

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 342 **Thursday, February 13, 2020**

County to seek funding from state pot equity program

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

On February 4 the board of supervisors allocated \$25,000 and directed that it be paid to the California Center for Rural Policy for an assessment of how state money could help the county's cannabis growers.

The state program for which the county is preparing to do an assessment is called the Cannabis Equity Program. According to an October 9, 2019 press release from the California Bureau of Cannabis Control, the bureau in that month awarded a total of \$10 million to local jurisdictions statewide, including \$1.8 million to the City of Los Angeles, \$1.6 million to the City of Oakland, and \$1.34 million to Humboldt County, so that each jurisdiction could start up a cannabis equity program.

According to the press release, state equity program money is given to "local jurisdictions and is to be used for commercial cannabis equity programs that focus on inclusion and support of persons or

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

Supes move ambulance meeting to late March

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

On February 4, the board of supervisors decided to move the date of the proposed workshop on ambulance issues to Monday, March 23. At that meeting, stakeholders and emergency service providers will assess problems with current ambulance service and will attempt to agree upon feasible solutions.

During the supervisor reports section of the February 4 board meeting, Second District Supervisor John McCowen said that he attended the meeting of the Emergency Medical Care Committee and that there he learned of one possible solution.

That would be to form a joint powers authority among ambulance providers which would then be able to act as a comptroller or fiscal agent for the county's disparate and independent ambulance providers.

McCowen said that if that were done, those ambulance companies that provide services could be reimbursed at a higher

Read the rest of **Supes**
Over on Page 11



Photos by
Maureen Moore

Dip, Eat and Be Berry

Celebrate Valentine's Day with easy and delicious chocolate-covered strawberries

So easy, so tasty; chocolate-covered strawberries never disappoint for any occasion, but they're extra appropriate for enjoying on Valentine's Day, which yes, is tomorrow, Friday, February 14.

Follow these steps – and matching photos below – to create these treats and enjoy a great holiday!

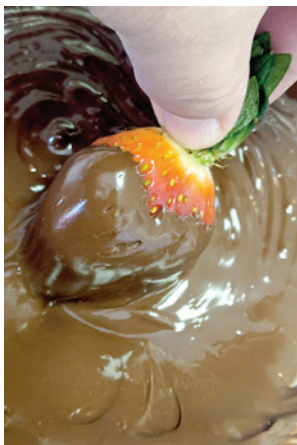
Soak berries in a bowl of water with a splash of white vinegar for a few minutes. Rinse with clean water, and dry each berry with a towel. Chocolate

chips go into a microwave-safe bowl, heat in small increments (15 to 30 seconds) stirring each time, even if it seems unnecessary, it helps the chocolate melt very smooth. A pot holder under the bowl can also help keep chocolate warm in and out of the microwave.

It's good to stop heating when there are just a few chips left; let the heat of the rest of the chocolate do the final melt. Lay out a sheet of wax paper or parchment paper on your counter.

Hold each well-dried berry gently by the greens and gently roll in melted chocolate. Place gently on paper to cool. Lose your greens, marooning your berry in the chocolate? No worries – that one's for the cook! Always use good chocolate; chips work great! Tada! Your berries will be ready to enjoy as soon as they harden – 20 or so minutes. Top with sprinkles or enjoy as is.

– Maureen Moore



Supes change camping ordinance

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

On February 4, the board of supervisors voted unanimously to approve revisions to Title 14 of the Mendocino County Code that regulates camping on public and private lands located in the unincorporated area of Mendocino County.

The new language adds Chapter 14.32 to the code section that regulates camping on public and private property and also amends Chapter 14.28, the part of the code that regulates the use of county parks.

Acting County Counsel Christian Curtis told the supervisors that these revisions became necessary as a result of a

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

Wood aide talks AB5 to Willits City Council

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At the beginning of the Willits City Council's January 23 meeting during the public comment period, Ruth Valenzuela, district director for 2nd District Assemblymember Jim Wood, addressed the controversial new Assembly Bill 5 rules which went into effect on January 1 in California. Wood voted "yes" on the bill.

"I'm here to talk about the most unpopular thing right now," Valenzuela led off, "the Dynamex Decision and AB5. So I want to start

Read the rest of **AB5**
Over on Page 10

Thank you to our new 'street subscribers'

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

First, all of us at Willits Weekly want to thank our readers for the heartening and gracious outpouring of grassroots support we have gotten since the January 16, 2020 edition, which featured the Willits Weekly crew on the front page, along with a story explaining our dilemma over the new state labor law known as "AB 5."

Our long list of new "street subscribers" – readers and supporters who donate an annual amount of their

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

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Vote 'yes' on Measures D and E

To the Editor

On behalf of the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association, I am writing to ask our voters to vote "yes" on Measure D and Measure E in the March election.

Measure D is a 10 percent temporary occupancy tax on all private campgrounds. Currently public campgrounds and all other lodging businesses have a tax. Lodging facilities in Humboldt and Sonoma counties currently charge a similar tax.

The county estimates this tax will collect \$1 million per year which would be divided equally between the community-based fire departments. Seventy-five percent will go directly to your local fire departments, 25 percent will be collected by the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association who will make funds available to the fire districts for one-time special projects.

The 75 percent share is estimated to bring in \$35,000 per fire department. Measure E directs the board of supervisors to allocate these funds to the local fire departments.

We're there when you need us, now we hope you'll be there for us on Election Day by voting yes on Measure D and Measure E. Thank you for your support.

Sue Carberry, president, Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association; fire chief, Laytonville Volunteer Fire Department

Wireless tower planned southeast of Willits

To the Editor:

On Thursday, February 20 at 10 am [late update: postponed to March 19], the Mendocino Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 501 Low Gap, Ukiah to adopt a negative declaration and to grant a major use permit for a 143 foot wireless communication facility requested by AT&T Mobility/Epic Wireless LLC.

How significant are the impacts of this large wireless communication facility for the Willits/Ukiah communities?

This 143 foot lattice tower with 12 antennae, various equipment, a generator, and an associated gravel and paved access route will be located within an 1,800-square-foot

fenced compound 5.1± miles southeast of the city of Willits on the east side of Manzanita Drive (20201 Manzanita Drive) and 0.5± miles east of its intersection with Ridgewood Road. (When we collected signatures on Saturday, we had some incorrect information and after further research found that the location is closer to Pine Mountain).

Mendocino County's Planning and Building Services Department can adopt the negative declaration and grant a major use permit with further review.

Members of Stop 5G Mendocino believe that due to the cumulative impacts of many environmental issues this project needs an environmental impact report.

I urge you to learn more by attending the Planning Commission meeting, now set for March 19, speak for up to 3 minutes, and send written comments and questions to Staff Planner, Mark Cliser by email at cliserm@mendocinocounty.org. ASAP for their review or call Planning and Building Services Department in Ukiah at 707-234-6650.

You can read the draft negative declaration at: www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=32292 and the Planning Commission Agenda at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=32290>

To find out more about this proposal please join us in front of Mariposa Market in Willits on Saturday, February 15 from 2 pm on.

For additional information contact stop5gmendocino@mcn.org

I hope many local residents will attend this meeting to provide oversight on issues that concern the population of Willits and surrounding areas.

Jan Phallen-Fike, Willits

Wildlife Services lawsuit

To the Editor:

First, a minor correction to Mike A'Dair's otherwise excellent report on the lawsuit filed against Mendocino County over their intent to engage USDA Wildlife Services to manage the county's wildlife (February 6, 2020 Willits Weekly).

The Mendocino Non-Lethal Wildlife Alliance is an ad hoc citizens committee that formed about a year ago to promote replacing the brutal, ineffective and unnecessary Wildlife Services wildlife management program

with a humane, locally administered, fundamentally non-lethal wildlife management program that would include a ban on killing wildlife except in emergency situations or after all appropriate non-lethal methods have been tried and failed.

While MNWA is a co-plaintiff with Project Coyote in this recent lawsuit, A'Dair misidentifies MNWA as having been a party to a lawsuit initiated back in 2014 that forced the county to perform an environmental impact report on its Wildlife Service wildlife management program. MNWA did not exist in 2014, so they were obviously not a party to the earlier lawsuit.

More importantly, I'd like to address statements cited in A'Dair's report made by Supervisor John McCowen. McCowen stated, "The people bringing this lawsuit are ignoring extensive evidence in the record that exclusive reliance on non-lethal alternatives will not work in Mendocino County because of our steep terrain and will endanger public health and safety, and will result in more animal suffering." This statement is wrong on every count.

In fact, there is only anecdotal evidence from county ranchers who are resistant to change that non-lethal methods can't work in Mendocino County, but there is a trove of experiential evidence from local ranchers who have used non-lethal methods with great success at reducing their livestock losses. Local rancher Gowan Batiste, who swears by the effectiveness of non-lethal methods, testified to this effect before the board of supervisors, so McCowen has no excuse for his ignorance.

McCowen's claim that MNWA is demanding a wildlife management program with "exclusive reliance on non-lethal alternatives" is a straw man argument. In fact, as stated above, MNWA has proposed a locally administered wildlife management program that is fundamentally non-lethal, but would allow lethal methods in emergency situations to protect public health or when all non-lethal methods appropriate to the situation have been tried and failed.

For ranchers, this would mean they would have to demonstrate they have tried and failed using non-lethal methods before the county would send out a trapper to kill the offending animal. This is basically how the Hopland Research and Extension Center has managed to reduce their livestock losses and their coyote kill at the same time by utilizing non-lethal methods.

McCowen's statement that terminating the brutal Wildlife Services program in Mendocino County "will result in more animal suffering" and that "instead of experts removing problem animals, homeowners and property owners will likely take an array of steps, some of which will have the opposite of the intended effect," is again contrary to the facts.

His claim that Wildlife Services trappers are "experts" who minimize "animal suffering" is nothing more than a public relations play dreamed up by Wildlife Services. The agency regularly deploys neck snares that result in long agonizing deaths by slow strangulation for animals caught in them. Wildlife Services also regularly deploys leghold traps that snap shut on an animal's leg leaving it to suffer until the trapper returns to kill it, often taking several days. Animals caught in leghold traps are in such terror they are found trying to gnaw off their own leg to escape. For those who doubt this, I urge you to watch the video "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife" by the national nonprofit advocacy organization, Predator Defense, (<https://www.predatordefense.org/exposed/>).

While I agree with McCowen that homeowners and ranchers need to protect their property from wildlife damage, the Wildlife Services program is not the way to do it. MNWA has proposed a humane wildlife management program that will protect both wildlife and property.

Modeled after a program pioneered by the non-profit Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue: when County residents call in with a "problem" animal, the county would send out a trained professional "wildlife exclusion technician" to help them (including ranchers) implement humane non-lethal methods to protect their property. Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue's exclusion service using non-lethal methods has operated with great success at mitigating human/wildlife conflicts in Sonoma County for many years.

Wildlife Services is an abomination, and Mendocino County should not be complicit in their crimes against nature. The board of supervisors voted 3 to 2 to approve renewal of the county's contract with Wildlife Services, Supervisors Ted Williams and John Haschack dissenting. It is high time Supervisors McCowen, Carre Brown and Dan Gjerde find their sense of compassion and vote to end our county's association with Wildlife Services.

Jon Spitz, Laytonville

At right: A lovely cake is decorated with the words "Happy 112th Birthday Edie." Balloons mark Edie's 112 years on earth. All the decorations at the Senior Center lunch room are pretty in pink, Edie's favorite color. Below: Edie Ceccarelli, center, poses for a photo surrounded by her family.

Photos by Mathew Caine



112th Birthday

Edie Ceccarelli of Willits celebrates another year, making her California's second-oldest resident

Edith Recagno Keenan Ceccarelli is a local Willits legend, an icon and inspiration, and not only for the fact that she has seen 112 years on this earth. Edie has always lit up a room with her joyful presence, her joie de vivre, and her soft, friendly and warm beauty. It is almost as if her raison d'être is to bring everyone in her presence to the pleasurable place in which she dwells.

On Wednesday, February 5, according to Richard Baker, director of the Harrah Senior Center, "about 112 people filled the lunch room" to share a meal, a story, a remembrance about this Willits stalwart on the occasion of this astonishing celebration of the date of her birth, 112 years ago.

The world of 1908 was an entirely different place. Production of Henry Ford's Model T began in 1908, revolutionizing the way that production was accomplished for the masses. It was also the year that Wilber Wright made the longest flight of a heavier-than-air craft (2.5 hours), just five short years after the first flight. In 1908 Robert Peary began his conquest of the North Pole while six cars began their "Great Race" around the world.

That same year Theodore Roosevelt ascended to the White House. It was the beginning of a new age for the United States, emerging as a superpower with the launching of the Great White Fleet on its voyage around the world to demonstrate the might of our Navy. It was the beginning of the modern world of mass production and the dominance of this country. It is breathtaking to imagine the changes that Edie has seen and been a part of throughout her extended existence.

Edie is said to be the second-oldest person in California (the other is 114), one of 22 people in the country who have attained her age and still exist. In a world of over 7 billion humans, she is one of just 55 people still alive at her age. She must be doing something right.

