing water temperature for the project.

pH by Aiden Bertolino-Haley and Zach Dellett

pH measures the amount of hydrogen and hydroxyl ions in the water. Throughout the year the pH level in the creek has remained constant at 7, which means the water is neutral. To conduct the pH test, we put 10 mL of sample water from our creek in a test tube with 10 drops of indicator, then shook it until the water changed color. Then we compared the color of the sample to the pH key



Aiden Bertolino-Haley does a test for pH.

that came with the pH kit. A shift toward acidic or basic would indicate a problem. For example, when the bypass collapsed, the pH was recorded as 4, which is acidic.

Dissolved oxygen by Nicole Karkar and Izak Walker

Dissolved oxygen is the level of non-compound oxygen present in water or other liquids. It is necessary to many forms of life, including fish, invertebrates, bacteria and plants. These organisms use oxygen in respiration, similar to organisms on land. Without it, or if the levels are too low, they will perish. Plant life and phytoplankton require dissolved oxygen for respiration when there is no light for photosynthesis.

The dissolved oxygen amounts vary for each organism, ranging from 7 mg/L for trout to 1 mg/L for bacteria. So far, this year

we have observed that the colder it gets, the more oxygen is dissolved in the water. From this we can infer that places like the Arctic Ocean hold a lot of oxygen and therefore are home to an abundance of wildlife.

This is how we test for dissolved oxygen. Acquire 25 mL of water within a beaker. The test kit provides a chemical that changes color based on the amount of oxygen detected in the water. Put the ampoule into the container, and gently break the tip. The ampoule will then fill with water and leave a bubble for mixing. To mix, simply flip the ampoule over several times while allowing the bubble to travel from one end to the other. Then wait two minutes for the color to fully change. Lastly, match the color of the ampoule to the provided examples.

Turbidity by Brandon Fanshier and Oren Silverstein

Turbidity is the cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by large numbers of individual particles that are generally invisible to the naked eye, similar to smoke in air. Turbidity is important because it is an indicator of sediments in



Oren Silverstein with a sample of water from Mill Creek.

water that can be harmful to aquatic plant and animal life. The lower the turbidity the more sediments there are in the water. The higher the turbidity the less sediments there are in the water. To test for turbidity, you get your turbidity tube and fill it with the water you collected. You then look from the top of the tube and see if you can see the disc at the bottom. If you can't, slowly release

water until fully visible. The measurements are in centimeters on the side of the tube.

Nitrogen by Yuseli Campuzano and Sabrina Garcia

The atmosphere is 78 percent nitrogen. Nitrogen moves from air to soil to plants and animals back to the air, known as the nitrogen cycle. Nitrogen is found in water in the form of nitrate ions. When starting the nitrate water test, you start with 2 mL of water, then dilute it with a mix acid reagent until 10 mL, and then wait 10 minutes. After this you proceed to insert the test tube into the low-range comparator to match a sample color to the test tube color. The number is then recorded as ppm (parts per million) nitrate-n.

So far, the number has been consistently low. Nitrate ions are found in agriculture runoffs, urban runoffs, decomposition of plants and animals, and automobile and industrial wasteland, so high numbers would indicate a problem.



Comparing a water sample to the pH color kit.

Phosphorus by Mikayla Blake

Phosphorus is a chemical element which exists in two major forms: white phosphorus and red phosphorus. It is highly reac-



Nicole Karkar and Izak Walker work with the pH color kit.

ents) of rivers and lakes. In a lake it tends to be the growth-limiting nutrient and is the backbone of the Krebs cycle and DNA.

The AP Environmental Science students have collected data since 2010, so this year's students will have an opportunity to analyze long-term data. This ongoing lab is exactly the type of scientific work that the Next Generation Science Standards require. Like the Common Core Standards in English and Math, the Next Generation Science Standards are currently being piloted and will be implemented very soon. Further, this type of long-term experimentation and data gathering prepares the students for careers in many fields of science.

Photos by Mikayla Blake



Justin Hawkins and Yutaka Tso paint the new boards for the football field bleachers.

BLEACHER PROJECT UNDERWAY!

By Brandon Smith

Phase 2 of Willits High School's bleacher reconstruction project is underway. The construction class has been busy painting over 1,000 boards green, and students have used close to 20 gallons of paint to do the job.

"There is literally over three-quarters of a mile of wood out there that needs to be replaced," said Mr. Putt. As soon as it stops raining, the class will get to work demolishing and detaching the old, rotted boards on the bleachers out by the football field and will begin replacing them with the new, freshly painted pristine boards.



The painted boards, ready to go when the weather improves.

tive, therefore it is never found as a free element on earth. Phosphorus is important in water because if there is too much of it, it can speed up eutrophication (a reduction in dissolved oxygen in water bodies caused by an increase of mineral and organic nutrients)



WHS Academic Decathlon team: Back row: Aiden Bertolino-Haley, Miranda Wilson, Ryann Hee, Hannah Corey, and Tachyna Renick. Front row: Jace Atalig, Eduardo Escobedo, Ms. Mary Colvig, Alisabeth Wilcox and Mijaela Nolin.

ATHLETES OF THE MIND

WHS ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM PUSHES FORWARD TO ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

By Miranda Wilson and Carolyn Bakewell

Academic Decathlon is a state-wide, non-profit, annual academic competition, in which over 500 schools and 13,000 students compete in California every year. It's highly competitive, promotes academic excellence, life-long learners, and honors "athletes of the mind." It's impressive to note that this is the 35th year for the National Academic Decathlon Competition and California has won first place 23 times. Additionally, California has held the national title for the past 14 years in a row!

Each year a new theme is presented to challenge the participants. This year the topic is "World War II." Students must

examine this subject and time period from every conceivable angle. For example, the science curriculum covers an introduction to atomic and nuclear physics, how the atomic bomb was developed, and the history of the Manhattan Project. In literature, students have one long novel to read by Anna Seghers called "Transit" and several short supporting works.

The Art curriculum consists of the art elements, principles of design, and the art of the WWII era. Music covers jazz and blues from the time period and some music theory. In Social Science, students learn all the details of WWII while in Economics they'll cover micro- and macro-economic concepts and the economic origins and impact of

Finish "Decathlon" on page B7



Peer Counselors Oliver Campuzano, Justin Bayes, Jeremiah Potter, Daniel Drickman, Tachyna Renick, Nancy Villegas, Sherry Atalig, Tatjana Guevara, Viviana Cardona, Alisabeth Wilcox, Cheyanne Turner, Breanna Lopez, Marina Acosta, Hailey Findley, and Nancy Chavez.

PEER COUNSELORS HELPING EACH OTHER IS OUR BUSINESS!

by Nancy Villegas

The WHS peer counselors are a driving force on campus. They are always available to help anyone in need of a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on, or a heartfelt smile. In recent years, peer counselors have worked with the incoming freshman class by having a welcoming orientation meeting and a peer education summit. It's a nice way to help the freshmen feel comfortable and a little less anxious about transitioning into high school.

