

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

Willits Weekly

newspaper

It's
Real Estate
Section
Thursday!

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 385

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Board gaining confidence in Measure B outlook

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

It looks like the board of supervisors now has a good degree of confidence that there will be enough money in the Measure B fund to pay for the mental health facilities and programs which have been envisioned by the Measure B Committee, recommended by the county's Mental Health Department, and approved by the county board of supervisors.

That's the upshot from board action on Measure B issues which took place at the December 15 board

Read the rest of
Measure B
Over on Page 11

CAL FIRE lifts burn permit requirement for small piles

Submitted by CAL FIRE
Mendocino Unit

Recent rains and cooler temperatures across the region have lowered the threat of wildfires allowing CAL FIRE's Mendocino Unit to lift the burn permit requirement in Mendocino County effective December 28, 2020.

CAL FIRE will not require burning permits, for residential burn piles 4 foot x 4 foot or smaller. Burn piles larger than 4 foot x 4 foot will still require a CAL FIRE burn permit.

Burning must comply with Mendocino County Air Quality Regulations and Burn Permit Process. Residents wishing to burn must verify it is a permissive burn day prior to burning. Recorded Burn Day status is available 24/7 on the Burn Information Line at 707-463-4391.

Cooler temperatures and rainfall alone does not prevent fires from escaping control. Property owners and residents are asked to use caution while conducting debris or agriculture burns, to follow all guidelines provided, and to maintain control of the fire at all times.

Outdoor burning requirements

- Only dry, natural vegetative material such as leaves, pine needles and tree trimmings may be burned.
- The burning of trash, painted wood or other debris is not allowed.
- Do not burn on windy days.
- Piles should be no larger than 4 feet in diameter and in height.

Read the rest of
Permits
Over on Page 10



Photos by Maureen Jennison

New Year New Growth New Hope

2021 brings annual opportunity to start new, dream big, and help be a part of changes for the better

As the world tries to switch mental gears from the slew of unprecedented and unimaginable events and milestones which engulfed most of 2020, we can look to 2021 with a new hope for new beginnings.

Babies are still being born, students are still planning for life after graduation, grass is starting to grow and creeks are starting to flow! Most excitingly, with the continued administration of the coronavirus vaccine, things will hopefully be allowed to finally begin to return to normal, sooner than later.

But, while we continue to wait, make sure to mask up, wash hands, be patient, and be courteous to one another, and here's to a whole new year, full of exiting things!

— Maureen Jennison



Adventist Health

Adventist Health appoints president for Mendocino County hospitals and clinics

By Cici Winiger, for Adventist Health

Judson Howe has been named president of Adventist Health in Mendocino County effective December 18, 2020, Adventist Health announced on January 8. Howe will lead and support the three Adventist Health hospitals in Fort Bragg, Ukiah and Willits as well as medical offices and other services throughout the county.

"Judson is a dynamic leader with a passion for quality, innovation and excellence. His expertise and knowledge of the community and our hospitals in Mendocino County will allow us to continue on our vision to improve access to care and transform the experience for those we serve," says Scott Reiner, Adventist Health CEO.

Howe has been serving as the finance and strategy officer for the three hospitals in Mendocino County for the last year, after leading finance and strategy for Adventist Health Howard Memorial since 2016. He brings more than 15 years of experience in healthcare finance and strategy to this role. Under Howe's leadership, Adventist Health improved access to care by bringing in new physicians, enhancing coordination of care and synergy across three hospitals, and investing in much-needed equipment and facility upgrades.

Howe says he is honored to lead and support the exceptional Adventist Health team and expand the organization's mission of inspiring health in Mendocino County. "I'm excited to support our teams in their work of caring for our friends and neighbors, especially during this critical time. Mendocino County is our home, where my wife and I have chosen to raise our family. I am blessed to



Judson Howe, new Mendocino County AH president.

Photo by Maureen Jennison

serve in this capacity to help improve the care for families in our community for generations to come."

Howe will fill the position vacated by Jason Wells, who has been named chief consumer and innovation officer for Adventist Health systemwide. Wells will continue to be engaged and help support Mendocino County as he will serve as the board president for the three hospitals in the county.

Howe is passionate about investing in the Mendocino County team and services. "This pandemic has highlighted the importance of having the resources and systems in place so our teams can continue to provide

Read the rest of
President
Over on Page 11

Supes hear COVID update to start 2021

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

During their first meeting of 2021 on January 5, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors heard a detailed update on the COVID-19 situation in the county including the continuing surge in cases, the outbreak of cases at the Mendocino County Jail in Ukiah, and the distribution of vaccines in the county.

Several county health and Adventist Health officials weighed in on the

Read the rest of
Supes
Over on Page 10

Fire Hydrant Flow Testing set for January 20 in Willits

Submitted by
the City of Willits

On Wednesday, January 20, the Little Lake Fire Department in conjunction with the City of Willits will be conducting Fire Hydrant Flow Testing throughout the City of Willits. The flow testing is expected to take approximately one day to complete.

Customers may experience a drop in pressure along with discoloration of their water for short periods in the areas being flow tested. Although the water may be brownish, it is safe to drink.

Care should be taken in washing clothes, particularly whites as they may be stained. Please check your water for discoloration before washing clothes.

Please call City Hall at 459-4601 if any of these problems persist for more than 24 hours.

County vaccine clinics ramping up

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Information

The County of Mendocino announced on Monday that they received a large allotment of vaccine this week and are holding no less than six vaccination clinics.

"We received 1,400 first doses and 400 second doses of the Moderna vaccine. Additionally, we received 300 first doses and 675 second doses of Pfizer vaccine. With that, we will be able to provide our first series of second vaccines and schedule six vaccination events — two on the coast and four in Ukiah," notes Bekkie Emery,

Read the rest of
Clinics
Over on Page 11

Sherwood Firewise

January 14 meeting

Submitted by Sherwood Firewise

Join Sherwood Firewise at our next monthly meeting on Thursday, January 14, from 6 to 8 pm. Join us to plan our goals for 2021. You can email questions, comments or ideas before the meeting to info@sherwoodfirewise.org or text via the Zoom Chat Room during the meeting.

In 2020, the Oak Fire put our efforts to test when a mandatory evacuation order was called. Due to our advanced planning, the evacuation was highly successful. Looking to the future, join us to plan our goals for 2021. Bring your ideas, suggestions, questions, concerns, and experiences to share as we plan for a safe 2021.

The Zoom meeting online offers viewing of presenter materials, but can also be attended by telephone for those that want to join with audio only.

To join using the Zoom platform:



Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625036304?pwd=dVVpYXpnSkwrQkwbXDRRZd6T3E5dz09>

Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304

Password: 918795

or

To join by telephone: (audio only or for audio while viewing meeting on computer without mic or speaker):

Call: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304

Password: 918795

Our Mission: To make Sherwood Corridor residents safer, to keep properties prepared for emergencies through civic engagement and proper maintenance of properties and routes.