Edie is known for enjoying dancing, an activity which she practiced at every possible opportunity, up into her 100s. She also savored a glass of red wine daily. That's not to say that anyone who dances and drinks red wine will attain her years, but it's worth looking into.

Deb Schwarz has her theory about Edie's

Read the rest of **Edie** Over on Page 13



The dining hall at the senior center is filled with well-wishers.



KNOWING is just around the corner.

Patient Service Center in Ukiah, CA

Lab results often inspire healthier living, and Quest Diagnostics is in your local community to help. Knowing Quest has many locations convenient to work, home, and your doctor's office makes it easy. Find a lab that is convenient for you, and cares about your comfort and health. We are closer than you think.

Visit us at QuestDiagnostics.com/MyQuest or call 1.866.MYQUEST (1.866.697.8378)

Make an appointment to get in and out faster
Schedule online or by phone

Get your results
Delivered directly to you on your computer or smartphone

Safeway PSC - Ukiah
(Inside Safeway next to pharmacy)
653 S State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482
1.707.485.3906
M-F: 7:30AM-4:30PM
Closed for lunch 11:30AM-12:30PM

QuestDiagnostics.com
Quest, Quest Diagnostics, any associated logos, and all associated Quest Diagnostics registered or unregistered trademarks are the property of Quest Diagnostics. All third-party marks—® and ™—are the property of their respective owners. © 2019 Quest Diagnostics Incorporated. All rights reserved. M0506 12/2019

Help save Willits Weekly!

Thanks to those who've already donated!

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
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 8, Number 342
4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays each week
P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047
willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047
Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com
Mathew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer / mathew@willitsweekly.com
Forrest Glyer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com
Zack Cinek, reporter / zack@willitsweekly.com
Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / joanne@willitsweekly.com
Ree Slocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com
Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com
Danya Davis, features writer / police log / danya@willitsweekly.com
April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com
Jackie Cobbs, features copy editor
Justin Stephens, webmaster

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

Adventist Health hospitals take steps to protect the community against coronavirus

By Cici Winiger, for Adventist Health Howard Memorial

While there are only 12 confirmed cases of the deadly novel coronavirus in the U.S., more than 30,000 people worldwide have been infected with the disease. In California so far, there are only six confirmed cases and none in Mendocino County, as of this writing.

But in working with public health officials and with guidance from the California Department of Public Health, Adventist Health hospitals are taking necessary precautions and asking the community's help to prevent the spread of the virus.

Beginning February 1, Adventist Health Howard Memorial and Adventist Health Ukiah Valley hospitals, including its 21 affiliated clinics, will be screening visitors prior to entering their facilities including asking about recent travel and symptoms.

Those who have travelled to China in the last 14 days (or been in close contact with someone who has) and are experiencing the symptoms of fever and / or cough and shortness of breath will be given a mask and further

evaluated by hospital staff to determine if they possibly have the novel coronavirus infection.

"While the risk is low, we are doing this out of an abundance of caution as the situation and what we know about the virus continues to evolve," explains Sue Mason, infection prevention director at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley. "We have policies and procedures in place and staff are trained on what to do. As a healthcare facility, we want to minimize any risks of spreading the virus," she added.

Linda Givens, patient care executive for Howard Memorial, explains that if a patient shows up at either hospital with symptoms of novel coronavirus, they would be immediately taken to an isolation room in the hospital to prevent the disease from spreading.

"We have negative pressure rooms, which are

Read the rest of **Virus** Over on Page 4

Willits Weekly
EST. 2013
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Yes! I want to be a Willits Weekly street subscriber!
I am donating/enclosing \$ _____ for one year of papers I will pick up myself around town

Please make checks payable to Willits Weekly | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 95490

Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print

QUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047

Web: www.willitsweekly.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/willitsweekly Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

8

9

2

8

7

4

8

1

8

5

2

3

1

7

5

4

5

6

1

4

9

3

7

8

Level: Intermediate

VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

T R E S S E D E F S T B O D Q U E T F U V

D V A A J E W B S N D L A I T M Y I F J S N O

I F L M E M L S A Y I H R R Y I F S T H A C I T

A D N T J E R D I V A Q M F L H K A M L Y R B A R

L T F E R D I V A Q M F L H K A M L Y R B A R

K I F U I O Q R B E F L H K A M L Y R B A R

R N T L N Y T D M C F R N R U O I R C M B E

O E O S T S Y B T Y H Y E C G O E R E R E

O H H D O V E S J F R O Y K M K J G D L E

D I P C R B E S B A C G C A A B T A F E

P I N J W D A U S W S E N O C C N P M C

M D P D D G W R D Q L C I O L E P U B N C

O C L U F I E Q K D E U O B R A S U B C F

I A I C C V M S O R R A W Q E D I T L C F

E R K A I M S E S O R A W S C T L R E K

C D C N N O I T I E D A R T L F L I R B C

A S N D N L Y V P O W E M V W K L R C T E

L A Q Y I L F L O W E R S B L O V E L D

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

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 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57

58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

CLUES ACROSS

1. Small deer

4. Khoikhoi peoples

9. South African statesman

14. Keyboard key

15. Remove

16. A conspicuous constellation

17. Data executive

18. Retired NASCAR driver

20. Tightens

22. A picture of the Virgin Mary

23. 'The Mission' actor Jeremy

24. Confidently

28. More (Spanish)

29. Sports highlight show (abbr.)

30. Hand out cards

31. Distinctive Asian antelope

33. Arabic greeting

37. Of I

38. Hip hop trio

39. Meat roll

41. One's mother (Brit.)

42. __ GYN

43. Belgian city

44. Plucks

46. Leak slowly

49. Denotes a

particular region

50. General's assistant (abbr.)

51. Divides

55. Kid

58. Inland Empire Expanded Learning Symposium

59. Engaged in conflict

60. Former CBS sportscaster

64. Characterized by unity

65. Working-class

66. Corners

67. __ de plume

68. Influential French artist

69. 'Very' in musical terms

70. Financial account

CLUES DOWN

1. Long, flat abdominal muscles

2. Small Eurasian willow

3. Justified in terms of profitability

4. Required

5. River that starts in Turkey

6. Disfigure

7. A way of communicating (abbr.)

8. Leaks slowly

9. Shady place under trees

10. Made a speech

11. Long, angry speech

12. Mortar trough

13. Autonomic nervous system

19. Southern India island

21. Grab quickly

24. Ancient Mesopotamian city

25. With three uneven sides

26. Football visionary Hunt

27. Primordial matters

31. Facing towards the flow of a glacier

32. 'A Delicate Balance' writer

34. Emits coherent radiation

35. Commercial

36. Groups of foot bones

40. Out of print

41. Partner to cheese

45. German river

47. Concluding speech

48. Spanish dish

52. Prominent California cape Point __

53. Any high mountain

54. Ethiopian lake

56. Mr.

57. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

59. Large, flightless bird

60. Oil industry term (abbr.)

61. Something one can draw

62. Officers in charge

63. Greek island

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG
February 3 to February 9
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **147 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 3
11:26 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

12:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of East Commercial Street and North Humboldt Street.

2:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

6:54 pm: THOMPSON, Jonathon Erick (25) of Fort Bragg was contacted near the intersection of Meadowbrook Drive and Crest Drive. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of unlawful display of evidence of registration, driving with a suspended or revoked license, failure to appear on written promise, and violation of probation.

February 4
1:07 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

8:57 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of South Main Street.

10:57 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

10:58 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1000 block of Poplar Avenue and issued a warning.

11:35 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1000 block of Poplar Avenue.

12:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of North Main Street.

12:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

1:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

2:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

3:10 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Mill Creek Court.

8:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

February 5

7:31 am: Officers responded to a report of rape in the 25000 block of Madrone Drive.

10:28 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Sherwood Road.

5:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

5:14 pm: Officers responded to a report

The rest of
Virus
From Page 2

specifically designed to prevent airborne contaminants from drifting to other areas and contaminating patients, staff and sterile equipment," Givens said. "Once they have been isolated, we will perform some tests and if testing is positive, the patient would remain in isolation until tests showed the virus had cleared out of the patient's system," she shares.

As the situation evolves, both hospitals are also monitoring and working closely with Mendocino County health officials and are prepared to implement additional procedures that may come recommended by the state or through the Centers for Disease Control.

Per the California Department of Public Health, there is no evidence of person-to-person transmission in the general public in California. As with any virus, including with the influenza virus during flu season, CDPH recommends the public take the following steps to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses:

- Washing hands with soap and water.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick is good practice to reduce the risk of infection with a number of different viruses.
- Staying away from work, school or other people when sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough.

Help save Willits Weekly - send in donations!

COLUMN | WUSD Report Card

The power
of belonging

By Mark Westerburg,
WUSD superintendent

This year, we tried something new at Willits Unified: We provided a small financial incentive for those teachers willing to serve as club advisors. This inspired teachers who were already inclined to create a fun, new space for students, transforming their inclination into action – and this has transformed our district.

Last year we had almost no clubs. Now we have about two dozen of them sprinkled among all our schools, and students are finding groups where they belong, where they share interests with others and are appreciated for their unique contributions. Sometimes, the most important lessons students learn at school aren't academic at all. Sometimes, they are about self-confidence and acceptance.

Our list of clubs is as varied as the students who belong to them. At Willits High School, we have clubs such as Yarn Club, Link Crew, Film Club, Robotics, Green and Gold Inc., Drama Club, Tea Club, Native American Club, Interact Club, Peaceworks! Club, Secular Student Alliance, and Youth for Christ. At Sanhedrin High, we have Life Skills Mentoring. At Baechtel Grove Middle School, we have the Leadership Club and Communicators for Kindness, and we are starting a Drama Club. At Blosser Elementary, we have Chess Club, Band Club, Theater Arts Club, Indoor Soccer Club, Blosser Scholar Club, and Coding Club. And at Sherwood, we have Odyssey of the Mind.

Willits High School offers Academic Decathlon as a class taught by 20-year veteran teacher Mary Colvig. The class offers a rigorous curriculum to prepare students – typically sophomores, juniors, and seniors – for an intense academic challenge that includes seven 30-minute multiple-choice tests in art, economics, music, language and literature, mathematics, science, and social studies, respectively.

In addition, each student presents a prepared

High school drama club
At Willits High, veteran teacher Tim Fischer is halfway through his first year in our district. He teaches English and Drama, and he is transforming our theater arts program. Under his direction, on April 24-26 the Drama Club will present the musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." To prepare, drama students are taking ownership of everything from cleaning up the theater to learning their parts and managing the production side of things, including lights and sound.

Mr. Fischer said theater "saved" him as a kid, and his early theater experiences are part of why he wants to create a safe and welcoming space for drama students at WHS. Mr. Fischer has also been in touch with the Willits Community Theatre to discuss ways to collaborate, whether that means sharing space and equipment or even producing joint performances which could create mentorship opportunities between community members and our high school students. I'm so glad Mr. Fischer has joined our faculty.

Elementary school theater arts
We have also introduced theater arts to the students at Blosser Elementary.

Read the rest of
WUSD
Over on Page 9



Above: The WHS Academic Decathlon team accepts their award at the North Bay Regional Academic Decathlon Competition last month.

Willits High School Academic Decathlon team
prepares for state competition

Submitted by Willits Unified School District

Members of the Willits High School Academic Decathlon team earned the right again this year to compete at the state championship in Sacramento on March 26 through 29 after placing second overall at the North Bay Regional Academic Decathlon Competition last month. Willits students competed against approximately 300 students from 14 other Northern California high schools from Solano, Napa, Yolo, Sonoma and Lake counties.

Willits High School offers Academic Decathlon as a class taught by 20-year veteran teacher Mary Colvig. The class offers a rigorous curriculum to prepare students – typically sophomores, juniors, and seniors – for an intense academic challenge that includes seven 30-minute multiple-choice tests in art, economics, music, language and literature, mathematics, science, and social studies, respectively.

In addition, each student presents a prepared



The Willits High School Varsity Wrestling Team poses with their medals and plaque in the Rancho Cotate High School gym, after winning Saturday's North Coast Section Division III championship.

Photo courtesy Willits High School

Congrats to the Wolverines

Congratulations to the champion Willits High School Varsity Wrestling Team, which took first place Saturday in the North Coast Section Division III Dual Team Wrestling Championships in Rohnert Park.

"The Wolverine wrestling team had three dominating performances while defending their North Coast Section playoff title Saturday, February 8 at Rancho Cotate High School," reported the WHS Facebook page. "The first seeded Wolverines started off with a bang defeating St. Patrick-St. Vincent 78-6. They followed that up with a trouncing of Justin Sienna High School 55-18. Willits met up-and-coming Clear Lake High School, the second seed, in the finals. The Wolverines pinned their way to victory with a score of 58-18 to defeat the Cardinals and take home individual gold medals, a first-place plaque, and a NCS Pennant to hang in the Steve Short Gymnasium. Congratulations Wolverines!!!"

Mac users, you are not alone. Give me a call!

Blue Sky

Mac Tech

"Your Local Independent Macintosh Technician"

• Troubleshooting, Tutoring & Installation of Apple Products & Other Home Tech •

David Hannon

707-371-6160

E-mail: david@blueskymactech.com www.blueskymactech.com

Serving the Willits & Ukiah Area

C

BROWNS

R

N

E

R

Family owned since 1983

Groceries

Beer & Wine

Gas & Diesel

Pay at the Pump

7am - 10pm

459-4854

1799 So. Main St.

P.O. Box 428

COBURN'S

CONSTRUCTION & CABINETRY INC.