A few weeks ago, the peer counselors did presentations in Mrs. Barrett's freshman health classes. We talked about drugs, alcohol, peer relationships, body image, conflict mediation, depression, and anxiety. The reason we do this is because we want to spread awareness about these topics that can

Finish "Business" on page B7

UP CLOSE WITH MR. OLDS

By Carolyn Bakewell

What is your native city and where did you study?

I was born and raised in San Jose, CA. I earned my Bachelor of Music in Music Education and my Teaching Credential at San Jose State University.



Chris Olds, new Music Director.

What different types of music classes have you taught?

I have taught 1st - 4th Grade Elementary Music, 5th - 8th Grade Concert Band, and High School Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Orchestra, Choir, and Percussion Ensemble.

What is your primary instrument?

I started playing piano when I was 6, then started playing saxophone in the 5th Grade. By high school, music became my passion and I continued to play piano and saxophone, and taught myself how to play the guitar. I settled on saxophone to be my primary instrument, while studying at SJSU.

What is a fun fact that not many people know about you?

I played saxophone and wrote some music for a ska band that I was in during my senior year of high school and freshman year of college. We were a goofy bunch, it kept us out of trouble, and we had a whole lot of fun!

How do you like teaching at WHS?

I am greatly enjoying teaching our Jazz Band (during zero period) and Concert Band (during 2nd period) at WHS. The students have been very supportive during this first year. I have had a great time directing our Pep Band during the traditional Hall Marches on home game days as well as the one football game that weather permitted students' instruments being outside. There is a great deal of student school pride, and I had a great time helping that come alive during our hall marches and football games! One of the longstanding traditions at WHS is "A Hot Winter's Night," which is right around the corner, which will

be exciting to perform for!

What classes do you teach at Baechtel Grove Middle School?

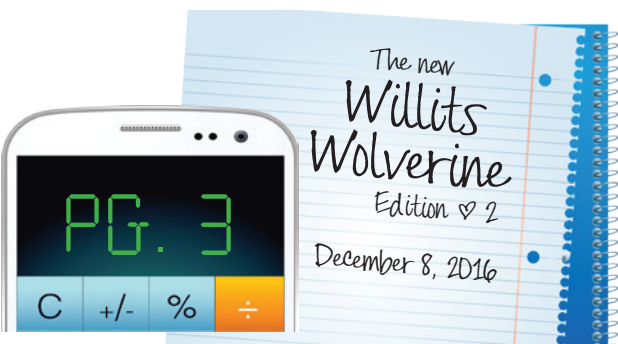
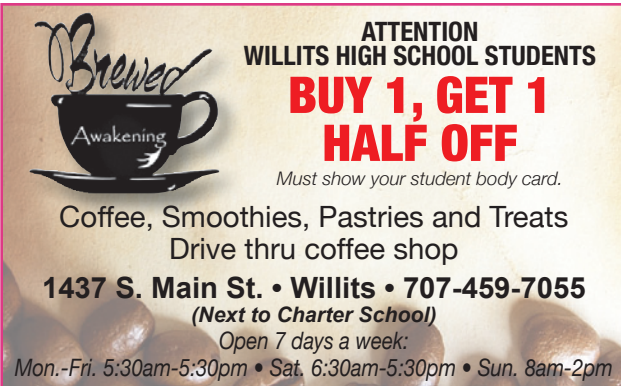
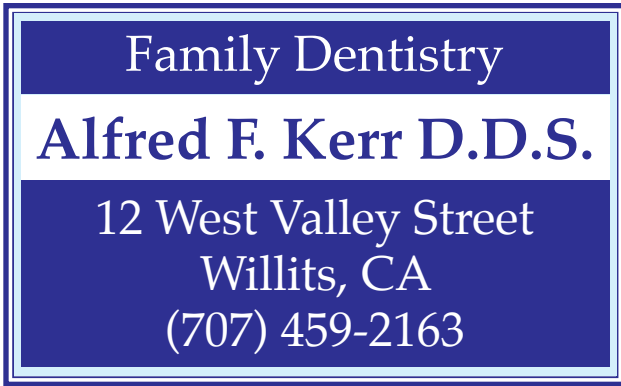
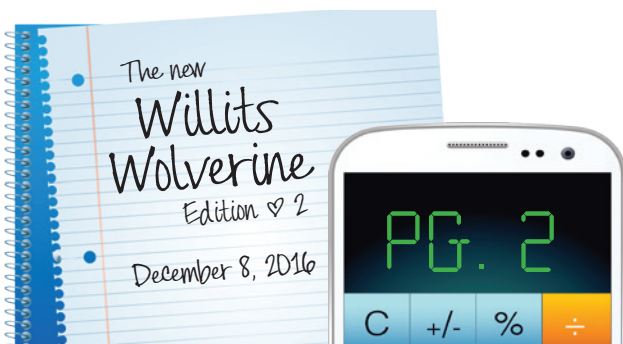
After I am done teaching my second period Concert Band, I drive over to BGMS and teach four more classes: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Concert Band, as well as a Music Exploratory Class. At the middle school, I am focusing on building a musically strong foundation for students so that when they graduate into the high school, they will have a smooth transition into a higher level music program. At both schools, I am very excited to see students overcoming musical challenges, realizing their potential, and allowing their potential to drive their ambition to be better musicians and human beings.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

In my free time, I like to renew my life perspective by heading out into nature and enjoying cross country mountain biking, long board surfing, hiking, fly fishing, and camping. Within a couple years, I would like to take a three-day bike packing trip in Oregon.

Most influential quote

Before performing my Senior Recital at SJSU, I was warming up in the practice room. I used to struggle with stage fright, and my father sent me a text that secured a change in my perspective about performing. It read, "Remember to love what you do." So instead of being nervous about playing the correct notes for those 45 minutes, I enjoyed taking my audience on a musical journey; it was a beautiful moment.





Artist Jasper deTreville



Musician Ian Watson

'A HOT WINTER'S NIGHT'

WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL'S HOLIDAY GIFT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Willits High School's 13th annual "A Hot Winter's Night" is happening Thursday, December 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm! Everyone's invited to attend! Join our visual and performing artists as we celebrate the season with music, dance, poetry, and a visual arts exhibit. The WHS Jazz Band and the Concert Band will dazzle us with their performances, as will other student musicians. We will be delighted by this year's dancers and poets, and we'll have a chance to "sing our hearts out" with Mrs. Jennifer Barrett.

The leadership class is hosting a

Above from left: Students prepare for 'A Hot Winter's Night' including Isabel Gutierrez, Leti Tomas Mendoza, Marissa Gutierrez & Madison Forrester, and Hope Curtis & Emily Barbitta.

Below: Sage Redhawk.

At right: Marissa Gutierrez. Far right: Ryan LaCount & Bailey Schmidt.



COOL TUNES

AT 'A HOT WINTER'S NIGHT'

Alexis Martinez, Adrian Brito and Jordan Solis will all play for 'A Hot Winter's Night.'

