

Willits Weekly

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Online & Print

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 438 **Thursday, February 10, 2022**

Looming deadline on state cannabis grants

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
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With a February 28 deadline looming for the county to finish distributing \$2.2 million in Cannabis Equity Program Grant funding, and another \$17.5 million expected on the way from the state soon, on Tuesday the Mendocino County Supervisors approved a resolution attempting to ease the process for applicants seeking the grants.

The resolution authorized Mendocino County Program Director Kristin Nevedal to "update, amend and

Read the rest of
Deadline
Over on Page 11

City to begin water line flushing February 14

The City of Willits Water Department sent the below letter to water customers with their January bills, announcing that the annual water line flushing program will begin February 14.

Dear Water Customer:

The week of February 14, 2022, the City of Willits Water Department will begin our annual flushing program. We will start at the base of Pine Mountain and work our way towards and throughout town. We anticipate flushing on Main Street will begin approximately three weeks after flushing begins. Businesses on Main Street will be notified prior to the beginning of the flushing. The flushing will be done at night in the hope of causing as little disruption to you

Read the rest of
Water
Over on Page 11

WPD arrests shooter on 3 felony charges

By Sgt. S. Gray, for WPD

On February 2, 2022 at about 2 am, Willits Police Department officers were dispatched to the 1000 block of Locust Street regarding an assault with a firearm.

The reporting party stated there had been an altercation at the above location involving several family members, causing the victim and her family to leave the residence.

As the victim, her boyfriend, and two children were attempting to leave in their vehicle, suspect Riley Rogers-Wood, 23, exited the residence and shot at

Read the rest of
Shooter
Over on Page 4

Eighth-graders Alexandra Ramos, left, and Gracie Jennison, right, show off the carnations that will be available for students to purchase for Valentine's Day.

Photos by
Maureen
Jennison



A Carnation for your Crush

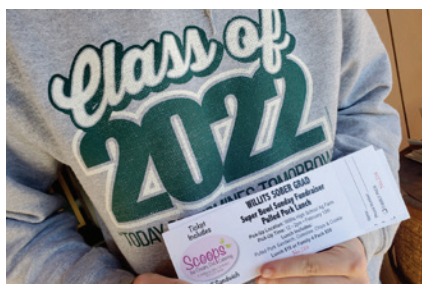
Baechtel Grove Middle School offers students red carnations to be delivered to a special friend – or hopefully a very special friend – this Valentine's Day

Ah middle school. Past are the days of pulling hair and getting chased on the playground, but it's still not time to get a note stuck in your locker, or find a rose left under the windshield wiper of your 1995 Chevy Cavalier, so what's a love-struck teenager to do?

Well, if that teenager is at Baechtel Grove Middle School, they can send a Carnation Gram, of course! BGMS will be offering carnations to students to purchase for \$2 each, now until Friday. Funds raised will go into the student council account to be used for field trips and activities as decided by the students.

Carnations will include a "To: and From:" greeting which

Below, left: Carnations will include a note, with as little or as much info as the buyer would like! Below, right: Ramos and Jennison smile with their sample carnations. Are they planning to send out any this year? Potential lucky recipients will just have to wait and see.



Above, from left: A ticket to the lunch gets you a tasty pulled pork sandwich and all the fixins, including a cookie, coleslaw and chips. Below: Seniors Carlos Leon, left, Dominick Kvasnicka and Lily Barrett, right, encourage all to buy!



can be filled out with as much, or as little, information as the sender requests. Should you let that boy know you think he's all that and a bag of chips? Is this the chance to show that pretty girl you think she's the bee's knees? When better than now to honor your favorite gal pal for Galentine's Day? Have a bromance that needs recognizing?

Now's the time, friends.

Sneaky parents can also pop in and purchase a pretty flower, too. All will be delivered by the student council on Valentine's Day, this coming Monday, February 14.

– Maureen Jennison

Committee gets updates on 2020 school bond projects

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

Willits Unified's first draw on the sale of bonds authorized by the passage of Measure I in November 2020 has come and almost gone.

Measure I, in addition to authorizing the sale of \$17 million worth of bonds, set up an "independent citizens oversight committee [to] ensure ... the voters and taxpayers ... that their money will be spent wisely [and] ensure bond proceeds are expended only on the types of school facilities projects listed [in the text of the bond measure]."

Committee members Cynthia Carni, Jeanne King, Saprina Rodriguez, Richard Baker, and Eric Glassey met online on January 24 to receive updates on bond-funded projects in progress, completed, and contemplated.

Committee members not present were Chris Neary, Gerry Gonzalez, Erin Orth, Christine Kelsay, and Jenny Nelson.

Superintendent Joe Aldridge reviewed the

Read the rest of
Projects
Over on Page 11

County treasurer announces early retirement

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Mendocino County Treasurer-Tax Collector Shari Schapmire announced her early retirement, set for March this year, in an interview published in the February 4, 2022 Independent Coast Observer.

Schapmire confirmed her early retirement during a brief phone conversation with Willits Weekly, and said an earlier report in the Anderson Valley Advertiser on the reasons that she had decided not to serve out her term through 2022 was "very accurate."

Schapmire's decision to retire early came "in the wake of the supervisors' ill-informed, ill-conceived and hasty decision to combine the Treasurer-Tax Collector and Auditor-Controller into a single elected office ... despite a complete lack of analysis of the possible benefits or pitfalls," the AVA report read, and after

Schapmire will be joining Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo, who is also

Read the rest of
Retirement
Over on Page 4

Sober Grad Pulled Pork

Sandwich meal fundraiser for Super Bowl Sunday

With the help of Scoops Deli and Catering, volunteers and students working with Willits Sober Grad are offering the community a chance to get a tasty meal for Super Bowl Sunday.

For \$15 per ticket, or four for \$50, folks can get a pulled pork sandwich, bag of chips, cookie and tub of coleslaw to enjoy. Meals need to be picked up at the Willits High School Ag Farm on February 13 from 12 to 2 pm. Money raised will help fund the annual alcohol-free graduation-night party in June.

Tickets will be available pre-sale only – through Saturday – and are available at Scoops, 110 North Main Street. Info: 707-272-9646.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters
from our readers

Senior Center needs our support

To the Editor:

As a precautionary measure to mitigate the spread of the Omicron virus and to adhere to the Public Health Advisory Issued by Dr. Coren regarding large indoor gatherings of 50 people indoors, the Harrah Senior Center Board of Directors has decided to cancel Bingo and our Pancake Breakfast fundraiser until further notice.

We are entertaining the idea of a drive-through Pancake Breakfast. We would need to presell at least 50 breakfasts in order to cover our food costs. Each breakfast would include: two pieces each of sausage and bacon, pancakes, scrambled eggs, and a hot cup of coffee. Please give us a call (459-6826) if you're interested in supporting a drive-through Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.

Willits Rotary has paid to have our patio area covered. We appreciate their generosity and steadfast commitment to support the senior center programs and services. Brain Armond, our maintenance man, is working on the patio project now. We are also looking at buying some outdoor heaters to keep the patio area warm on colder days. The purpose of covering the patio is to create an alternative outdoor space that is safe to host outdoor meetings and events such as our Pancake Breakfast and other fundraising events.

