

FEMA Disaster Relief Center at community center

Mathew Caine
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“FEMA has come to Willits to establish a disaster recovery center to assist people who have been damaged by the flooding and storm events of the last three or four weeks,” stated Patrick Boland, public information officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“A national disaster declaration was granted to the state of California by the president,” said Boland. “Mendocino County has been added to that declaration so that individuals who have suffered losses or damage to property, renters included, are eligible for

Read the rest of **FEMA**

Over on Page 10

Work on Brooktrails fire assessment study ongoing

Barbara O'Reardon
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The Brooktrails Township Board of Directors met on February 14 at 7 pm. Present were: Directors Ralph Santos, Ed Horrick, Joanne Cavallari, Board President Rick Williams and Township Counsel Chris Neary. Director Tina Tyler O'Shea had informed the board in advance that she was not going to be able to attend.

Director Santos announced that the Mendocino Association of Fire Districts was set to meet for a regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting on February 15 in Boonville, and he was planning to attend via zoom.

General Manager Tamara Alaniz reported that the Brooktrails Fire Department's much-anticipated new squad vehicle's development is on schedule for a March delivery.

Alaniz also reported that the work with SBI Consulting to develop an engineered study for a fire assessment was near completion, but still ongoing. “We did have a draft copy of the study and had some changes that needed to be made,” she said. “We expect that the board will have [the updated draft] to review in March with a goal of getting the assessment resolution at the April 11 meeting.”

The Brooktrails Fire Department has also hired

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**

Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Rainbow carrots from Mariposa Market made the Rainbow Soup even more colorful. Maybe the best part of the soup? Smelling the sautéing onions, shallots and garlic together. Tomatoes, greens and colorful veggies make this a totally non-boring vegetable soup. Below: Eat the rainbow ... zucchini, celery, basil, carrot, shallot, tomatoes, sweet potato, rainbow chard, garlic, parsley, potatoes, parsley, asparagus, and corn ... we didn't want to add any blueberries.



Rainbow Veggie Refrigerator Soup

Whether it's the store's refrigerator, or your refrigerator, most any assortment of veggies will do to make this delicious meal

Refrigerator Soup is more of a soup-making concept than a recipe, but with a few guidelines. Basically, it's a great way to use up whatever is floating around the fridge, pantry, farmers market or supermarket and turn it into a tasty meal.

It's the process which yields the success. Mandatory ingredients include what the French call “mirepoix” (meer-uh-pwah) which is onion, celery and carrot. This is the base to any good soup ... well, to most anything, but soup, indeed. Add garlic to that, and you're really in business.

Chopping the aromatics (onions and garlic) first, and sautéing them in olive oil until browned is essential for developing delicious flavor. Here's the place to add in some shallot to the mix, too.

Then, it's time to add the hard, longer-cooking veggies: This includes sweet and fingerling potatoes and carrots. Then pour

in liquid to cover the contents of the pot by a few inches. This can be stock, broth, or even just water.

Hardy herbs and spices come next, fresh-chopped rosemary, sage, peppercorns, salt, garlic powder, and dried oregano are all good options.

Once the liquid boils, and hard veggies soften after 15 minutes or so, add in the soft veggies and leafy greens (zucchini, rainbow chard, corn, asparagus), and simmer another few minutes until cooked, but still colorful. Chickpeas, beans, yams, squash, green beans, or green peas would all also be tasty additions.

Lastly, add delicate fresh herbs like parsley and basil and top with Parmesan cheese if you're feeling feisty. Serve and enjoy!

— Maureen Jennison



At top: Step 10: Gather a sprig or two of still-hanging-in-there sage and rosemary from the garden by flashlight since you forgot to pick it during the daylight hours. Above: Some low-sodium vegetable broth provides added flavor instead of just water, but fear not, just water will do just fine, too.



Above, from left: Don't worry – greens always cook way down. To make easy work of cutting unruly or large, flat leafy greens, lay the leaves atop one another like pancakes, then roll, and slice crossways (like cutting cinnamon rolls or sushi), and you're rewarded with lovely ribbons of greens – called cutting “chiffonade.” All the chopped vegetables look lovely mixed in the pot. The “Smash Test” is an easy way to tell if the first group of added veggies are ready – just spoon out a potato or carrot and try to mush it on the cutting board with the spoon. If it smooshes, you're ready. Below: From spoon to bowl, the Rainbow Soup is ready to serve.

BOS to ask state AG about federal legality of pot program

Forrest Glyer
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Towards the end of a February 7 meeting heavily focused on cannabis issues, the county Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to direct County Counsel Christian Curtis to inquire with the California State Attorney General to get some assurance on the federal legality of their Cannabis Equity Grant program.

Those equity grants come from a state originated and funded program, and have been in effect for around 18 months now in the county. The stated intention of that program is to provide funding to help those impacted by the “war on drugs” transition to becoming legally licensed cannabis operators.

Based on the February 7 BOS discussion, it seems Counsel Curtis issued an official legal opinion to the board which raised alarm with some supervisors about potential repercussions from the federal government, although what that legal opinion from Curtis specifically says is not available for public viewing.

Read the rest of **Program**

Over on Page 11

COVID emergency orders to end February 28

Margi Gomez Guhde
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Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren and Mendocino County Social Services Deputy Director Rachel Ebel-Elliott were both featured at Public Health's monthly press conference on Friday, February 17.

Dr. Coren spoke to general Public Health issues, but also to the expiration of both the county and state Health Emergency COVID orders, which end on February 28.

Dr. Coren reported that all respiratory infection rates have decreased for all age groups compared to last month. Numbers of combined respiratory infection deaths have fallen dramatically since the highest rates in 2020-21, and hospitalization rates are down as well, with influenza and RSV rates falling almost to zero.

Although there is likely an underestimation due to a reduction in testing data, Coren stated that COVID cases in California have now passed the 12 million mark. Test positivity has

Read the rest of **COVID**

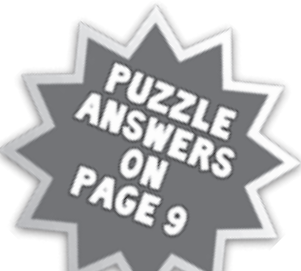
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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Intermediate



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

SLOW COOKING WORD SEARCH

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

APPLIANCE	DIGITAL	LOW	SETTING
CHILIS	EVENING	MEALS	SLOW
COMBINE	FLAVOR	MOIST	SOUPS
COOKWARE	HEARTY	POT	STEW
COUNTERTOP	HEAT	QUARTS	TENDERIZING
CROCK	INGREDIENTS	SET	UNATTENDED