History: Formed after the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire, we have been instrumental in defining, refining, and helping to clear ingress and egress routes in the event of emergencies. Our SafetyNet program helps to inform and instruct residents of any events that might need their attention and action.

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

The Willits Senior Center is continuing to provide drive-thru, walk-up and delivered meals, although the dining room is closed. Prices for drive-thru and walk-up To Go lunches will remain at \$5 through June 2021, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation and Sparetime Supply. Meals on Wheels delivered meals remain at \$5.50. Call 459-6826 for more info.

Drive-thru and walk-up To Go meals are available 12 to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. Pickup is outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Home Meal Delivery

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels delivered meals are \$5.50 per meal. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery; Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits.

Thursday, January 14: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

Friday, January 15: Hot Dogs, Chili, Potato Salad

Monday, January 18: Chicken Tacos, Rice, Beans

Tuesday, January 19: Baked Ham, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Veggie, Biscuit

Wednesday, January 20: Battered Fish, Rice Pilaf, Veggie Roll

Thursday, January 21: Spaghetti, Veggie, Garlic Bread

Friday, January 22: Baked Chicken, Stuffing, Veggie, Roll

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Soroptimist phone book

To the Editor:

The Soroptimist Club of Willits is preparing to publish the new 2021 Community Telephone Directory to be ready for distribution in March. In the past it has been our practice to solicit advertisers to place ads in the directory. This year, to help our organization to continue to give back to the community and because of the COVID-19 virus, we are seeking "sponsors" and are offering reduced rates for individuals and or businesses to either place an ad or a thoughtful message in the directory.

The new COVID rates:

- Business card size: \$100
- Quarter page: \$140
- Half page: \$200
- Full page: \$350

We ask all of our friends in the community to partner with us through participation in the phone book. Your sponsorships and donations help to support Willits Soroptimist and its mission to support women and girls. With the communities support we hope our 2021 Community Telephone Directory will be a success as in years past.

This month we will be sending out a letter to all who have placed ads in the phone book in recent years. We hope to hear from any and all who would like to provide sponsorship so that we can continue to do our part in helping our community.

Thank you!

Barbara O'Reardon, president,
Soroptimist International Willits

Thank you from Willits Food Bank

To the Editor:

As the 2020 winter holiday season eases into 2021, many generous community members continue to give of their time and other resources, helping to keep the Willits Food Bank open. Here are a few of the key players:

Tom Allman is an outstanding "friend of the Board" to the Food Bank. He initiated a Tom Turkey fund drive that drew far more funds than the needed community dinner turkey money, \$12,112 to be exact! He rounded up his crew who helped him with a drive-thru donation event where many Willits folks contributed; one in particular, a remarkable 8-year-old Caidon Campbell, collected \$800 for Tom's cause. Sincerest thanks to Caidon, Tom and all of Tom's gang.

The Drive Thru Community Thanksgiving Dinner was supported by many volunteers: Food Bank Board members helped to give out food in to-go containers plus trimmings, bagged up and handed to drivers as well as some walkers who came to the Senior Center front porch to pick up their free delicious holiday meals.

The food was cooked by Parlin Fork inmates in their COVID-free camp

kitchen and delivered by camp officers the day before Thanksgiving. Thanks to Senior Center director Richard Baker, food bank volunteer kitchen and packing crews on Wednesday afternoon and on Thursday all day were made to feel welcome. Approximately 500 meals went out the door, including 128 delivered by Richard's amazing Meals on Wheels team and 10 to Shannon DeMuth for homeless residents.

Thanks to all who came to help safely and because of the COVID-19 virus, we used hand washing and gloves, and maintained safe distance in preparing, serving up, and handing out the holiday meals. Some volunteers reported that being there to help make it a safe and tasty success was "a most rewarding experience." Thanks to all who helped.

Food donations are up this winter season, thanks to the generosity of many in the Willits community and beyond. An awesome 5,224 pounds of food (prepackaged canned goods, baked goods, and produce) has been donated so far.

Yanez Distributing gave the most at 1,378 pounds followed by 275 from Adventist Health Howard Hospital, then 193 from Don Lind, 192 from the Skunk Train, and 143 from F.F.A. The remaining 3,043 pounds were given by many and various individuals, families or groups, and some anonymous. The Food Bank is very grateful for these thoughtful nonperishable nutritious gifts that will help to carry our recipients through the winter.

The Winter Fund Drive kicked off at the Thanksgiving Drive Thru Dinner with donations, starting the giving season that will stretch into February 2021. That money is essential to keeping the lights on and the food bank operating during 2021. Our deepest gratitude to those who have mailed in or dropped off their donations, and to those who plan to donate during January.

All of the above combined efforts make it possible for the Willits Food Bank to continue to safely serve at-risk families and individuals who are hungry or food insecure in the Willits community.

We continue to use masks, keep hands clean and maintain a safe distance, encourage our needy recipients to use the outdoor hand washing station, wear their masks and stay at 6 feet distance. We give out masks and hand sanitizer to those in need. We appreciate the hospital and other sources of protective supplies donations and anticipate the arrival of the vaccine for all of our food handling workers in the foreseeable future.

Finally, the recent addition of two programs has increased our service delivery to the hungry: The elder food deliveries are made weekly by board members Carol Orton and Melinda Clarke to more than 40 downtown Willits homes; and, homeless in need of a warm, dry overnight stay may do so in a local motel as is available.

Your help is most appreciated.

Ruthanne Volz, executive director,
Willits Food Bank



Visual progress on the Little Lake Firehouse, above from left: June 8 - The pipes are in place and the base is laid out. December 6 - The skeleton and frame begin to go up. December 12 - The basic frame of the administrative portion is almost completed. Below: Another photo taken December 12 shows a view of the front frame where the administrative offices, lobby, dorms and gym will be situated. At right: Chief Wilkes stands near the site of the offices on January 9. At right, below: The building is taking shape but there is still a long way to go from the January 9 progress shown here. At right, bottom: The north side of the engine bays as shown on January 9.



Firehouse Progress

Fire Chief Chris Wilkes gives an update on the new home of the Little Lake Fire District

The new firehouse construction at East Commercial and Humboldt Streets is progressing. It is finally beginning to look like a building, with the main sections of the skeleton in place, allowing passersby to begin to imagine the final edifice.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

According to Chris Wilkes, fire chief of the Little Lake Fire District, the building will hopefully be completed sometime in July. "I had asked the contractor if it could possibly be done by the Fourth of July," he said, "because it would be nice to have our opening during Frontier Days.