CALIC #392108

Preview your completed project with our 3-D Computer Image

Randy J. Coburn

General Contractor

P.O. Box 616

Willits, CA 95490

707-459-9719/FAX 707-459-4984

coburn_randy@yahoo.com

coburnsconst@gmail.com

KEN'S AUTO REPAIR

(707) 459-3270

180 E. San Francisco St. • Willits, CA 95490

Factory Trained Foreign & Domestic Repair

TUNE-UPS

BATTERIES

CARBURETORS

LUBRICATIONS

DYNO TUNE

ELECTRONIC FUEL INJECTION

COMPUTER ENGINE CONTROLS

AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE

AUTO ELECTRICAL SERVICE

WELDING METAL FABRICATION

BRAKE SERVICE

NOYO

THEATRE Willits, CA

57 East Commercial Street - Willits

707-459-NOYO (6696)

www.noyotheatre.com

Happy Valentine's Day

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

(PG) 1 hr 40 mins

Fri/Sat:

3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm

Sun/Mon:

2:00, 4:30 & 7:00pm

Tues-Thurs:

4:30 & 7:00pm

Movie Times for 2/14 thru 2/20

BIRDS OF PREY

(R) 1 hr 49 mins

Fri/Sat:

3:15, 5:45* & 8:15pm

Sun/Mon:

2:15, 4:45 & 7:15pm

Tues-Thurs:

4:45 & 7:15pm

*5:45 Saturday show is Open Caption

Tightwad Tuesday Titles for Feb. 18th are in RED - All tickets: \$6

DOWNHILL

(R) 1 hr 26 mins

Fri/Sat:

4:10, 6:20 & 8:30pm

Sun/Mon:

3:10, 5:20 & 7:30pm

Tues-Thurs:

5:20 & 7:30pm

Pg. 4 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | February 13, 2020 Willits Weekly | February 13, 2020 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 5

Thursday, February 13

Willits Farmers Market: Winter market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street. Thursday, February 13, 3 to 5:30 pm. Veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including pies and handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, blue oyster mushrooms, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talks, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Willits Science Fair: The 2020 Willits Science Fair is open to the public today, Thursday February 13, 8:30 am to 3 pm, at the Willits Community Center. All Willits students in grades 3-12 participate as well as whole-class science projects done by kindergarten - 12th grade classrooms. Judges have awarded Mendocino County Science Fair Qualifier Projects chosen in grades 3 to 12, and other winning projects. Info: Erin Vaccaro, Science Fair coordinator, 707-513-8742 or sciencefair@willitsunified.com.

Diabetes Management Education Program: Adventist Health Diabetes Education Program is free to any community member with diabetes or pre-diabetes as well as their family members/ support system. Learn about managing diabetes and supporting someone with the condition. Our recipe of the week will be available at each class. Thursdays, February 13, and 20, 3 to 5 pm. Seabiscuit Conference Room, Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. Info: Annie, earsleAF@ah.org, 456-3132.

“From the Ashes”: Filmmaker Jaye Alison Moscarello will be screening her acclaimed film “From the Ashes,” Thursday, February 13, 5 to 6:30 pm, Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Chronicles the impact of the 2017 fires and how members of the community used art to process the traumatic events. In conjunction, the Mendocino County Museum will be highlighting the newly acquired work “Burning Ridge” by Moscarello. Attendees can view the piece with the artist from 4:30 to 5 pm, on display through March 29.

Sherwood Firewise Meeting: General Meeting, Thursday, February 13, 6 to 8 pm, Brooktrails Community Center, 24860 Birch Street. “We want to be prepared as spring rolls into summer. We have recently become an official USA Firewise Organization. Supervisor John Haschack will give a report on activity that affects our community. Chipper Days updates and planning the March 28 Chipper Days Community Kick-Off Meeting. Brief discussion of additional outstanding projects and grants.” Contact: info@Sherwoodfirewise.org.

“Doubt – A Parable”: An award-winning social commentary by playwright John Patrick Shanley. Willits Community Theatre, February 7 to 23. The play follows a conflict that arises within a Catholic church over how to adapt to changing times. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday, 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees February 16, 23 at 2 pm. Tickets: Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; brownpapertickets.com; or 1-800-838-3006, available at the door until sold out. 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub). Note: Contains adult themes.

Shanachie Pub: Award-winning Nashville recording artist, guitarist, and talented singer-songwriter Johnny Young plays rockin’ country Thursdays, February 13 and February 27. Visit <https://johnnyyoungcountry.wordpress.com/>. Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Friday, February 14
Happy Valentine’s Day!

Art Workshop: Heart Air Balloons, on Friday, February 14, 11 am to 12 pm. Craft a Valentine’s Day project that will make your heart float like a cloud. Supplies provided. Ages 4 and up. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.

Valentine’s Day Kid Sitting Service: Take a break for yourselves on Valentine’s Day, and leave the

kiddos in good hands. All proceeds go to fund the WCS Travel Club’s Washington D.C. trip in June. 20 per child, \$10 for each additional child in the family. Crafts, movies, games provided. Kids will make their own pizza and baked goods. Sign up early and drop them off at Willits Charter School. 1431 South Main Street, 459-5506.

Tommy Castro and the Painkillers Valentine Dance: A benefit for the Little Lake Grange. An American blues, R&B, and rock guitarist and singer and winner of the 2008 Blues Music Award for Entertainer of the Year. Friday, February 14, doors open at 6 pm, music, 7:30 to 10 pm. Advance tickets \$30. Dinner available for \$15. Meal is local farm-to-table Vegetarian and Meat Lasagna. No-host bar plus coffee and dessert bar, local handcrafted beer and wine. Tickets: Ukiah Co-op; Willits Moon Lady, Main St Music, Mendocino Book Co. and Eventbrite.com. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: Moon Lady at 459-0211.

“Doubt – A Parable”: Willits Community Theatre, Friday, February 14, 7:30 pm. See February 13 listing for details.

What’s Happening Around Town

Saturday, February 15

“Doubt – A Parable”: Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, February 15, 7:30 pm. See February 13 listing for details.



Shanachie Pub: Solo show with Tim O’Neil of Sonoma County’s bluegrass/Americana band the Tim O’Neil Band, mixes “origin roots of bluegrass with a strong nod to punk rock, folk, and a lifetime and adoration for songwriters and songwriting.” Saturday, February 15, 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, February 16

40th Annual Willits Classic 10 mile & 5K Run Walk: The North Coast Striders are celebrating the 40th year of hosting the Willits Classic. This is a great way to kick off the new year and meet new



years resolutions’ goals. Info: active.com or <http://striders.org/>. Sunday, February 16. Registration: 9 am. Race starts: 10 am. Recreation Grove Park. Entry fee: \$20 adults, \$18 NCS member, \$10 10 - to 18 years, \$40 family. Adventist Health employees race free.

“Doubt – A Parable”: Willits Community Theatre, Sunday, February 16, 2 pm. See February 13 listing for details.

Tuesday, February 18

Tightwad Tuesdays: Select films in their 2nd or subsequent weeks are discounted to \$6 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week’s Tightwad Tuesday movie is “Birds of Prey.” Visit www.noyotheatre.com, call 459-6696 or check the ad in Willits Weekly for show times. 57 East Commercial Street.

Teen Advisory Group: Tell us what you think about the Willits Library. A panel open to teens to help decide what programs, services, and materials you want to see at your library. Ages 13 to 19. Tuesday, February 18 from 4 to 5 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. 459-5908.

Eckhart Tolle Class: at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Tuesday, February 18, 5 to 7 pm; showing the video “Order and Chaos” from a recent retreat in Greece. From Eckhart Tolle’s teachings and “is not normally available to the general public.” Info: Andrea, 707-513-8139. Free event.

Thursday, February 20

Diabetes Management Education Program: Thursday, February 20, 3 to 5 pm. See February 13 listing for details.

Willits Farmers Market: Winter market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street. Thursday, February 20, 3 to 5:30 pm. See February 13 listing for details.

“The Great Hack”: The Now and Then Film Series presents “The Great Hack.” “Data has surpassed oil as the world’s most valuable asset, weaponized to wage cultural and political warfare. ‘The Great Hack’ uncovers the dark world of data exploitation.” Info: www.thegreathack.com. Donation of \$5 to \$20 supports the film series. Thursday, February 20. Trailers and short films at 6:30 pm; film at 7 pm. Serving heirloom organic popcorn with real organic butter. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

“Doubt – A Parable”: Willits Community Theatre, Thursday, February 20, 7 pm. See February 13 listing for details.

Donkey Basketball: Featuring Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office challenging the Willits Future Farmers of America. Thursday, February 20, 7 pm, Willits High School Gym, 299 North Main Street. Tickets: \$8 adults, \$6 students (grades 7 to 12), \$4 child (grades K to 6). Add \$1 if purchased at door.

Shanachie Pub: Fusion Lounge: “New to the Pub is a very special night of jazz, featuring different guests backed by local musicians. Various Thursdays. Tonight Jesse Bessoni and Greg Collosale take you on a magical

journey through the world of jazz!” Thursday, February 20, 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Friday, February 21

“Doubt – A Parable”: Willits Community Theatre, Friday, February 21, 7 pm. See February 13 listing for details.

Shanachie Pub: Piano Mania, Wendy DeWitt and Barney McClure: DeWitt is influenced by Chicago Blues and Texas Boogie Woogie. McClure has performed and recorded with many talented musicians and celebrities. Friday, February 21, 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, February 22

KLLG Workday: Saturday, February 22, 8 am to 4 pm, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. “We are installing the fence enclosure for our emergency generator. Digging, pouring concrete, fencing and such activities will be the order of

the day. Volunteers will get pizza, sodas, and gratitude!”

“Doubt – A Parable”: Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, February 22, 7 pm. See February 13 listing for details.



Shanachie Pub: Performer Leah Tousignant “is bound to dazzle and audience with her smooth vocals, funky piano chops, and irresistible charm.” Saturday, February 22, 8 pm, Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, February 23

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: “Join your friends at the Little Lake

pancake breakfast, 8 to 11 am, Sunday, February 23 (and every fourth Sunday through October). \$8 buys you a plate of the best ‘scratch’ pancakes & local farm eggs to be found anywhere around. Our tasty breakfast is a wonderful combination of comfort foods”: Choose sourdough wholegrain, Hank’s Famous Buttermilk Pancakes or Gluten-Free, Beeler’s Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$8; \$7 seniors, \$5 children under 10. Extra: sides of organic fruit and Amish organic maple syrup. Little Lake Grange #670, 291 School Street (2 blocks

south of Commercial Street; 1 block west of Main Street)

“The Stories of Fred Short”: a book party for the publication of “The Stories of Fred Short: American Indian Spiritual Leader.” Sunday, February 23 at 1 pm at the Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street. Willits resident Kim Bancroft edited this memoir, interviewing Fred Short (Chippewa) over the course of a year and weaving together his stories: “Given the hardships of his youth, the challenges of years in juvenile detention and prisons, the pounding his body took as a professional boxer, and his transformation through his work in the American Indian Movement (AIM), Fred’s life provides tremendous inspiration. His life intersects with many important developments in Native American civil rights history, including the movements for sovereignty, sobriety, and social and environmental justice.”

“Doubt – A Parable”: Willits Community Theatre, Closing performance, Sunday, February 23, 2 pm. See February 13 listing for details.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH SOCIAL
hosted by: Carla Starla & Leopold
Sunday Feb. 16, 2020

- Local Art
- Fun interactive booths for all ages
- Local DJs

Discussion panel around 5pm
Led by Carla Starla

Food by:
Zocalo
caterer

LITTLE LAKE GRANGE
291 SCHOOL STREET WILLITS, CA

Senior Center Chili Cookoff

March 13

The Harrah Senior Center’s 13th Annual Chili Cookoff is Friday, March 13, 5:30 to 7 pm. Taste and vote for your favorite chili. Fresh baked corn bread muffins, root beer floats, hot dogs and brownies available. Taster Tickets: \$10 adults; \$6 children; \$8 senior center members. Tom Allman will MC the event. Looking for entries: \$25 registration for half table; \$50 for a full table. 1501 Baechtel Road.

WEF Take Home Tri-Tip Dinner

February 28

The Annual Willits Educational Foundation Take-Home Tri-Tip Dinner, Friday, February 28, with pick-up 4 to 6 pm at the Willits Future Farmers of America Ag Farm. Dinner for four people \$60. Meal includes: whole Tri Tip, Caesar Salad, Beans, Emandal Bread, Kathleen’s Famous Cookies, and a rose donated by Flowers by Annette. Tickets: Cat’s Meow, 28 South Main Street, or call Jenn at 707-354-1670, or call Jenn at 707-354-0755.