	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			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Sea grape
5. European public health group (abbr.)
9. A way to delight
11. Appetizers
13. Ancient heralds' wands
15. Make a booking
16. '___ death do us part
17. Pearl Jam frontman
19. Spider genus
21. Fill with high spirits
22. A major division of geological time
23. Catch
25. An independent ruler or chieftain
26. Electronic music style (abbr.)
27. Influential Spanish cubist painter
29. Illegally persuades
31. A way to derive
33. British School
34. Appear alongside
36. Surely (archaic)
38. Harsh cry of a crow
39. A day in the middle

41. Kansas hoops coach Bill
43. The longest division of geological time
44. The first sign of the zodiac
46. Appetizer
48. Link together in a chain
52. A bacterium
53. In a way, forces apart
54. Cheese dish
56. Combines
57. In an inferior way
58. Colors clothes
59. Dried-up

CLUES DOWN

1. Gastropods
2. Confusing
3. Romanian monetary unit
4. The rate at which something proceeds
5. A prosperous state of well-being
6. Asked for forgiveness
7. Makes less soft
8. Part of speech
9. Outside

10. Advice or counsel
11. Badness
12. Protein-rich liquids
14. Not moving
15. Call it a career
16. Poetry term
20. Not wide
24. Pastries
26. Turns away
28. Satisfies
30. Gift adornments
32. San Diego ballplayers
34. Manufacturing plant
35. Check or guide
37. Dogs do it
38. Chilled
40. Scorch
42. Unproductive of success
43. Electronic counter-countermeasures
45. Attack with a knife
47. Feel bad for
49. Enclosure
50. Assert
51. Geological times
55. Midway between east and southeast

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

January 29 to February 5

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **90 incidents** in this 8-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

January 29

11:02 am: **GONZALEZ, Enrique** (45) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to felony charges of 368 PC (Elder Abuse).

2:05 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 300 block of East Commercial Street and issued a citation.

3:30 pm: **CURTIS, Rickie Allen** (49) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

7:00 pm: **GRUBER, Julius Eugene** (60) of Laytonville was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation and failure to appear.

January 30

11:50 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

7:42 pm: **GARMAN, Corey Cristin** (39) of Ukiah was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition by a prohibited person, carrying a prohibited concealed weapon, carrying a loaded handgun (not registered owner), possession of a controlled substance while armed with a loaded firearm, and unlawful possession of tear gas, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance, violation of probation, and failure to appear.

7:42 pm: **CZYZEWSKI, Misty Ann** (35) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of carrying a loaded handgun (not registered owner), and possession of a controlled substance while armed with a loaded firearm, and on misdemeanor charges of carrying a concealed weapon in a vehicle, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

9:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

January 31

3:39 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

5:32 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation near mile marker 52 Highway 101.

8:15 pm: **AITON Jr., Rodney Andrew** (31) of Blue Lake was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of carrying a concealed dirk or dagger and failure to appear.

Eureka man booked after fire at Ukiah auto body

By Sgt. M. Vazquez for MCSO

On February 17, 2023 at approximately 10:58 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to an alarm call at G&C Auto Body located at 51 Kunzler Ranch Road in Ukiah.

Shortly after, the alarm company called into the business, and a male subject answered the phone stating he needed help. When deputies arrived, they observed apparent evidence that someone had broken into the business. Deputies looked inside the business and observed at least five separate small fires inside.

Deputies also observed a male subject, later identified as Benjamin Dimmick, 26, from Eureka, standing inside the business next to the fires, attempting to light another fire.

Dimmick had barricaded some of the

11:22 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and South Main Street and issued a citation.

February 1

12:48 am: **HAMMOND, Shelby Denise** (41) of Fort Bragg was contacted near the intersection of Blosser Lane and West Highway 20. She was arrested on felony charges of elder abuse resulting in great bodily harm or death, and on misdemeanor charges of violation of a protective order.

6:59 pm: **HAKE, Chad Tyler** (34) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block of Coast Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of burglary tools and appropriating lost property.

11:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

February 2

5:47 pm: **CORTEZ, Martin Anthony** (31) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of School Street following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery).

8:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:54 pm: **SANDERS, Jason Robert** (41) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a report of a suspicious vehicle. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

February 3

8:15 pm: **RAMOS, Todd Refino** (51) of Ukiah was contacted in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive. He was arrested on felony charges of carrying a concealed dirk or dagger and unlawful possession of tear gas, and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license.

February 4

12:34 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 600 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

1:00 am: **SHORT, Britany Lea** (33) of Covelo was contacted in the 300 block of Sherwood Road. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher, and a penalty for a second offense within 10 years with prior convictions for DUI.

9:29 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

February 5

9:34 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

8:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

doors and refused to come to the front door when verbally asked to do so. Dimmick had locked himself inside the business and was refusing all verbal requests to comply.

Deputies without hesitation had to force their way into the burning building while trying to apprehend Dimmick.

Dimmick was ultimately taken into custody and pulled out of the burning building which quickly filled with heavy smoke as the fire began to spread.

Deputies deployed their fire extinguishers in an attempt to extinguish the fire until Ukiah Valley Fire Personnel arrived on scene for further suppression efforts.

While on scene MCSO deputies learned

Read the rest of Arrest Over on page 11



able to share a few anecdotes about the move Annie and I made from San Jose to Bell Springs Road, more than 40 years ago. Much thanks to all who had a part in making this community event happen."

– Mark O'Neill

"Yesterday I had the deep joy of attending the first in a three-part series of events at the museum in Willits entitled 'Cannabis in Mendocino County: Our Story.' Pops and I sat on the panel for 'Back to the Land Generational Storytelling,' along with Don and Chiah Rodriques and Emmy Good.

"The event is in conjunction with the life work of Richard Jergenson cataloging and archiving the counterculture. Thanks to Museum Administrator Karen Mattson and the museum for holding the space and history of Mendocino County!" Going to the panel with Pops was a special experience that we shared, and I will never forget.



Submitted by Kim Pinson

The Pinson family, working together with the California 4-H Foundation, has created the Kyle "Colton" Pinson Memorial Scholarship.

As many of you know, 4-H was an integral part of Colton's life. He acquired lifelong skills through the many projects he participated in. We spent many weekends on the road to shows, fairs, presentation days, state field days, or project exhibits of many types.

Colton enjoyed every aspect of learning new skills, joining group projects, and being a junior or teen leader mentoring others. He loved the competition of showing against others, but also enjoyed working with his competitors on projects and special ideas that popped up. Colton enjoyed meeting others with the same interests and acquired many friends throughout Mendocino County, California, and across the United States.

Colton understood the financial investment of furthering his education and how scholarships were a means to help with those

'Cannabis in Mendocino County - Our Story' at the Museum in Willits

Submitted by Annie Waters, Counter Culture Museum and Archive

Thank you to the "Back to the Land" storytellers who spoke at the Mendocino County Museum on Saturday, February 11, during the "Cannabis in Mendocino County - Our Story" gallery show.