ALEXIS MARTINEZ
"It's been a pleasure playing the clarinet and tenor sax in the WHS band for the past four years. I was very proud when I received my "Block W" from Mr. Sherrill; that was a major accomplishment. Mr. Sherrill has been my role model. He has taught me many things, including new ways to learn music and mostly how to be myself.
"Someday, I would like to try to play the trumpet because my good friend Justin Mosher made it sound amazing. One of my favorite band memories was when I got a wedgie on the Golden Gate Bridge. I said something that was not smart and as a joke, Mr. Sherrill told Adrian to give me a wedgie, and he did the dirty deed!
"My friends say I'm chill, pretty monotone, and relatable, but I would describe myself as nice, funny, and an overall a good person. I'd like to study music in college and possibly become a teacher. I am thankful for my family – my parents and sister Destiny – for always supporting me and being there for me."

delicious soup dinner fundraiser from 5 to 6 pm in the Wolverine Café, aka "The Food Center." You will also enjoy free, scrumptious sweet treats during intermission. All this festivity will be enhanced by family, friends, and community!

The event is planned and produced by our very own WHS visual and performing artists, under the guidance of Carolyn Bakewell in Visual Arts, Chris Olds in Music, Jill Walton in Poetry, Kelley Case-Brackett in Leadership, and by Jessie Rees in Culinary Craft.



ADRIAN BRITO
"I've been playing in the band for seven years, but the past four at WHS have been the best. I play saxophone and a little bit of baritone sax. I'd like to learn how to play the guitar, because I've always thought it would be a cool thing to just pull it out and play some nice tunes.
"One of my favorite band memories was at the football game against Fort Bragg. We were getting beat bad, but I was having a great time in the stands with my band mates and Mr. Sherrill. We played some great tunes and were having the time of our lives. I also played on the WHS soccer team all four years and was proud to be on the team because we went to playoffs two years in a row.
"I'm thankful for my parents and brother Eduardo for supporting me through my years of schooling and through all my years of soccer and wrestling."

Join us for a small town celebration of our youth, their creativity, imagination and joyful spirits! A Hot Winter's Night is the Visual & Performing Arts holiday gift to our community.

"A Hot Winter's Night" is from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Willits High School. Bring your family and friends. This event is FREE for ALL!

For further information, contact Chris Olds at 459-7700 x 1536 or chrisolds@willitsunified.com or Carolyn Bakewell at 459.7700x1533 or carolynbakewell@willitsunified.com.

JORDAN SOLIS
"I have been in band for three years going on four. I've played saxophone for two years and clarinet for one year, going on two. My favorite memory in the band was my first football game during freshman year; we sang the Pokemon theme song, and we shocked Mr. Sherrill. You should have seen the look on his face.... It was a great time and I loved it.
"My biggest accomplishment is learning how to play my instrument. I just love playing, and it makes me happy to be able to do this every day. It's going to be weird not to be in band after this year. I'll miss the people and the whole class in general.
"My two biggest role models are my uncles Peter and Anthony. They are a huge part of my life and encourage me to accomplish things. I would like to thank my parents, my brother Alan, and my sister Ashley for supporting me throughout my many years in school, always being there for me, and supporting me in music."

INTERVIEW WITH VISUAL ARTIST JASPER DETREVILLE

I started making art when I was about 6 years old. I remember in third grade, I had a binder that I kept all my drawings in, and I had a lot of them. I liked to draw mechanical things and cars. These days my ideas come from things I've seen before or from my imagination and then I add my own twist ... simple but kind of dramatic. I like working with a black small point pen or colored pencils because I can get finer lines and precise details. I think the best artwork that I've created this year has to be my picture of an exploding volcano. I like it because I used reflections, high contrast, and nice light. My advice to aspiring artists is practice, practice, practice.



Artist Nancy Villegas.

INTERVIEW WITH VISUAL ARTIST NANCY VILLEGAS

I started making art when I around 2 or 3 years old, and remember learning about colors and shapes while I was being home-schooled. I learned that colors had meaning, and I felt like they were deeply connected to my emotions. My ideas and inspirations for my artwork come from within my head (of course) and from nature. When I start a new project, I tend to ask myself a question, such as "What am I feeling today?" or "What do I see?" I enjoy painting a lot. My favorite medium for the longest time was acrylic paints because I loved the way the colors mixed so nicely, but they also dried quickly so I had to work at a quick pace. At the moment, my favorite medium is watercolor. I love playing with the amount of water I use to either make colors pop or make them fade. I've created two favorite pieces this year. One is "Illuminated," for which I used watercolors. In a way, it's simplistic, because I didn't fill the entire paper and used one of my favorite formats, the tondo, which is to draw or paint within a circle. My other favorite artwork is my "Mythological Creature." It was fun to research and learn about the Japanese folklore/mythological spirit called the "Futakuchi-onna yokai" or two-mouthed woman. The yokai (spirit) is said to possess a married woman who is not fed well, thus growing a second mouth on the back of her head – and she will proceed to eat all the food in the house. It was also my first colored pencil drawing in the longest time. Some advice I have for aspiring artists like myself is to keep drawing or painting, because we tend to forget that we are all born artists. Sometimes along the way, we gradually lose that connection with our inner artist. No matter what, don't be afraid of criticism, especially self-criticism. Be careful about the negative thoughts or things you say about your artwork, because as the artist you should believe in yourself and your own art. Don't put yourself down; simply put your tools down, relax, breathe, listen to music, and then come back to it refreshed.

HOW 'A HOT WINTER'S NIGHT' CAME TO BE

By Carolyn Bakewell

The year was 2004, and Kathleen Kirkpatrick's AP Drawing students were faced with a challenge! How could they help plan and present the first "A Hot Winter's Night"? Willits High School was being evaluated by the WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) committee. WASC is a team of educational experts sent in every six years by the state of California to ensure student achievement and school-wide learning that is aligned with the standards. They also evaluate the school's leadership model, organization, professional development and staff self-assessment. For this WASC review, each department's different disciplines were required to work together to make a plan to enhance student learning, growth, and achievement. The Visual & Performing Arts departments got together, joining up with Special Education to brainstorm ways in which they could meet the challenge. It was a natural outcome to create a collaborative event in which WHS artists could show off their work. Musicians, singers and dancers could perform and the thespians could act. And so it was that "A Hot Winter's Night" was born! But how could we involve the special education students? Well, they would show their work too, and they offered to make the treats for intermission. The plan was now perfect. "A Hot Winter's Night" was to be Willits High School's Holiday Gift to our community!