Sip Some Soup

February 29

This is Willits Daily Bread’s major fundraiser, and it’s a terrific evening of delicious food and wonderful community. We will gather at the Willits Community Center on Saturday, February 29, to taste many delicious soups along with fresh baked Emandal breads and homemade desserts. For a donation of \$15 per person, or two for \$25, you get to sip some soup and vote for your “Favorite Soup” and “Best Table Decorations.” The Soup Chef’s entry fee is \$25. This fee includes two “Taster Tickets” and ballots. Silent Auction. If you have items to donate, or want to be a soup maker, call Cindy, 707-367-5669. Doors open 5:30 pm; food served until 7 pm. We hope to see you for an evening in support of Willits Daily Bread.

– submitted by Willits Daily Bread

Senior Center Lunch

Week of February 17 through February 21

Monday: Szechuan Beef

Tuesday: Baked Garlic Butter Salmon

Wednesday: Carne Asada Burritos with Green Sauce

Thursday: Chicken & Noodles

Friday: Country Fried Steak

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older, \$6.50 per meal, under 55, \$8 per meal. Includes soup, salad, entrée, vegetable, dessert and drink. (Salad Bar available all year). 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Book Party: ‘The Stories of Fred Short’

February 23

The public is invited to a book party for the publication of “The Stories of Fred Short: American Indian Spiritual Leader.” Sunday, February 23 at 1 pm at the Willits Hub, 630 South Main Street. Willits resident Kim Bancroft edited this memoir, interviewing Fred Short (Chippewa) over the course of a year and weaving together his stories: “Given the hardships of his youth, the challenges of years in juvenile detention and prisons, the pounding his body took as a professional boxer, and his transformation through his work in the American Indian Movement (AIM), Fred’s life provides tremendous inspiration. His life intersects with many important developments in Native American civil rights history, including the movements for sovereignty, sobriety, and social and environmental justice.”

‘The Life and Art of Harry Fonseca’

February 15

On Saturday, February 15 at 2 pm at the Grace Hudson Museum, independent scholar and curator Brian Bibby will present an illustrated lecture, “The Life and Art of Harry Fonseca.” Bibby will discuss the work and legacy of the internationally renowned painter and printmaker, who was of Nisenan Maidu, Portuguese, and Hawaiian origin. The event is free with museum admission.

The Grace Hudson Museum is at 431 South Main Street in Ukiah; open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Sunday from noon to 4:30 pm. General admission is \$4; \$10 per family; \$3 for students and seniors; free to all on the first Friday of the month; and always free to museum members, native peoples with tribal ID, and standing members of the military. For more information please go to www.gracehudsonmuseum.org or call 707-467-2836.

Mendocino County Soccer Academy Coaches-in-Training Program

February 25

Mendocino County Soccer Academy (MCSA) is looking to enhance and grow the already strong local soccer culture by training both players and coaches. We’re eager to see more youth players excel and earn college scholarships. We want all of our players to learn the valuable life skills the game teaches while developing a life-long passion for soccer. This all begins and ends with caring, skilled coaches. Learn more about MCSA’s free Coaches-in-Training program by attending an informational meeting hosted by club President and Director of Coaching Shane Huff at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, Tuesday, February 25, 6 pm. For more information about Coaches-in-Training or Willits Grassroots Academy, visit MendocinoSoccer.com or MCSA’s Facebook page. Questions: lan@MendocinoSoccer.com.

– submitted by MCSA

New Story Time at Mendocino County Museum

Begins March 1

A new recurring program at the Mendocino County Museum for families, a monthly themed Story Time on select Sundays. An interactive program to foster interest in history, community, and reading through the art of storytelling. Families are invited to enjoy coloring and collage making in the Interactive Room and to explore the museum exhibits after Story Time. Each month we will explore a different theme, no registration required. Free to the public. March 1: What is a museum? April 5: Trees! May 3: Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage, June 7: Flag Day. All programs Sundays, 12:30 to 1 pm. www.mendocinocounty.org/museum. 459-2736.

– submitted by Mendocino County Museum

‘Sideline’ Benefit Concert

March 7

A benefit for the Willits Rotary High School Scholarship Fund. “Sideline,” winner of the 2019 Song of the Year Award at the International Bluegrass Music Association Awards. Sideline is a pedigreed six-piece powerhouse whose style has set the pace in Bluegrass for over two decades. To listen to Sideline reminds the fan of why so many people fall in love with Bluegrass; pulse-pounding drive, songs sung from the heart, perfected timing and dynamics as well as a visceral emotion in the rendering. Admission of \$100 includes a Southern-style supper. Pre-sale only. Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Saturday, March 7, 6 pm. Tickets: Stephanie 512-496-4559.

– submitted by Willits Rotary

AT THE MOVIES



‘Birds of Prey’

The Story: DC Comics action heroine over-the-top R-rated comedy shoot ‘em up. It’s Gotham City. Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) is a former psychiatrist at Arkham Asylum for brain-warped wackos. Despite her professional success and despite the fact she has a pet hyena at home, she is completely heartbroken. Her longtime boyfriend, Joker, has dumped her. When they were together, she could get away with just about any freaky thing that came into her head cuz folks were scared of Joker, but now she’s

lost her protector, and she has lots and lots of creepy psychopathic gangster enemies. Still, Harley Quinn is tough, unpredictable and dangerous all on her lonesome. And then she makes some real friends – picturesque chicks with bone-crusher karate, hand guns, clubs, and crossbows. And skin-tight gold pants.

My Thoughts: Margo Robbie’s Harley Quinn was the stand-out member in the highly-successful-but-not-really-very-good action flick “Suicide Squad.” I found her enigmatic character with her heavy make-up and over-the-top mugging and random mood changes and hot body completely captivating. In “Birds of Prey” my deviant admiration for Ms. Quinn continues. The action

choreography in the flick sequences is mostly outstanding. This frenetic flick is a must-see blast for DC Universe comic book geeks. I highly recommend it.

Parents: Not for children. It earns its “R” rating. There are much-much bloody scenes. There are knife fights, gun fights, and blunt force trauma killings. Don’t bring your little ones to this flick.

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

WILLITS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Drive Thru Tri-Tip Dinner

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28th
Pick Up 4 – 6 pm
WHS Ag Farm

Dinner for 4

Tickets are available at Cat’s Meow or by contacting Windi (707)354-0755 or Jenn (707)354-1670

Dinner includes: Whole bbq tri-tip, green salad, Emandal bread, Kathleen Lewis’ cookies & a rose donated by Flowers by Annette.

\$60

Presented by Leopold Collective & Original Damage Soundsystem

VINYLTINES

DAY MASSACRE

FEB 14TH

Art Show by: Rick Armstrong, Leopold Collective & Jazzmaiah Moore

109 N Main St Willits California 95490

Local DJs

21+ \$10 Entry 9 pm

WCT Youth Camp Registration

February 13 to 29

Youth ages 6 to 17 are invited to register for next summer’s Youth Camp at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Register until Saturday, February 29: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4521312>. The play this year: “OZ ! A Dazzling Musical.” Camp runs Monday June 30 to Sunday August 5, performances July 31, August 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9. Camp hours are 1 to 4 pm. Performances mandatory and a vital part of your child’s educational outcome from camp. Limited to 30 Participants. Camp Director: Tim Fischer. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/61833289553926>.

Ongoing Events

Art Gallery: Paintings by Mehan Gunter at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

Free Firewood at the Senior Center: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 11 am. Bring current Senior Center membership card. Info: 459-6826.

Computer Lab at the Senior Center: Tuesdays, 2 to 4 pm. Bring questions and your device (or use ours). Learn and get repairs. \$3 donation. Open to everyone.

Munchies and Music: Friday Nights at Northspur Brewing Company, 101 North Main Street. 6 to 10 pm. With Greg and Malakai Schindler.

“Art Expo”: featuring drawings and paintings by Alma Soleada. Re-Evolution Gallery, 15 West Mendocino Avenue. 11 am to 6 pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

Friday Night Live: Vendors, food and entertainment. 1722 South Main Street (Evergreen Shopping Center). 5 to 8 pm.

Linda Posner’s “Word Buffet”: KLLG-LP, 97.9, “Poems and Sayings to Start Your Day.” Sunday, 10 to 10:30 am.

Meatless Mondays: at Roots Restaurant at Adventist Health Howard Memorial, 1 Marcela Drive. “Serving delicious plant-based options every Monday.” 7 am to 5 pm.

Collective Care: A Holistic Support Group. Fridays, 10 to 11:15 am. 44650 Highway 101, Laytonville. Holistic community support and information. Children welcome. By donation. www.ninestestersbotanicals.com.

Eight to the Bar with Les Tarr: Radio active blues programming for tragically hip and twisted, Fridays, 9 pm to midnight. 97.9 FM, KLLG.

Willits International Folk Dancing: Class meets every Thursday, 7 to 8 pm, Willits Charter High School. New dances taught 7 to 8 pm. \$0 - \$5 sliding scale. Info: megster1989@yahoo.com.

Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club. Mondays, 7 pm, upstairs gallery of the Willits Center for Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Sliding scale \$10 to \$55/class. 707-484-3385 for info.

Little John’s Place: Every Thursday Potluck Tournament, 6 pm, \$5 buy-in. “We’ll buy the pizza, you buy the beer.” Saturday nights: Free Potluck 9 pm to 12 am during December. 383 South Main Street. 459-5636. facebook.com/littlejohnsplace/

Free Herb Talks: by the Mendocino Herb Guild. Every Thursday, 4 pm, at the Willits Farmers Market, indoors for the winter at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Roots Engine House Tours: Docent-led tour of the Engine House most Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Join a Roots of Motive Power docent to view classic motorcars, a steam train engine, and more – up close.

Marijuana Anonymous 12 Step Meeting: Every Tuesday at 6 pm. Meeting place is the Back Alley building in Catherine Lane, directly behind the United Methodist Church, which is at the corner of School and Pine, right across from the Grange.

Brown Bag Lunch Program: Lunch served to the hungry in the City Park across from the Willits Police Station every Saturday at 1 pm, served by various community-minded organizations. For information, call the Food Bank at 459-3333.

Boomer’s Friday Night Karaoke: 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of every month, Boomer’s Saloon, 45200 Highway 101, Laytonville. 9 pm to 1 am. No Cover. 21+ Please bring I.D. Hosted by DJ-Ken Steely Entertainment with KJ/DJ-Ken Steely & Anna. Come for dinner, stay for the fun.

Willits Farmers Market: Winter Market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday. Veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including pies and handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, blue oyster mushrooms, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Emandal Choral: The Choral is open to all who wish to sing a capella songs of peace and justice. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: 367-1573.

Friday Potluck Bingo: Harrah Senior Center presents Potluck Bingo on Friday nights. Doors open at 5 pm; games begin at 5:30 pm. Minimum bingo buy-in \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Weekly Parkinson’s Discussion and Support Group: Every Thursday, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or honemann@yahoo.com.

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

Willits Library Activities: Tuesdays: 3:30 to 4 pm “Wiggle Time” (Explore movement and self-expression); Wednesdays: 11 to 11:45 am “Play Group” (Self-directed playtime, with toys, ages 0 to 4); 2:30 to 3 pm “Storytime” (Books, songs, rhymes and movement, ages 3 to 6); 3:30 to 4:30 pm “Leggo Club” (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 2:30 to 3 pm “Storytime and More” (with coloring and board games); Fridays: 5:30 to 5:50 pm “Dance Workout” (Fun, upbeat dance); Saturdays, 11 am to 12 pm “Write Live” (We provide a prompt and a space to create writing); 2:30 to 4:30 pm “Drop-In Knitting” All skill levels. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

Drop-In Knitting Circle: Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. “Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in.” Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or lotus3@earthlink.net.

Soroptimist International of Willits: Women’s service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets the second Tuesday at 4 pm and the third Tuesday at noon each month at St John’s Lutheran Church Hall, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

Weekly Life Changes Discussion and Support Group: Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 am. In the Conference Room at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Free Sheriff’s Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Teens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: “Mendocino Sheriff’s Activities League” on Facebook or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Mondays, 7 pm: “Monday Blues & Beyond” with Blue Luke & Special Guests. Tuesdays, 8 pm: “Wabi Sabi” with host Mitchell Holman, formerly of It’s A Beautiful Day (“Whitebird” features different artists every week. Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7:30 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm



OBITUARY |

Robert ‘Bob’ Walker

Robert Mathew Walker, Sr. passed away on Friday morning, January 31, at his home in Willits.

Walker was born December 18, 1933 to Clifford and Myrtle Walker of Willits, where he spent his whole life working in the logging industry.

He is survived by his companion of 40 years, Wanda Pietila; sisters Ellen Walker, Marilyn Wilson of Willits, and Lila Walker of Ukiah; sons Bobbie and Mark Walker of Willits; and daughter Patty Narez of Windsor; stepchildren Glenn Stanley of Ukiah and Clint, Floyd, Janet Stanley and Karen Waahila of Willits; and six grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind his two faithful dogs, Shih and Tzu.

Walker was preceded in death by his father and mother, sister Arlene Smith, brother Cliff Walker, daughter Linda, and two sons, Vincent and Kelvin.

A celebration of life will be held at his home, 148 Pearl Street, on Saturday February 15. Potluck welcomed.

His final resting place is among the giant redwood forest, where he was most content. Rest in peace, my beloved.

Willits Weekly runs obituaries for local residents of Willits, Laytonville and Covelo at no charge up to 350 words. Please send text and a digital photo if desired to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Deadline is end of day Monday for each Thursday edition.