Here are some of their comments:

"This was a dream come true for me today! Seems like it had all been culminating to this moment. It was extremely special for me to sit next to my dad and talk about our lives and back to the land experience. I sat on a panel today for the Counterculture Exhibit on Back to The Land and with my father, Don Rodriques, Casey O'Neill and Mark O'Neill, and Emmy Good.

"The Willits Museum is hosting this exhibit along with some panels on counterculture like March 4 for tourism! Thanks to Richard Jergenson and Anne Waters for putting this all together and shining a light on the real amazing history of Mendocino County!

– Chiah Rodriques

"Don't miss the cannabis exhibit at our Mendocino County Museum. It is the history that has helped create this very special place we back to the landers chose as home."

– Emmy Good

"Saturday's 'Back to the Land' panel at the Willits Museum was too cool for words. They had to tear the paper off the wall to make room for all the people in the hall. I felt honored to be

"I love hearing stories of the early days of our homestead, and I find in myself a joy at hearing the tales from elders of their arrival here in Mendocino County, and of the shared efforts in community and homestead building. The older I get the more I treasure the elders, deepening into a respect for the past and an appreciation for the stories they have to tell.

"Living in community fosters a transmission of knowledge down through generations. Respect for our elders creates fertile ground for learning, and I am grateful for the time that so many have spent to offer lessons to me over the years. A hearty "Thank you!" to the elders, some gone on and many still willing to share.

"The event yesterday was a mix of poignant moments, hilarious anecdotes, stories of shared efforts and the trials and tribulations that came with homesteading here in the era of CAMP.

"One of the main commonalities I find in the back-to-the-land generation is that they came here because it is a special place that allowed for connection to the land and freedom of expression in many forms. Cannabis was an integral part of the experience, but it wasn't the driving force that it became later.

"In the early days, cannabis was a means to an end, a way for people to be on the land and earn some income to help support the homestead, as were the many other undertakings. Some were tradespeople, some developed other skills, some had town jobs, all in service to the budding homestead, family and community."

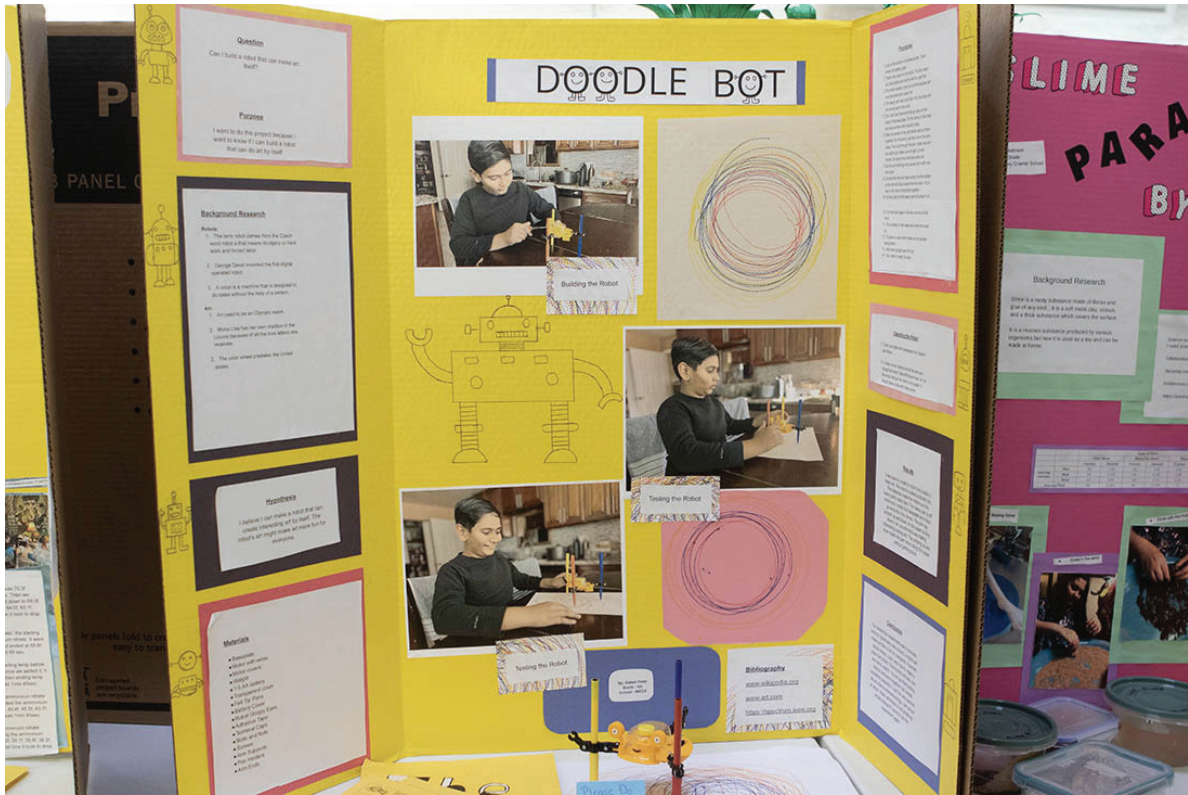
"I carry in my memory and psyche the lessons of the elders, and I am glad for the reminders that they offer. As always, much love and great success to you on your journey!"

– Casey O'Neill, HappyDay Farms

Thank you to the Mendocino County Museum for making space and time for this exhibit of our county stories from the past. "Cannabis in Mendocino County - Our Story" will be on display until March 19 in the Long Gallery. Annie Waters and Richard Jergenson of the Counter Culture Museum and Archive will be present on Wednesdays and Saturdays to offer personal tours.

Thank you Mendocino, for visiting the County Museum – a treasure that deserves your attention!





At far left: This young lad created a machine to make doodles.

At left, top: Tim Hanna has been judging exhibits along with his wife since about 1990.

At left: Erin Vaccaro, science teacher, education director, and academic counselor at Willits Charter School, facilitates the Willits Science Fair.



Photos by Mathew Caine

2023 Mendocino County Science and Engineering Fair Qualifiers

Class A – Scientific Inquiry Projects – Elementary School (Grades 3-5)

Life Science, Grades 3-4

Amiel Hult; Grade 3, Blosser Lane Elementary School, What is the most important plant food?

Aybrie Whitehurst; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, The Purr-fur-ed Cat Toy

Annales Wolf; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Roots Up, Roots Down, Roots All Around

Physical Science, Grades 3-4

Camdyn Hughes Ward; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, The ∞ Race

Estella Sims; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Bubble Trouble

Xiana Vigil; Grade 4, Homeschool, Curl Power

Earth / Space / Technology, Grades 3-4

Saya Simonis; Grade 3, Sherwood School, Crystal Formations

Seona Slater; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Our Eroding Planet

Irene Weatherhead; Grade 4, Willits Elementary Charter School, Trash Trove

Life Science, Grade 5

Lucia Button; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Generation Fear

Cayleigh Balthrop; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Plating Pro

Jameson Matheson; Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary School, What Kind of Mask is best for the OR?

