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Thursday, March 3, 2022

Supes accept 'first' legal pot crop report

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Supervisors accepted "Mendocino County's first cannabis report in the modern cannabis era" on February 1 – without a presentation or any discussion. The 2020 cannabis report was posted as an addendum, a separate document, to the annual 2020 Crop Report.

Advocates for years wanted the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture to include the crop value of the then variously illegal marijuana crop in the annual report about timber, wine grapes, livestock, apples and pears, and other aspects of the county's ag production.

It was a lively and colorful issue that brought public and political opinion to the fore.

However, the actual first cannabis crop report the county Ag Department ever produced was not until 2019 – a cannabis addendum that was never approved by the board of supervisors. The reliability of the data and the sample size in the 2019 report were questioned back when the

Read the rest of
Report
Over on Page 11

MCSO arrests Laytonville man for child sex abuse

By Detective Sergeant Luis M. Espinoza, for MCSO

On February 16, 2022, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy was dispatched to make contact with a concerned parent regarding sexual abuse of their 9-year-old child which reportedly occurred over the previous year in the 45000 block of Meadow Lane in Laytonville.

An initial report was taken documenting the allegations, and the investigation was turned over to the Sheriff's Office Investigations Bureau (Detective Unit).

During the next several days Sheriff's Office detectives continued the investigation and identified the suspect as being Wilmer Jack Mitchell, 38, from Laytonville.

Mitchell was identified as having recurring access to the child, and evidence was discovered which identified multiple acts of sexual abuse beginning in 2020 and continuing through February of 2022.

Based on the information discovered, Sheriff's Office

Read the rest of
Arrest
Over on Page 11



Little Lake Fire Department's new fire chief, Bill Carter.

Photo by Maureen Jennison

A New Chief in Town

Bill Carter sworn in as new fire chief of Little Lake Fire Department

Willits has a new fire chief – but he's not new to Willits. Longtime Little Lake Fire volunteer Bill Carter was sworn in as fire chief on Tuesday, with family, fellow firefighters, and board members in attendance.

Administrative Assistant Michelle Schnitzius led Carter in his oath, including: "I will well and faithfully perform the duties and responsibilities of fire chief for the Little Lake Fire Protection District to the best of my abilities."

After applause, Fire Chief Carter said a few words, with many rounds of thanks, including to the fire board, the hiring committee, the staff, the volunteer firefighters, and his family – who filled the first two rows of seats. "It's really important that they have our backs," he said. "Sometimes we carry home more than the smell of smoke."

– Jennifer Poole

At right: New fire chief Bill Carter talks to the gathered crowd during his swearing in Tuesday evening. Below: Little Lake Fire Department staff and volunteers posed together including, from left: Deputy Chief John Thomen, Board Chairman Tony Madrigal, Administrative Assistant Michelle Schnitzius, new Chief Bill Carter, Association President Aaron Branscomb and Training Chief Eric Alvarez.



Photo by Aaron Branscomb



Above, left: New fire chief Bill Carter stands next to the brass bell that hangs at Station 54.

Photo by Maureen Jennison

Above, right: Willits City Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez, left, and Third District Supervisor John Haschak, right, stand with new Little Lake Fire Chief Bill Carter and Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez.

At left: New fire chief Bill Carter stands with his family after Tuesday's ceremony.

Photos by Aaron Branscomb

Council hears how staff keeps the city rolling

B.B. Kamoroff
Reporter
bb@willitsweekly.com

For many years, Jim Baskin was the locomotive engineer on the Skunk Train out of Willits. He used his skills and experience to make a ride on his clickety-clacking old train as smooth as cruising in a 1957 Cadillac Eldorado. When those lumbering passenger train cars crested the summit west of town and started down the hill, Jim would grin at a partner in the locomotive and ask, Did you feel it? Passengers never felt the jarring of the old loose couplers, thanks to a dedicated professional.