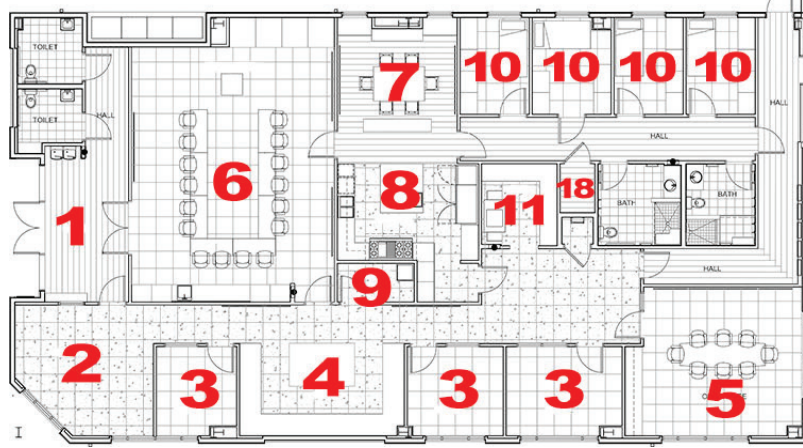
"He will try and make that happen, even though we are currently about two and a half to three weeks behind. I don't want to try and have a partial opening just because it's Independence Day. I want the public to see what they paid for. It's our community's building. I'd hate to open it up and it still needs sheetrock or other major pieces. There may be some places where we could pick up some time according to the contractor."

The complex is basically two buildings connected into one functioning station. The front section, on Commercial Street, houses the reception and lobby area, offices, conference room, day room and kitchen, communication area, a large training room, four dorms, and other office / administrative spaces.

The back section, on Humboldt Street, contains

Read the rest of
Firehouse
Over on Page 9

1. Lobby
2. Reception
3. Office
4. Files
5. Conference
6. Training Room
7. Dayroom
8. Kitchen
9. Janitor
10. Dorm
11. Copy
12. Laundry
13. Reports
14. Turnouts
15. Fitness
16. Shop
17. Engine Bays
18. Communications



Little Lake Firehouse

A simplified floor plan maps out the inside of the firehouse.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

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Start off the new year, light!

2022

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

3				1	5	8		
	9			8		4		
		6		9			2	1
4		2			6	1	3	
				2	1			
9					3			
2	6		5					4
		3		7		9		6
7				4		5	3	

PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 9

HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

WELLNESS WORD SEARCH

A O L V N E E F K S V H E A R T H G B D
C C T W A Y C D U O R T E X B E R C I S E M
M I U W I V N D L A K R B X U Y K R L E
U B O X C F A N O L O R E T X E N L R D
S O K E I G L S C U I X A N N V E T O I
C R R N S N A U D C W S V O G L S C Y C
L E O D Y I B R E S A S O I A T G M D A
E A W U H H P R R A I K N M M I H X O T
S D L R P C C D L V A N O S E G S M B I
I E S A B T W P A O I D I O S T Y M M O
S N H N W E E A C I U O T O S E R M Y N
P P T C R R I X I D V T A M A D N I L S
U W I E H T G C S R M R B L R L T C C
K W A R N S H W Y A G A I K P D G U I T
C F G U A S T U H C G I P V B O K P F
E F W S X U I B P P S N S T S W E W K E
H M L W A Y I T S Y N I E M P M I N F P
C B K K O W P I Y N R U U T G O A C
L I F E S T Y L E F E G U X H A W I V R
P L M C C O M P O S I T I O N L B E Y H

AEROBIC
BALANCE
BODY
CARDIOVASCULAR
CHECK-UP
COMPOSITION
ENDURANCE
EXERCISE

FITNESS
GYM
HEART
INTENSITY
ISOMETRIC
LIFESTYLE
MEDICATIONS
MUSCLES

PHYSICAL
PHYSICIAN
RESPIRATION
STRENGTH
STRETCHING
TRAINING
WEIGHT
WORKOUT

1	2	3				4	5	6	7
8			9			10			
11						12			
13				14		15			
16						17			
18					19	20			
				21			22		
			23				24		
		25				26			
		27			28		29	30	31
		34					35		
36							37		
38								39	
40								41	
42									43

CLUES ACROSS

1. Adequate yearly progress (abbr.)
4. Silicon Valley's specialty
8. Gather a harvest
10. Famed mathematician
11. No (slang)
12. Students use one
13. Type of molecule
15. Play make-believe
16. Large barrel-like containers
17. Touching
18. Treats allergies
21. Calendar month
22. Single
23. Cease to live
24. Brew
25. What ghosts say
26. Geological time
27. Focus
34. Discomfort
35. A citizen of Iran

CLUES DOWN

1. Used in treating bruises
2. One who cultivates a small estate
3. One who supports the Pope
4. Annuity
5. Geological period
6. Grab onto tightly
7. Kept
9. Chinese city
10. The most direct route
12. Type of tooth

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

December 14 to January 10

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 359 incidents in this 28-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

December 14

4:41 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:31 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

5:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of South Main Street.

6:24 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

December 15

7:46 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of South Main Street.

8:22 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 bock of West Van Lane.

9:52 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

9:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

10:08 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

December 16

11:02 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of Shell Lane and issued a warning.

5:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

7:11 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

December 17

12:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of South Main Street.

4:34 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.

December 18

11:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:53 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

7:22 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:51 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of School Street and issued a warning.

December 19

3:12 pm: CAREY, Charles Crawford (44) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of Haehli Creek Court. He was arrested pursuant to 273.5 PC (Corporal Injury to a Spouse/Cohabitant) and on felony charges of domestic battery.

4:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road.

December 20

4:53 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

11:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 21

1:51 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject near the intersection of South Lenore Avenue and East Commercial Street.

4:04 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of South Main Street.

December 22

6:19 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

10:21 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of South Humboldt Street and East Valley Street and issued a warning.

11:45 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 200 block of Madden Lane.

4:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

5:01 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

5:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious subject in the 100 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

8:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

9:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

December 23

1:27 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of South Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue and issued a warning.

7:04 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

7:44 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:35 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

1:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:27 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

December 24

1:49 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive.

6:17 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:04 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:08 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

3:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

5:52 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of North Main Street.

9:45 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

December 25

1:05 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

2:53 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:24 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:59 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:58 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

December 26

8:39 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

4:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:12 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive.

December 27

1:07 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:15 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:42 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street.

1:11 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:52 pm: Officers responded to a report



Above: The familiar 101 Trailer & RV Supply, is under new ownership by the Drew family.

At far left: The interior of 101 Trailer & RV Supply is chock-full of thousands of industrial and recreational trailer supplies.

At left: Retiring owner Dennis Schrage answers questions from new owners, Jenn and Jack Drew.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Carrying on a Family Tradition

Longtime owners of 101 Trailer & RV Supply retire and sell business to the Drew family, who plan to add even more inventory

"In the last week, a lot of people have been coming in and thanking us for having purchased the business," said Jenn Drew, new owner, along with her family, of 101 Trailer & RV Supply, "for keeping it open and continuing to do the service and repairs."

The Drew family – Jenn and Jack, along with sons Taylor and Tanner – has assumed the responsibility of keeping this long-time Willits business viable as of the first of the year. They are already on a path to make it work, as they have a built-in cadre of customers who are accustomed to buying and servicing their trailers at this location which has been operating for many years.

The property was purchased in the 1950s by the parents of the Schrage brothers, from whom the Drews bought the business. It was originally a trailer park and a mobile home sales business. The Schrage brothers eventually bought out their parents and began to turn the business into a place for sales and service of trailers. Gary and Dennis Schrage told the Drews, who they have known for several years, that they intended to retire at the end of 2020. The Drews decided to take a leap of faith and buy the business.