Penny Morgan; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Painful Distraction

Physical Science, Grade 5

Raylan Bartow; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Airborne

Aurora Beebe; Grade 5, Willits

Elementary Charter School, Recipe for a Good Thaw

James Mattson; Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary School, Taste of Salt

Wyatt Wolf; Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School, Hoverpower

Class A – Scientific Inquiry Projects – Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Life Science A (Biology, Botany, Zoology, Microbiology, Biochemistry)

Ilana Evans and Jade Mueller; Grade 6, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Finding Bat Species Through Sounds

Madison Lawrence; Grade 6, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Pick a Hoof

Liliana Schneider-Elliott; Grade 6, Willits Charter School, Liquid Switch Up

Life Science B (Medicine, Health, Behavior, and Social Sciences)

Alihna Diaz, Angelina Leyva, and Eliseo

Nunez Lopez; Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Popcorn

Amelia Franco, Chloe Wright, and Abigail Sherf; Grade 8, Willits Charter School, Brand vs. Off Brand

Mariah Lavine, Dulce Angulo, and Irene Almonte; Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Psychotic Mnemonics

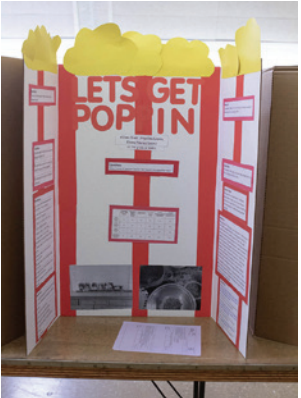
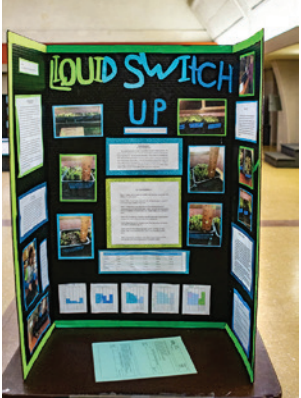
Timothy Southwick, Sofia Vaccaro, and Kendra Mottern; Grade 8, Willits Charter School, Boo!

Physical Science (Physics, Chemistry, Aerodynamics / Hydrodynamics, Electronics and Electromagnets, Mathematics, Software and Computer Science)

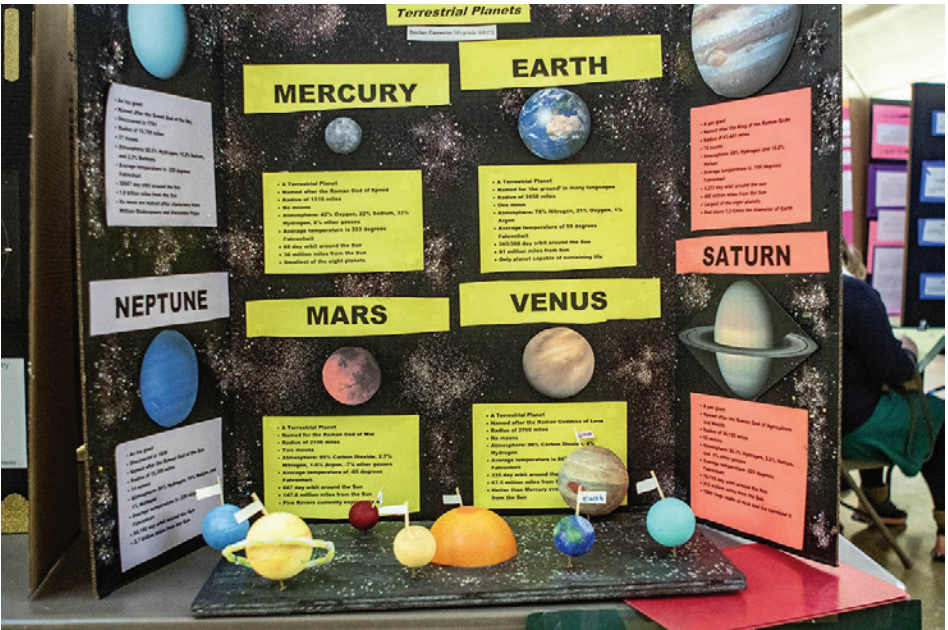
Logan Devine; Grade 8, Willits Charter School, Life Beyond the Trash

Presley Tuttle; Grade 8, Baechtel Grove

Read the rest of **Science** Over on page 9



At far left: This project was an exploration of various liquids that can be used to water plants. At left: "Let's Get Poppin'" explores the properties of buttered popcorn, such as "Does buttered popcorn leave less unpopped kernels?" At right: Working in pairs, judges Erin Vaccaro and Suzanne Matheson, consult on some of the projects. Far right: The question, "What is the biggest fear of kids 5 to 11?" is asked in this experiment. Below, left: Sarah France, dean of students at Willits Charter School, joins the judging. Below, right: Some of the exhibits concentrate on colorful presentations of their data.



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CIVIL & GEOTECHNICAL
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LEGAL NOTICES

WW415 Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0051
The following people are doing business as Greenstone Landscapes, 6301 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owners: Johan and Erin Henckell, 6301 Ridgewood Road, Willits, CA 9549.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 30, 2008.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on January 27, 2023.
/s/ Johan Henckell
Publication dates: February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 2023

WW414 Fictitious Business Name Statement
2023-F0061
The following corporation is doing business as Rosco Transport, 7401 Lorene Road, Redwood Valley, CA 95470.
Registered owner: Rosco Corporation, 7401 Lorene Road, Redwood Valley, CA 95470.
This business is conducted by a corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 26, 2023.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 2, 2023.
/s/ Ross Mayfield III, CEO
Publication dates: February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 2023

WW417 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on that Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Willits City Council will conduct a Public Hearing at the Willits City Council Chambers, located at 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California on the following matter:
To conduct a bi-annual review of proposed changes and changes in City fees and to adopt a resolution establishing said fees and charges, effective April 1, 2023.
Information concerning the proposed fees and charges may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California.
All interested persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.
s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Publication Dates: February 23, March 2, 2023