We would appreciate any financial support to help cover the costs of four outdoor heaters (\$679.96), four propane tanks (\$179.92) and the cost of 80 gallons of propane (roughly \$280). If anyone has any 20-gallon propane tanks they would like to donate, please give us a call.

We are doing our best to adjust to the many disruptions

and challenges the coronavirus presents to hosting events, activities and social gatherings. First and foremost, we want to keep our seniors safe and as such have implemented a vaccination policy requiring all employees, volunteers, and anyone entering the senior center to provide proof of being fully vaccinated. For those who chose to exercise their right not to be vaccinated, we will not exclude you from receiving services, but it will prevent from entering the facility.

Currently we are providing outreach services, financial rep payee services, indoor dining, drive-through and walk-up meals to go, Meals on Wheels, transportation services, morning exercise classes, and bridge. Our Physical Challenges and Parkinson's support groups still meet via Zoom. We are also distributing medical equipment and firewood, and provide a senior food distribution program the second Thursday of every month. We are working on reopening our computer lab. Our facility and commercial kitchen is available for rent.

Donations are the lifeblood of a non-profit organization, and as such we rely on the generosity of those in our community to keep our doors open. We are asking for donations at this time. You can visit our website willitsseiorcenter.com, find the donations tab, or you can mail your donation to

1501 Baechtel Road, or stop by in person and say hello.

The Harrah Senior Center is very fortunate to have so many caring, generous people who time and time again financially support us in our time of need. Rest assured we are committed to addressing the ever-changing needs of our seniors and stand ready to support our community whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Richard Baker, director, Harrah Senior Center

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

February 2022 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

This beautiful winter weather has been wonderful except for the fact that we need lots more rain. What started as record rainfalls and snow in the Sierras is now below normal. However, we still have a couple months of rainy season left and we are hoping for rain.

The drought task force that I am on has continued working to prepare for next summer. The water agency study is ongoing and should be done in June with the goal being to provide greater capacity for our smaller water agencies, grant writing help, inter-ties between water agencies, and increased knowledge about our aquifers.

It is widely known that cannabis prices have dropped, which has an impact on our local economy. While the county can't do anything about the economic downturn, it does have responsibility in making the process fair, efficient, open and transparent to those attempting to get their county permit and atate annual license. I have been working to ensure that the processes are efficient, communication is open and respectful, and guidelines and standards are clearly expressed.

We also need to ensure that an appeal process is in place so that farmers who have been denied for reasons they feel are incorrect have the chance to be heard. The legalization of cannabis has been a tortuous experience for many, but the commitment of the county has to be ensuring that small, legal growers in Mendocino County have a straightforward process to licensure.

With ongoing drought conditions, increased aridity in our region, and unpermitted cannabis grows in the hills, there have been many complaints about water extraction in valley floors and the selling of that water to water haulers who then haul the water in an unending stream of water trucks up to the dry hills.

Read the rest of
Report Over on Page 4



Photo by Ree Slocum



Photo by Ree Slocum

Above, left: The horseback riders are four generations of cousins who've attended these parades on horseback every year: from left, Caydence Lopez, Ashley Persico, Nicol Persico Kunka, and friend, Madison Norris. Many of Ceccarelli's family members, including some nieces from different parts of California, are situated to the right in front of the garage. Above, right: Members from a new group called the Willits Cruisin' Knights decorated their vehicles for Ceccarelli's birthday. From far left: Charles Ceccarelli and Edie Ceccarelli at their 1986 wedding. Dance and event partners Edie Ceccarelli and Ed Burton smile for a photo at a fundraiser. Ceccarelli and Burton dance the night away, as they often did after Ceccarelli sadly lost her second husband, Charlie Ceccarelli. Below: Edie smiles and waves to everyone with her delicious birthday cake made by the Adventist Health Howard Memorial's Roots Restaurant chefs.

Supercentenarian with Style

Willits takes pride in its oldest citizen, Edie Ceccarelli,
honoring her with a parade on her 114th birthday

The Willits community and other notables celebrated supercentenarian Edie Ceccarelli's 114th birthday on Saturday. Ceccarelli is documented as the oldest living Californian who was born and raised in the state.

Because the 114-year-old historically attended and loved parades, the Willits community has celebrated her life with a parade in her honor since the COVID pandemic started, which isolated vulnerable people in 2020. Normally she had huge parties for the community at the Little Lake Grange or Willits Senior Center. Now her birthday celebrations are routed in front of her latest home at the Holy Spirit Residential Care Home in the Haehl Creek subdivision in Willits.

Last Saturday, February 5, Ceccarelli was in the open air, under a sun-protected canopy to watch her birthday parade. To make sure she was shielded from COVID infection, people, other than her caregivers, were distanced. Celebrants streamed past, walking, bicycling or on motorcycles, and in cars. Many were decorated, adding to the vibrant, festive event. Some stopped and stepped up to congratulate her in person.

Senator Mike McGuire handed a California State Certification of Recognition to her primary caregiver, Perla Gonzalez, who passed it to Ceccarelli. A representative for Jim Wood also brought a California Assembly Certificate of Recognition signed by Assembly Member Wood. Third District Supervisor John Haschak also stepped forward with a "special proclamation to acknowledge and honor you as you turn 114 years young." Willits City Council also had a proclamation with its own revealing knowledge of her, "Whereas, at the age of 114, you continue to 'wine' and dine, dressed to the nines, and love the sounds of big band music each and every day."

Ceccarelli gave some smiles and waves throughout the hour-long procession. Her primary caregiver, Gonzalez's, loving presence was there to assist Ceccarelli with hearing what was being said to her, since her hearing is somewhat impaired. Ceccarelli was also overheard asking questions and making comments.



Above: Edie Ceccarelli appears tickled to get the California State Assembly Certificate of Recognition from Jim Wood. From far left: Speaking for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, John Haschak hands a special proclamation that celebrates Edie Ceccarelli's 114th birthday to one of her primary caregivers, who explains it to Ceccarelli. Many cars are decorated for the occasion. Edie Ceccarelli's second cousin, Lee Persico, holds the microphone as Ceccarelli thanks everyone for being at her 100th birthday party.



Photo by Perla Gonzalez



February 19 deadline for Rotary Club Student Debt Assistance Program

Submitted by Rotary Club of Willits

The Rotary Club of Willits Student Debt Assistance Program has, for the second year, been taking applications from Willits area (95490) residents for assistance to help pay down their student loan debt. Deadline for completed applications is February 19, 2022.

The goal of the program is to encourage local area college or career tech school graduates, who are active in the community, to stay in the Willits area.

The Rotary Club of Willits Student Debt Assistance Program (SDAP) was formed using local donations, in August 2020. In spring of 2021, Willits Rotary awarded 10 Willits area residents grants of \$300 per month for 12 months. Many of those recipients have expressed their gratitude for the assistance and have made headway in paying down their student debt.