"We've known Dennis and Gary for a long time," said Jenn. "My husband, Jack, works for Peterson Tractor Company, which is next door on the property. Gary and Dennis just said they were going to retire on the 31st of December. We hated to see the business go. It's a huge necessity that

Willits and the surrounding area needs. People come from all over Mendocino and even surrounding counties to get supplies here or to get their trailers serviced.

"Chuck Harris, who was the Schrage's service person," she continued, "has stayed on and will continue to do the service department. We decided that this is something that Willits needed. We hated to see it go and decided we were going to be crazy and to take it on."

"The service department is pretty busy right now," continued Jenn. "We've had very positive comments from the immediate and surrounding communities. We get a lot of people from Fort Bragg and Lake County. We carry a lot of supplies they don't even have in Ukiah. We even supply companies in Ukiah. They come up here to pick them up. A lot of other businesses use us for their supplies and parts."

Jenn is not unfamiliar with trailers and retail. "I was familiar with trailers, having grown up doing horse trailers. We owned and used trailers, so I'm pretty knowledgeable. I managed the Willits KOA for six years. I've worked retail growing up before I had kids. I worked at Friedman Brothers for several years."

Taylor, a senior at Willits High School will be going off to Kansas City, Missouri after graduation to attend railroad school, where he aspires to learn about switching devices. He, in addition to his working at 101 Trailer & RV Supply, also works at Summit Signal and hopes to continue after railroad school.

Young Tanner, 16 years old, is interested in running the parts department. "Tanner is going to work the business with me. He's learning all the parts and will be our specialist in parts. Taylor's girlfriend, Hallie Reams, also works here. We're carrying on the family tradition like the Schrage brothers."

The Drews plan on keeping the tradition of great service and an extensive inventory of parts. "We are going to continue everything that they did here before and build on top of that. We will be bringing new products for inside the store and some for outside as well, different options of trailers, like water-carrying trailers."

Trailers that they have ordered to sell to the public should arrive at the location by the end of January. They will be offering cargo, flatbed, dump, and other types of trailers, as well as servicing any other varieties. The showroom has a wide selection of trailer parts and camping accessories. The Drews will be attending an online virtual buying show this week and have opened up space at the front of the store to accommodate any new innovative parts and accessories they might find at the show.

101 Trailer & RV Supply is at 1471 South Main Street and can be reached at 459-2423, 101trailerandr@gmail.com. Their website: www.trailer101.com is currently being upgraded and will be available soon. They are open Tuesday through Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm.

At right: Jack, Jenn, Tanner and Taylor Drew are enjoying their new venture.

101 Trailer & RV Supply has an extensive inventory of accessories.

Taylor Drew smiles with 101 Trailer & RV Supply employee and girlfriend Hallie Reams.



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At left: Seniors Amy Andrade, Hannah Bouthillier and Amarah Potter with Sober Grad Winter Raffle Basket winner Tami Potter, holding her huge basket of winnings.



Edward A. Meyers, Jr.

Edward A. Meyers, Jr. of Willits, CA died peacefully at his Willits home of 41 years on December 22, 2020. He touched our lives deeply through thought and laughter and will forever be missed!

He was born April 24, 1948 to Edward A. Meyers, Sr. and Peggy Vasquez in Sacramento, CA. He grew up in Redwood City, CA graduating from San Carlos High School in 1966. He relocated during the 1970s to Ukiah, CA then Willits, CA where he lived most of his life raising four children. He was a graduate from Mendocino College in 1986.

He married Susan Meyers on November 2, 1997 in Redding, CA.

He was a professional Class A driver for 50 plus years, and retired to his redwoods in 2005 from Rinehart Oil, Ukiah. During the late 1980's he was the procurement manager for ten years at AM&D in Willits.

He was a member of the Willits' Lil Stinkers RV Club, San Carlos High School Alumni and the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS, Willits.

He enjoyed weight lifting, gardening, landscaping, listening to the redwoods dance in the wind, camping, traveling, boating, music, history, card playing, and his Miata convertibles. As a young man he enjoyed boxing, motorcycles and auto racing at the Fremont Drag Strip.

He was extremely proud he had enlisted in the Regular Army in 1966 as a private during the Vietnam War. Due to injuries during basic training, he left the Army with an Honorable Discharge.

He is preceded in death by Charles (Charlie) Meyers, (son); Edward A. Meyers, Sr. (father); and Peggy Vasquez (mother).

He is survived by Susan Meyers (wife); Molly (trusted canine companion); Josh Meyers & Karen Juska (son and daughter-in-law); Anna and Leon Jeffrey (daughter and son-in-law); Kelvin and Kara Jeffrey (grandchildren); John and Melissa Meyers (son and daughter-in-law); Makenna and Charlotte Meyers (granddaughters); Linda Marcarian and Ken Gross (sister and brother-in-law); nephew Tyler, niece-in-law Chelsea; and niece Sierra Marcarian; Jeanne and Mike Emry (sister and brother-in-law); Katie and Chris Morrissey (niece and nephew in law); Peter Hale, brother from another mother; and six Meyers siblings and extended families.

Pending Covid restrictions – a celebration of life and birthday celebration to be announced in 2021.

The family wishes to thank UCSF Memory and Aging Center, San Francisco; Phoenix/Adventist Health Home and Hospice Care, Willits; and Home with Us, Lakeport.

Memorial Contributions may be made in his name to a charity of your choice.

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

Sober Grad Winter Raffle Basket winner

The Willits Sober Grad Committee has announced the drawing for the Winter Raffle Basket was won by Tami Potter.

A huge thank you to the families and businesses who donated items, as well as Flowers by Annette and Slam Dunk Pizza. Keep an eye out for another basket raffle in February.

Sober Grad is mixing it up for Super Bowl this year, on Sunday, February 7. We decided to switch our traditional pancake breakfast to a drive-thru lunch to go, featuring a pulled pork sandwich by Scoops, coleslaw, chips and a cookie. \$15 per lunch, \$50 family 4 pack.

Tickets now available from any Willits senior. Pick up on Sunday, February 7, at the Willits High School ag farm.

Visit the "Willits Sober Grad" page on Facebook to keep up with this year's activities.

Thanks again for your continued support.

– Willits Sober Grad Committee

WILLITS SOBER GRAD

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

To-Go Pulled Pork Sandwich Lunch

Lunch Includes
Pulled pork sandwich by Scoops, coleslaw, chips & a cookie!

\$15 per lunch
\$50 family 4 pack

Pick Up
Sunday, February 7th
Noon – 2 pm
WHS Ag Farm

Willits Sober Grad celebrates 35 years of supporting Willits graduates

We invite you to support Willits Sober Grad and the Class of 2021 with either a one-time or a recurring monthly donation at the Willits Sober Grad gofundme page: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/willits-sober-grad>

Many of you may remember that Willits had a long and tragic history of losses on graduation night because of drinking and driving.