Jim Baskin has departed this world, but his brand of talent and dedication is alive in the Willits city employees, who are keeping an old and sometimes clanky city infrastructure on track, running smoothly enough that most city residents, like Jim Baskin's passengers, don't even notice.

This became strikingly apparent from the city department reports presented at the February 23 city council meeting, as one department after another provided a long list of the completed, in-process, and soon-to-start

Read the rest of
Council
Over on Page 11

Brooktrails board hears county services area updates

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

All directors were in attendance for the February 22 Brooktrails Community Township Board of Directors meeting. Director Tony Orth reported, "The fire associations are continuing their meetings and things are moving forward to get power adopted, with talks to get the fire warden's office established."

And, Orth added, "I'd like to thank Supervisor John Haschak for the letters regarding CSA3 [County Services Area #3] and Sherwood Road, sent out by County Engineer Howard Dashiell. Everything is moving forward, and we are looking ahead to the Board of Supervisors' action in March."

Supervisor Haschak was also in attendance and reported that the board of supervisors has three meetings coming up where CSA3 is an agenda item: March 1 and 15, and the first meeting in May.

The board then unanimously approved the accounts payable in the

Read the rest of
Brooktrails
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Willits, I would like to thank everyone who donated to our music project by throwing money into my fiddle case at Grocery Outlet. You may have seen me out in front of the store with my fiddle every once in a while, trying to raise money to buy instruments for our Willits Wolverines High School Band.

People were very kind and donated what they could. They even said some nice things about my tunes once in a while, and I can say that I was never heckled even once.

Because of your generosity, I was able to contribute \$519.32 to the project so far. A thank you also goes to Grocery Outlet who gave me permission to play. Grocery Outlet has been a great community partner and also contributed food to our last Bluegrass Dinner Concert (pre-COVID) which raised money for high school scholarships.

As reported earlier, Willits Rotary successfully applied for a \$4,800 grant to Rotary International to buy new instruments for the high school. As a condition of the grant, \$2,400 needed to be raised by our club with \$2,400 being matched. We have now received over \$6,000 in donations! Many local businesses donated generously to the cause, including \$1,000 donations from the Baechtel Inn and from KOZT FM radio station, and \$500 donations from Metal F/X and Willits Mini Storage among many others that you will hear about soon. So far, we have raised over \$6,000 to buy band instruments!!

The fundraising project ends in the next couple of months and so will my fiddle-playing, but I just wanted to express my gratitude to the generous people of Willits.

Stephanie Garbrabant-Sierra, president-elect, Rotary Club of Willits

Grassroots Soccer Academy

To the Editor:

Last year, Mendocino County Soccer Academy experienced tremendous growth in Willits and the North County. Over 20 Willits players advanced from our Grassroots Academy to our Select Teams where these youngsters receive professional coaching and high levels of competition. It's exciting to see local kids create new pathways for themselves and accomplish things they never thought possible!

MCSA's goal is to provide opportunities for kids of all ages, interests and experiences a chance to learn the beautiful game of soccer in a safe, dynamic and fun environment – regardless of a family's ability to pay.

A new 6-week Grassroots Academy begins in Willits on March 21 and is the perfect introduction to the game for kids 3-11 years old. Our under-6 age group is already sold out, but opportunities remain for the older ages.

As the club's administrator, coach, and a local native, I'm thrilled to be the lead Willits coach. I recently earned my US Soccer National D Coaching License, and I'm fired up for a return to soccer after a winter break!

For more details about MCSA's upcoming programs, please visit MendocinoSoccer.com/Spring-Grassroots or look for us on Facebook and Instagram.

See you on the pitch!

Ian Fitzpatrick,
MCSA director, Willits

**Do you want to submit a letter to the editor?
It's easy.**

**We print letters from residents of the 3rd District, just email us yours:
willitsweekly@gmail.com**

Mendo-Lake College District refinances bonds to save \$12.7 million

Submitted by Mendocino-Lake Community College District

February 17, 2022 – The Mendocino-Lake Community College District recently locked in \$12.7 million of savings for local taxpayers by refinancing a portion of its existing general obligation bonds. The district had previously taken advantage of a similar refinancing opportunity in 2015, saving taxpayers over \$36.5 million. The combined savings from both bond refinancings now totals approximately \$49.2 million, which will be realized by district taxpayers in the form of lower property tax bills.