WW416 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Willits City Council, at its regular meeting on March 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:
PROJECT: Conditional Use Permit No. U-21-01
REQUEST: To consider a Use Permit No. U-21-01 to allow for construction of a 400 sq. ft. single-family residence to serve as an accessory caretaker unit to an existing storage facility. The prefabricated modular home will be constructed upon an engineered foundation, and two new parking spaces will be designated.
LOCATION: In the City of Willits, positioned southside of Robert Drive, 431 feet west of its intersection with Blosser Lane, located at 325 Robert Drive; APN 006-200-12.
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Categorically Exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Sections 15303 (Class 3 - New Construction of Small Structures) and 15311 (Class 11 - Accessory Structures) of the CEQA Guidelines.
MEETING LOCATION: Council Chambers at City Hall; located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490.
HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the staff report and agenda will be available on the City's website at <http://ca-willits.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/City-Council1>.
•Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Taylor Perry, tperry@cityofwillits.org or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. All public comments received will be provided to the Council and uploaded to the City's website in advance of the meeting.
•Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in providing that reasonable accommodations are made to assure accessibility to the meeting.
/s/ Delores Pedersen, City Clerk
Publication Date: February 23, 2023

Earth and Space Science (Geology, Astronomy, Ecology, Atmospheric Science, Environmental Science)
Bryan Bowles; Grade 8, Sherwood School, Sampling the Elements
Mia Chavez; Grade 7, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Dangerous Waters
Zoeanna Gallups; Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Flood Prevention
Aiden Jones and Davin Swensen; Grade 6, Baechtel Grove Middle School, Phantom Energy
Class A – Scientific Inquiry Projects – High School (Grades 9-12)
Life Science A (Biology, Botany, Zoology, Microbiology, Biochemistry)
Triniti Alvarez-Wilburn; Grade 10, Willits Charter School, The Best Hand Cleaner
Life Science B (Medicine, Health, Behavior, and Social Sciences)

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Mendocino County invites applications for:
Administrative Assistant
\$44,324 - \$53,872
Auditor/Appraiser
\$67,828 - \$82,451
Corrections Deputy
\$54,184 - \$65,873
Custodian
\$37,544 - \$43,472
Department Analyst I
\$59,300 - \$72,092
Deputy District Attorney I/II/III
\$74,921 - \$120,411
Deputy Probation Officer I & II
\$51,937 - \$69,617
Deputy Public Defender I/II
\$74,921 - \$103,168
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
\$62,628 - \$87,214
Juvenile Corrections Officer
\$50,710 - \$61,630
Juvenile Corrections Officer – Extra-Help
\$24.38 hourly
Legal Secretary II
\$44,304 - \$53,851
Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist
\$56,825 - \$69,076
Network Systems Analyst I
\$74,443 - \$90,459
Payroll Manager
\$84,032 - \$102,148
Public Safety Dispatcher
\$53,102 - \$64,542
Senior Auditor/Appraiser
\$74,942 - \$91,083
Supervising Permit Technician
\$63,689 - \$77,417
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www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca
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CLASSIFIEDS

Car for Sale
2001 Hyundai Elantra. Not pretty, but dependable. \$1,200. Clear title. 707-459-2724. Please leave a message.
Computer Help
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearhail@gmail.com
Firewood for Sale
Fir, \$250/Cord; Oak, \$350/Cord; Kindling. Free delivery near Willits. \$45 delivery near Ukiah. Call (707) 456-0270 or (707) 354-2244
For Rent
Clean Studio Apt. for rent, upstairs unit, W/D Facility on hand; garbage paid. Close to downtown. \$750.00 per mo. Armo 707-459-9601.
For Rent
Cabin for Rent on Eel River 15 miles NE of Willits. \$1200/mo + utilities. Wifi available. 1 bedroom+. Cats or small dog OK. References please. 707-228 6225.
For Sale
Manufactured Home For Sale. To be moved. 2022 manufactured home double-wide two-bedroom two-bath. 935 ft located in Willits. \$79,500. Call 559-999-5080.
Classified ads are just \$15 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

Have You Had a Spiritual Experience?
Join us for a lively discussion on spiritual experiences with a starter topic on dreams. Come share or just listen! Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, Saturday, March 11, 2023, 10 to 11 am.
John Ford Ranch Beef
John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$375.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$160.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459-5049.
Room for Rent
Room for Rent. Must work, have references. No pets. No drugs. \$600 including utilities. Available now. 707-354-0287.
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) 972-4696. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/lp>
Willits Food Bank Open
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food in the Willits area. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits CA 95490 – knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food distribution is available at the back door on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.



Photos by Mathew Caine



From far left: The California Department of Social Services and the Mendocino County Dual Response Unit share a table. Oscar Salvatier of FEMA is responsible as task force lead for the Disaster Recovery Center. Public Information Officers Cynthia Cowell and Patrick Boland of the SBA and FEMA are available to answer questions.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church

2201 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first
and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Church of Christ

"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-
6-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-
7-8:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

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- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?
Call 530-224-8703
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church

Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Modified Worship Service
10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended
for now.
For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandumadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252
Sunday Mass inside:
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brunette

St. John Lutheran Church

Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Church

Labyrinth and Peace Garden
A place to find comfort
where all are welcome
Pastor Rosemary Landry
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@willitsonline.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook willits umc

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

The rest of FEMA From page 1

assistance if they have losses related to the storm. FEMA is providing financial assistance."

The agency originally set up their Disaster Relief Center, operating out of their mobile unit, at the Willits Library parking lot, prior to installing their facilities and those of several other federal, state and county agencies in the Willits Community Center. They were scheduled to stay as long as needed by the community.

"So far, we have over 100 registrations since we started this last week," continued Boland. "We also have what we call Disaster Survivor Assistance teams that are out walking the neighborhoods and trying to meet people where they are, in the places that were affected."

"One of the issues with this disaster is that it's not easy to see the damages because it's not widespread like a hurricane or tornado or fire. If we can get a couple hundred people signed up for assistance, that would be a big success. We have these centers set up all across the state. The city is a big part of this. The city and county really supports us."

"FEMA assistance is needs-based," Boland explained. "If you have housing needs, that's important. We can also help with other needs like medical support if they need dental or medical care if they've been displaced from their homes. We look for ways to provide whatever needs assistance they require."

FEMA provides financial assistance in the form of grants to help make people whole after disasters and can do so within days of applications. Manufactured housing takes much longer due to availability and regulations.

The Small Business Administration is partnering with FEMA to provide low-interest loans to individuals and businesses affected by

floods and other disasters. They can assist with loans for those who either cannot get a FEMA grant or who might need funding over the FEMA limits.

"We work hand-in-hand quite often with FEMA," explained Small Business Administration Public Information Officer Cynthia Cowell. "You need to register with FEMA and then a home owner or renter may be referred to SBA for disaster assistance. We offer low-interest government loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profits, home owners and renters."

"For home owners, we can lend up to \$200,000 to repair or replace your primary residence. It does not apply to vacation homes or hunting lodges. If you have a grandma house in the back, the resident is able to get assistance."

"Renters," said Cowell, "are eligible to get up to \$40,000 to replace personal property, which is anything you would take with you when you move."

"For businesses, we can lend up to \$2,000,000 for inventory, fixtures, etc. Also, for economic losses. You may have a business that wasn't damaged. You would still be eligible for economic losses, for example, your road is closed and people can't get to your business or your customers had to evacuate. You would apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan. We look at the businesses' last three years of revenue to determine how much of a loss they have taken," Cowell said.