In 1985 a group of Willits parents and teachers created the first safe and sober grad night party, determined to prevent another tragedy like that. Since then, Willits Sober Grad has become part of the fabric of our community; a valued tradition that is supported year after year by many volunteers and through donations from individuals, businesses, and local law enforcement agencies.

We measure our success based on participation, level of attendance at the party, and no lives lost on graduation night.

Throughout the school year we are engaged with seniors and parents in fundraising and promoting awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence. The party is well-attended by seniors, their guests, and members of the community who volunteer their time. Since Willits Sober Grad began 35 years ago, our community has not experienced another loss on graduation night.

Now we are striving to accomplish our mission in the midst of the pandemic. When the virus struck in March of this year, plans for the Class of 2020 grad night party were well underway. We had to quickly shift gears, and find a way to stay connected with the kids and do something to celebrate their graduation that did not involve a large gathering. With support from the community, we were able to have a "Virtual Sober Grad Party" and award the graduates over \$17,000 in cash and prizes.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we are interacting with the students and the community differently, creating fundraisers which limit exposure, and promoting Willits Sober Grad through social media. One of the ways we are accomplishing this is through this GoFundMe campaign: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/willits-sober-grad>

– Willits Sober Grad Committee



Soroptimist Third Tuesday Speaker Series

Soroptimist International of Willits invites you to our Third Tuesday Speaker Series, Tuesday, January 19, at noon on Zoom!

RSVP to: SiWillits@Soroptimist.net for the Zoom link. Our speaker will be Toni Orans, a classically trained actor, voice talent/narrator, coach and photographer, who's lived in the Bay Area and the Mendocino coast for 40 years.

Toni will be talking about a life of discovery or ... how to reinvent one's artist self to keep the passion alive and still be able to eat!

Growing up in the suburbs of New York, she started her drama training in the city as a young teen, working with some of the best that New York had to offer, then training in London and leading acting workshops in Amsterdam.

After returning to the West Coast, Toni performed in theaters around the Bay as well as doing numerous roles at Mendocino Theater Company and the Warehouse Rep (in the early 2000s). Mendocino locals may also remember



her Sunday morning radio show on KZYX narrating both classic and contemporary literature for nearly seven years.

More recently, after traveling for four months in Cuba and five other countries in Europe in 2018 during which she took more than 5,000 photos, she has shown that work in Mendocino and the East Bay, and is putting together an online image store. She still loves teaching and acting. All together ... it's a wonderful life!

– Soroptimist International of Willits

At right: SIW's January Third Tuesday speaker Toni Orans.



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February 5: 12 to 3 PM, Covelo/Round Valley Farmers Market
February 7: 1 to 5 PM, Redwood Valley Grange
February 20: 12 to 3 PM, Little Lake Grange, Willits; info @ 889-2449
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If you want to be included in
this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com



Paintings, baskets and fabric works featured at WCA in January

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts presents Fabric Baskets by Rosie Saxe and Paintings by Mariangela La Thanh. The show opened January 2 and runs through January 31. The Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street, next door to the Noyo Theatre. The galleries are open weekends, Friday through Sundays between 11 am and 5 pm. Masks are mandatory, and only 6 people will be permitted in the galleries at one time.

Paintings

Mariangela Le Thanh is a Vietnamese artist now based in Bell Springs, in northern Mendocino County.

As a child of diaspora, they were born and grew up in Italy and then migrated to California. Their work often reflects on those intrusive feelings of not quite belonging, not deserving to belong somewhere, and the anxieties of fitting in undetected in white dominated spaces. They cement their presence into paintings as a way to accept, remember and celebrate who they are, where and when they are; hoping to

connect to fellow humans who feel similarly.

These paintings take inspiration from their surroundings, from personal but relatable drama, and from the scary questions we all ask ourselves: "Where are we headed, what's the meaning of our short, but sometimes fun, lives?"

Fabric baskets

Rosie Saxe lives in Briceland, a tiny hamlet in Southern Humboldt with her husband, teenage daughter, a dog and four cats. She and her husband own and operate a small family winery and work to raise their own vegetables and livestock.

She grew up in upstate New York and earned her BFA from Syracuse University in Fiber Arts. She told us about her relationship with fabric baskets.

"I gravitated to coiling basketry because I can do it anywhere and with any material. While I am weaving I like to think about all the people, in all the villages, in so many cultures, that are coiling and weaving and making just like me. We are all connected."

Also, The Willits Photography Club has a spectacular show in the Great Room.



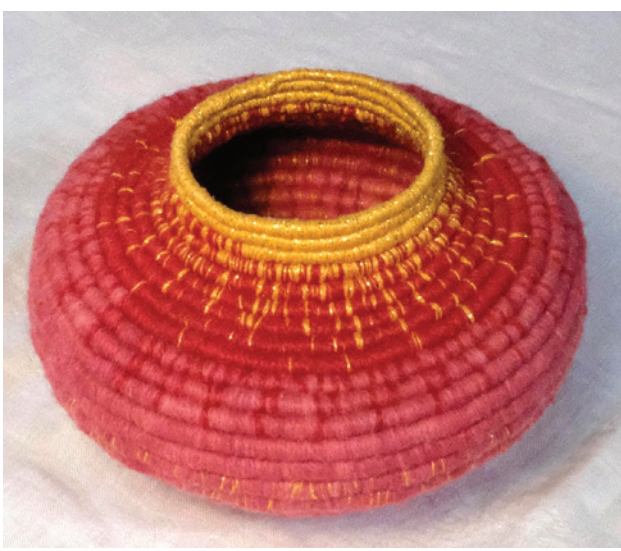
Above, from left: Fabric artist Rosie Saxe poses with one of her fiber hangings.

Artist Mariangela La Thanh poses with her paintings.

A painting by artist Mariangela La Thanh.

At left: Artist Mariangela La Thanh works on a painting. Her work is featured in January's show at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Below: A basket by artist Rosie Saxe.



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Presents Paintings by Mariangela Le Thanh Baskets by Rosie Saxe

Opening Friday, Jan. 2 through Jan. 31



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LEGAL NOTICES

WW297

CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS Annual Invitation for Inclusion on the 2021 City of Willits List of Qualified Bidders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that:

The City of Willits is soliciting applicants for its 2021 List of Qualified Bidders. Interested parties should complete the City of Willits Informal Bidding Annual Pre-Qualification Application for 2021 and submit to:

Brandy Sanderson

City of Willits

111 E. Commercial St.

Willits, CA 95490

Re: 2021 Qualified Bidders List

Bidders are hereby advised that the previous bidders list will be replaced with the new list and no contractors will be carried over from the previous list.

REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 31, 2021
Questions concerning this notice should be directed to Brandy Sanderson at bsanderson@cityofwillits.org.

The application can also be found on the City's website on the Engineering page; <http://www.cityofwillits.org/147/Engineering>.