Big Deena

This cutie pie is going to be a big dog! Deena is a happy and very social puppy. She loves playing with toys, and was elated when she met two other puppy guests during her evaluation. Deena is a well-rounded puppy who, like all dogs, will benefit from lots of TLC and patience. Deena would do great in a puppy class – ask us about training classes. Deena is a 2-month-old spayed female who currently weighs 28 pounds.

The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit the shelter. For more information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

Sweet Kiara

This sweet bundle of enthusiasm is Kiara! Kiara is a large breed senior weighing in at 62 pounds. Kiara is white and fawn, in colors that

are beyond beautiful. Kiara has been with us since November 27, 2019, patiently waiting for her turn to go home. Since Kiara arrived we have learned just what she's all about. Kiara loves people (kids included), discovering new things, and cuddles at the end of the day. She is all over the play yard exploring the various challenges and taking them all on, one by one.

This 7-year-old mixed-breed adult can give any family years of companionship and love if she is given the chance. She is house-trained and looking to be your best friend.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is located at 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Please give us a call at 707-485-0123 if you have questions. You can view all our adoptable dogs and cats on Petfinder, on our Facebook page, or through our website: mendohumaneociety.com. To volunteer, or to help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.



The rest of
Decathlon | From Page 5

categories: Honor for students with grade point averages of 3.75 or higher, Scholastic for students with grade point averages of 3.0 to 3.74, and Varsity for students with grade point averages below 3.0.

"The most rewarding part of teaching this class," Colvig said, "is watching the students develop over time, seeing them build self-confidence and leadership skills, especially as they prepare for the speech and interview portions." Students can take the class several years in a row if they choose and if they can remain competitive.

Willits Superintendent Mark Westerburg said: "Academic Decathlon is a great opportunity for students to shine, to compete against themselves and others. The speech and debate skills they learn will set them up for the future – students who can express themselves and who are comfortable with public speaking will be better able to talk to adults, to perform well in job interviews, etc."

The WHS top-performing students at the regional competition who will go on to the state championship in each category were as follows: in the Honor category, Brianna Evans was first with 6,999 points; Jaeva Cash was second with 6,744 points; and Willow Daun-Widner was third with 6,558 points. In the Scholastic category, Logan Simms was first with 6,125 points; Micha Stamps was second with 5,539 points; and Manuel Banuelos was third with 5,029 points. And in the Varsity category, Grady Williams was first with 6,086 points; Spencer Copperfield was second with 5,128 points; and Lillian Turner was third with 4,865 points.

"I'm really proud of all of our students," said Colvig. "They worked hard and competed well."


Tom Wake Plumbing
Serving in Mendocino and Lake Counties
Full Service Residential, Commercial
•Faucets & Tubs •Garbage Disposals
•Toilets •Pipe Repairs
•Gas Lines •Fixture Replacement
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
For Fast Service Call 707-391-4343 Lic: #884811

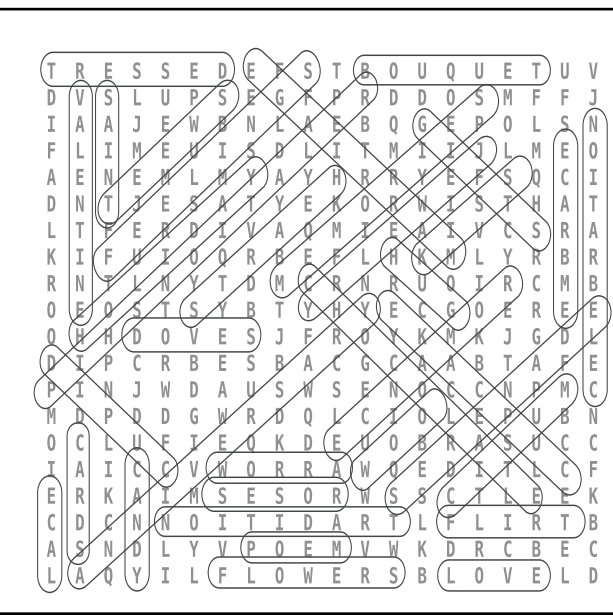
NORTHWEST SPORTING GOODS
HUNTING • FISHING • CAMPING • OUTDOOR RECREATION • GUNS • AMMO
"The Little Store That Has So Much More"
1637 South Main St. • Willits, CA 95490
"You Want We'll Get, Just Ask"
Gregg, Jason, Dave or Joel • 459-0565

S&S AUTO REPAIR & TRANSMISSION
Automotive repair at a price that's fair!
Owner-Technicians
Joel Sylvia Gregg Stebbins
SERVICE ENGINE OILS
CHECK ENGINE
CHECK BRAKES
Business Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:30pm
Email: ssautorepair@comcast.net
1637 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490 • (707) 459-1853

Robinson Plumbing
Residential & Commercial
Remodels • Full Service
New Construction
(707) 459-3212
Local • Senior Discount • LIC# 646710

Marc Komer
Legal Document Assistant
An Affordable Non-Attorney Service
Divorce, Living Trusts,
Evictions, Probate, Incorporation,
Name Change, etc.
www.mendolegaldocs.com
459-2775
104 W. Mendocino, Willits
I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.


Current Job Openings:
Account Specialist III
Corrections Deputy
County Health Officer
Deputy Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors I/II
Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
District Attorney Investigator
Eligibility Specialist I/II
Heavy Equipment Mechanic
Legal Secretary I/II
Senior Deputy Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors
Senior Program Manager
Social Worker Supervisor I/IIA-C
Staff Assistant III – Fort Bragg
For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources
EOE



LEGAL NOTICES

WW258 Fictitious Business Name Statement
2019-F00797
The following person is doing business as Tam's Soap Etc., 27040 Hawk Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Tammy Lynn DeLauro, 27040 Hawk Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on n/a.
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on December 30, 2019.
/s/ Tammy DeLauro
Publication dates: 01/23, 01/30, 02/06 and 02/13/2020

WW259 Fictitious Business Name Statement
2020-F0033
The following person is doing business as County Line Property Solutions, 25071 Goose Lane, Willits, CA 95490 / mailing address: P.O. Box 1199, Ukiah CA 95482.
Registered owner: John Lindsay, 25071 Goose Lane, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2015.
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 15, 2020.
/s/ John Lindsay
Publication dates: 01/23, 01/30, 02/06 and 02/13/2020

Willits Weekly can run your legal notices! Email us for info: willitsweekly@gmail.com. Deadline is Monday for Thursday publication!

WW260 CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKSHOP
The City of Willits will host a public workshop on February 20, 2020, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at City Hall (111 E. Commercial St.) to solicit input from the public regarding groundwater quality and quantity in the Little Lake Valley. The City of Willits is developing a Groundwater Management Plan to guide the City's use of groundwater resources to help maintain groundwater supply and quality into the future.
The workshop will offer the public an opportunity to provide input on the Groundwater Management Plan components and help guide the Plan development process. The workshop will consist of a brief presentation regarding the plan goals and required components, followed by an open comment period to receive feedback from the public, and all interested members of the public are invited to attend. Additional information about the Plan can be found on the City's website www.cityofwillits.org. Questions regarding the Groundwater Management Plan and public workshop can be directed to engineering@cityofwillits.org.
/s/ Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk
Publication Dates: February 6 and 13, 2020

CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

Car For Sale
Rare 1992 Honda Civic Si, blue hatchback. Manual transmission, sunroof, 195K miles, after market rims, runs good with newish transmission. \$4,000/obo. Call/text Matt: 354-4942.

Freezer Empty? We can help!
John Ford Rancher's Choice Box- 50 pounds: steaks, roasts and ground beef. **Now \$325** (\$6.50 per pound). Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call **459-5193**. Leave a message.

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamergrin@yahoo.com.

Office Space for Rent
1 large space 3400'. Several small offices 100' & 270'. Call Megan 972-8776.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 510-5895. See at "<http://www.oaknvine.net/tip>"

Event Spaces Available
Event spaces available at the Willits Center for the Arts! • Great Room • Classroom • Ceramic Studio For inquiries, email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726. For additional information visit: www.willitscenterforthearts.org/rentals

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher
Barbara Carlon
Visit my webpage: Seamqueen.blog
707-367-6182, Willits

'Experience The Sound of Soul'
Tuesday, February 18, 2020: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Willits Center for the Arts, 71 E. Commercial Street. Welcome to the worlds of HU (pronounced hue), an ancient, universal name for God. This sacred word can spiritually uplift people of any religion, culture, or walk of life. It is freely given – a gift beyond measure. Love is love. And you are that. HU is the Sound of Soul. Information? Call April, 972-2475 or visit: www.TheSoundofSoul.org

Volunteers Needed
Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in the gift shop, information/greeting desk, hospitality cart and the garden. Hours are flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

Made for more headache-free days. Together inspired®



We were made for more. More movement. More adventures. More pain-free days. Chiropractor Craig Boyle, DC is here to help. He specializes in helping patients live headache-free without the need for medications.



Craig Boyle, DC
Chiropractic Services

"Chiropractors are trained to locate and reduce vertebral dislocations by realigning compromised joints. Once the joints are realigned the pressure on the nerves is reduced, and headaches can reduce in intensity or disappear. Consequently, the need for medication to manage headaches could be reduced or eliminated with their medical doctors' approval."



Health | Care | Community

You were made for more, so learn more.
Now welcoming new patients. 707-459-6115
3 Marcela Drive, Suite C | Willits

decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in the case of Martin vs. the City of Boise, Idaho. He said Boise had passed a law that outlawed camping everywhere within its city limits and, in doing so, had effectively criminalized homelessness. The court found the Boise ordinance to be unlawful. As a result, jurisdictions all over the United States are revising their camping laws.

Mendocino County's code revisions impose strict limits on camping, but at the same time allow for public camping as a result of homelessness, under certain conditions. Previously, Chapter 14.28 was very restrictive of camping in public parks, but contained no language to regulate camping by the homeless.

Chapter 14.32 states that it is unlawful and a public nuisance for any person to camp, or to occupy a camp site, or to camp in a recreational vehicle, in any public park, sidewalk, street, road, floodway, any private property, or any beach contiguous with the Pacific Ocean.

In addition, camping is outlawed in certain public properties in the county, specifically including the public right-of-way along Heeser Drive in the Town of Mendocino, Brewery Gulch Road south of the Town of Mendocino, and the landscape located between Highway 101 and the Russian River, lying between the southern border of Mendocino County and the Russian River Bridge just south of Hopland.

Camping is also outlawed within the Town of Mendocino's Historical Preservation District.

Chapter 14.32 includes some exceptions to the prohibition, which include camping on private property when the campers are friends or family of the landowner. Camping in mobile home parks, special occupancy parks, licensed campgrounds, in RV parks, in "governmentally controlled campgrounds or in county parks in which camping is a specifically authorized public use," are also permitted.

Chapter 14.32 states that "the involuntary sitting, lying or sleeping of a homeless person with no reasonable access to alternative shelter shall not be deemed to be a violation of [this ordinance] so long as" the person [who is sitting, lying or sleeping] does not do so between the hours of 6 am and 10 pm; he or she does not take up more than 64 square feet of space, per person; and the activities of the person do not preclude the ordinary or customary use of any sidewalk or other public property.

The ordinance goes on to define what constitutes "reasonable access to alternative shelter." According to the ordinance, a person has a reasonable access to an alternative shelter when they have been informed of a location of a homeless shelter, or a safe camping or safe parking facility, when it is currently in operation, when such a shelter is reasonably accessible from that person's current location, and when the shelter that is being offered as an alternative does not require a person to engage in religious services which may be objectionable to that person.

The new ordinance does not define when a currently operating shelter is reasonably accessible from the person's current location.

If a person who is camping on public or private property is deemed to have reasonable access to an alternative shelter, and if they are told to leave but refuse to cease camping, he or she may be arrested and brought before a judge, or they may be arrested and immediately released and cited with a misdemeanor. The fine for a second offense, or for an additional offense beyond a second offense, is a maximum of \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or both.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde reminded the other board members that the existence of safe camping sites and safe parking sites was an important component of the new ordinance, and that both kinds of public facilities did not yet exist in this county. He said that it was important that the supes get to work on creating these facilities.

out by saying this is a really really good, positive thing for the state of California. The Dynamex decision was a [state] supreme court ruling that said: 'There are three criteria – if you meet these three criteria, you can be an independent contractor. If people don't meet these three criteria, they are not allowed to be independent contractors.'

"And what that did was allowed for ... thousands of people throughout the state of California who are being abused by corporations – who are forcing them to be independent contractors – to force these companies into hiring them as real employees so they got things that we all take for granted. Things like unemployment insurance, workers compensation, minimum wage guarantees, paid sick leave, paid family leave."

"So it's not just Uber," Valenzuela continued. "There are companies all over the place that are more and more [trying] to skirt employment laws and to make more money on the backs of workers."

"So to start with that, it was a Supreme Court ruling. So when this happened in the state of California in the spring of 2018 the state said, 'OK, this is great, this going to solve a lot of problems, but we have a lot of people who are niche workers all over the place, independent contractors' ... It's unbelievable, I can't believe what these people do, I've heard so many stories. This isn't going to work for all of them. We have to come up with some exemptions. So AB5 was introduced, and all AB5 is are exemptions to the Supreme Court ruling."