In addition to the above-mentioned agencies, several state and county entities are also available at the Disaster Recovery Center to assist with various specific needs. The California Department of Insurance has a representative. The California Department of Housing and Community Development is there to help replace manufactured housing.

The California Department of Public Health

can replace lost or damaged birth, death, or marriage certificates. The Unemployment Division of the Employment Development Department is there to aid those whose workplaces have been rendered unusable. The United States Department of Agriculture has a home repair loan and grant program.

The National Flood Insurance Program can help with Hazard Mitigation Flood Insurance. The Franchise Tax Board is able to provide copies of tax documents that may have been destroyed or lost and advice on how to claim disaster losses on returns. The Contractors State License Board is on hand to give advice on hiring contractors to perform repairs.

The Dual Response Mobile Crisis Unit, out of Willits, is designed to assist other agencies, i.e., law enforcement in the case of mental-health crises. The California Department of Social Service can provide a supplemental grant to the FEMA grant. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration will work with businesses that need tax extensions due to disasters. The Department of Motor Vehicles can replace licenses and IDs at no cost and junk out vehicles if they are considered a total loss.

All of these agencies are currently under one roof at the Willits Community Center and will remain for as long as people are coming in for relief and information, tentatively February 24. The Community Center is open from 9 am to 7 pm daily. FEMA can also be reached at 800-621-3362, from 8 am to 7 pm, seven days a week, or at www.fema.gov/assistance.

Although FEMA is under the Homeland Security Department, they operate with a firewall between themselves and other agencies. No information is shared. The Small Business Administration can be contacted through www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance or 800-659-2955.



At left, top: Prior to moving into the Disaster Recovery Center at the Willits Community Center, FEMA had their mobile unit at the Willits Library. At left: Sylvia and Kay, of Hazard Mitigation, are prepared to answer any questions and help fill out the proper forms.



At top: Several agencies are available to answer questions, help fill out forms, and to point residents to the proper agencies. Above: Several federal, state and county agencies are represented in the Disaster Recovery Center at the Willits Community Center.

COVID-19 vaccines are here for children 6 months and older.

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We accept Medi-Cal, Medicare, Partnership and other insurance. SE HABLA ESPAÑOL.

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The rest of COVID From page 1

seen a slight increase, but there are no current COVID surges, and none are expected, at least through mid-March.

Case rates now correspond almost completely to age, with older groups most at risk, unlike former patterns which consistently reflected disparities due to inequities in race and ethnicity. Rates have risen slightly in southern and central California, in contrast to the northern part of the state.

Coren pointed out that although COVID reporting has declined, there are now more resources going to wastewater testing, which has become the most reliable early indicator for COVID outbreaks. Wastewater testing is currently taking place in Fort Bragg and Ukiah, and as resources become available and the technology improves, there are plans to increase wastewater testing across the county.

Coren said that all currently known COVID variants are sensitive to bivalent vaccines and boosters. Public Health continues to recommend that everyone receive their vaccines and boosters, as unvaccinated individuals are twice as likely to become ill from COVID, and three times more likely to die if they contract the disease.

Dr. Coren recommended testing before and after travel, along with masking in crowded places, to prevent COVID-19 and all other respiratory virus exposure. Free testing is available through the Department of Public Health by calling 800-232-0233, and free home tests are still available at many pharmacies.

Dr. Coren added that Paxlovid is advised if you do become ill with COVID, describing the anti-viral as safe and effective, reducing COVID's effects and its transmission. He shared the contact for a Federal hub called "Sesame Care," through which Californians are able to obtain Paxlovid for free. The phone number for Sesame Care is 800 232 0233, and the website address is www.sesamecare.com/covidCA

Social Services Deputy Director Rachel Ebel-Elliott reported on the end of COVID-19 flexibilities for both Cal-Fresh and Medi-Cal. She explained that Cal-Fresh allotments have more than tripled since 2019, largely due to rule changes stemming from the COVID emergency. Many Cal-Fresh clients have been receiving an extra Cal-Fresh emergency allotment, which will be ending in response to the official end to the pandemic.

The last benefit month for the extra allotment will be February, which will pay out in March. Ebel-Elliott recommends that clients with questions about the change in benefits call their local Social Services office, or contact their worker.

Medi-Cal allotments have remained the same since the COVID emergency began in 2020, regardless of household circumstances. This continuous coverage will end beginning this April. At that time the state will begin a full re-determination process, which will also include Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Mendocino County Social Services will run current household income data through the state system, and many households will automatically renew. Those determined to be no longer eligible will receive Notices of Action, with these benefits ending on June 30.

Deputy Director Ebel-Elliott emphasized the importance of contacting your Medi-Cal eligibility worker as soon as possible if your contact information has changed, to avoid losing benefits unnecessarily. She recommended consulting KeepMedicalCoverage.org for general information, and BenefitsCal.com to apply for Medi-Cal or maintain coverage. For questions about availability, contact Social Services at 707-463-7700 in Ukiah, 707-962-1000 in Fort Bragg, and 707-456-3850 in Willits.

During the Q&A, Dr. Coren clarified that the county's COVID dashboards will continue to be updated, despite reduced testing data and termination of the emergency health orders. He stated that as numbers of cases decrease, the bulk of the responsibility for treatment will transfer to patients and their doctors. He commented on the relatively high numbers of unvaccinated individuals in both Mendocino and Humboldt counties, and the higher rates of illness and death in those populations. He reiterated that vaccines and masking still provide the best defense against the virus, and that treatment with Paxlovid can decrease its intensity, duration, and spread.

Coren also addressed the substantial incidence of Long COVID, even in people who initially experienced mild COVID symptoms. He noted recent data indicating that Long COVID symptoms seem to decrease overall after the first year, but emphasized that there is still much to be learned.

County Social Services Deputy Director Ebel-Elliott advised Spanish-speakers that translators are available by appointment at Social Services, both in person and by phone. For those who believe they have received a Notice of Action in error, the best course of action is to call the number listed in the notice. She reiterated that people should be prepared to see changes in their Cal-Fresh allotments, and urged them to contact Social Services if their contact information has changed, concluding, "Keep an eye out for the bright yellow envelopes that will be coming your way."

Dr. Coren assured the public that Mendocino County Public Health will continue to keep the community informed on COVID and other health issues, stating that a significant corner has now been turned.

"As long as we don't see any more unusual variants, we are on track to resume our normal lives," he concluded. "Get your vaccinations and your boosters, and if you become infected, stay home and take Paxlovid. And if you are feeling well, know that the sun is out and the sky is blue, so get out there and enjoy life."

The February Mendocino County Media Hour is available to watch on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzyckBjIoSE>. The next Media Day will take place on March 17, 2023.