Our club continues to welcome donations to this fund so we can continue to serve Willits area residents in need of student loan assistance. You can send

Read the rest of
Scholarship Over on Page 11

Update on Measure B projects and status

Submitted by Mental Health Treatment Act
Citizens Oversight Committee

This is the Behavioral Health director's report on current Measure B projects and status for January 2022. The mission of the Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee, aka the Measure B Committee, is "to ensure the effective, efficient, and transparent use of those funds provided for by and as defined by Mendocino County Ordinance 4387 for the benefit of the community."

Behavioral Health Regional Training Center – The grand opening for the Behavioral Health Regional Training Center in Redwood Valley is planned for Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 10 am. BHRS will be providing more information as the date nears. The training center held the first training in December 1-3, 2021. Additional trainings are planned at the facility in March 2022. The center provides county and regional organizations with space for mental health trainings and training events.

The BHTRC has a max capacity of 73 and has an additional area with refrigerator, sink, counter-space, and serving window for food preparation and serving. More information, pricing, and the rental application is located on the Measure B website: [https://www.](https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/mental-health-oversight-committee)

[mendocinocounty.org/community/mental-health-oversight-committee](https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/mental-health-oversight-committee)

Community Education, Awareness, and Support: National Alliance on Mental Illness Mendocino has hired an executive director and is working on its first training for the community.

Crisis Assessment and Psychiatric Hospitalization Aftercare: Redwood Community Crisis Center continues to provide crisis aftercare services to individuals within the community that do not have Medi-Cal as their health insurance provider.

Crisis Residential Treatment Facility: Construction of the Orchard Street facility in Ukiah is complete, though we are still awaiting delivery of the generator. Adjustments were made to the permit to allow occupancy and licensing to proceed without the generator, which will now be installed when it arrives. The operator is progressing with completing the licensing activities. The ribbon cutting event on December 16 was a success, with compliments on the facility by many in attendance.

The Ukiah Crisis Residential Treatment Facility, with eight to 10 beds, is a short-term mental health facility

Read the rest of
Measure B Over on Page 4

Thanks to our subscribers

Willits Weekly is sending out subscription renewal postcards, and we thank those readers who have renewed their subscriptions! Willits Weekly offers home delivery subscriptions (to your driveway on Friday mornings) in our local area, and mail delivery subscriptions anywhere.

We also appreciate our "street subscribers" who send in a donation to support our free-circulation newspaper, but continue to pick up the editions themselves at our many outlets and newspaper boxes around town.

Also in line for thanks is the local newspaper distribution crew that delivers Willits Weekly, along with other newspaper subscriptions – including regional and national newspapers, too.

Continuing changes in the newspaper industry aren't making their difficult jobs any easier, and Willits Weekly is happy to help keep the tradition of getting a newspaper delivered to your home alive.

We print the subscription form on Page 2 in most editions of Willits Weekly, and we're happy to get a check to start your subscription. Our subscriptions are still \$50 for a year of home delivery, and \$75 for a year of first-class mail delivery. If you'd prefer to pay online, you can visit www.willitsweekly.com and hit the "Pay/Donate" button which will take you to our PayPal site where you can pay with any card.

Again, thanks to all Willits Weekly's subscribers and supporters.

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.

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

Grid of letters for word search.

Word search categories: ANNIVERSARY, CUPID, GIFTS, LOVE, ROSES, ARROW, DESSERT, HEARTS, MARRIAGE, SAINT, BOUQUET, DOVES, HOLIDAY, MEMORIES, SERENADE, CANDY, EMBRACE, HUG, MUSIC, SWEET, CARDS, FEELINGS, JEWELRY, POEM, TRADITION, CELEBRATION, FLIRT, KISS, RELATIONSHIP, VALENTINE, CHOCOLATE, FLOWERS, LACE, ROMANCE, WOO, CUPCAKE.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60.

CLUES ACROSS and CLUES DOWN for the crossword puzzle.

The rest of Measure B | From Page 2

designed to serve individuals who are experiencing acute psychiatric crisis and whose adaptive functioning is moderately impaired.

Mobile Crisis Response Team Pilot: Two Mental Health Rehabilitation specialists have been hired, trained, and are responding to mobile dispatch calls from Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and Ukiah Police Department in the inland valley, and beyond when able. Mobile Crisis Dual Response is scheduled 8 am to 6 pm, seven days a week.

We continue to recruit for additional rehabilitation specialists to add to the service areas available. We are proud to announce that we were able to secure grant funding to augment staffing and to fund costs of infrastructure, including vehicles for Mobile Crisis.

Mental Health Treatment Act Audit: The audits for periods 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020, 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021, and 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022 are currently in process. The audits are expected to be completed by March 31, 2022.

Psychiatric Health Facility: The feasibility study was presented to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on January 25, 2022. The BOS approved to move forward with using the property located at Whitmore Lane for construction of the psychiatric health facility, including demolition of the existing structure and construction of a new building. Staff was directed to proceed with closing of Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development permit of the facility as a skilled nursing facility.

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center's indoor dining room has reopened, as of January 17. The Senior Center will continue serving drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$5 through March 31, 2022

Thursday, February 10: BBQ Rib Sandwich, Baked Beans, Green Salad

Friday, February 11: Beef Stroganoff, Veggie, Roll

Monday, February 14: Chicken Fettuccini w/Garlic Wine Sauce, Veggie, Garlic Bread

Tuesday, February 15: Chicken Fritters, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Roll, Green Salad

Wednesday, February 16: Ground Beef Tacos, Rice, Beans

Thursday, February 17: Chicken Parmesan, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, February 18: Ground Sirloin, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Deb at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments. Senior Center Thrift Shop: 459-2176.

The rest of Report | From Page 2

People whose wells go dry because a new business opens up on the next parcel selling water that is hauled off often call me in the summer and fall. Supervisor McGourty and I have been working on this issue with many different people including ranchers, farmers, law enforcement, environmental health, concerned citizens, water haulers, and legal counsel to figure out how to best address the issue.

We will be recommending that water extraction for commercial purposes requires a business license and a water hydrology study to ensure that the extraction is not harming neighbors, that water trucks be prohibited from 11 pm till 5 am, and that water businesses and haulers keep a log of the quantity of water being sold and delivered, the destination, etc.

The rest of Shooter | From Page 1

them three times with a bolt-action rifle. At least one round struck the passenger-side rear view mirror, narrowly missing the reporting party's husband.

Rogers-Wood then retreated back into the residence, which was occupied by his girlfriend (an adult female) and their newborn child, effectively barricading himself inside.

Willits Police Department officers, with the assistance of Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies, arrived and attempted to make contact with the suspect via their patrol vehicles' public address system.

Rogers-Wood ultimately exited from the house and surrendered about 15 minutes later. He was arrested without incident. There were no injuries sustained by any of the individuals involved or by responding law enforcement officers.

The rest of Retirement | From Page 1

retiring early in March.