The first show was a huge success! It was packed. Parents were carrying their young children already in pajamas to the festivities. Everyone was having a blast! In 2004, the VAPA department at Willits High School was super alive and thriving. At that time, we were able to offer a full visual arts and music program that included five studio courses, vocal ensemble, choir, band, bells and drama, that met every school day. We also had ELP (Extended Learning Program) funding to hire a dance teacher for after-school enrichment classes. We all worked together, like we still do every year, to create the best show possible. It's important to note, that the main hall had just been remodeled and a bulletin board was installed on the walls that finally made it possible to hang an art show for the first time. Throughout the years, "A Hot Winter's Night" has kept evolving, growing, and getting better. In recent years, we have made special additions to involve more students and our Leadership class hosts a delicious and affordable soup dinner in the Wolverine Café before the show starts. This year San Hedrin art students have been invited to show their work in the Hall Gallery. Fast forward to 2016.... Posters made, publicity's out, the Hall Gallery is decorated, the auditorium is ready, tree delivered, artworks chosen, statements written, program printed, musicians, dancers, singers and poets ready, guests arriving, enjoying hot soup, sweet treats served, family and friends! FUN! Everyone is invited to the celebrated event, "A Hot Winter's Night," our holiday gift to the community. May your holiday be merry and bright! Please join us for a charming and rollicking evening!

INTERVIEW WITH MUSICIAN IAN WATSON

My name is Ian Watson, and I'm a musician here in Willits. I've been playing music for eight or nine years, and I play a multitude of instruments, mainly guitar, bass, piano, and drums. "My favorite genre of music would be punk, rock, and rap, and my biggest influences would be the Beatles and Green Day. Lately, I've been writing and recording my own original songs. I hope to even put together a whole album. "My overall goal for music is to get into the Berkeley punk music scene and go to college for music production.



Artist Emily McAlister.

INTERVIEW WITH VISUAL ARTIST EMILY MCALISTER

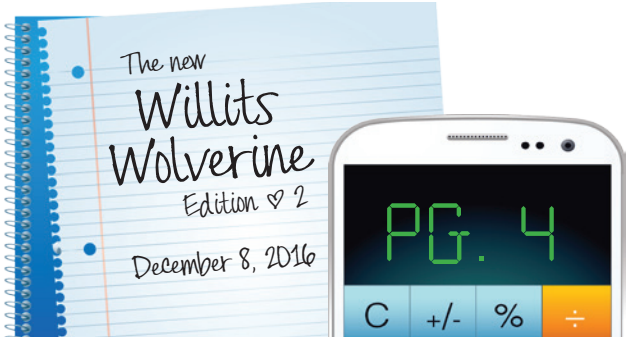
As a little girl, I remember everyone in my family was very creative. They all expressed themselves in different ways and used different mediums, but they were all artists in their own right. There was a lot of pressure growing up to be artistic, so I always did my best, but I wasn't very good, until high school. I branched out from using only graphite, to paints and colored pencils, but I still prefer a graphite pencil the most. I would find things I thought were beautiful, and I would try to put them on paper. I like using pencil, because if I make a mistake I can fix it without having to change the picture too much. Lately, I've enjoyed working with colored pencils. My favorite piece this year is "Goddess Who Sees." If I was to give an aspiring artist advice, I would say keep doing it. Keep improving, and eventually you will be the best. Don't give up, and ask for help if you need it.



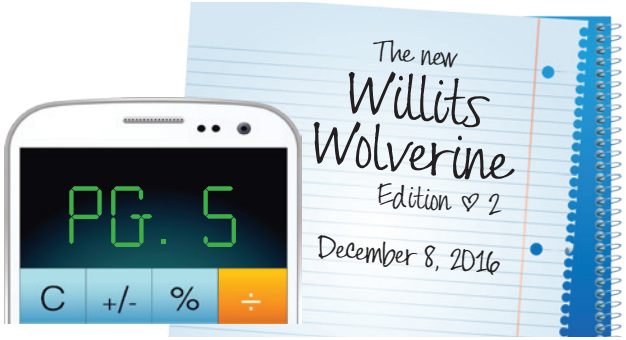
Artist Breanna Legere.

INTERVIEW WITH VISUAL ARTIST BREANNA LEGERE

I was excited my artwork "Wolf Moon" was chosen for the poster. I started working on it at the beginning of the year and finished it just in time.



CREATED BY WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND WILLITS WEEKLY STAFF
2016-17 YEARBOOK & WOLVERINE NEWSPAPER STAFF
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Same great
quality care.
Now at a
new location.



A New Clinic Location to Care for the Whole Family

To provide better care for your growing family and ours, we have moved to a new clinic location located at 3 Marcela Drive, Suite C in Willits.

We offer a wide-range of services for the entire family, from the common cold and flu, to annual physical exams and vaccinations and management of chronic disease. Our team is ready to care for your whole family, from newborns to adolescents, and we care for mom and dad too!

MEET YOUR PRIMARY CARE TEAM



John Glyer, MD | Family Practice

Dr. Glyer has been serving the Willits community for 37 years. Dr. Glyer also has a special interest in caring for patients in recovery from drugs and alcohol.



Andrea McCullough, MD | Family Practice

A board-certified family medicine specialist. Dr. McCullough has over 10 years of experience as an emergency physician. She is also fluent in Spanish.



Beverly Draudt, FNP-C | Family Practice

Ms. Draudt is a board-certified family nurse practitioner and specializes in caring for patients of all ages. She has many years of experience in women's health.



Kimberly Silva, FNP | Family Practice

Ms. Silva is a board-certified family nurse practitioner who treats many conditions and provides a wide-range of services including, sick visits, annual physical exams and management of chronic diseases.

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SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE



AVID classes from WHS on their tour of Stanford University. Top row: Jett Seaton, Jailine Gonzalez, Leslie Campuzano, Jessica Brown, Mikayla Blake, Mr. Lilker, Tour Guide Seth, Mrs. Barrett, Sandra Angulo, Ariana Favolora, Sean Rodriguez, and Jairo Carrillo. Bottom row: Maira Trujillo, Pearla Heredia, Ethan Ferguson, Taylor Perdue, Cilest Wolfe, Kayla Espanola-Norton, Rachel Woods, and Owen Sebastian.

EXCITING FIELD TRIP ADVENTURE FOR AVID

by Mikayla Blake and Daisy Barrett

The Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman AVID classes went on one of our annual field trips to explore colleges. This time we visited San Francisco State and Stanford University.

"Traveling to another city and visiting college campuses is truly an amazing experience," said Mikayla Blake. "Not only did we get to tour the campus, but we got to eat there and feel what it's like to go to college and be on your own. Most of the schools we visit are big, but Stanford was definitely the biggest. It's the size of 96 Disneyland's! And Stanford is breathtaking as well; the architecture and academics had a way of drawing me in. Personally, I wish we didn't have to leave."

Students learned about the academic majors each university offers, and they saw unique things that make each campus special. "The top of the Hoover Tower at Stanford was amazing. The only thing I suggest is don't bring water up there, I learned that the hard way," said Sandra Angulo. "I could totally see myself going to San Francisco State, because I felt welcomed as I walked through that campus. My favorite part was the student center, because there were a lot of games and food; it doesn't get better than that," Jairo Carillo shared.

On the return trip home, the AVID class encountered a small problem due to the 13-hour bus rule. Circumstances leading up to the event couldn't be helped. For example, the traffic was bad, and our campus tours took longer than expected and

the bus was late picking us up. Our precious time was ticking away.