CITY OF WILLITS: s/Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/ City Clerk

DATED: 12/15/20

Publication Dates: January 14 and 21, 2021

WW298

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MARGARET ROSE SWEENEY, aka MARGO SWEENEY aka MARGARET A. SWEENEY CASE NO. SCU CVPB 20-27472

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: MARGARET ROSE SWEENEY aka MARGO SWEENEY aka MARGARET A. SWEENEY

A Petition for Probate has been filed by MICHAEL D. SWEENEY in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that MICHAEL D. SWEENEY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: February 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: ALEXANDER C. RICH, ESQ., CARTER RICH PC, 716 South Main Street, Suite A1, Willits, CA 95490. Telephone: 707-456-9210

Publication Dates: January 14, 21 and 28, 2021



Current Job Openings:

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Assessor/Clerk-Recorder Technician I
Compliance Manager
Corrections Deputy
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
Health Program Eligibility Worker
Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist
Social Worker II – Extra-Help/
Project Homekey
Social Worker Assistant II – ExtraHelp/
Project Homekey

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources

EOE

The rest of Firehouse | From Page 3

the five bays to house the engines, in addition to storage, a small fitness room, a space for the turnouts (the wearable equipment and protective gear), and a shop to be utilized for repairs and upkeep. The large electric doors on the bays will open out, rather than rolling up, in order to avoid accidents with doors that have not opened completely. The doors come with fail-safe systems to mitigate the possibility of accidents.

Prominent on the Commercial Street side is the "bell tower," rising high atop the structure and running the length of the front part of the complex. The architect, knowing they were running out of space for storage, designed this feature in order to have extra space.

Very soon, the completion of the roof and walls will begin. "This week they plan on doing the bolt-torque inspection on any bolt that's over half an inch," Wilkes mentioned as an example of one of the many regulations and requirements that have been necessitated by governmental and regulatory agencies. These requirements ensure safety and efficiency as well as a certain amount of consistency, but greatly increase the cost and time it takes to complete the construction.

"Once that is done," he said, "they will start to put up the roofing. They'll start putting up the siding very soon. The exterior walls that are going up are wood, 2-by-6-foot wooden walls. The contractor had the opportunity to do either wood or metal. The walls inside will be metal but the exterior will be wood. The building will be well-insulated.

"It's a quality building with big girders and big columns. It's not just a quick pre-fabricated metal building. Because we're a fire department, it has to withstand wind, earthquake, and other natural disasters, which is why it is primarily metal." The intent is to have a building that will remain viable and state-of-the-art for many years.

Wilkes shows obvious pride in his department, the hard work and efficiency of his volunteers, and the support of the community and the city. He is glad that the people of Willits chose to fund the construction of the new, much-needed building.

"The most amazing thing," shared Wilkes, "about our volunteers [is] when you ring the bell, they come. It's been incredible to me, even when I was a volunteer, that you have people with the amount of dedication that we do. The time spent is more the training than the calls themselves."

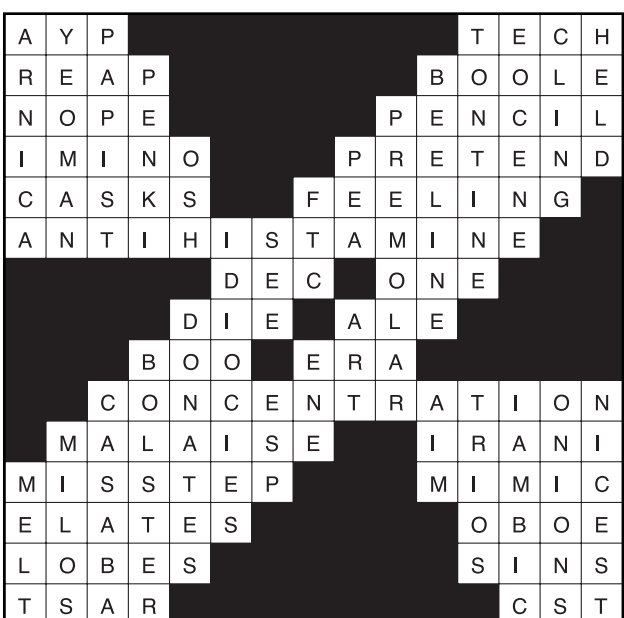
The dorm rooms, kitchen and gym are required for visiting fire companies and when in the future it becomes necessary to have full-time firefighters on the payroll. "Having paid firefighters here is not on the forecast," said Wilkes. "Our department is a long ways away, budget-wise, from being able to have that.

"Back in 2003," he continued, "when our current property tax budget was put into place, we only had about 350 calls a year. Now we're running almost 1,000. There are more people on the road now, more traffic, more accidents. We go on accident calls more than anything else. Our call volume is going up and up.

"Sometime down the road, if that call volume keeps increasing, there will come a time when we'll have to do something in terms of staffing. But we don't have the budget right now to have full-time paid staffing. Luckily, we have a strong community and strong volunteers who make it work.

"I'm pretty happy with the progress," Wilkes said, smiling. "Nothing ever goes quite how you planned. But we're standing here inside the building the board of directors and the public have worked so long to get. I'll tell you, it's an amazing feeling to be part of this. It's important for Willits. It's important for Willits' future. It's important for my kids' future. I'm happy that it's happening."

Below: Chief Wilkes stands near the dorm rooms on January 9.
Photos by Mathew Caine



CLASSIFIEDS

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Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

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county's vaccine program, and the "mass vaccination" event following the failure of a freezer at Ukiah Adventist Health which had occurred the day before the meeting.

During the event – which was covered nationally by CNN among others – local health care workers had only two hours to administer 830 vaccines, from 12 to 2 pm, before the 12-hour shelf life of the Moderna vaccines was set to run out.

Adventist Health Medical Officer Dr. Bessant Parker said that he was very impressed with the way the various local groups collaborated to use the vaccines in time during the unprecedented event.

"I think most important to mention with this incident is the fact that we pulled together to make this difficult situation actually a successful story for many," said Parker. "I quickly called [Mendocino County Public Health Officer Andy Coren] to get an OK to open it up beyond the tiers so that we would not waste any vaccines. At that point when we were making the decision what was key was to save vaccines. Don't let vaccines go to waste. So once we got that, we sprung into action."

Adventist Health President Judson Howe said they first "reached out to all health care workers in our ecosystem," and then called skilled nursing facilities in the Ukiah area. Vaccines also went out to the sheriff's department, local clinics and the Ukiah Fairgrounds.

Parker said Adventist has taken several steps to ensure a malfunction of that nature doesn't happen again, including replacing the freezer, better checking of the sensor and alarm which should alert when there's a rise in freezer temperature, and more manual checks of the freezer by staff.

In addition he and county officials at the meeting said they are adding more freezers in different locations to better spread out the supply of the vaccines.

Coren said that overall the efforts to vaccinate people in the county were going well and they were expecting to ramp up the vaccination numbers soon. A January 12 press release from the County of Mendocino announced six vaccination clinics for first responders, health care workers, agricultural workers and other categories – these clinics were full by Wednesday the county announced.