She told Willits Weekly her Assistant Treasurer Tax Collector Julie Forrester, a 30-year employee of Mendocino County, was not interested in running for election to manage the four combined offices. Schampire did say that Auditor-Controller Chamise Cubbison had expressed interest in running.

The filing period for non-judicial candidates in the June 2022 election in Mendocino County will open February 14 and run through March 11.

Several local campaigns have already filed financial statements, indicating they plan to run, including the Committee to Re-Elect John Haschak for Supervisor; Elect Michelle Hutchens County Superintendent 2022; Elect Nicole Glentzer Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools 2022; and Katrina Bartolomie for Assessor

County Clerk Recorder 2022.

Local offices on the ballot in June 2022 will be: Assessor-Clerk Recorder; Auditor-Controller / Treasurer-Tax Collector; District Attorney; Sheriff-Coroner; Third District Supervisor; and Fifth District Supervisor.

Local voters will also find the Second District Congressional Representative (incumbent Jared Huffman); the Second District State Senator (incumbent Mike McGuire), and the Second District Member of the Assembly (incumbent Jim Wood) on their ballots.

Those interested can track which candidates file for office via the county Elections Office website's "Campaign Statement" search at www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/elections/campaign-statements

Cuddly Baxter

Meet Baxter! He is a sweet, loving boy who tends to bond quickly to his person. This 2-year-old Labrador-mix dog is very playful and will need a home that is active and can provide lots of mental stimulation. He is not kid friendly and would do well in a household in a rural setting. Baxter is very cuddly and affectionate once he trusts you. He gives excellent kisses and has a very soft coat. He loves scratches and gets the zoomies frequently – his happiness is adorable and so endearing! He would love a more rural environment where it's quiet and where he has space to run around. He would love an adult-only home that doesn't have many visitors as he can be nervous with anyone new.

To learn more about Baxter or view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

Handsome Russell Crowe

Meet Russell Crowe! This glorious guy is a show stopper! He came to us as a stray from Potter Valley and no owners were found. Russell Crowe is about a year old and ready to start his new life. He has even been working on his manners and training with some of our wonderful volunteers! We are all completely smitten with this good boy and he has become a crowd favorite.

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Don't miss your chance to meet this handsome fella. You will regret it!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Great news! We are opened back up, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday 1 pm to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 3 pm. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Playful Luke

Luke is a very curious 4-month-old tabby cat who likes to explore his surroundings. Luke gets along well with his sister, Leia, and appears playful with other cats. He would most likely do well in a home with children.

For more info about Luke or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

The Fat Quail Quilt Shop is open for classes

If you have not visited inspirational fabric store The Fat Quail Quilt Shop lately, these upcoming classes will inspire you to make the scenic drive to Laytonville. Spend the day with Debbie Bowles learning the art of quilting, while making new friends and exploring your creativity.

Beginning Quilting

Saturday, February 19, 10 am to 4 pm

Have you always wanted to learn quilting? If so, this is the class for you! You will learn how to use a rotary cutter, ruler, pin, and basic sewing techniques. Using just three fabrics, you will put together a beautiful, 60 x 60 inch quilt top. This class consists of two sessions, the first on Saturday, February 18; participants will be invited to choose the second date. The cost of the classes is \$20 per session. Fabric is not included.

Bargello as a Pallet

Saturday, February 12, 10 am to 4 pm

This February 12 class will appeal to artists and quilters alike. Create a scenic wall hanging using this fun scrap busting technique. The class fee is \$20. Kits are available for \$24.95.

Registration for all classes is easy, call Debbie at 707-984-6966

The Fat Quail Quilt Shop is located at 44550 Highway 101 in Laytonville. Open hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm.

Treat Yourself Special

Thrive Yoga Willits offers Deep Tissue Massage, with choice of Hot Stones, CBD and Salt Scrub. Available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Book online at www.thriveyogawillits.com

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'American Underdog'

The Story: Hollywood biopic of Kurt Warner, good husband, good father, all-around good guy. Also, he was a two-time Super Bowl Champion and Hall of Fame Quarterback for the St. Louis Rams, the Greatest Show on Turf. His successes followed years of rejection and denied opportunities. He graduated from a small college. So who cared? He was undrafted.

Dan Essman
Columnist

less see his guts and determination. His singleness of purpose and solid heart also applied to his love for his future wife, Brenda (Anna Paquin), a former U.S. Marine, with betrayal in her past. She just didn't want to get involved with any man, but he persisted.

We get a special insight into the real man who, when facing disappointment after disappointment, asks aloud, "Why would God put in me this desire to play football, then take away the opportunities?" Kurt Warner had real doubts, but never in his God. He did, occasionally, question his situation, but who doesn't?

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If you want to be included in
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April Tweddell
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april@willitsweekly.com

People's Theatre Presents

Tell Me About Love

A VARIETY SHOW ABOUT YOU KNOW WHAT!

Saturday February 12

Leopold Art Collective 6pm
109 North Main Street
Followed by Live Music and DJ set
Suggested Donation \$10

Featuring musical performances, shorts, video projection & more



Above: The Willits High School Academic Decathlon team.

WHS Academic Decathlon state team

Willits High School Academic Decathlon just completed their regional competition, held on the first Saturday in February.

The California Academic Decathlon "is a statewide non-profit organization that promotes an educational experience providing a format in which teams of nine high school students compete

WHS state team members:

Honors: Willow Daun-Widner, Audrey Sherf, and Jade Arbayo

Scholastic: Michael Kale, Ariel Herz O'Brien, and Xavier De La Fuente

Varsity: Kaleb Whitehurst, Mitchell Coughlin, and Justin Johnson

– Submitted by WHS Academic Decathlon

'Tell Me About Love'

Leopold Collective to host a night of performance art this Saturday

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

Love is poetry and songs and skits, and performance art. For those who want to know about love, this event will give them insight and enlightenment.

Two days before the St. Valentine's Day holiday, when the populace is supposed to be consumed by all things love, an event is going to take place that is designed to give people several views of devotion, fondness and connection.

Leopold Collective, located at 109 North Main Street, will be hosting a People's Theatre production of "Tell Me About Love," consisting of 14 pieces of performance art, centering around the subject of love in all its beauty, poetry, songs and skits, designed to entertain, enlighten and engender thought.

Two local women, Moonshine and Audrey, have created this unrestricted, creative evening, to be held on Saturday, February 12, beginning at 6 pm and continuing, after the performances, with live music, DJs, food, drink and crafts, until midnight.

"It happened just because I was feeling a little bit drained from the past year," explained Moonshine. "I wanted to be able to do something to get everyone involved and to wake up their creative spirit."

In addition to the songs and poetry, there will be a video projection piece, a mime act, and well, that remains to be seen.



Above: Audrey and Moonshine have created a night of free-form variety with poetry, music, video projections, and skits. The event will be held at Leopold Collective, located at 109 North Main Street, on Saturday, February 12, at 6 pm.