We stopped on the way back for a bathroom break at In & Out Burgers. Many students decided to buy dinner, but only some of them got to get their food because the bus had to leave ASAP ... NOW in other words, before everyone's dinner was ready! "I almost cried because I didn't get the food that I ordered and paid for, and I was very hungry. Luckily, my friend shared her fries with me," said Sean Rodriguez. AVID students are like family.

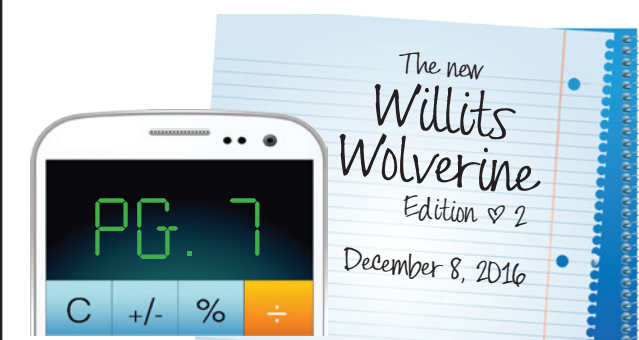
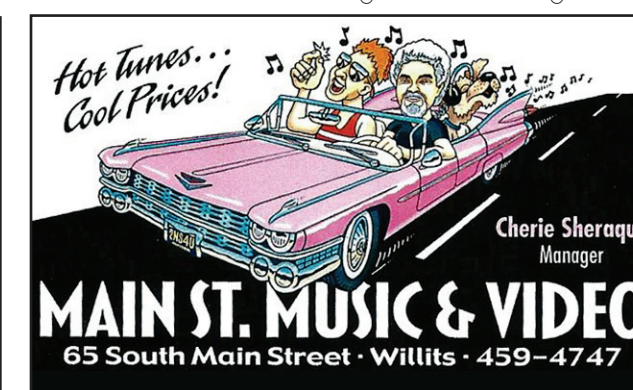
As the bus approached Willits, the 13-hour bus rule came into effect. No, the bus didn't turn into a pumpkin, but it did come to an abrupt halt! The law says that bus drivers are not allowed to be on the road driving over 13 hours. They have to rest, and it's to protect us. We ended up at the CalFire Howard Forest station ... so close and yet so far.

Our amazing superintendent Mark Westerburg came to the rescue. He got a couple WUSD vans and even drove one himself to pick us up at CalFire and drop us off at WHS. He was our hero that night. If it wasn't for Mr. Westerburg, chances are we would have been at the top of that hill for a long time.

Jessica Brown had this to say, "I really loved seeing San Francisco and Stanford for the first time, but I don't think it's fair that we had to cut our tours short and not get our dinner because of the bus rules."



Breanna Legere, Jade Pierce and Dominic Bertolino having fun at the second annual Willits Unified School District Color Run on Saturday, November 5. Willits High School made about \$600 to be split up among the classes. Way to go!



The end of "Business" from page B3

often be difficult for student, parents, and teachers to talk about.

The freshmen seemed captivated and interested; they wanted advice. They were a good group, asking questions and engaged. We had nice heart-to-heart talks with the girls and found them to be a little more mature. The boys were a little tougher, but they did seem to connect well with the older boys. And that's what we wanted originally, to welcome them and help them to feel comfortable.

Our next project will be "the party scene," which will be held on December 13 for freshmen. The party scene is an interactive project that will teach freshmen the dangers of parties that have alcohol and possibly drugs. The peer counselors share their personal stories after the "party" is busted.

It's a chance to role model imaginable responses to negative peer pressure and gives students a chance to understand their conceivable options. Freshmen are asked what they think they should do if they ever got involved in a situation or event that the peer counselors have acted out. Hopefully, students come away with the tools needed to make wise, informed decisions when faced with a less than desirable situation.

The end of "Decathlon" from page B3

WWII. And then there is Algebra and Trigonometry. Finally, everyone on the team will give a planned and impromptu speech, write an expository essay, and go through an interview.

Academic Decathlon students have their work cut out for them! They've had multiple guest speakers and community members who've volunteered their time to come into class regularly to show support and help the team understand the material. A very special thank you goes out to Suzanne Matheson, who has helped with the cultivation and delivery of the speeches; to George Husaruk, who has helped teach

music theory; to art historian Gary Martin, who has covered art fundamentals and the art of WWII, and finally to Georgeanne Croskey, who will be helping teach physics after winter break.

This is a very academically interactive class, with three levels to compete in, which means a wide range of students can participate. The class is small, but is lively and is a very friendly learning environment.

The upcoming scrimmage is in Lakeport, on December 10. Wish us well so we make it to regionals in January, where we can possibly qualify for state, which will be in Sacramento this upcoming March.



Girls Soccer team members. Front row: Alexia Duran, Gisele Nieto, Araceli Arellano, and Nicole Karkar. Back row: Emma Compa, Angelina De Los Santos, Kayla Espanola Norton, Jasmine Mendoza, Gwyneth Hernandez, Marissa Gutierrez, Vanessa Camp, Emily Acevedo, Kiley Butler and Nayeli Rodriguez.

GIRLS SOCCER: ALWAYS A FUN TIME

by Kiley Butler
and Vanessa Camp

The girls soccer team is a great thing to be a part of. It is always a fun time, no matter what we are doing. Our practices are always filled with lots of laughter and enjoyment. We have a strong bond like no other. Whatever happens off the field doesn't matter, 'cause when we step on the field, we're a family. This year's soccer season has ended. We finished with a record of 5-8-1 in league and 6-10-3 overall, and we finished 6th in league. At our awards banquet Nicole Karkar, Emily Acevedo, and Vanessa Camp were congratulated and awarded with All League. Araceli Arellano received the Golden Glove award because she ended the season with 96 saves from the goal box. Not only was Kiley Butler awarded the Golden Boot award, but she also got 3rd in league for most goals,

and ended the season with 20 goals. Emily Acevedo was presented with an award for having the most assists on our team and in the entire league. Our freshmen teammates put in a lot of dedication and hard work this year and proved to the upper classmen that they had what it takes to be on the team. We have two defenders - Jasmine Mendoza and Nicole Karkar - who are referred to as "the dynamic duo." They got their nickname because they work well together and can be counted on to help our goalie. Emma Compa is a great defensive player and was always really assertive. Gisele Nieto brought a lot of energy to the team; she was always running around helping push the ball up the field. Our seniors Alexia Duran (Wing) and Vanessa Camp (All Around Best) will be missed. All in all, we had a great year and love playing soccer together.



THE WOLVERINE

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NEW FACES

By Deanna Sinclair

One of the new faces we see around Willits High this year is that of a nice looking junior gal. She goes by the name of NORMA LURZ and is 16 years old.

She comes from Tule Lake up north and she thinks Willits is a pretty nice place.

Another new face around school is JANICE WILSON. Janice is 16 years old, a junior from over Fort Bragg way.

She thinks Willits is swell and the kids friendly.

Next we have a cute little senior gal by the name of ANNE HASKELL. Anne comes from down Berkeley way and likes Willits a lot.