Under the leadership of the College District Board of Trustees, the district administration chose to take advantage of lower interest rates to refinance bonds from its Measure W authorization without extending the term of those bonds. The district was able to reduce the interest rates on the prior bonds from an average of 5.13% to 4.23%, reducing the community's tax bill by a total of \$12,680,680 over the life of the bond refinancing.

Prior to the bond sale, the Mendocino-Lake Community College District received a credit rating upgrade from Moody's Investors Service. In its credit report, Moody's noted that the rating increase from "A1" to "Aa3" is reflective of "continued solid growth in District tax base," "steadily improving and strong reserves," and "prudent fiscal management." This high rating allowed MLCDD to attract a broad base of investors which included banks, insurance companies and investment/asset managers.

While the college district will not receive any part of the savings, the board of trustees and district administration pursued this opportunity strictly on behalf of local taxpayers as part of their continued support for college district students.

"We are thankful to the residents of the Mendocino-Lake Community College District for approving Measure W in 2006," says Superintendent/President Tim Karas. "Bond funds were expended in December 2014 to build the North County Center (Willits), Lake Center (Lakeport), Library/Learning Resource Center (Ukiah), and provide other much needed facility improvements. As prudent stewards of public finances, we took action to lower local taxpayer bills."

March is Social Work Appreciation Month

Submitted by Mendocino County Department of Social Services

March is recognized nationally as a month to give appreciation for those serving as social workers. In Mendocino County, social workers are engaged within a range of supportive services including Family & Children's, Adult & Aging, and Employment & Family Assistance Services.

"Social workers play an important role in helping the most vulnerable members of our community, from newborns to the elderly, live safely in their homes and in their communities. Social workers work in partnership with individuals, their families and others who are important to them to help stabilize crisis situations, assess their needs and connect them to services and supports to promote their long-term stability and well-being," said Jena Conner, deputy director of Family & Children's Services.

In the calendar year 2021, Mendocino County Family & Children's Services social workers reunified 73 children with parents who successfully addressed child safety issues; assessed and approved 45 resource parents to provide care for children in the foster care system; provided services and support to a monthly average of 321 children, young adults, and their families involved in child welfare services or the juvenile dependency system; and investigated a total of 954 reports of child abuse and neglect.

The CalWORKs job services social worker, through the Family Stabilization and Cal-Learn programs, assisted 27 families consisting of 49 children in addressing issues preventing them from pursuing their employment goals. In Adult and Aging Services, social workers investigated 775 referred cases of neglect/abuse, served as conservator for 15 older adults needing protective intervention, addressed housing needs for 20 disabled/older adults, and secured permanent housing for 14 homeless community members.

The social work profession has existed for more than a century and the need for social workers is great, especially as our nation continues to face entrenched issues that have stressed our society, including the COVID-19 pandemic,

Read the rest of
Appreciation

Over on Page 11



Above: The new volunteers, staff, and horses Freya and Timazon pose for a group photo.

At right: Timazon has a sweet and friendly nature that makes her perfect for working with at-risk clients. At far right: Spartacus (Sparky) decides to join the entourage. Below: The new volunteers meet under the tree to introduce themselves.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Helping Through Horses

Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center holds orientation for new volunteers as they look to expand their program

"We're going to let everybody know what we're doing and then they can figure out what they want to do from there," explained Erin Holzhauer, director, trainer, and one of the original founders of the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center at a volunteer training session. "This is a one-day introduction training. We'd like to see what they'd like to do, because there are so many different jobs.

"There's cleaning, to working with the horses, to participating in lessons, to side-walking, where they're supporting clients," she explained. "There's leading horses, assisting with a facility care project. There are so many things we can have the volunteers do."