Photo by Mathew Caine

COVID tests arrive at USPS

At-home tests being delivered by USPS now

Those who chose to take advantage of the at-home COVID tests being provided free of charge by the United States government can expect to see their packages arriving in the mailboxes right away. Boxes of bubble-wrapped test kits started arriving Monday, February 7 and will be heading to mailboxes all week with dozens going out per route daily. Want to sign up? https://www.covidtests.gov/ or 707-472-2759 Visit www.mendocinocounty.org/covid19 for more info.



Photo by Mathew Jennison

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Movie Times for Feb. 11 thru Feb. 17	Masks Required	Tightwad Tuesday Titles for Feb. 15th are in RED. All tickets at \$6!



Isabel Madrigal Siderakis.

Soroptimists' Third Tuesday Speaker Series

Submitted by Si/Willits

Soroptimist International of Willits presents its online Third Tuesday Speaker Series on February, 15 at noon on Zoom. This is a free event for everyone, everywhere! RSVP to: Si/Willits@Soroptimist.net for Zoom link

Featured speaker in February is Isabel Madrigal Siderakis:

"Prior to my law enforcement career, I was a sexual assault counselor in San Mateo County and domestic violence counselor in Santa Clara County. I attended the San Jose Police Academy in 2011.

"I was hired by Ukiah Police Department in 2013. While employed with UPD, I served in the following specialty positions: Patrol, Detective, School Resource Officer, member of Mendocino County's Multi-Agency Gang Suppression Unit, a member of Sexual Assault Response Team, and a Child Forensic Interviewer.

"I was hired by Mendocino County Sheriff's Office in 2020. I am currently assigned to the Patrol Unit.

"I have an AA degree in Behavioral Studies, AA degree in Criminal Justice, a Bachelors in Criminal Justice, and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership."



From far left: Fruits to distribute are dependent on what is currently available. The Willits Community Services and Food Bank sits at 229 East San Francisco Avenue. Feminine hygiene and family items are available on request. Below: The bags are packed for the recipients.

Going Hungry

In the last two years, Willits Food Bank has seen a dramatic increase in those needing assistance

"I wish that we didn't have to exist, that there was no need for our services," said Dan Beebe, volunteer at the Willits Food Bank. "Unfortunately, we exist because there is a necessity for us. No one should go hungry.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

people don't know what true hunger is. If you've gone a day or two without eating because you don't have the resources. Think about that when you think about what the food bank does for people."

Willits Community Services, helmed by Ruthanne Volz, is the parent organization of the Willits Food Bank, and is engaged in several altruistic endeavors, including feeding and housing those who, through events, illness, or a myriad of other causes, are unable to provide these forms of security for themselves and their families.

They believe that no one should have to go hungry and they take strides, along with other organizations in the Willits area, to create a way to get food

and other necessities to those who truly need it, regardless of whatever crisis or occurrences have brought them to a place where they need help to survive.

Volz would prefer people not think of their recipients as the homeless, even though a small percentage are in that circumstance. Instead, these people are food and housing insecure, not entirely able to provide the certainty of these necessities for themselves and their families.

At right: Melinda Clarke prepares to distribute bags of food to seniors in three housing developments.

Far right: LeRae and Larry put together bags for the clients.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Read the rest of **Hungry** Over on Page 10



Below: Some members of the crew wait to help clear the cut limbs as the leader trims uphill.

At right: Most of the corps members were tasked with helping to clear the debris. At right, below: An extension chainsaw helps in reaching dead limbs.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from left: Three CCC corps members make their way toward their work area from the staging site. Cedar Long, crew chief for one of the three CCC crews working off Spring Creek Road, poses for a photo. Two of the CCC members look for downed trees and loose limbs to trim. At left: Members of the crew pick up their tools from the CCC truck. Below: After the tree has been brought down it is cut into smaller pieces for stacking and hauling.



Fuel Break

Thanks to a grant obtained by Sherwood Firewise, the CCC is working hard to create emergency-access routes and reduce small-diameter vegetation in Brooktrails

"Tree falling!" was one of the calls that could be heard as the crews of the California Conservation Corps, out of Ukiah, continued their work, grooming the forest within 100 feet of the access routes. This day, it was the area of Spring Creek Road, which is being prepared for emergencies, necessitating its use in order to connect with Timber Road as an escape route should Sherwood Road become impassable due to fire. The work has been going for four or five weeks and will continue through the first week in March.

"We are doing a shaded fuel break for fire-hazard reduction," explained Cedar Long, the CCC crew chief who has been on the site the longest. "We're taking out small-diameter vegetation to reduce fire activity and to provide a safer ingress and egress for residents and fire fighters in the event of a wildfire."

"We've been on this project for three or four weeks now," said Long, "and we're scheduled to be out through the rest of this month and into the first week of March. We commute every morning from Ukiah. Today we have 26 corps members out here. It's a little different day to day, depending on how many crews are available. Last week we had 30. It's a lot of bodies and they're getting a lot of work done. There are a lot of good training opportunities for the corps members and a lot of good opportunities for interactions with the residents as well."

Keith Rutledge of the Sherwood Firewise Communities, who has arranged for the CalFire grants that have made this work possible, says that they hope to be able to expand the program to Pine Mountain and Ridgewood as there is still grant money available.

"Sherwood Firewise applied several years ago to CalFire for roadside fuel reduction," said Rutledge. "We wanted to get the major-access corridor of Sherwood Road and the upper part which is Ridge to Blue Lake to Timber Road so there are two major accesses, one at the bottom of the hill, Sherwood, and up at the ridge, Blue Lake. We had to cruise all the roads, get an estimate of how much material was there to be cleared, get the CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act]. The last year has been spent in doing all the environmental clearance."

"We finally got the approvals at the end of last year to go ahead and start the work," Rutledge said, "and it turned out that the California Conservation Corps was available. They asked if we were 'shovel-ready' because they had crews ready to go to work, and we said 'heck yeah, we'll take your crew.' As it turns out, we got two or three crews because they had another project that got stalled. At Sherwood Firewise we've been concentrating on being ready, preparing our grants, getting the budgets, because money comes along and if you're not ready to jump on it, they'll go right by."

Read the rest of

Firewise

Over on Page 9

"The original grant," explained

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The rest of
Birthday

From Page 3

like how big Santa Rosa was getting. In 1984, Keenan passed away, breaking her heart. In 1986, she married Charles Ceccarelli, who died four years later.

Ceccarelli developed a fondness for walking downtown every day, greeting store owners and visiting friends. She was known for "dressing up to the nines" daily, including makeup and jewelry.

The pride and generosity she learned in helping out her family when she and her siblings dug potatoes continued into her later life and extended to her Willits community. "She was a benefactor in a lot of organizations: the hospital foundation, church, Kid's Club, Senior Center, Daily Bread. Lots of them," said Persico, who is now managing Ceccarelli's donations.

Ceccarelli is also known to have helped individuals she befriended in the community with loans or monetary gifts.

Another endearing story was told by Persico and happened when Ceccarelli lived many years on Spruce Street. It is one of the ways children walked to Brookside School. "The kindergartners and preschoolers walked past Edie's with their moms. Edie would be outside and loved to watch the kids and talk to them. The moms would stop and talk with her, too. She had this little dresser in the back bedroom with a drawer full of things from the dollar store that kids would be drawn to. She'd ask the parents if kids could go in to pick something to take with them. She was a staunch supporter of kids." Many reading this may remember the beautiful and kind older woman who gave them little gifts on their way home from school.