"So there are exemptions for certain industries. This is where the cap for freelance writers came in. It's a partial exemption for freelance writers. There are a myriad of other types of kind of interesting little exemptions in there."

"But the really important one is called the "business to business exception." What it allows is for somebody who right now is working as an independent contractor to go out and get a business license for \$40 a year from the county, hang a shingle and say, 'I am now a sole proprietor.... I'm no longer your independent contractor, you're going to employ me as a company that you're employing. This is available to people."

"There are these 11 criteria that have to be met and really the more people I talk to, the more I understand these criteria, the more people understand them, the more I hear, 'Oh my god, I can do this, this is doable for me.'"

"So I'm just here to say we're here, Emily Tecchio is here, she's our field representative for Mendocino County. Our door is open, we talk about this all day long, our phone is ringing. We don't know the answer to everything, but we're happy to share whatever we know and hear."

Mayor Gerry Gonzalez suggested to Valenzuela that they put together a full presentation in Willits to help address businesses struggling with the new AB5 rules, and talk more fully about the details and possible exemptions.

Valenzuela agreed that was a good idea, and thought that working with the Willits Chamber of Commerce could be helpful.

She ended her talk by mentioning the struggles of Willits Weekly and other small papers under the new regulations.

"Willits Weekly, we're all hearing about it," she said. "We understand the 35 cap is not working for some of the small papers. Assemblymember Wood is very vocal about it, and we're assuming that others are too. So we're hoping that a solution is found."

choice while continuing to pick up Willits Weekly for free on the street – has given us a big boost. Having an increased base of grassroots support will make the fiscal prospect of hiring all of our weekly contributors as payroll employees, no matter how few hours they bill each week, more achievable. We've appreciated – and made copies of – all the encouraging words our readers have sent in, too.

As far as an update about exactly how this new labor law in California will affect Willits Weekly, we're still watching what's happening in the California Legislature and in the courts.

Republican legislators in Sacramento have introduced multiple bills to amend or repeal AB5.

AB 5 author Rep. Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) posted on Twitter last week some information about some changes we might expect to be part of her "clean-up" bill for AB 5, Assembly Bill 1850.

"In the next few weeks," Rep. Gonzalez posted on Twitter, "we will be rolling out a number of asks, initiatives and bill language to help ease the implementation of AB5 and make clarifications to the law based on hundreds of meetings and discussions with individuals and groups."

Gonzalez also posted: "Based on dozens of meetings with freelance journalists & photographers, we have submitted language to legislative counsel that we hope to have available next week to put into AB1850 which will cut out the 35 submission cap & instead more clearly define freelancer journalism."

Will this new government definition of "freelance journalism" be favorable for our regular Willits Weekly contributors? Unknown as of yet.

Willits Weekly also got confirmation from the California Employment Development Department that for Willits Weekly or any publication to establish a business to business relationship with a "business services provider" in the same line of work as the publication in engaged in (i.e., freelance writer, editor or photographer) is far more complicated and difficult than "just go get a business license."

EDD confirms that to establish a business to business contracting relationship the "business services provider" must not only get a business license and file taxes as a business entity, it must meet all "A" through "L" criteria in AB5 and then pass what's known as a "Borello" test to determine if there's an employment relationship.

The most difficult provisions for Willits Weekly's freelancers in those 12 AB5 criteria are that in order for Willits Weekly to hire such "business service providers" to provide freelance reporting, editing or photography, the providers need to be "customarily engaged in" an "independently established business" with multiple contracts with other publications to provide similar services – i.e., sell the same or similar kind of content to multiple other businesses.

We think Willits is a special place, and we love it when people who don't live here admire Willits Weekly and enjoy our small town – but let's face it, there's not a huge market of buyers out there for news and feature stories about Willits, Laytonville and Covelo.

One new 2020-21 budget report from the Legislative Analyst's Office that came out Tuesday, "Staffing to Address New Independent Contractor Test," addressed the cost to state government of implementing AB5 and had some background.

"We estimate that roughly 1 million workers will need to meet the ABC test to continue working as independent contractors," the report says, but that figure doesn't include self-employed managers, who may be small business owners; self-employed truckers, journalists, or drivers, whose status is being decided in the courts; or (3) self-employed workers in professions exempt from the ABC test under AB 5."

That 1 million figure doesn't count the millions of small and micro-businesses and small nonprofits in California that rely on independent contractors who are being affected by AB5.

The injunction hearing in the lawsuit filed against AB5 by the American Society of Journalists and Authors and the National Press Photographers Association is still scheduled for March 9. Attorneys for the national groups claim AB5 unconstitutionally affects free speech and the media, and say the 35 submission a year cap is "irrational and arbitrary."

Willits Weekly is committed to publishing through March 6 – we're still operating under the 35-submission annual cap for all of our freelancers – then we'll evaluate based on conditions at that time how best to move forward.

Thank you, thank you again to all our wonderful readers, who join our wonderful local advertisers in helping to maintain our vibrant, independent local newspaper.

Any other readers who'd like to sign on as street subscribers – pls. send your donation to Willits Weekly, PO Box 1698, Willits CA 95490. Visit www.willitsweekly.com and hit the "Pay or Donate" button to go to our PayPal account, where you can make a donation with any card.

communities that were negatively or disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization."

Connie Stewart, executive director of the California Center for Rural Policy, was in the board room on February 4 and spoke to the supervisors about what she imagined a cannabis equity program might do in Mendocino County.

"This is to bring equity within the county, in order to assure that under-represented people, or people who were impacted by the illegalization [of cannabis], now have the opportunity to contribute to the now-legal market," she said. "Under-represented people are concerned about coming out of the darkness. So, [the purpose of the equity program is] not to allow economic development people to compete with L.A., for example. It's more to ensure that under-represented people can participate in the legal market within your own county."

"There will be a lot of information on permitting and your program," Stewart added. "I assume there'll be some retail assistance to get some businesses up and running. We're looking forward to helping make sure that everyone can participate in that market and be successful," Stewart said.

Humboldt County has already developed a program called Project Trellis, which exists to strengthen that county's cannabis industry. According to the project website, Project Trellis consists of a micro-grant program, a marketing program, and a local equity program. The web page for Project Trellis states that the local equity program will "serve those communities and individuals impacted by the war on drugs, and the implementation of which also serves as part of the qualifying criteria to receive Senate Bill 1294 funding."

The Project Trellis web page has a link to a document titled "Humboldt County Equity Assessment, August 2019" which was prepared by the California Center for Rural Policy and which purports to assess the need and potential uses of an equity program in that county.

The document contains a very colorful history of the cannabis subculture in Humboldt County, and also contains a history of cannabis law enforcement there. It is difficult to find a section in that document on what an equity program will do, in concrete terms, in Humboldt County.

According to the document, "The equity program seeks to support small businesses, and the restoration of ecologically sustainable principles that characterized the emergence of cannabis agriculture in Humboldt County, which was the birthplace of cannabis agriculture in California. Traditional cultivators that are left behind are vulnerable to remaining dangerous criminal elements; have been doing it so long there is no viable career alternative; cannot receive help mitigating pre-cannabis timber-related environmental problems where they settled; and cannot afford to implement sustainable cultivation practices to address environmental problems that have emerged around them."

Seeking to learn more about what an equity program will do in Mendocino County, this reporter contacted Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams, who said that money from the state's equity program could be used to help illicit cannabis cultivators pay their fees so that they could afford to enter the county's cannabis program. He also mentioned that state money could, possibly, be used to help growers put in new culverts, or to meet the requirements of their compliance programs in other ways.

Stewart and her team don't have a lot of time to procrastinate. The application deadline is March 9, and the supervisors gave her team a deadline of February 25. That's three weeks from February 4, when the supes approved the plan.

In that time they are supposed to work with stakeholders in order to complete an assessment of what is possible to do and how much money is needed; to write the application for the money, and to prepare a resolution for the board of supervisors to approve, prior to the board sending off the application to the state.

Nine supervisor candidates interviewed in online videos

Submitted by retired Sheriff Tom Allman and Mendocino Media

All nine candidates who are running for Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in Districts 1, 2 and 4 in the March 3, 2020 primary election have recently completed a privately funded video project, in which they independently answered questions regarding:

- the county budget,
- attracting business to Mendocino County,
- homelessness and
- mental health.

The candidates voluntarily agreed to publicly and candidly state their positions on these hot-topic issues to allow voters to hear where they each stand.

The project, produced and directed by Johnny Keyes, was professionally filmed by Mendocino Media and was moderated by retired Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman. A separate video was produced for each of the three districts where candidates are running for supervisor. Each video is approximately 30 minutes.

Upon releasing the video, Johnny Keyes, stated: "The intention is to inform the voters in Districts 1, 2 and 4 of where the candidates stand on these pressing

rate than they are getting reimbursed at currently. "It could generate significant additional income," McCowen said.

McCowen added that the idea was a complex one and would be discussed in more detail both at the March 23 meeting and perhaps at a subsequent board meeting.

Also at the February 4 meeting, Third District Supervisor John Haschak told the other supervisors he wants to hold a public workshop with the Hispanic community in order to discuss whatever barriers to community participation it may be experiencing. The other supervisors agreed that this would be in order, and selected March 23 as the date for the workshop.

Therefore it was decided that the emergency medical services / ambulance workshop will take place on Monday, March 23 at 1 pm in the board chambers in Ukiah and the workshop with the Hispanic community will take place at 6 pm on the same day and at the same place.

First District Supervisor Carre Brown reported that the Two-Basin Solution Partnership, which is the name of the coalition which is trying to secure a license to acquire and operate the Potter Valley Project, is continuing to work on that project, and needs an infusion of money from all of its member organizations. Since one of its member organizations is the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, Brown said that the IWPC will be requesting a \$25,000 contribution from Mendocino County. Brown said she will put her request for funds on the agenda for the supervisors' February 25 meeting.

The members of the Two Basin Solution Partnership are CalTrout, the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, the Sonoma County Water Agency, the County of Humboldt, and the Round Valley Indian Tribes.

The board moved a non-controversial but highly lucrative item, 8a, to its consent calendar on February 4, and passed it unanimously along with other items. Item 8a directed the board's homelessness ad hoc, which consists of supervisors Dan Gjerde and McCowen, to meet with county staff and community stakeholders in order to develop a preliminary program expenditure plan and to submit a grant application to the state of California for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention funding.

The County of Mendocino has been allocated \$856,000 by the state for alleviating homelessness in this county. McCowen told the other supervisors the county has four years in which to spend the money. McCowen noted the state is also allocating \$924,734 to the Mendocino County Continuum of Care to fund that agency's work on homelessness issues.

According to a December 4, 2019 press release from the office of California Governor Gavin Newsom, in 2019 "California passed the state's historic \$1 billion investment — the most ever spent — on programs to fight homelessness. That amount included \$650 million in Emergency Homelessness Aid to cities and counties."

During his report to the board, Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams said he was unhappy with the board's decision to agree to place the county's proposed crisis residential treatment facility at 631 Orchard Avenue in Ukiah.

"One detail that's become apparent to me is the Orchard Street Project," Williams said. "I know we didn't want to give up \$500,000, but the more I've learned about how crisis residential works, I'm regretful. I don't think it's the right location. You need transitional housing, because nobody gets completely treated in a CSU [crisis stabilization unit] in 24 hours or a CRT (crisis residential treatment facility) in 30 days. There has to be follow-up; otherwise, you're just throwing money out that's not effective...."

"I see us working on it piece-meal: checking boxes: 'We need a CRT; maybe we'll do a CSU.' We need a complete, end-to-end plan," Williams said. "I'm afraid we're endeavoring down a path of piecemeal that, in the end, may not build a full-spectrum of care, in which point we will not have maximized the value on the public funds."

Williams also reflected on a detail that was brought up earlier by Supervisor McCowen, namely, that the state was going to give the Continuum of Care for Mendocino County nearly a million dollars. "Why is the Continuum of Care not reporting to the county directly?" he asked.

During his report, Third District Supervisor Haschak told the board he recently met with members of the administration of Mendocino College, along with state Sen. Mike McGuire and with county CEO Carmel Angelo, to discuss strategies that would help the college offer training programs for emergency medical technicians and paramedics. "The college is looking at that now with great interest," Haschak said.

During the same board meeting the board approved adopting a resolution in support of Measure C, the ballot measure which is applicable to voters living within the Mendocino Coast Hospital District, which allows voters to vote on the question of whether the Coast District Hospital Board of Directors will lease the hospital to Adventist Health System West for a period of up to 30 years.

According to the resolution, the Coast District Hospital is "absolutely necessary for the social and economic welfare of those living in and visiting the Mendocino Coast," and "the Coast District Hospital is suffering from serious financial difficulties and will likely close if Measure C is not successful."

The resolution states, "the lease payments to be made by Adventist Health ensure that the Mendocino Coast District Hospital will have sufficient funds in the future to either comply with California's seismic requirements necessary to keep the hospital open or to construct new health facilities."