Seven prospective volunteers showed up for the training and tour. Two, Isaiah and Thomas, had been clients in the program and wished to continue their journey to self-discovery through horsemanship as well as continue to work with the beloved animals that had shown the students so much about their own abilities.

Gina Henebury, a physical-therapy student at Mendocino College, brought her two young daughters, Laura (17) and Emily (14), who wanted a chance to assist others in finding their best life path through the utilization of the strength and therapeutic motion of horses. Suzanne is a physical therapist with a rotation in hippotherapy, a discipline in which the motion of horses is used to help heal those who have mobility problems. Rebecca had ridden horses for about four years and desired to help through the volunteer program.

The orientation began with each of the participants introducing themselves and saying a few words about their desired involvement. Isaiah and Thomas, past students, form a triumvirate with another friend, Quinn, who Thomas stated was on a date and could not be talked into attending. They stated that they love chores, including mucking out the stables and wished to continue their equine involvement.

Calayan introduced herself as someone who has been in the program for 10 years and is working on becoming an instructor. She is currently a volunteer and helped Muffin, the mini-donkey, lead the tour around the facility.

Erin Holzhauer introduced herself: "I grew up here on the ranch. Because of that, I'm very lucky to have horse experience from a very young age. I had the opportunity to help start the program in 1993. Lydia [Senter Colvig] has been volunteering with the program since then. We were in

4-H, so this was the 4-H project that I was lucky to be part of. I've seen this project grow quite a bit over the years.

"I worked at San Diego Hippotherapy and also with Magic Horse Therapeutic Riding Center," said Holzhauer. "I came back here to help take over the program. We've been Ridgewood Trail Riders and TRAIL which stood as an acronym for Teaching Riding as An Access to Independence and Learning. And now, we are Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. It's fun to connect what we do with the incredible history of the ranch. This was the home of Seabiscuit. He was retired and was buried here. We're glad to be part of this intricate story of healing."

Holzhauer and Muffin (everyone's favorite) then led the group around the facility to meet the family of horses, and

Read the rest of
Riding

Over on Page 6



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At top: Erin Holzhauer explains the ins and outs of the program to the prospective volunteers. Above: Erin Holzhauer introduces Spartacus to the volunteers.

Below: The group gets a tour of the STRC facilities and animals.



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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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LOCAL NEWS WORD SEARCH

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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Neckwear
7. Fish parts
13. Cooking
14. Quality
16. Rural delivery
17. Popular superhero
19. Partner to Pa
20. Shivering fits
22. Wrath
23. Linguistics pioneer
25. Large integers
26. A way to prepare food
28. Group of badgers
29. Peyton's little brother
30. Rock out
31. Danish krone
33. Take from with force
34. Baroque musical instrument
36. Zodiac sign
38. Hebrew alphabet letter
40. Independent member of a clone
41. Type of garment
43. Satisfy
44. One point south of due east
45. A way to wipe out
47. Moved quickly on foot
48. Bar bill
51. An idiot
53. Performed with the voice silent
55. Body fluids
56. Rhythmic patterns
58. "___ my i's"
59. Type of wrap
60. It shows who you are
61. Carousel
64. Type of college degree
65. Molding
67. Closes again
69. Verses
70. Surface
- CLUES DOWN
1. Short, thick stick
2. Rhode Island
3. Animals of the horse family
4. Very important persons
5. Folk singer Di Franco
6. Boredom
7. Long speech
8. Footballer Newton
9. Expression of sorrow or pity
10. Linear acclerator
11. One quintillion bytes
12. Smallest interval in Western music
13. Box
15. Cheese dish
18. Make a mistake
21. Done by all people or things
24. Circumference
26. Chum
27. Electrocardiogram
30. Sandwich chain Jimmy ___
32. Showed old movie
35. Important event on Wall St.
37. Where wrestlers work
38. Free from contamination
39. Eastern Canada coastal region
42. Slang for gun
43. High schoolers' test
46. Fathers
47. Call it a career
49. Productive
50. Musical groups
52. Yellowish-brown
54. Lowest point of a ridge
55. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
57. Fill up
59. Cardinal number that's the sum of 5 and 1
62. Frost
63. Jewel
66. Atomic #45
68. Top lawyer

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

February 6 to February 23
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **354 incidents** in this 21 day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

February 6
6:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of North Main Street and State Street.