Finally, we have a new Junior boy running around in our midst. His name is HENRY ALLEN and he's from Illinois Valley High across the border in Oregon.

When he was asked if he liked Willits, Henry said, "That's a awful question to ask me."



WILLITS WHISPERS

By Pat Brewer

Here we are again, after vacation, to try to bring you the latest happenings around school for the coming year.

Lots of people are getting themselves engaged this time of the year, such as:

TOMI MAKSEL and CHARLES HAUN; SHIRLEY GUIMELLI and CARL HUFFMAN; CAROL SANDERS and BUDD ELLEGE.

Lots of people are getting married also, such as:

MARGARET NEITZ and JOHN BROWN; ELLEN PITTMAN and GLENN MCERIDE; BETTY BARTCLOMEI and DEAN OHISCHLAGER.

Old steady couples are still around, too. For example:

DEANNA SINCLAIR and BILL PAYNE; VAN CLEEM-PUI and JANEET GERVAIS; LAURA ELACK AND JOHN WEEKS (he's in college now).

New couples are rising up everywhere: ELLAGENE SUTTLER and HARLAND BACCI; ANN HASKELL and KURT SCHLESSEL; PAT BREWER and JOHN DEREK; TED REMSTEDT and RUBY DAVIS; FRANCIS MILLER and BILL TEMPLE. More, next issue.

Gym Shorts

At the North Coast League meet recently, the Willits varsity cross country boys took a second overall which qualified them to go to North Coast sectionals.

The junior varsity boys placed fourth while the girls didn't place because they didn't have enough runners. At the league meet Darin Ahlbrecht took sixth place, Brian Robinson 13th, James Rezendes 14th, Dan Hein 19th, Sam Maxwell 20th, Wayne Sommers 23rd.

For the girls Melinda Whitney placed 8th, Linda Gertman 18th, Rachael Bornstein 20th, Sherrie Snyder 21st. For the JV boys Eric Kroesen took 13th, Marc Kesser 16th, Tom Koppman 22nd, Richard Daskam 23rd and Robert Umfress 26th. At the NCS meet Darin Ahlbrecht took 20th, Brian Robinson 24th, Dan Hein 26th, James Rezendes 29th, Sam Maxwell 31st and Wayne Sommers 41st.

"The team as a whole has improved tremendously. They've all gained the ability to give that extra 10% to pick up most spikes and dinks," Coach Kelly Gallagher said.

"This year's varsity volleyball ended the season with five wins and five losses putting them in third place in the league.

"There were three games in our league play which we should have won," Coach Gallagher said. "The wrong feelings came out at the wrong time."

The girls who are leaving are seniors Chris Bennett, Gloria Chen, Cindy Kostanek, Delores Stephens and Ann Wood.

Junior varsity had one win in 10 league games. "The team as a whole improved a great deal, and we should have won a lot more games," Coach Judy Rubens said.

* * * * *

FOR SAFE DRIVING:

Passing on curves is best left to judges of beauty contests.

Neary Reporter, Editor, Student



Obtaining this position on the Pacifican staff was quite a remarkable feat because Chris was new to the paper and school.

Sentinel Reporter

His staff position on the Pacifican this year is editor-at-large. This means he will be an independent reporter and yet be able to manage and carry on the duties of over ten different positions on the staff.

In addition to his achievements on the Pacifican, Chris has been working full time on the Lodi Sentinel, a daily newspaper with a circulation of 15,000. He obtained this job last April while attending UOP and has been working as a general assignment reporter.

Gives Advice

Chris came to Willits High as a freshman from New York City. He embarked in the field of journalism with the position of sports editor on the award-winning Wolverine and with his after-school job at the Willits News in his senior year.

"Uncle Sam" and tentatively starting a newspaper in the Willits area are among Chris' future plans.

His advice to all students is that grades are not the most important thing in the world. "When a high school or college student strives for good

Foreign Shores Are Infiltrated

Kim Orvis and Jay Stowasser, both seniors at WHS, spent their summer vacations in foreign countries.

Kim toured eight countries in western Europe with 20 other students from California. The students traveled 7,000 miles by bus to tour places from England to Italy.

"I've never had so much fun in my life and I hope to go back soon," said Kim.

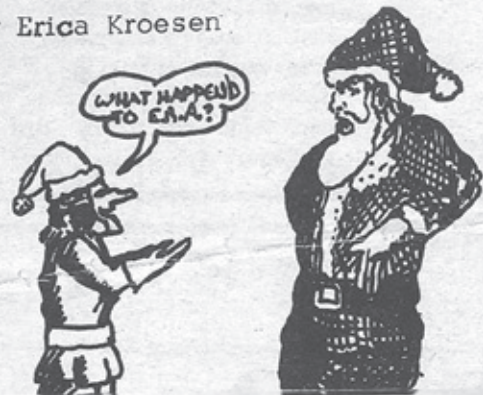
Jay went to Hong Kong to visit Felix and David Seto. The Setos' home is located on the Peak, overlooking the city. Every few days they'd go yachting and swimming in the Hong Kong Harbor. Saturday evenings Jay, the Setos and another family would "take in" a night club.

"Hong Kong is a very wonderful city. I think everyone should have the opportunity to visit there. The customs and people are different from ours. It's interesting to see how the people work and live," Jay commented.

grades at the cost of all other activities, he can hurt himself. The world judges one on his knowledge, not his grades," Chris added.

Squeaki Speaks

by Erica Kroesen



All my life I've wanted to be one of Santa's elves.

This occupation has always fascinated me. As a little child, while all of my friends went through phases of wanting to be nurses, firemen, policemen and doctors, I was steady in my wish to be one of Santa's helpers.

My parents, through thick and thin, always stood behind my decision. Every Halloween since I could walk I have dressed as an elf. Every St. Patrick's Day, out came my costume. (I never got pinched that day.) And on Easter, instead of getting an Easter bonnet, I received a new elf's hat.

Well, after all these years, my father told me to forget about it and get a real job. I was appalled to even think that he didn't believe I could qualify as an elf. So I decided to find out about making my dream come true.

After many false starts I finally decided to go right to the top. I wrote to Santa and told him how much this job meant to me. Three weeks later a letter addressed to me arrived from the North Pole. I was ecstatic. I ripped the letter open fiercely and read the letter rapidly. I almost fainted. Mrs. Claus' had written it. She wrote because her husband was on vacation in Florida. She wrote that she was the only channel to elfhood. And she was willing to help me.

Along with her letter she sent an application form 1A1. It asked all the usual questions; name, age, address, and phone number. Then it asked some questions I didn't expect. How tall are you? Do you belong to an elf union? It went on. Are you a true elf or a half elf? It questioned. A TRUE ELF? This didn't seem to be a requirement, but I shivered when I saw it. I sent the completed form back to Mrs. Claus.

Three days later I received an envelope from the U.S.E. (the Union of Santa's Elves) I found I could join U.S.E. with dues of \$10 a year. The envelope also contained a letter of welcome from the head elf in Santa's workshop. The head elf, Ralph, said he would like to see me at the workshop in June of 1982, reporting for work.