Is there a formula for longevity? A search-engine inquiry will turn up lots of anecdotal information and some scientific research.

Are there any secrets to Ceccarelli's long life? Here are a few quotes and thoughts: "Her [Italian] genes are amazing!" Jill Persico; "Edie was always so healthy and just radiates! She's always been young for her age," Evelyn Persico; she was known for dancing at community dances that she attended well into her 100s – at 104 she placed an ad in the paper that said she was looking for a dance partner; she enjoys red wine at dinner; she was known to walk in town every day until sometime before 107 when she moved to the care home; she was enthusiastic with a positive attitude on life.

Whatever has helped this supercentenarian stay with us so long is an inspiration and testament to living a healthy, generously spirited and active life in a community of like-minded friends and family.

At left, from top: This photo taken in 1913 shows three of the Recagno children: Edie, Frank and Anette. At 16 years old, Edie Ceccarelli already shows a flair for style, though pants were commonly taboo for women in those days. Edie Ceccarelli, 37, poses for a photo next to the family car in 1945.

The rest of
Firewise

From Page 8

Rutledge, "was for \$477,000 but they just notified us that there's another \$174,000 coming this way, so we're going to try and push out the clearing work out Sherwood Road to the Rancheria and Sherwood Ranch. Pine Mountain and the Ridgewood groups are also interested. So there is money available and the good news is that we've gotten the CCC and the CalFire crews to do a lot of this work without charging, so we still have those funds and we'll continue to expand our scope."

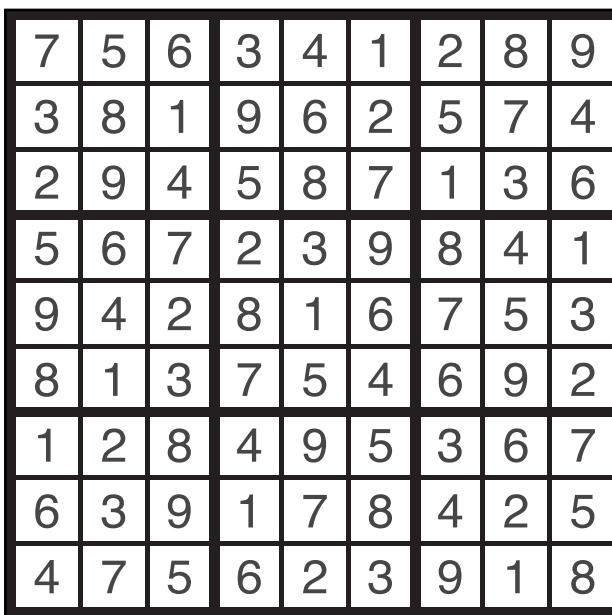
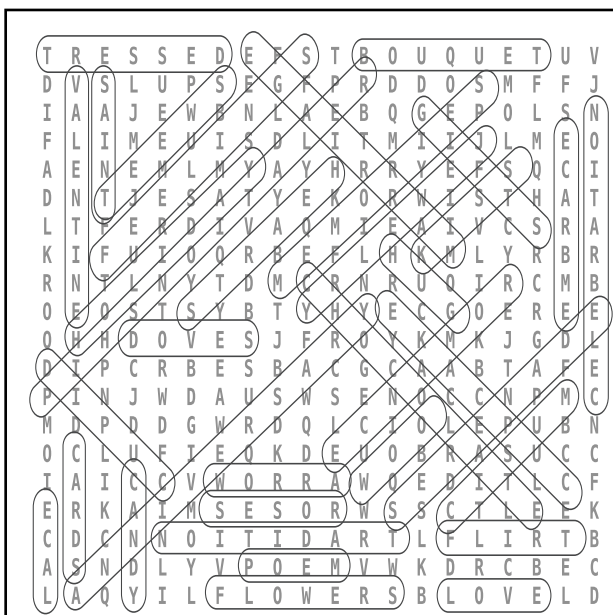
In addition to the work on Spring Creek and Sherwood Road, Sherwood Firewise has been instrumental in the preparation of the Willow Creek access route, from the Par Course down to Willits, having procured the proper agreements from the property owners. This route will be added to the Firco Road route which was previously extremely advantageous for ingress of emergency vehicles during the Oak Fire.

Sherwood Firewise currently is taking applications at info@sherwoodfirewise.org for their Home Hardening inspection program. "We have a Home Hardening Project that is funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Mendocino," said Rutledge. "Basically, that's going to pay for about 50 home-hardening inspections, mostly in Brooktrails, but we'll get out to some of the rural properties, too."

"Thomas Clegg, a contractor with Labyrinth, a home-hardening company," added Rutledge, "has decided to focus on home-hardening types of improvements like replacing your vents with the smaller, fire-resistant vents, putting up cement siding, covering your gutters with leaf guards so they don't fill up with leaves. There's a number of little home-improvement things you can do to make your home a lot safer. We'll also point them to resources to obtain the materials and services necessary. We're going to attempt to get the vendors like Friedman's and Mendo Mill to participate and provide discounts on the products."

The other major project of Sherwood Firewise is the creation of "Benefit Zones," wherein the residential citizens of the Sherwood Corridor will assess themselves a minimal amount in order to pay for the maintenance of the access routes. Rutledge hopes to get this measure on the ballot sometime in the spring after the final bureaucratic hurdles have been surmounted.

According to CCC crew chief Long, the CCC has been involved in procuring a residential center for their operations in Willits, which will be home to as many as 100 of their crew, an endeavor that will benefit the entire community, having crews locally at the ready to help with emergencies or forest projects.



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Help Wanted

Wellness Center-Willits seeks individuals wanting to make difference in lives of others and build careers in human services. Care Managers, Street Outreach, Housing and Rehab Specialists. sydney@manzanitaservices.org or call 707-391-9688.

Help Wanted

Seeking people to change lives, find solutions to housing/homeless issues for community members. If interested in working in Outreach or Housing Navigation in Willits, contact sydney@manzanitaservices.org or call 707-391-9688.

Classified ads are just \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks! Deadline is every Monday!

Help Wanted

Thrift Store Merchandise Processor/Stocker. \$15.00 Hour Full Time (40 hours weekly). Send resume, including 3 references to wsidirector@willitscenter.com or pick up application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd. or call Richard Baker at 459-6826 for more information. Must be able to lift furniture and have valid CA driver's license.

Help Wanted

Wellness Center in Willits seeks individuals committed to working with vulnerable populations. Human service care managers and mental health rehab specialists receive supervision and training. sydney@manzanitaservices.org or call 707-391-9688.

Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler), **Saturday, February 12** – 8 am to 4 pm.

Remedial Forestry

Call Jon 707 621 0724. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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242 S. Main St in Willits

Flower Shop will be having a Super Bowl sale. 10% of Craft Sale proceeds goes to help Mendicino Shelter Pets.