February 7
6:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

February 8
5:16 pm: SULLIVAN, Justice Charlo (25) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block of Coast Street. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery).

11:58 pm: WINTERS, Phillip Lawrence (38) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Lenore Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order) and 242 PC (Battery).

February 9
8:13 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of South Main Street.

12:07 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Bush Street.

February 10
No incidents to report.

February 11
10:46 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

12:53 pm: MARTINEZ, Renee Naomi (24) of Willits and MCCANN, Robert James (44) of Willits were contacted in the 200 block of East Commercial Street. Martinez was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear. McCann was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of a felon in possession of a stun gun, possession of drug paraphernalia, violation of probation, and failure to appear.

1:12 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:36 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

February 12
12:29 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

7:20 am: MCCAIN Jr., Derrick Lamar (28) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of Elm Lane. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery), 211 PC (felony Robbery), 422 PC (felony Criminal Threats), 591.5 PC (Damaging a Communication Device), 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), on felony charges of willful cruelty to a child, and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

8:19 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

5:19 pm: ALVAREZ, Jack Steven (59) of Ukiah was contacted near the intersection of Coast Street and Raymond Lane. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 166 (A) (4) PC (Violation of a Court Order – Contempt of Court), and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and disorderly conduct (alcohol).

February 13
12:13 am: KELLY, Anthony Lee (31) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of West Mendocino Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (B) VC (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08 Percent or Higher) and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol.

7:43 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:55 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of South Street.

7:14 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

February 14
No incidents to report.

February 15
6:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of Locust Street.

9:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

February 16
2:39 pm: SALES, Jonathan Martin (38) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street following a report of a robbery in progress. He was arrested on felony charges pursuant to 211 PC (Robbery).

5:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Redwood Avenue.

February 17
No incidents to report.

February 18
2:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Holly Street.

2:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of West Valley Street and issued a warning.

4:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

6:57 pm: LYONS, Dallas Darlene (36) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

February 19
9:40 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

February 20
10:31 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Highway 20.

11:28 am: BLANTON, Jesse Ezekial (43) of Fort Bragg was contacted near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and Central Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

12:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

7:50 pm: PORTER, James Bryan (44) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Oak Street. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery) and on felony charges of bringing a controlled substance into jail.

10:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of South Main Street.

February 21
8:05 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:39 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

February 22
12:25 pm: YOUNG, Jonathan Austin (41) of Ukiah was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 417 PC (Brandishing a Weapon), 422 PC (Criminal Threats), on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon, and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation and failure to appear.

6:25 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

7:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

February 23
9:43 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

10:54 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Bush Street.

7:11 pm: MATTSO, Cheryl Kathleen (49) of Ukiah was contacted in the 100 block of Barbara Lane following a disturbance. She was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of violation of a protective order and violation of probation.

8:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.



At far left: Little League players and families work to clean the warning track on the baseball fields next to the Willits Skate Park.

At left: Volunteer Amiel shows the photographer a big hunk of sod he cut out. He's going to play ball this year and said, "I like to pitch. I'm not good at [outfield]."

Below, left: Some of the volunteers stop for a photo: from left, Russ Rountree, Andrew Hosford, Clayton Cooley, Cail Lustig and Chris Bartow.