My dream of being one of Santa's elves HAS COME TRUE!

So, the day after I graduate from WHS, I'm packing and leaving for the North Pole. If anyone would like to join me, let me know. I'll be glad to say something about you to Ralph.



THE CHROMEBOOK EXPERIENCE

By Max Pinelli and Carolyn Bakewell

The line stretched out the media center doors for almost two days. Students waited patiently to receive their brand new Chromebooks. One by one they turned in their paperwork and, in return, they were given their very own, brand-new, leading-edge technology Chromebook, with a carrying case to boot! Each etched with a number to establish ownership and to ensure the utmost care of their new property.

Precautions for safety and convenience have been provided as well. Every computer is equipped with basic personalization capabilities, so not just anyone can get into a student's computer, unless of course they sign in with their own account, which still protects the privacy of the owner's information. The district has provided another convenient commodity: outlets in nearly every room, where multiple students can charge their devices at once, without the need to wait their turn.

After just a few weeks of using the Chromebooks at Willits High School, student life has changed for the better. Classes can easily implement online components for student learning. Mrs. Walton said: "My students use the Chromebooks for vocabulary work, research

and composition. I LOVE them! I don't have to check out a computer cart (half of which didn't work) or walk my students down to the media center to use the computer lab (wasting at least 10 minutes of instructional time in the transition)."

Mr. Conrad shared: "In Physical Education, if a student is out because of a medical condition, they can bring their Chromebook to class and use it for participation."

Mrs. Barrett mentioned: "I'm having my freshmen do a slide presentation, and this works well. My other classes look up health disorders and use Quizlet, so they are actively using the Chromebooks."

Teachers and students alike love this new tool. Grades are improving, and engagement is going up. The Chromebooks are also leveling the playing field as some students did not have a computer or the internet at home. Now they can use their personal computer anytime to do their work, and when they arrive back on campus, the information syncs up to the network, delivering papers, essays, and homework to name a few.

With these devices, work has become smoother, and the whole school has benefited. The most important thing is now every student can succeed if they want to. Senior Shmar Hudgens said, "I'm really glad to have my Chromebook because now I

can get my work done at home and stay caught up."

"I think the Chromebooks are cool and what I like best is I don't have to carry heavy books around now," - Elijah Keith

"I think the laptop is a smart and cool thing" - Jocelyn Castaneda

"I think the laptops are cool because they are giving us a chance to learn from a new perspective. It can help us with notes, and we don't have to write as much" - Jade Pierce

"I really like them, and I like that we can take them home and keep them with us" - Asia Grant

"Well, I think the Chromebooks are a great idea, because now we don't need textbooks, and I can take it home, so I am happy about that" - Kayla Jo Williams

"It's not that heavy, and it's nice to have for every class" - Perla Heredia

"It's cool because I have my own computer now" - Michael Cottrell

Do students use their Chromebooks for other things besides school work?

Haley Frahm excitedly answered: "The first tab on my Chromebook is Netflix and the fourth tab is YouTube. As for as school goes, my life is so much easier because I can get started on my work right away in class."

Above, from left: Shmar Hudgens shows off his Chromebook.

Jocelyn Castaneda, Kyle Walker, Elijah Keith, Jade Pierce, and KC Brown right after they got their new Chromebooks.

Students check out the new Chromebooks in the Media Center.

WHS CLASS NEWS

Freshman class of 2020

No news to report at this time.

Sophomore class of 2019

The Sophomore class will be having a movie night at WHS on Saturday, December 10 from 5:30 to 7 pm. We will be showing the holiday classic "Polar Express" in the Alan Garcia Auditorium. Wear your PJs, and we will have hot cocoa, popcorn and baked goods for you to enjoy. We hope to see you here. Happy Holidays!

Junior class of 2018

The Junior class will be having a few fundraisers this month. Our first one will take place at our famous Hot Winter's Night on Thursday, December 8 with a 50/50 raffle. Our winner will receive a wonderful gift basket

at the end of the night. We'll soon later have another fundraiser in which we'll be selling kitchen supplies. If you are interested, you could call Willits High School @ 707-459-7700 for one of our catalogs - all of the information will be given to you then. We appreciate the support you give us, and wish you Happy Holidays!

Senior class of 2017

Mark your calendars! The senior class will be getting their formal portraits taken on January 4, 5 and 6 by Maureen Moore on the WHS campus. This is the time to let the Yearbook staff know if you are interested in having a recognition page in this year's Mistletoe Yearbook. Your quotes are due by January 31, 2017.

SENIOR SWEATSHIRTS

ON SALE NOW

Senior sweatshirts are now on sale for \$35! Get yours today before they're all gone! "I'm so proud of the way our senior sweatshirts turned out," said Isabel Gutierrez. "And I'm glad that I am the one who was able to design them. I will be able to look back on 2017 and know that I created the best senior sweatshirt ever."

Isabel Gutierrez holds the new Class of 2017 senior sweater she did the design for.



Katelyn and Eric Garcia
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The new
Willits Wolverine
Edition # 2

December 8, 2016

PG. 8

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The new
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Edition # 2

December 8, 2016

PG. 9

C +/- % ÷

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

"I'm thankful for everything that I have and also really thankful for my family that loves and supports me" - Javier Sanchez.

"I am thankful for having my family and friends that help me and support me, also for having a roof over my head and food on the table" - Kylei Polen

"I am thankful for my friends and family. I am thankful for my awesome teachers who have already taught me so much. I'm thankful for my pets and for everything I own. I am also thankful for time off so I can actually get five hours of sleep" - Emily Barbitla

"I'm thankful for the amazing people in my life; for the amazing nature and art. For my mom, sister, and brother-in-law for loving and caring for me so much. I'm thankful for a lot of things I have and for all the angels watching over me" - Briana Lopez

"I'm thankful for my family, friends and the new Chromebooks" - Sierra Caine

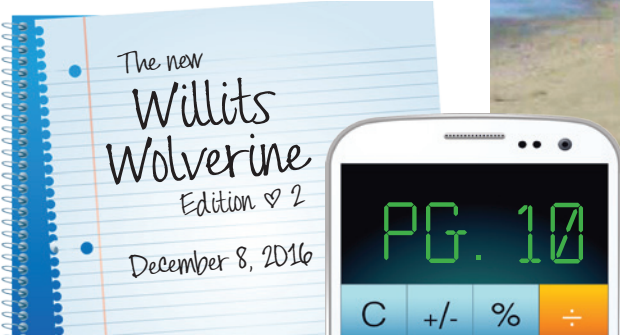


"I'm thankful for my family and friends for always being there for me. Also for my dogs Molly, Grizzli, Wolfi, and Goose. I'm grateful as well for my teachers, that care about their students and teach them to better their abilities and excel in greatness" - Jasmine Mendoza



"I am thankful for food, football, Jackson, internet, and being born" - Jacob Arms

"I thank God today. Every day is a blessing, and I shall live each day as if it were my last. I shall seek opportunity and not security. I shall put my effort in every small detail as if my life depends on it, because it does. I shall receive the good things in life and give thanks to God. I will always live in the present time and not the past. I shall only look back with gratitude. I am thankful for today!" - Byron Rene Torres



"I'm thankful for my family and friends back in Finland. I'm also thankful for everyone who is making my exchange year here in the U. S. awesome and, of course, I'm thankful for my parents who made this opportunity possible" - Sofia Rihko

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?