The passage of Measure C could affect the implementation of Measure B, the Mental Health Treatment Act, which was approved by voters in November 2017. In recent months, Adventist Health System West has proposed a public/private partnership with Mendocino County, in which Mendocino County would make a portion of Measure B funds available to Adventist, in exchange for which Adventist would use a portion of the Coast District Hospital as a psychiatric health facility.

Details of the arrangement have not yet been agreed upon, but certainly the ability of Adventist to lease the Coast Hospital building would be the foundation of any such agreement.

The resolution in support of Measure C was approved unanimously.

PG&E submits new plan to reduce wildfire risks and customer impacts of public safety power shutoffs

elevated wildfire risk. Today, it's more than 50 percent.

Multiple factors contribute to wildfire risk and an extended fire season across PG&E's service area. Prolonged periods of high temperatures, extreme dryness, tinder-dry grass, and record-high winds combined with vast tree mortality following a historic five-year drought are increasing the number of wildfires and making them more dangerous.

PG&E's 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan describes forecasted work and investments that will be executed this year to help further reduce the potential for wildfire ignitions associated with its electrical equipment in high fire-threat areas.

The plan addresses an array of wildfire risk factors through new and ongoing measures. Among the safety steps and actions to be taken this year include:

- Pruning or removing more than 1 million trees to keep them away from power lines;
- Installing more than 240 miles of stronger and more resilient poles and covered power lines, along with targeted undergrounding;
- Adding approximately 400 new weather stations this year, which will keep PG&E on track to add a total of 1,300 new weather stations by 2021, a density of one station roughly every 20 circuit-miles in the high fire-risk areas;
- Installing nearly 200 new, high-definition cameras in high fire-threat areas, which will keep PG&E on track to add a total of 600 by 2022, increasing coverage across high fire-risk areas to more than 90 percent of its service area; and
- Coordinating prevention and response efforts by monitoring wildfire risks in real time from the Wildfire Safety Operations Center.

Building upon completed work in 2019

PG&E has completed or is implementing these important safety enhancements and investments to help keep its customers and communities safe. Some of the actions taken in 2019 included:

- **Cleared vegetation around thousands of miles of power line via Enhanced Vegetation Management work:** Work to keep trees away from power lines continued as PG&E crews and contractors pruned or removed trees with a higher potential for wildfire risk along approximately 2,498 miles of distribution lines, topping the 2019 goal of 2,455 miles.
- **Made the electric system stronger and more resilient:** PG&E installed stronger and more resilient poles and covered power lines on 171 circuit miles, 21 more miles than the goal of 150 miles. Over the next 12 to 14 years, approximately 7,100 miles will be hardened in high fire-threat areas.
- **Added new tech to Wildfire Safety Operations Center:** The 24/7 command center for PG&E's wildfire monitoring and response opened in 2018 and enables better coordination and communication with field personnel and the addition of using satellites for spotting fire starts.
- **Completed unprecedented wildfire safety inspections:** PG&E has completed 100 percent of visual inspections and aerial inspections of nearly 50,000 transmission structures, nearly 700,000 distribution poles, and 222 substations in high fire-risk areas.
- **Installed hundreds more weather stations:** PG&E installed 426 weather stations, 26 more than the goal of 400.
- **Turned on more high-definition cameras:** An effective tool for early spotting of wildfires and monitoring real-time conditions, 133 high-definition cameras were installed in 2019, 37 more than the goal for the year.
- **Utilized temporary microgrids:** In 2019, PG&E safely readied and operated four temporary microgrids to energize more than 4,800 customers during the October and November PSPS events in portions of Angwin, Calistoga, Grass Valley and Placerville.

Open and transparent public process

PG&E's 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan is subject to public review and approval by the CPUC. PG&E strongly supports and encourages its customers and communities to provide feedback and participate in this important public process.

Download the full plan at https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/wildfire-mitigation-plan.page.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric energy companies in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with more than 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to 16 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit pge.com and pge.com/news.

Submitted by Pacific Gas and Electric Company

SAN FRANCISCO – As part of its ongoing efforts to further reduce wildfire risks and keep customers and the communities it serves safe, Pacific Gas and Electric Company today [Friday, February 7] submitted its 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan to the California Public Utilities Commission.

The plan expands and enhances the company's comprehensive Community Wildfire Safety Program designed to address the growing threat of extreme weather and wildfires across its service area.

The 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan will continue expanded key safety work including:

- New grid technology;
- Hardening of the electric system;
- Accelerated inspections of electric infrastructure;
- Enhanced vegetation management around power lines; and
- Real-time monitoring and situational awareness tools to better understand how severe weather can impact PG&E's system.

"Our state is faced with an extended and more dangerous wildfire season that demands additional urgent action and coordination across many stakeholder groups to reduce the risk of wildfire," said Michael Lewis, senior vice president, Electric Operations. "The wildfire safety actions and programs described in our 2020 plan detail the company's unwavering efforts to improve public safety and further reduce wildfire risk."

Reducing the customer impacts of public safety power shutoffs

PG&E's 2020 plan includes changes to make public safety power shutoff events smaller in scope and shorter in duration and to lessen the overall impacts of shutoffs while working to keep customers and communities safe during times of severe weather and high wildfire risk.

Efforts this year to reduce the impact of PSPS events on customers include:

- Installing 592 automated sectionalizing devices on distribution lines with the aim of reducing the number of communities without power during a PSPS event;
- Adding 23 transmission switches capable of redirecting power and keeping substations and transmission lines energized in some areas during a PSPS event;
- Working with local communities to operationalize additional microgrids that will allow customers and essential community services to stay energized during a PSPS event;
- Expanding PG&E's ability to provide backup power to some critical service providers, such as major transportation thoroughfares, water systems, medical centers and fire departments;
- Enhancing meteorology technology for more precise PSPS events;
- Nearly doubling PG&E's helicopter fleet from 35 to 65 to patrol lines after a weather event has passed;
- Using two fixed-wing aircrafts with infrared cameras capable of inspecting transmission lines at night;
- Deploying additional field crews to patrol, inspect and repair power lines after a weather event has passed;
- Working closely with local, state and tribal officials to better coordinate for PSPS events;
- Bolstering PG&E's website and call center resources and continuing to make improvements to information and resources available;
- Improving customer notifications about when power will be shut off for safety and when customers can expect it to be restored;
- Working with local communities to improve the locations, availability and resources provided at Community Resource Centers; and
- Hosting a series of information open houses and webinars to provide information to customers and communities about systematic improvements and PSPS preparedness.

"We know how much our customers rely on electric service. Proactively turning off power disrupts lives and presents its own safety risks, which need to be carefully considered and addressed," said Debbie Powell, vice president, Asset & Risk Management, Community Wildfire Safety Program. "Turning off power for safety is not how we strive to serve our customers, and we are committed to reducing the impacts without compromising safety."

Reducing potential ignitions

California faces an increasing threat from catastrophic wildfires, severe weather and higher temperatures, and recent state and federal climate assessments warn the threat is only growing. In 2012, just 15 percent of PG&E's service area was designated by the CPUC as having an

issues. With social media driving many elections, it's vital that our voters hear for themselves where these candidates stand on these issues."

Retired Sheriff Tom Allman said: "I know each of these candidates, and it's fair to say that there are no two candidates alike. They were candid in their answers and clearly represented where they stand on these questions that seem to be on everyone's mind."

The videos can be found on YouTube, and are titled: "Mendocino County Focus, Vision, and Future." All candidates have been offered an opportunity to post the videos on their social media. YouTube link: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNWQI9PFX_wXe1wS9QobbpWWmV6LCJkAua



Above, left: Evergreen's project manager, Ben Hlavacek, smooths out the sides of the track that runs around the skate park. Above, right: The crew from Evergreen Skateparks lays forms and smooths cement for the new Laytonville Skate Park; the center is an enclosed bowl with the track, in varying elevations, running around the outside. At right: Roland and Jayma Spence stand in the track for the new skate park. Below: The framework for a curved bowl in the center of the park is nearly ready to be poured with concrete – Evergreen Skateparks' project manager Ben Hlavacek, comments: "For a park this size we usually wouldn't have a standalone enclosed bowl. So that's a different design aspect for us on this project. It turned out really unique and it'll be a lot of fun." At bottom: If the mound of dirt, people working, and wooden forms aren't clue enough, the "Evergreen Skateparks" sign lets you know you're at the Laytonville Skate Park on Harwood Road. Below, right: Roland Spence models the Laytonville Skate Park T-shirt, which is for sale on their website as a fundraiser.



Photos by Ree Slocum



Do it Best WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE
HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT
Lawn & Garden Equipment • Generators
Sales, Parts & Service • Pick-up & Delivery
1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596
willitspower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6369

707.459.5193
JOHN FORD RANCH
RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF
No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

The 13th Annual CHILI COOKOFF
MC FOR THE EVENING - TOM ALLMAN
Friday, March 13, 2020
5:30 to 7:00 PM
SENIOR CENTER - 1501 BAECHEL ROAD
Taste and vote for your favorite Chili.
Fresh Baked Corn Bread Muffins,
Root Beer Floats, Hot Dogs
& Brownies Available
Taster Tickets
Adults \$10 • Children \$6
Senior Center Members \$8
Enter Your Favorite Chili!
\$25 Registration Fee for Half Table
\$50 Registration Fee for Full Table
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 459-6826

McGuire introduces legislation to provide a Fire Safe Home Tax Credit for middle-class homeowners

Submitted by the Office of Senator Mike McGuire

The size and scope of wildfires across California have increased in intensity and destruction over the past decade, impacting millions of residents and causing tens of billions in damage.

The 2018 wildfire season eclipsed 2017 as the most destructive and deadliest year for wildfires in Golden State history. California's largest, most destructive and deadly wildland fires have all taken place in the last decade – with over 38,000 homes, businesses and structures having been destroyed by California wildfires since 2015.

Because of this reality, the state of California has been and will continue to invest over a billion dollars in vegetation management and fire prevention funding over the next several years to help protect communities, but individual property owners in the wildland-urban interface have been on their own to pay for expensive hardening upgrades that will help make their home more fire safe.

Over 4.5 million homes are in the most threatened regions in the state and there is a desperate need to provide everyday middle class Californians with the tools they need to keep their home safe and help stabilize insurance markets in some of the most wildfire prone regions in the state. That's why today, Senator Mike McGuire and several members of the legislature introduced SB 944 – the Fire Safe Home Tax Credit.

"Millions of Californians call the wildland-urban interface home, and they are under increased threat by the growing size and scope of wildfires. This common-sense bill will help expedite desperately needed fire safe retrofits, which can be incredibly costly, on thousands of homes in the most threatened regions of our state," Senator McGuire said.

"This fire safe tax credit program," he continued, "is part of a larger data-driven plan to strategically invest in the most threatened communities to help neighbors retrofit their homes and usher in a more stabilized insurance market. We must act with urgency and provide middle-class Californians with the tools they need to keep their homes and families safe."

Under SB 944, homeowners making less than \$70,000 annually (\$140,000 for a couple) would qualify for the tax credit for home-hardening projects with the primary purpose of protection from wildfire.

Qualified taxpayers can get a one-time tax credit, for up to \$10,000, for completing home-hardening projects already embedded in the state's fire code, which could include: replacing roofs, exterior walls, vents, decks, fences and chimneys. Out-of-pocket expenses for vegetation management will also be eligible for the tax credit and include wildfire mitigation measures like the creation of defensible space and establishing fuel breaks.

Funding mitigation makes fiscal sense: the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that for every \$1 spent on fire hardening measures to bring buildings up to current codes, \$4 are saved – including countless lives, billions of dollars in property damage, and hundreds of millions of avoided insurance costs.

In California, the return on investment can approach \$6 for each dollar of mitigation.

The Fire Safe Home Tax Credit is co-authored by: Senators Stern, Rubio, Dahle, Dodd, Galgiani, Hill, Jackson and Nielsen and Assembly members Aguiar-Curry, Friedman, Wood and Gallagher.

New Cannabis Program counter service hours

Submitted by the Mendocino County Cannabis Program

Effective February 10, the Mendocino County Cannabis Program will be changing its public counter service hours to the following:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8 am to 1 pm
Tuesday and Thursday: noon to 4 pm

Due to the high volume of inquiries, the Cannabis Program will create standard counter service hours to better assist the public with site-specific questions and provide additional nonpublic hours to respond to Cannabis Program email inquiries, phone messages, and the continued review and processing of applications, permits and renewals.

General phone and email inquiries from individuals within the Cannabis Program will continue to be taken daily over the phone and email Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm.

Planning and Building Services for the Mendocino County Cannabis Program is located at 860 North Bush Street in Ukiah and can be reached by phone at 707-234-6650 or email at CannabisProgram@mendocinocounty.org. More info can be found at www.mendocinocounty.org/cannabisprogram.

Read the rest of
Laytonville
Over on Page 13

Adventist Health welcomes Bessant Parker, MD, as new medical officer

By Cici Winiger, for Adventist Health Howard Memorial

Dr. Bessant Parker always knew that he wanted to be a doctor when he grew up. And he believed the path he has taken has led him to his role today as the new medical officer for Adventist Health hospitals and clinics in Mendocino County.

Dr. Parker moved to Ukiah from Wisconsin, where he recently served as chief medical officer for Aspirus Langlade Hospital. He completed his medical training in Ghana before coming to the United States where he did his residency in Internal Medicine at Harlem Hospital, an affiliate of Columbia University in New York.