Photos by Ree Slocum



(Almost) Spring Cleaning

Willits Little League Baseball volunteers get the playing fields ready for a new season

Willits Little League Baseball was chartered in 1952. For 70 years volunteers have groomed the grounds, baseball fields, baseball diamonds, bases and warning tracks to keep them clear after winter's encroaching grasses. It's hard work that keeps a committed group of volunteers busy for a few days a few times each year.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

People, young and older, board members, their spouses and children as well as a few from the community, shoveled and used hand tools to get the sod and dirt into tractor buckets – this is a first for using tractors and excavators. The loads were piled off field, almost effortlessly.

"There's about double the people who came out to help this year. People came together with equipment instead of old-school manual labor," said Shailyn Brewer who has twin daughters in Little League. "We want our kids active. They need to be out, moving. These kids were here and working at 7:30 this morning," she said with pride.

There was a sense of easy camaraderie among the groups working efficiently together. They're committed to having safe and well-groomed playing fields and stands for this next season.

Tim King, vice president of the Little League Board and father to a 12-year-old player, played baseball himself and said, "It's really a good turnout today!" He said the volunteers cleared the warning track around the two baseball field perimeters. "It's most important in the outfield. If an outfielder is chasing a ball that's against the fence, they're looking at the ground, and when they see the warning track, they know the fence is coming up soon." The warning track is essential to avoiding injuries.

"[Baseball] is a great way to give the

Read the rest of
Baseball

Over on Page 6

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Above: A crew of young boys is ready to work: from left, Cyrus, Raylan, Lukas, Tanner and Presley. Below, left: Behind home base are the bleachers and a sign donated by CalFire. Below, right: Tyler Ojeda, who serves on the board and has two kids in Little League, shows the hand tools used to cut sod from the running lines and warning track.



At left: Tim King, Little League Board vice president, takes a break from shoveling dirt from the baselines into the bucket of board member Russ Rountree's tractor. Below, left: Board President Andrew Hosford and volunteers shovel dirt and sod to make the warning track along the fence line. Below, right: Baseball players from the high school pitch in to help.



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Above, from left: Some hats crafted at an old millinery store in Ukiah are on display. The Mendocino County Museum has an extensive collection of wagons. Steve Prochter created this model of the Frolic, which sank near Point Cabrillo and was an integral part of the history of the county.

At right: Curator Karen Mattson tells about the museum's tie-in with the Willits Frontier Days.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, from top: Museum Technician Briana Brooks demonstrates the new information stations to be installed at various locations around the museum. Sharon Kamoroff visits her husband, Bear, the new Roots librarian. This muslin Dutch windmill designed quilt is one of the many textiles preserved by the museum. Below: Roots board member Lee Bryant leads the tour through the history and equipment in the engine house. At bottom: Volunteer docent Scott Furler tells of the history of the McNamee General Store in Gualala.



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Behind-the-Scenes

Mendocino County Museum and Roots of Motive Power offer a chance to delve into their archives on March 26 and April 30

Like an iceberg that shows only a small percentage of its volume above the waterline, the Mendocino County Museum has only part of its collection presented in the public viewing rooms. The remainder of the models, letters, artifacts, art, textiles, books, wagons, automobiles, data, and all other materials live in the back rooms, mostly catalogued and photographed and accessible online.

Most of the archives, available through the research library upon requested appointment, are there to be utilized in piecing together the rich history of the loggers, tribes, railroads, back-to-the-landers, ranchers, farmers, and cannabis cultivators who were integral in the formation of the modern society of Mendocino County, a unique collection of steadfast rugged individualists and artists.

In order to educate the public as to the depth of history available at the facility, Curator Karen Mattson and her unique group of docents and volunteers, are offering tours of the exhibit rooms, the archives, and the attached Roots of Motive Power engine room, full of relics of the Age of Steam that was integral in the growth of the logging industry.

Last Saturday, February 26, was the first day of this series of tours, which began at three different times: 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Two more Saturdays: March 26 and April 30 are scheduled for the events and pre-registration is suggested to ensure a place on the tour, which was mostly full last Saturday.