"YoYos for Days" - Jackson Harris



"I want a big Prismacolor set of colored pencils" - Jaden Doak

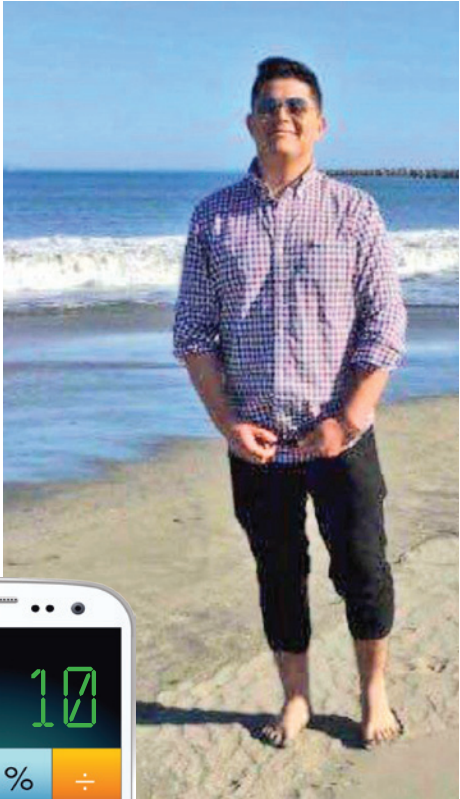
"Lots of love" - Briana Lopez
"I want to be happy" - Alexis Reyes

"I want a new ukulele, because right now I'm borrowing my brother's" - Hope Curtis

"I want to spend a great time with family and lift weights" - Rene Torres



"For Christmas I want my whole family together again" - Estefania Archundia



MOVING ON UP

New Developments at Willits High School

By Max Pinelli

Willits Unified School District is striving for greater things in the upcoming year. Our superintendent, Mr. Westerburg, has big plans on the horizon. As we know, the Chromebooks are a phenomenal success at WHS, and Mr. Westerburg wants to bring even more advancements to our campus and to the district as a whole.

Of course, several ripples have already run through the waters as the old technology from WHS has made its way to Baechtel Grove Middle School. Although every student at BGMS does not enjoy one-to-one technology, they now have access to the gently used equipment from WHS and that brings with it a massive improvement to their learning. Mr. Westerburg claims that, soon, every student at Baechtel Grove will have Chromebooks of their very own, too.

That's not all he's planned for the Chromebooks, however. He wants to bring digital textbooks to WHS as well. He hopes this will cut down on the weight of every student's backpack by at least two-thirds! No comment on what will happen to the old textbooks, but this will give students much more room for their personal belongings.

Another development is the replacement of the outdated notification board in front of our school. What a hassle it's been for students to place each letter individually with only a few lines to post all the news. This inconvenient setup has withheld large amounts of information from the public, and mistakes have gone unnoticed.

Mr. Westerburg is in the process of investing in a brand-new electronic marquee. It will save space, make it easier for our community to see our upcoming events, and more, with its 4 second interval feature and, to top it off, our high school logo, The Wolverine, will adorn the top.

Finally, Mr. Westerburg wants to change things up for sports viewing. He said that 70 percent of our students are on free and reduced lunches due to their income. The superintendent figures, if students can get lunch for free, why can't parents get into the games for free? Generally, a parent or non-student must pay an entrance fee up to \$5 to get into a sports game, which Westerburg finds unfair. He pointed out that parents already have to pay for these events through taxes, they shouldn't have to pay twice.

Our facilities also need attention. He recognizes that they are lacking in quality; in other words, they have gotten old. He thinks that perhaps if everyone could attend sports events for free, people would begin to notice these shortcomings, and be willing to help fund improvements. He also believes free admission will raise concession sales at games. "I think that participation is so much more important than winning the game. And perhaps more participation will help encourage our players," said Mr. Westerburg.

As we know, change is constant in this world and positive change is a welcome metamorphose at Willits High School, and soon, to the entire school district. We are looking forward to these new developments.

REMEMBERING JOSE LARA-VILLEGAS

WILLITS WOLVERINE: PELON LARA
#WEPLAYFORP

The community of Willits has recently lost one of its brightest young men, Jose Lara-Lopez. He was an amazing and talented person, loved and admired by many, and someone who will be missed very much.

"Soccer is my passion, my life, just a game that takes your mind off things for 90 minutes and you just think about the beautiful game that you grew up loving and the game you still love now. I will miss my brothers! Thanks for the happiness you all have given me." #brothersforever#Wolverines#futbol#family - Jose Luis Lara-Villegas (Pelon)

Jose wrote those words as a senior in high school. He had been on campus this year helping coach the soccer team and lending support. The news of Jose's passing shocked the WHS community very hard.

"Jose was always the life of a party. He was loved by everyone. He was funny, caring, and the biggest jokester around. Family or friend, he could brighten your day easily. He always wanted to hang out and have fun and he loved good live band music and being surrounded by family and friends. He was always there to listen to whatever you had to say and he had a big impact on a lot of people's lives. Without him here, there's always going to be something missing. He will never be forgotten; It's hard to forget about someone like him." - Araceli Arellano



At left: A recent photo of Jose Lara. Above: A "moment of silence" for Pelon before the last home game.

"Jose had that smile that could light up the room and, as soon as he showed up, you would know things were about to be fun. Pelon was the big brother to everyone, always smiling and happy. There would never be a dull moment when he was around. Pelon made a big impact on so many of us on and off the soccer field and always will. P will forever be in our hearts, minds, and prayers. Every game I play will be for him. Rest easy." - Emily Acevedo

"Love. What is love without the man that showed me the meaning of it. Pelon you are my brother and the day I am up there with you, playing soccer, is the day my heart will be one again." - Juan Jacinto

"Amazing friend, brother, cousin, athlete, an all-around good person with a great heart. You always had a smile on your face and were always in a good mood, and no matter what, he always had a positive attitude. He always encouraged his soccer team to strive to do better. We'll all miss him, but we all have him in our hearts. We love him and will always remember #16." - Julian Barajas-Gomez

"Pelon Lara always had a smile on his face. He was always so happy. Never once did I see him mad or sad. No one could ever hate him. Rest in peace my brother, you will surely be missed." - Odalys Lara-Lopez

"The first time I met Pelon was at the last home game. He came up to me and said, "Good job out there, you're gonna go far." Because of him, I will never stop working my hardest out on the field, and from now on I will always play in P's honor." - Kiley Butler

"Pelon was a very young respectful, loving guy. He was a role model on and off the field. I am thankful that I got to play on the varsity soccer team with him, and I will be forever thankful for everything he has done for the team." - Gonzalo Angulo