Upon completion of his residency, he served as a hospitalist at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Appleton, Wisconsin. He went on to complete a full-time master's degree in Business Administration, with concentrations in finance and entrepreneurship, from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, while maintaining part-time employment at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Dr. Parker also trained with Tenet Healthcare in the Tenet Executive Development Program at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts where he served on the executive management team and was involved in leading quality and process improvement efforts.

As Adventist Health's medical officer for Mendocino County, Dr. Parker will be working closely with staff and care providers at both Adventist Ukiah Valley and Adventist Health Howard Memorial to continuously improve the quality of care and experience for patients.

"I'm excited to work with our team and the entire medical community in Mendocino County," Parker said. "It is my hope that we can all work together to improve care and access for all."

"Dr. Parker is a welcome addition to our Adventist Health leadership team in Mendocino County. His energy and passion for process improvement will allow us to further improve the exceptional care for those we serve," shares Jason Wells, president for Adventist Health in Mendocino County.

"His proven ability to work collaboratively and drive clinical excellence will help ensure a strong future for health in our region," Wells adds.

With his unique background as a teacher and in business management, Dr. Parker says he is interested in focusing on systems that can lead to improved processes and

quality improvements. "If you think about it, the human body is an amazing example of a system that works flawlessly. Just like we learned how to analyze and problem-solve when something goes wrong with the human body, we can look at our own processes and systems to make sure we're doing the right things, at the right times, for the right reasons."



Dr. Bessant Parker, the new medical officer for Adventist Health hospitals and clinics in Mendocino County.

Dr. Parker says it's that same interest in looking at processes and finding out how things work that inspired him to become a doctor. Growing up in Ghana, he was active in soccer and had many visits to the hospital due to injuries. "I would see the doctors and how they treated and fixed me, and I thought to myself, 'I want to be like them someday.'"

After high school, he went on to become a high school teacher as part of his required one-year national service. He extended it for two more years during which time he set up a tutoring

school, helping young adults to obtain the equivalent of a GED. Dr. Parker says what he learned during that time as a teacher has also made him the physician that he is. He taught students from ages 10 to 35 years old.

"When it comes to healthcare, we do a lot of education. Educating our patients about their diagnoses and disease process, on how to take their medications and manage their condition. Explaining things in a manner they understand is very important to the healing process. As a teacher, I learned to adapt my teaching style to my audience and that has helped me tremendously as a physician."

Asked why he chose Mendocino County, Dr. Parker says, the weather and the location is perfect for their family. "I grew up in a tropical country, and the weather here is a perfect balance. We also love that there's a lot of options for outdoor activities for our family—my wife and my 3-year-old daughter. It's also a great location – a small town that's far enough from the hustle and bustle but close enough to the big cities. It's perfect for our family. We're looking forward to getting to know everyone and being part of this great community."

Adventist Health Howard Memorial and Adventist Health Ukiah Valley are part of Adventist Health, 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.

The rest of
Laytonville
From Page 12

there'd be a city office with people paid to figure this out and we're just navigating a system we have no clue about," said Jayma Spence, Roland's wife and executive director of Harwood Memorial Park.

Even though there's been a core group of people in the community who've supported them financially and seen them through from the beginning, it still took about 17 years before the project got off the ground. Until then it was thought of as a big dream. That big dream has turned out to be a wonderful collaboration between Harwood Memorial Park, the fiscal agent; Long Valley Health Center, the landowner leasing the land to Harwood Memorial for \$1 per year; Healthy Start, where Spence is a mentor and family liaison; and the Long Valley Skaters Association, a small association that was formed in 2000 to build the skate park.

They were also fortunate to get major funding from T.R. Eriksen Foundation, Kelly White Family Shelter, Tony Hawk, Flying High Farm, and the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. All in all, they were able to navigate their way through all the red tape and begin the final step: finding the builders for the Laytonville Skate park.

"We had a \$115,000 budget specifically for building the skate park. When Rolo called different companies they all said, 'Well that's a good start.' But Evergreen Skateparks said, 'So that's your budget? OK, we'll make it work.' They designed this skate park around what they could do with that pot of money. So, we knew exactly what we were getting for our \$115,000. That's kind of unheard of for these kinds of projects," explained Jayma Spence. "And the owners aren't even making any money on it. They're just keeping their

guys employed. Otherwise they'd have to lay them off."

Evergreen Skateparks, out of Portland, Oregon, builds skate parks all over the country. The Laytonville park is their first public skate park in California. They, like other seasonal construction companies, want to keep their employees working year-round and they want to make California their winter work base. The Laytonville park is definitely serving that objective this winter.

As you drive along Harwood Road, you can see the progress being made on the mound of dirt on the left hand side of the road. Daily, the backhoe digs, forms are placed, cement is poured, and curves are smoothed. It's getting easier to visualize the final structure.

"It's tangible now," Spence said with conviction. "People realize they're not just throwing their money into the bottomless pit of a dream." Jayma Spence added, "We've been able to see the vision and the big picture, and it's convincing everybody else. We're serious. It really is happening. It's really exciting!"

The skateboard park is located on Harwood Road before you get to Harwood Memorial Park. The plan is to have it open this spring. "Maybe April or May," assured the Spences.

Visit their Facebook page at "Laytonville SkatePark Project" for current information, to make a donation, and to see which Laytonville businesses and individuals have donated lunch or treats for the construction crew lately. To purchase T-shirts, hoodies or onesies with the Laytonville Skate Park logos, to benefit the skate park project, visit www.lvsa.storenvy.com.

The rest of
Edie
From Page 3

longevity. "I had the pleasure of doing Edie's hair for a number of years. She always said that glass of wine with dinner helped with her staying so young. She walked to get her hair done even when she was almost 100, all the way from the Brookside School area, and with heels on, mind you."

Throughout the birthday lunch, people offered kind words and stories about their times with Edie. Much of her surviving family attended, although she, even being the eldest sibling, survived her six brothers and sisters. Even those who couldn't attend expressed their love.

"When she was close to 100," said Angela Greystar, "she used to pass our house on her daily walk through the neighborhood. The kids and I were usually on our front deck, making art, so she'd come up our walkway for a little rest, refreshment, and a neighborly chat. She was always nicely dressed with hair and makeup in place, a proper hat for the sun, heels of course (because she was always going dancing later), and a cheerful smile."

Nici Caldwell, who used to be her neighbor on West Mendocino Avenue, said: "I got to know her when she was 103, still pulling weeds in the front yard, driving to the weekly dance. One day, our gazebo garage blew over onto her car. She came knocking at our door and stated that we would be driving her to her hairdresser appointment. She hoisted herself into our lifted Suburban and waited for us to get in and take her."

After a pink-decorated lunch (her favorite color), Lee Persico, her second cousin, began the testimonials by thanking his wife, Evelyn, who has been "Edie's emissary for the last 10 years." He then read a proclamation from State Senator Mike McGuire, a Certificate of Recognition to: "Edith Recagno Keenan Ceccarelli on your 112th birthday. It is a remarkable accomplishment, more so by your enduring independence and engagement in life. The world has undergone spectacular changes over the last 112 years, and you have been a witness and a participant in it all. We celebrate you and a life well-lived and wish you continued good health and good fortune."

Next a representative from Congressman Jared Huffman's office offered a "Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition." Edie seemed to remain unfazed by the legislative star power offered to her, preferring to enjoy her pink cupcakes. Third District Supervisor John Haschack then extended a proclamation from all the county supervisors, followed by Willits Mayor Gerry Gonzalez, who labeled her "our own Energizer Bunny."

Once the dignitaries were finished with their proclamations, audience members were invited to share any stories or remembrances. Chuck Persico, Lee's brother, explained how they were related.

[Tana Craighead], who has been her girlfriend and travelling and dancing companion since Edie was 92, told of how they had met at St. Anthony's Wine Fest: "We ended up going to Las Vegas. We walked around town all day. I was exhausted, but she wanted to keep going and go out to dinner and dancing. When she was 103, she came down to Cabo San Lucas to visit me. We had a birthday party on the beach. They still exhibit her photo at the senior center there. She made quite an impression."

After blowing out her birthday candles with the help of her fifth-generation cousins, Kadence and Kameron Lopez, Edie said to Willits Weekly: "God bless everybody here. All these beautiful people, lots and lots of people, celebrating me. I love it all."



Savings Bank donation program reaches \$100,000 milestone

Submitted by Savings Bank of Mendocino County

Savings Bank of Mendocino County employees kicked off their 2020 “Casual for a Cause – Denim Days” fundraising program by celebrating its \$100,000+ donation milestone!

“Inspired by the results of our ongoing program since 2012, we set a goal early on to surpass the \$100,000 donation milestone by the end of 2019,” said Katie Kight, Savings Bank director of marketing and community outreach. “It didn’t surprise me when we reached this goal; our employees take great pride in giving back to our community. As a fun way to celebrate, we distributed 100 Grand chocolate bars to each employee.”

On Fridays and Saturdays, you’ll see Savings Bank employees dressed in denim jeans in support of a variety of non-profit organizations in Lake and Mendocino counties which support our local youth, senior citizens, those in need, the arts, education, public safety, and economic development.

In 2019 the following organizations received a portion of the \$11,670 annual donations made through this fundraising program: Lakeport Volunteer Firefighters Association, National Alliance on Mental Illness – Mendocino Chapter, Mendo Shelter Pets

Rescue, Lake Pillsbury Volunteer Fire Department, Mendocino County Search and Rescue, NCO’s Caring Kitchen Project, Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Boys & Girls Club of Ukiah, Lake County Animal Care & Control, Hospice of Ukiah and Ploshares Meals-On-Wheels Program.

“Thank you for your support” wrote Liz Elmore, Boys & Girls Club of Ukiah CEO. “Your support helps kids have the opportunity to participate in programs that help them realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.”

“With your support we are able to provide support, education and advocacy to people in our community with mental health challenges and their families,” wrote NAMI Treasurer Gladys Telschow. “Thank you for joining us in our mission.”

“We truly appreciate the generosity of Savings Bank and of the staff,” wrote Janet Denninger, Hospice of Ukiah administrator. “The generosity supports our vital services and makes it possible for us to continue to be available to everyone in need of our help.”

As the local community bank, Savings Bank is proud of the tradition of giving back to their communities and the community support and volunteer time that their employees provide.



Savings Bank of Mendocino County and its employees, including the Ukiah branch, above, left, and Willits, above, have contributed over \$100,000 to local non-profit organizations.

CASUAL FOR A CAUSE Denim Days

CELEBRATING

\$100,000

Donated by SBMC Employees and the Bank

Beautiful Avery

Meet Avery! Avery is a beautiful gray long-hair adult female. Avery was born around January 1, 2020, making her 8 years old. Avery loves to play with the puff ball on the end of her tail and will love to hang out with you in her condo when you visit.

Avery came to us February 4, 2018. She has been waiting for the perfect family to adopt her and take her home. Could this be you? Come meet Avery and let’s find out!



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is located at 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Please give us a call at 707-485-0123 if you have questions. You can view all our adoptable dogs and cats on Petfinder, on our Facebook page, or through our website: mendohumanesociety.com. To volunteer, or to help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSIMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN DISHES - PREPARED FRESH DAILY

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER

FAMILY OWNED WITH RECIPES PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS!

166 S. MAIN ST WILLITS, CA (707) 459-5702

MON - SAT: 10 AM - 8:30 PM

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

SELLING LOCAL PRODUCT FROM LOCAL GROWERS

Are you a local farmer? Contact us! We want your goods on the shelf!

Chocolate & Sweet Edibles

Tinctures & Juices

\$6 PRE-ROLLS

Lotions & Topicals

Cartridges & More

Taxes* | Investments | Insurance

Real Estate* | Payroll & Bookkeeping*

Nicholas Casagrande, EA

855.240.6606

675 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490
105 W Clay St, Ukiah, CA 95482

nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com
nicholas.casagrande@ceterafs.com**

NC Financial Group

EA # 00105934 • CA DRE # 01854336 • CA Insurance LIC # 0H68496
Advisory services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC (doing insurance business in CA as CFGS Insurance Agency), member FINRA/SIPC. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity. *These services are not offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC **Investment email

YES

WILLITS HAS A DISPENSARY!

WE'RE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT YOKUM'S BODY SHOP IS NOW CARSTAR YOKUM'S BODY SHOP!

SAME GREAT PEOPLE WITH A FRESH NEW LOOK, STILL FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1982.

CARSTAR YOKUM'S BODY SHOP
1619 S MAIN STREET
WILLITS, CA 95490
707-459-9385

CARSTAR UKIAH - YOKUM'S BODY SHOP
550 TALMAGE RD
UKIAH, CA 95482
707-462-6636

CARSTAR
Auto Body Repair Experts

VISIT US JUST ACROSS THE STREET FROM BROWN'S CORNER

1788 SOUTH MAIN ST. IN WILLITS

707-459-4200

Kure Wellness

OPEN DAILY: 10 AM TO 7 PM

KUREMENDOCINO.COM

707-459-9116

277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA

24-HOUR RADIO DISPATCHED TOWING