The rest of Brooktrails From page 1

a new firefighter, Alaniz said, "a person who was on the list for our last hire. He will be coming aboard on Monday, as one of our current firefighters is leaving and Friday is his last day."

The bill for the final wiring of the Primrose Lift Station is ready," the general manager reported. The cost was higher than initially anticipated for the panels and wiring. "We did get the entire building wired, inside and out, including the heating and air conditioning unit. We didn't just get the pump wired. We got the whole building wired inside and out. So, it's complete and we will be running a test on the pump station."

LAFCO (the Local Agency Formation Commission) has a vacant special district seat that needs to be filled since former Brooktrails board member Tony Orth had been the representative. Nominees must be board members and, Alaniz noted in asking board members to consider serving, nominations are due March 14.

The board then voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar and the February 15, 2023 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$90,467.72.

The rest of Program From page 1

Third District Supervisor John Haschak was the only one to vote against the motion on February 7, saying that he didn't want to waste more time or resources of county counsel on the federal legality issue.

Haschak did seem to be pleased that the board didn't go with one of the main options presented by Curtis – to spend \$25,000 of county funds for outside counsel to give an opinion on the matter.

In a "February Update" public letter he issued, he talked about the decision by the board.

"The majority of supervisors sided with me in not spending \$25,000 for outside counsel to tell us whether the Equity Grant the county has been administering for the last year and a half is breaking federal law," said Haschak. "This is a state-funded grant so if we are breaking federal law regarding cannabis activity, then everyone from the governor to every county accepting these funds is guilty (which I don't think is the case and isn't worth spending time or money trying to figure out). The others did want to send it off to the State Attorney General for an opinion which could take a year or so."

In addition to Haschak, cannabis attorney Hannah Nelson and others during Public Comments pushed against the idea of spending more resources on examining the federal legality of the grant program, saying it was unnecessary and somewhat bizarre to be looking into federal law more than six years after the passing of Proposition 64 which legalized recreational cannabis in the state – and more than five years after the county began its own cannabis program.

As she has at previous meetings, Nelson talked about a case she won in 1997, "People vs. Brown," which involved federal authorities trying to step in, where eventually the California Supreme Court ruled in her favor to return seized medical marijuana to a client.

"Every single court, including the California Supreme Court agreed not only that return of medical cannabis was not contraband at that point, but in addition that there was no problem with county personnel returning the seized evidence to the cannabis cultivator and possessor at that time," said Nelson. "Quite frankly this is a state-sanctioned lawful cannabis program funded by the state, and you guys pushing paper to approve the review of contracts from state money to the applicant does not make you a co-conspirator. It does not make you a participant in the cultivation."

However, Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams seemed intent on at least getting an opinion from the state AG, saying that based on that legal opinion from Curtis, they should at least look into it.

The reason why that legal opinion from Curtis is blocked from public access was not made entirely clear.

"It's hard to have the discussion because you haven't seen our existing opinion, and so I don't really know where to go from here," said Williams. "I don't like having that opinion on file and making decisions that are really counter to it."

"So I would rather have another opinion that tells us that was wrong," he added. "I don't think the issue is whether to participate in the equity program or whether the state's equity program violates federal law. I think it's specific to how the funds are allocated and maybe there's a difference between allocating for compliance of a regulated farm versus buying plants so they can expand."

Attorney Nelson pushed back on this point of view from Williams, saying that unlike Curtis, she is an "expert" in cannabis law and her opinion should be taken seriously.

"Just because you're county counsel isn't, doesn't mean you don't have the benefit of these specific experiences, and somebody who litigated these specific issues," said Nelson. "So that's what I'm offering you.... I can tell you that I do know these issues, and I have the specific 31-year history of litigating this stuff in federal courts, in Mendocino County court, and all the way up to the California Supreme Courts."

"So I'm not really sure why it is that that counts for nothing," she added. "I completely appreciate that I am not your attorney. I'm not. I'm just giving you free information. But that free information is based on a lot of experience and having litigated this specific issue. So it just seems a rather absurd thing to not accept that as a legitimate way of having something else in your file, so to speak."

At one point, Supervisor Williams put forward a motion that the legal opinion of Curtis be released to the public, but after hearing some pushback from Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulhern that the idea had already been discussed and voted down, he withdrew that motion.

Monique Ramirez, a longtime Third District cannabis farmer and advocate, did not mince words in describing what she saw as the absurdity of looking into the federal legality of cannabis in general at this point.

"I just think it's so ridiculous honestly that this is even an agenda item, that this is even coming up, all the time we're wasting on it," she said. "I'm glad to hear that it seems like the majority of the board does not want to continue pursuing it, but here's something I want to pursue. I want to understand why this even came up in the first place. Why was an opinion even asked for by our county counsel? Where did this all come from?"

"And I feel like there's something bigger at play here," she continued. "I feel like it's just another indicator that somebody or some people in our county government do not want to have a cannabis program that is functioning at all. This equity funding that we've started to see roll out and be given to applicants is helping them continue to stay in business, it's helping them basically pay back taxes that they may not have been able to pay otherwise. Everyone's benefitting from this."

"I would draw the delineation between that and our actual cannabis program and, quite honestly, you guys are in business with us," she added. "You're a business partner with me. And you want to know why? Because I give you 2.5% of my sales in taxes. So we're all in this together.... Let's just stop this nonsense. Can we?"

The frustrations of many in the cannabis community

about the ineffectiveness of Mendocino County's cannabis program seems to be coming to a head as of late.

The day after that February 7 BOS meeting, the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, which represents many local farmers, issued an announcement that they had sent a 16-page letter to the California governor and other state officials "documenting the county's failure to establish a process capable" of getting county applicants to the ultimate goal of state annual licenses for cannabis.

The MCA letter described the situation as the county cannabis industry being "on the brink of irreversible failure."

Among their numerous complaints is that only six cannabis farmers have been "transitioned to state annual licensure" in Mendocino so far, and that a plan by the Mendocino Cannabis Department to transition 256 "prioritized" operators by a July 1 state deadline likely won't succeed, and even if successful would still leave more than 500 other applicants without licenses.

According to a February 18 SFGate.com article, it seemed that MCA had not gotten much of a response from the state for their letter at that point.

"A spokesperson for [Governor] Newsom's office declined to confirm whether the governor received the [MCA] letter or plans to take any action on the farmers' behalf," the article stated. "David Hafner, a spokesperson for the [California Department of Cannabis Control], confirmed that they received MCA's letter and said the department is 'currently assessing all options' in how it can respond to Mendocino County."

Willits Library roof

During the Consent Calendar portion of that February 7 meeting, Supervisor Haschak pulled an item for discussion "to replace the Willits Branch Library's roof and install alternative energy panels and battery back-up in the amount of \$494,080."