Singer-Songwriter Night at Shanachie, February 12

At left: Singer/songwriters Malakai Schindel, left, Sarah Rose, and Forrest Glycer.

Seed Sharing at Willits Grange, February 19

Submitted by Little Lake Grange

On Saturday, February 19, there will be a Seed Sharing event at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street in Willits, from 12 to 4 pm. Call or text 707-889-2449 to bring seeds or for information.

Seeds available from many local gardens including Motherland. Seed cleaning and saving demonstrations. Learn how to save seeds for your next plantings. Quail Seeds and locally made herbal remedies will be for sale.

Saving and sharing seeds can help you become more self-sufficient and independent, can help you build meaningful relationships with your friends and neighbors, and will empower you to participate in building a stronger and more secure food system, by growing heritage seeds, land races, and endangered plants.

We encourage all local gardeners to participate by requesting seeds from others and offering seeds they've saved from their own gardens. We will teach and advise about proper seed saving for germination and success, as well as an understanding of what plants can be best saved and shared or replanted successfully by beginners.

Call Willits Grange to participate in the upcoming exchanges by sharing seeds, with table space to display: 459-9716

Participate by taking home some seeds you want to plant this year.

Our mission is to conserve and promote America's endangered and culturally diverse garden and food crops for future generations, and to share heritage, open pollinated heirloom seeds and plants with all.

Co-sponsored by Little Lake Grange and the Mendocino County Pomona Grange.

The rest of

Hungry

From Page 7

as hygiene products, diapers, etc. The food that they provide comes mostly by purchase at greatly reduced prices from the Redwood Empire Food Bank and some by contributions from organizations and individuals.

They do also need money which can be donated at their facility at 229 East San Francisco Avenue or by mail. Contributions of food can also be made. Several of their funding streams have been unavailable due to COVID. They have not been able to produce fundraisers with large groups of people and the post office has not done their canned-food drive in a couple of years.

Another of the Willits Community Services projects is finding and paying for motel rooms for the homeless in the winter months. Volz found that using a voucher program was not tenable as many of the vouchers ended up being sold and several of the recipients trashed their rooms and created trouble for the willing motel owners.

Currently, the recipients are much better behaved and appreciate the advantage of having a place to stay out of the cold. "We have several people taking advantage of this in the winter," said Volz. "We pay for the rooms out of donation money. It's a temporary program. Winter will end. The program starts in November and ends in April.

"The goal is," explained Volz, "that people are willing to commit to smoking outside, not bringing other people in to hang out, taking showers, not partying or trashing the room. They need to respect the room. They're going to come back and see the same owners. These people are not passing through. These are people who live here, under the bridges and in encampments in the winter."

The Willits Food Bank helps the people who are invisible in this society, those from whom people avert their eyes so as to not be burdened with the reality of realizing that through a set of circumstances, illness, layoffs, COVID, or other troubles of life, that this could be their own lives. "In our wildest dreams, we are not able to fathom what these people are going through," sighed Volz.

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implement revisions to the Mendocino County Local Equity Program manual to maximize assistance to the extent permitted by state law, regulations and guidance."

Nevedal said the top priorities for changes the cannabis department was seeking in the grant program were allowing future grant recipients to use the funding towards cannabis business taxes; enabling those who own at least half of a cannabis business to use it towards that business; and switching from paper checks to direct deposits to deliver the funding.

According to a statement from the "The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development," the equity program is intended to provide assistance for those "impacted by cannabis prohibition and the War on Drugs" to "eliminate barriers to enter the newly regulated cannabis industry."

Nevedal said at the meeting that the grant money is meant "to focus on start-up and ongoing expenses" for local legal cannabis operators.

The bulk of the money for the program goes towards direct grants to applicants, with some also going to "direct technical assistance" and "administration." The county's online manual for the program states that no more than 10% of the money will go towards each of the latter two.

The county started their equity program in February of 2020, and was originally awarded the \$2.2 million from the state in April of 2020.

Since that time there have been many complaints from applicants about the difficulty of navigating the grant application process and receiving their money in a timely manner.

The resolution passed Tuesday was another in a series of steps the board has taken trying to streamline the process.

In attempts to improve the equity program last year the supervisors and county staff made several changes, including eliminating any sort of low or medium "income threshold" needed by applicants, increasing the allowable direct grant money to up to \$50,000 per applicant, and authorizing the cannabis program manager to "execute grant agreements with eligible equity awardees on behalf of the county."

The issue of using grant money to help pay taxes was discussed a great deal at the meeting Tuesday. One big area of concern was whether those who have already been awarded the grant can use some of it to pay certain taxes, including a hefty tax levied for accepting the grant money.

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance Executive Director Michael Katz spoke about this issue.

"As many of you may know, some folks are very concerned that they're going to be charged \$14,000 in taxes just for receiving the grant," he said, "and they're being told that they're not going to be able to use the grant money to cover those taxes. Well that's a huge issue because these are folks who are, many of them, low income and are struggling significantly."

Paul Hansbury and partner Susan Tibbon, from the local cannabis company Lovingly and Legally, called in to the meeting and spoke passionately about their need to use the grant money for the tax, saying they may have to shut down their operations otherwise.

"When it was first proposed that this grant would be available, I was very excited," said Hansbury. "And now it's going to be more of a drain than anything else."

"A \$50,000 grant is desperately needed and god knows we have been cobbled and bleeding down the road," added Tibbon. "But we just don't have an extra \$14,000 lying around. We can barely pay for gas. We have been waiting for years to go forward."

"And frankly I do not understand why we're the sacrificial guinea pigs," she continued. "We stepped forward, and we're being priced out and punished for being on the front lines. So I am respectfully begging you actually – we are out of money and we are almost out of time. Please, please in consideration for all of us small farmers ... please work with us and allow us to take this wonderful grant and pay the taxes from the grant."

Hansbury said he believed it was within state guidelines to pay the tax with the grant money as did Ron Edwards, owner of CKA Nursery in Willits.

"I also believe that there is no real state law that prohibits the paying of taxes [with the grant]," said Edwards. "We go around and around on this.... I hope that we could look into that and research that quite a bit more because it will effect quite a few farmers in the county."

Earlier in the meeting, Nevedal said that considering the looming February 28 deadline, it's unlikely that those who have received grant money would be eligible to utilize any changes the county implements in the program, such as allowing the funding to be used for taxes.

"We have a number of grant app awardees, grant application agreements that have been approved," she said. "I do not see how we would amend any policies in time to offer changes to those grant awardees that are in this current

Satellite surveillance

During the CEO Report portion of the meeting, County Code Enforcement Manager John Burkes gave an update about expectations for the county's new Enhanced Cannabis Enforcement Plan and the use of satellite imagery in particular.

Haschak asked about when Mendocino County could expect to see the kind of enforcement seen in Humboldt County, where notices are sent out to those involved in illegal activity spotted using satellite imagery or other methods.