Project managers for the county's vaccination clinics Ignacio "Nash" Gonzalez and Adrian Thompson agreed with that assessment. Thompson said they planned to vaccinate 600 in the county in the next few days after the meeting – 200 every day for three days – then soon increase that to 900 per week, and hopefully 1,800 per week eventually.

Aside from the January 4 event involving the freezer breakdown, Gonzalez said starting from December 21 they had administered 337 vaccines in the county at the time of the January 5 meeting.

Coren said that currently the state is giving the county about 900 vaccines per week to use, and that they should have

no problem using all the vaccines given, unlike other locales in the state which are reportedly having problems distributing all that they have on hand.

Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren suggested having a more detailed plan written out on how the county is distributing vaccines, and also an online dashboard with information on how many had been vaccinated and how many vaccines are available so there was more transparency on the matter.

Coren responded that they're using the tier system plan laid out by California Public Health as a way to determine who should have access to the vaccine first, with vulnerable people such as health care workers and those at skilled nursing facilities in the top tier. Though he did add that "we are able to move around more freely within the tier structure as long as we generally are moving through the priorities to vaccinate those who are most vulnerable."

He called the state tiered system "complex," and said the county is looking to put together "an ethics advisory task force to review some changes we may want to consider for our rural county."

"This is not just a first-come, first-serve basis which plays into problems of pre-existing structural racism, people getting it who can pay more or have more access," said Dr. Coren. "We want to continue to use those ethical and equitable principles, but it's very important that we all work together for this, and it is coming. It's working."

Coren said they are planning on creating a vaccine dashboard available online, and they were hoping to have it up in the next couple weeks.

Beckie Emery, an operations center manager for the county's vaccine program, said that there are three different ways the vaccine is being distributed: through the county health department, through "multi county entities" such as Adventist Health, and also through CVS and Walgreens pharmacies with those vaccines specifically meant for those at skilled nursing and long-term care facilities.

County Chief Executive Officer Carmel Angelo said that the availability of vaccines at CVS and Walgreens was new information to her, that they had not reported any of their plans or numbers to the county, and she would try to obtain more information about it.

Angelo noted that January 11 was the scheduled date for Tier 1b of vaccinations to begin, when more people, such as criminal justice and law enforcement workers, could potentially have easier access.

Others listed in Tier B include people 75 and older, and workers in education, emergency services, food and agriculture.

Angelo acknowledged the challenge of trying to follow all the guidelines during the January 4 mass vaccinations given all the circumstances, and said there was still a lot of information to dig through about the event.

"I will say that the intent was to get the vaccines out but still try to follow the tiers,"

she said "Maybe we did, maybe we didn't. We'll find out as we go through all of the vaccine logs."

COVID at the county jail

Regarding the outbreak at the jail in Ukiah, Sheriff Matt Kendall said at the January 5 meeting there were then 80 inmates who had tested positive and 12 staff members, and that 44 inmates and 6 staff were still in isolation.

One inmate had gone to the hospital, but Kendall said that "it sounds like he's doing really well."

He talked about the "deeper mitigation efforts" they have started to try and reduce COVID spread.

"All inmates are issued N95 masks," he said. "We've put up some plastic shielding and whatnot on any cells that have gratings where we believe that could be an issue. We have significant multiple daily cleaning efforts, and no inmate workers in the kitchen or in laundry."

All inmates and staff receive mandatory weekly testing and inmates who refuse are put into isolation.

He said they've also added an oxygen saturation test to the daily regimen of temperature checks for staff and inmates because they were finding so many positive tests with people who had no sign of fever.

Kendall noted that the jail facilities were recently able to add three additional nurses from NaphCare to their staff to help with the load.

He also talked of the steps they were taking to reduce the prison population, such as asking the state to take their prisoners sentenced to state prison which he said currently occupies about 10 percent of the county jail population. He believes this will soon happen thanks in part to pressure from sheriffs around the state.

They're also trying to use "home monitoring" as an option when feasible.

CEO Angelo said the county has been helping with monitoring prisoners after they're released for a quarantine period and other efforts.

"So I think that there is very positive movement in the jail right now between the jail and public health to provide safety to the staff and to the inmates," she said.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak asked Kendall if he felt they had all the resources they needed to handle the situation.

"Right now we do," said Kendall. "And we're going to take our pulse in just a very short amount of time, reevaluate, regroup. And that's why these daily meetings [with county health officials] are so important, because realizing that you have a need and being able to jump on it immediately is going to get us through this."

Contract for Dr. Doohan

Later in the meeting the board approved a contract paying former Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan as much as \$100,000 to serve as deputy Public Health officer through the end of 2021 to continue to help with their

COVID-19 efforts.

Doohan served as the county's health officer last year.

The vote was 4-1 with Mulheren voting against.

Request to fund 10 more deputies

In another agenda item Sheriff Kendall requested that the county fund 10 additional sheriff's deputies to be added over the next three years at a cost of around \$4 million "to address the increase in organized crime and the illegal marijuana grows."

"I think it's imperative that Mendocino County addresses this ongoing crisis so that all of Mendocino County residents can have a better quality of life and live in a safer community," said Kendall at the meeting.

However the supervisors came to the consensus that a better approach for now would be to seek funding from the state, given the county's budget challenges.

So in a motion approved unanimously, Haschak and 5th District Supervisor Ted Williams were tasked with putting together materials documenting crime related to illegal marijuana grown in the county, in hopes of persuading the state to help fund increased enforcement.

Kendall gave a presentation at the meeting showing what some of the crime levels and workloads for the Sheriff's Office were in the county, which he believed were too high in many cases for the current workforce to handle properly.

After some discussion and public input the board came to the conclusion that a more comprehensive set of data would be needed to persuade the state to offer funding.

Haschak and Williams volunteered for the assignment, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Organizational assignments

The board also ran through their annual process of selecting who will be chair and vice chair for the year, and approved appointments to standing committees and special assignments for supervisors.

The new chair for the board in 2021 will be Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde, and the vice chair will be Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams. Both were approved unanimously.

For the standing committees, Haschak will be the chair for the "Public Health, Safety, and Resources" committee with new 1st District Supervisor Glenn McGourty as an additional member.

Mulheren will chair the "General Government" committee along with Williams as a member.

It was the first meeting for Mulheren and McGourty, who won their elections in November and were sworn in just the day prior to the meeting.

Mulheren had been a councilmember for the city of Ukiah, first elected in 2014, and McGourty was previously working as the Mendocino County director of the University of California Cooperative Extension.

manager of the Department Operations Center.

"Our goal is that we will use close to every dose of vaccine we receive by the end of each week," notes County CEO Carmel Angelo.

Though general public vaccinations aren't expected to commence until in the late spring or early summer, staff is increasing the number of weekly clinics and vaccinating as many people as possible.

On Wednesday, the county announced that all vaccination clinics due to start this week, distributing a total of 1,200 vaccinations, were already full. The clinics are for firefighters, EMS personnel, criminal justice personnel, law enforcement, crisis counselors, In-Home Supportive Service workers, food service workers, and protective service workers, education and childcare providers, and agricultural workers, along with the provision of the second doses of Pfizer vaccine for those who received their first dose on December 22.