Haschak was in support of the plan, later approved, but wanted to get some clarity on some of the funding behind it.

General Services Agency Director Janelle Rau said that the project likely wouldn't meet a deadline to be "shovel ready" in April in order to get the maximum amount of energy cost reductions and revenue, since PG&E will be changing their guidelines on solar panels and money reimbursement.

"Staff did some research into upcoming changes in PG&E's structure for rebates with regards to solar projects," said Rau. "Specifically with regards to this particular project, what we've discovered is that the project would likely need to be ... shovel ready.... We would need to have contract details, specifics on the actual equipment to be installed, which at this late stage we don't have."

Grass Roots Institute representative Peter McNamee said they supported the project, but also talked about the need for urgency by the county due to the upcoming changes in PG&E's policy and other factors.

"We have consistently supported and encouraged the board to move expeditiously to install solar and battery systems and other clean energy approaches to generating the electricity that county facilities need in order to serve the public," said McNamee. "We see your movement today on this issue as encouraging, and we want to support that."

"What's actually on the table here is the rate that solar providers will be paid for the solar energy that they generate, that they put back into the grid, as an offset to whatever they used, plus as a revenue source to themselves, will essentially be reduced substantially for all solar projects that are not already approved for the former rates that are in effect until April 12th," he added. "And so what this means for the county is that because of the delays in putting solar on public buildings, the county on average, as all solar electricity generators in the state, will see [that] the amount that they're paid by PG&E for the electricity they put into the grid, will on average fall from about 30 cents per KWH to 8 cents. So you can see there's a dramatic reduction after April 12 in the amount of revenue."

"So in this case ... delaying on doing the right thing to both reduce the county's carbon footprint and to make the county energy-independent of the dirty electricity that PG&E supplies, means that the delay is going to cost the taxpayers money," he added. "And so I really strongly encourage the board to examine what efforts it can make to try to get these projects moving as quickly as possible.... This is a win-win-win for the county, for the taxpayers and for the planet."

Supervisor Haschak responded that he and the county had been making a significant effort to move quickly towards more environmentally friendly infrastructure.

"We have been working as quickly as possible after we got notification of the grant for the solar panels on the Willits Library," he said. "I've been working with Director Rau every week – we've been having conversations about how to expedite this process. And we just do have limitations with the bureaucratic process, so we're doing the best we can."

The rest of Arrest From page 4

Dimmick had just been involved in a nearby hit-and-run incident which was currently being investigated by the California Highway Patrol Ukiah Office.

An arson investigator from the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority arrived on scene and assisted with further scene investigations.

During the investigations, Dimmick was placed under arrest for five counts of 451(C) PC [Felony Arson] and 460(B) PC [Burglary].

Dimmick was subsequently booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$25,000.00 bail.

Editor's Note: According to the Mendocino County Jail Booking Log, Dimmick was booked in at 1:05 am on February 18, and released on \$25,000 bail at 5:53 pm on February 18.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Affectionate Chloe

This sweet girl is looking for a new lease on life. Originally coming to us as a trapped "feral," Chloe has been at the shelter since early January. Chloe, at 2 years old, is loving and just loves affection from people, she also appears to get along with other cats.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Chloe or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

Intelligent Cheyenne

Cheyenne needs an experienced adult-only home that can provide her with a good amount of exercise. She is very responsive and bright. She is looking for a calm, relatively predictable setting. Cheyenne can develop protective habits, and thus needs savvy folks that can reassure her and not let her feel like she needs to be in charge and guarding.

She is doing great with a pack of dogs at Milo founder Lynne's house at the Milo Sanctuary. She is clever and responsive and tends toward independence, but likes to be nearby, and is quite loving and affectionate, and can be silly, relaxed and charming as well! Cheyenne knows many

commands and loves to learn new ones; she is praise and treat-motivated. She is a very smart, loyal and loving companion!

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

My Only Sunshine

Come meet this sweetheart before you miss out! This girl is ready to brighten up your life! Sunshine is excellent with other dogs and knows the rules of the house. Sunshine is house-trained, can use a doggie door, is super snuggly, and could sit next to you on the sofa watching your favorite shows for hours.

However, this gal is only 1.5 years old, so she's also up to go on any adventure with you!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.



Chloe.



Cheyenne.



Sunshine.



Congrats

Happy Birthday, Johnny!

We would love to wish a very Happy Birthday to our boy Johnny who's turning 8!!

We admire the strong, young man you are becoming!

Thank you for brightening our lives! You are the best son, brother, grandson, nephew we could have been blessed with! Hope your special day is as wonderful as you!

- Love Mom, Dad, Aleah and Papis

OBITUARY |

Donna Marie Day

Our wonderful, beautiful friend Donna Marie Day was always ready to help any friend or pet in need. Born Donna Marie King, Donna moved to Willits in 1985 to be closer to her parents. Prior to Willits, Donna lived in Cupertino and the Bay Area. She worked in the electronics industry primarily in quality control. In Willits she worked at Photron, Willits Electronics Assembly, and Advanced Manufacturing and Development, Inc. and was a caregiver for adults with special needs.

Donna also generously donated her time to the Phoenix Hospice in Willits and Mendocino County Sheriffs Activities League among many others. So many kids in Willits were lucky to have been mentored by and loved by Donna.

Donna was a lover of pets, and those that knew her understood she loved our pets as much or more than us. Donna was also a wonderful caregiver to her parents during their transition, as well as numerous family friends that were blessed to have her care for them. Donna was the daughter of and predeceased by Joe Marie Tripp and stepdaughter of Dale Tripp. Donna was also predeceased by her only son prior to his 2-year birthday, Richard "Ricky" Charles Zimmerman, and her father James Richard King.

Donna is survived by her brother James Richard King, sister-in-law Cathy Reber, nieces Jennifer King, Laura and Mikayla King. For the last 10 years, Donna lived with her dearest family friends, Cindy and Scot Lamon.

To know Donna was to be cared for, supported and loved by her. A celebration of life will be held at the Willits Grange on Saturday, March 18 from 4 to 8 pm. All who were blessed to know Donna are encouraged to come, bring a potluck dish, and share their favorite story (there are a lot)!

In lieu of flowers Donna would like donations made to the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino.

Did you know? Willits Weekly runs obituaries of up to 350 words plus a digital photo free of charge for Willits residents. We're always sorry to hear of a loved one passing, but hope that providing this service to grieving families offers some assistance during that hard time.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

You're made for more advancement. That's why we've created a variety of non-clinical opportunities for professionals of all types who love serving their community as they progress their careers. We're now hiring across our three hospitals in Fort Bragg, Ukiah and Willits. Enjoy generous benefits and a nurturing environment that encourages you to grow every day. The next great step in your career awaits.

Learn more:
AdventistHealthMendocino.org/HealthcareCareers