"We're still waiting for the resources to come online before we take any directed enforcement or proactive steps," Burkes responded. "So that's something we're anticipating for the summer. So as of the moment now, if any of our community members receive communication from code enforcement, it is actively being investigated."

"So we're not in any type of blanket noticing ... as the Humboldt model addressed larger areas, multiple parcels at one time," he continued. "We anticipate that we will incorporate that as part of our strategy. So just please know that if you do receive communication from us ... that those notices should be taken very seriously, because there's likely to be additional enforcement actions taken if we can't resolve the situation by achieving compliance."

Edwards of CKA Nursery asked about how the county planned to pay for the increased enforcement measures such as the satellite imagery program, saying he was concerned that they would use the state grant money intended for other purposes.

MCA brought up this issue with the county last week, saying it looked like they were planning on allocating over \$1 million of equity grant money for the satellite imagery program.

"I don't know what the plan is for Mendocino County," said Edwards. "I haven't seen a proposal for code enforcement for this satellite imagery. And I'm concerned as I was before that the money for the cannabis program ... the state did not allow that money to be used for enforcement, but [only] to help people in the program."

Burkes did not specifically say where the county would get the money to pay for the satellite imagery system, but did say it would reduce costs for the county in some ways.

"Satellite imagery being – for lack of a better term – the way of the future, is going to be utilized I think by the county as a whole for multiple purposes," said Burkes. "Specifically to reduce costs in terms of travel time, site inspections. I mean there's a multitude of uses for it."

"And it's most likely – based on all our internal discussions going on – to be spread fairly broadly amongst many, many departments," he continued. "It's just too good to pass up for a lot of different reasons."

"So as far as code enforcement's accessibility," Burkes continued, "we've already begun to use some smaller contracts. The cannabis permitting program also will be applying for additional satellite imagery contracts that I'm sure will be made available on a broader scale to use. Having it is just a tool. It's not really going to do anything other than just help our current efforts."

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"scope of the projects for Measure I," for committee members and described the work done thus far as "true to the intent" of the measure.

"What we put out there is we were going to repair aging classrooms and school facilities, and we're going to fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating and cooling, and electrical systems ... improve students' safety and security, and acquire, construct and equip classrooms, labs and facilities supporting college and career readiness."

Some of the projects contemplated for completion on the first round of bond funds were achieved and some were not.

"We were able to get roofs at Baechtel, Blosser, Brookside, and Willits High," said Aldridge. "The only true replacement was at Blosser. The others were coated, but they seem to be performing very well.

"Paving ... at the high school [included] the front parking lot [and] a portion of the south side road," he continued. "The only place not finished ... [is] an accessible parking place that required ADA approval, [which] we're still waiting to hear back on."

There was one big glitch with the parking lot.

"We found some oil tanks buried in the ... lot," he told the committee. "Removal was about \$92,000, and we've asked the city for reimbursement on that."

Other projects completed included "fire alarms at Sanhedrin ... flooring at Blosser Lane, Sherwood, and the high school ... soccer goals purchased ... for Baechtel and Blosser, and ... a Bobcat that was purchased ... [which is] a pretty effective little machine for all of the needs that we have going on," said Aldridge.

Projects in process include replacing ramps to some buildings and classrooms, installing a pool cover, and replacement of most of the west wing at Brookside.

The ramps have been purchased but [have] not all [been] installed due to staffing shortages," Aldridge reported.

"We are down to two maintenance folks now when we normally have four to five.... We're just keeping up with basic maintenance for most of this year.

"The same is true for the pool cover," he continued. "We have purchased that, but it has not been installed. We just ran out of people to [do it].

"We're hoping to be able to prioritize that once we get our new staff in," he said. "Maybe we can get it up for a trial run later this season ... in just enough time to have to take it down again. But I'd like to see that happen this year."

And then there's "replacement of the west wing at Brookside," which is "coming in far above what our current budget is," he said. "So we're hoping that we can prioritize that for the next bond draw."

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and your business as possible.

Water line flushing is an annual preventative maintenance process that is necessary to maintain the integrity of the water distribution system and allows us to ensure that our hydrants are in proper working order. This process is achieved by releasing water from fire hydrants for a limited period of time. This technique allows us to deliver the highest quality of water by maintaining the quality of our water lines, adequate flow and pressure.

During this time, you may see water running down the street, and customers may experience decreased water pressure temporarily or discoloration within the household. Water discoloration may result due to the short-term changes in the normal water flow that may stir up naturally occurring minerals and sediment within the water lines during the process. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water, it does not affect the taste or water quality.

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- Avoid running water into your house or business until we have cleared the

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41st annual Willits Classic on February 13

The North Coast Striders host the 41st annual Willits Classic footrace event, on Sunday, February 13, along the scenic loop course east of Willits. There'll be a 5K Run/Walk and a 10 Mile Run, both starting at 10 am at the Willits Rec Grove, on the corner of East Commercial and South Lenore. Both races finish at the Rec Grove, too.

Awards will be given after the races for the first three overall male and female finishers, and first three places in age groups for both the 5K Run/Walk and 10 Mile races. Also, First Place medals for 13-18 and 12 and under for the 5K.

Race Day Registration and Bib Pickup starts at 9 am. \$20 adults; \$10 age 18 and under; \$40 family entry (immediate family); and \$18 for North Coast Strider members. Adventist Health is an event sponsor, and Adventist Health employees can enter for free.

Online registration: <https://www.active.com/willits-ca/running/distance-running-races/41st-annual-willits-classic-2022>

From net proceeds, North Coast Striders will make a donation to Willits' Youth Running Programs. Follow the "North Coast Striders" page on Facebook.

At top, left: The racers are lined up for the start of the 2020 event. At top, right: Bob Denes, 72 years old, past Olympic qualifier in the marathon, crosses the finish line two years ago. At right, from top: Some Lake County Milers runners make the trek from Hidden Valley Lake to participate: Heather Johnson, Kathy Huntley, Jeanine Burnett, Allison Uuereb and Greta Rosenthal. Rodger Schwartz, 40-year veteran of the Willits Classic, stands by the history board two years ago. Some young runners take off at the starting line.



Volunteers sought for annual homeless count

Submitted by Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care

The Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care will be conducting its annual unsheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Count which will begin at sunset on February 23, 2022, and run through the following week.

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is mandated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and is used by the State of California and multiple federal departments to calculate allocations of homeless services funding.

The data received through the PIT Count will help our local community to identify needs and develop planning to engage and support those persons experiencing homelessness throughout Mendocino County.

The Continuum of Care is a group of agencies that consist of service providers, non-profits, faith-based organizations, concerned community members, and Mendocino County staff. These individuals and agencies come together to help address the needs of those who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of homelessness.

This undertaking requires a lot of individuals performing a lot of different tasks in preparation for this event, as well as surveying individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout Mendocino County. We need volunteers to count along the Coast as well as Southern and Northern Inland portions of Mendocino County.

If you would like to volunteer – training is provided – please sign up at <https://Mendocino22.PointInTime.info/>.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact Veronica Wilson at hometeam@mendocinocounty.org or 707-468-7071.



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