In the upcoming weeks, it's estimated 1,600 to 1,800 individuals will be vaccinated weekly.

"Firefighters represent the largest unpaid public safety workforce in the county. It's imperative that we keep them within the response area to the communities they serve," notes Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams, who was instrumental in organizing these special clinics.

"We are creating protocols for several of our rural and community clinics so they can soon begin vaccinating on site," notes Emery.

The California Department of Public Health's "phase" system designates when people are eligible for vaccination, in an effort to provide citizens a fair, equitable vaccine distribution framework – prioritizing the first vaccinations for those at highest risk for exposure to COVID-19, and from there, vaccinating those at lesser risk for exposure.

"The phase system works on the principle

of saving the most lives and prioritizing the most vulnerable such as the elderly, while simultaneously protecting our highest risk healthcare workers, who protect the whole community," says the county's Public Health Officer Dr. Andrew Coren.

Phase One, expected to continue into spring 2021, breaks down into three sub-phases: Phase 1a, 1b and 1c. Within those sub-phases are additional "tiers." Each phase and each tier identify a subset of the population who become eligible for vaccination once a subsequent tier's vaccinations are completed.

Tier 1 contains but is not limited to high-risk healthcare personnel such as emergency room workers. Per the CDC's distribution guidelines, pharmacies including Walgreens and CVS have responsibility for vaccinating skilled nursing personnel, long-term-care staff, and their residents and patients.

"The national pharmacy contractors should be completed vaccinating this group by sometime next week. The county is close to completing nearly all of the first vaccines for the Phase 1a / Tiers 1, 2 and 3 groups," Coren says.

From there, the focus moves toward a larger demographic.

"We are at the beginning of Phase 1b, Tier 1. This includes EMS personnel, firefighters and workers in education, food and agriculture, as well as people over 75 years of age," says Dr. Coren. People over 75 should contact their healthcare provider or clinic to make vaccination arrangements.

To help the public identify their vaccination tier and the progress of the county's vaccination efforts, an infographic is now available on the county website's COVID-19 page. See the graphic on page 10, or visit www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations.

For more information about Mendocino County's COVID-19 response, available resources and other information, please visit the county's COVID-19 page, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The county's Call Center is staffed from 8:30 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday at 707-472-2759.

of supervisors meeting. In addition, board Chair John Haschak said as much in a telephone conversation with Willits Weekly.

Haschak was asked if the board now thinks it has a viable business plan for Measure B.

"I think we have a plan, yes," Haschak said. "I don't think we have all the numbers that we want to have, and that we need to have. I think we have good numbers on everything except for the PHF [psychiatric health facility]. The PHF is going to determine a lot. So, we're waiting on the financials on the PHF. That's a huge component of what we plan on doing..."

Haschak continued: "Our determination is that we have enough money to do those programs that provide mental health services, and we have an idea that we will have the money that we are going to need to do the PHF."

"But we don't yet have a clear idea on the PHF. So our road map isn't 100 percent clear yet, but we think that the road is going in a direction that we can trust."

Asked if he thought that the old Howard Hospital was still in the running for being considered as a location for the PHF, Haschak said, "I think so."

At the December 15 board meeting, supervisors approved two more of the four auxiliary programs which the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Jenine Miller proposed to the board on September 1, and which the board of supervisors had put on hold for the past 3.5 months. The four programs were designed to fill service gaps that were identified by Miller and by other members of the Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee.

On September 1, the board of supervisors approved spending \$340,000 a year for four years to create the first program, a mobile mental health crisis team.

Two more of the four proposed programs were approved at the board's December 15 meeting. First, a program to provide community education, awareness and support of mental health issues and programs in this county. That program will cost \$350,000 a year for four years, with a

total commitment of \$1.4 million.

The agenda summary of the program explains what it entails. "A community agency will be selected and contracted with to provide community education and support around mental health conditions to law enforcement, physicians, community leaders, and community members as a whole, to reduce discrimination and stigma. Discrimination and stigma impacts an individual's desire to seek services and get the help they need. Families and individuals with mental health conditions also need assistance navigating the community resources and services."

The second program the board approved on December 15, was to spend \$260,000 a year for four years, at a total of \$1.04 million, to provide crisis assessment and psychiatric hospitalization aftercare to people who are currently not eligible for those services.

According to Miller, there are nearly 700 instances a year where individuals who need mental health services cannot receive them because they are not eligible for MediCal.

In Bailey's report to the board of supervisors for the December 15 meeting, she noted that currently there is \$20.6 million in the Measure B fund. She said that construction has begun on the crisis residential treatment facility on Orchard Avenue in Ukiah.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Miller provided supervisors with some information on the status of the request for proposals for an organization to operate the PHF. Miller said that the request for proposals went out on November 30 and that a number of responses to the RPF have been received. When asked by Supervisor John McCowen as to the exact number of responses, Miller said that, legally, she was not able to say how many, but that she felt she was legally able to say that "a few proposals" has been received.

Miller said that a committee had been formed to evaluate the responses and that she felt confident that the winning bidder will be announced by the end of January.


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Community wellness and well-being are also important to Howe. "Beyond just caring for our community members when they're sick, we recognize that overall health and well-being is about addressing the social determinants of health and providing access to resources beyond the walls of our hospital. We also recognize that it will take partnerships with organizations who have expertise in those areas so we can be more co-ordinated and amplify our impact."

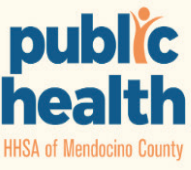
Howe says he looks forward to addressing community needs. "The pandemic has really highlighted the health disparity and inequities in our community and how it affects overall health," he says. "I'm inspired to look at wellness through this lens and focus on how we can address this as a community."

Adventist Health manages the three hospitals and affiliated clinics in Mendocino County: Howard Memorial, Mendocino Coast and Ukiah Valley. Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities.

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MENDOCINO COUNTY
COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Status



TIER 1

- Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals
- Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Paramedics, EMTs and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis centers

TIER 2

- Intermediate care facilities
- Home health care and in-home supportive services
- Community health workers
- Public health field staff
- Primary Care clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics

TIER 3

- Specialty clinics
- Laboratory workers
- Dental and other oral health clinics
- Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers

TIER 1

- Individuals 75 and older
- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: education, childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture

TIER 2

- Individuals 65 years of age or older with underlying health conditions
- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: transportation and logistics; industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services; critical manufacturing
- Congregate settings with outbreak risk: incarcerated and homeless

TIER 3


- Adults 65-74 years of age
- Those 16-64 years of age with underlying medical conditions
- Those who work for the following sectors: water and waste management, defense, energy, chemical and hazardous, community and IT, financial services, government operations

PHASE 1A *started December 2020*

PHASE 1B *starting soon*

PHASE 2 *expected to start in Spring 2021*

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**Willits Weekly**

The rest of
Permits | From Page 1

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