Mattson and the museum staff are working to inform the public, bring them back to the museum with the opening of COVID restrictions, and prepare for the upcoming June 11 kickoff of the museum's 50th anniversary-year set of events. "For the 50th anniversary," said Mattson, "we want to have one of our wagons out front of the museum so people can have their photos taken in front of or possibly on the wagon."

"We'd really like to get back into having a float for the parade," she said. "Although it's not ironed out, we're definitely going to have a kickoff event with a slide presentation of the 50 years. We'd like to get some past history from our past staff. We're going to celebrate the entire year."

The tour began in the lobby, where Briana Brooks, the museum technician, demonstrated the new video-pad information stations which will be placed at strategic locations, to allow museum browsers to access more in-depth information for each exhibit. "They will be at the major

exhibits to give people information," explained Brooks. "Eventually, people will be able to do different things on them, call up clips, oral histories, etc."

People were encouraged to wander through the current public exhibits prior to the actual tour so that they could see the wagons, archived correspondence, Seabiscuit history, restored creamery, Dusty Duley-donated objects, the Wanscott Photography exhibit, the Native American arts and culture, and many other main areas.

Mattson led people into the classroom, where they watched a prepared slide show of the history of the museum, which was opened to the public in 1972, through the efforts of the Historical Society, among others, and given to the County of Mendocino to maintain and administer.

The next stop on the tour was in the part of the museum that few of the public get to experience, the archives behind the public exhibits. Mattson explained how the museum was closely tied in with the Willits Frontier Days, having received objects, including wagons, from the now-defunct Frontier Days Museum.

Next, the group walked back to where the volunteers had set up some mini-exhibits. First of these were viewings and talks on the McNamee General Store of Gualala and Mark Walker, last of the true Willits pioneers and a unique artist who lived to be 107 at best estimate. The talks were given by Scott Ferleman.

Next stop were the artifacts and history of the Frolic, with a talk by Steve Prochter. The Frolic, a unique square-sail opium runner, was on its way to San Francisco, after giving up its life of crime and attempting to supply San Francisco with needed goods, when it ran aground near the now Cabrillo Lighthouse. The mission to salvage the ship resulted in the realization by some of the members of the party that there was a fortune to be made in logging the redwoods that could be found near the ocean.

After the Frolic talk, the attendees were shown hats from an old millinery shop in Ukiah where people would gather socially and an old muslin quilt which was one of the many items in the textile archives, shown by Brent Walker. Benjamin McBean, the museum research librarian, explained what could be found in the archives, how to access the information, and the cost of some of the services.

The final stop on the tour was led by Roots of Motive Power board member Lee Bryant, who showed the

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



Current Job Openings:

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- Deputy District Attorney I/II/III
- Deputy Probation Officer I/II
- Deputy Public Defender I/II/III/IV
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
- Deputy Sheriff – Coroner in Training
- Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Human Resources Director
- Juvenile Corrections Officer
- Juvenile Corrections Officer – Extra-Help
- Planner II – Cannabis Program
- Program Specialist II
- Public Health Nurse
- Real Property Appraiser I
- Registered Nurse
- Road Maintenance Supervisor I/II
- Road Maintenance Worker I
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- Senior Planner - Cannabis Program
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SUMMONS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: JETT JENNINGS, also known as LAWRENCE J. JENNINGS; DOES 1-50, inclusive, Case Number: HG21100522

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You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: the court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

The name and address of the court is: Alameda County Superior Court, 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Christopher J. Neary, 110 S. Main St., Ste. C, Willits, CA 95490, Telephone: (707) 459-5551
Publication Dates: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS

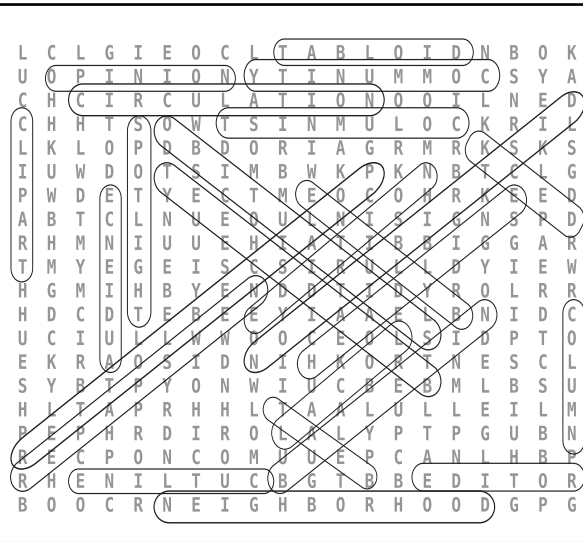
- Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of the Willits Unified School District, of the County of Mendocino, State of California, will receive sealed bids for the WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM BOILER REPLACEMENT up to, but not later than, **1 pm, on March 25, 2022** and will thereafter publicly open and read aloud the bids. All bids shall be received at the Willits Unified School District Office, 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490.
- Each bid shall be completed on the Bid Proposal Form included in the Contract Documents, and must conform and be fully responsive to this invitation, the plans and specifications and all other Contract Documents. Copies of the Contract Documents are available for examination at the office of the Superintendent, 1277 Blosser Lane, County of Mendocino, California. Documents are also available online at www.willitsunified.com.
- Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, a cashier's or certified check, or a bidder's bond executed by a surety licensed to do business in the State of California as a surety, made payable to the District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the maximum amount of the bid. The check or bid bond shall be given as a guarantee that the bidder to whom the contract is awarded will execute the Contract Documents and will provide the required payment and performance bonds and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the contract.
- The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the Labor Code pertaining to payment of the generally prevailing rate of wages and apprenticeships or other training programs. The Department of Industrial Relations has made available the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which the work is to be performed for each craft, classification or type of worker needed to execute the contract, including employer payments for health and welfare, pension, vacation, apprenticeship and similar purposes. Copies of these prevailing rates are available to any interested party upon request and are online at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR>. The Contractor and all Subcontractors shall pay not less than the specified rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract. It is the Contractor's responsibility to determine any rate change.
- The schedule of per diem wages is based upon a working day of eight hours. The rate for holiday and overtime work shall be at least time and one half.
- The substitution of appropriate securities in lieu of retention amounts from progress payments in accordance with Public Contract Code §22300 is permitted.
- Pursuant to Public Contract Code §4104, each bid shall include the name and location of the place of business of each subcontractor who shall perform work or service or fabricate or install work for the contractor in excess of one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) of the bid price. The bid shall describe the type of the work to be performed by each listed subcontractor.
- No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening for bids except as provided by Public Contract Code §55100 et seq. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding.
- Minority, women, and disabled veteran contractors are encouraged to submit bids. This bid is / is not subject to Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise requirements.
- The project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations. In accordance with SB 854, all bidders, contractors and subcontractors working at the site shall be duly registered with the Department of Industrial Relations at time of bid opening and at all relevant times. Proof of registration shall be provided as to all such contractors prior to the commencement of any work.
- Each bidder shall possess at the time the bid is awarded the following classification(s) of California State Contractor's license: **C4 and/or B- General Contractor**.
- Not used.
- Bidders' Conference. Prospective bidders are invited and strongly encouraged to attend a bidders' conference that will be held at **Willits High School, 299 N Main St. Willits, CA on March 14, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.** for the purpose of acquainting all prospective bidders with the Contract Documents and the Project site. Following the bidders' conference a tour will be held. Bidders must examine and judge for themselves the location, surroundings, physical condition and nature of any work to be done. Submission of a bid shall be construed as conclusive evidence that the bidder has made such an examination.

WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Signed by: Terry McEntee, Director of Maintenance Operations and Transportation

DATED: 2/28/22

Publication Dates: March 3 and 10, 2022



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Our program is growing! The Waldorf School of Mendocino County is Hiring Administration and Teaching positions. Visit our website to apply: <http://www.mendocinowaldorf.org/employment-opportunities> Apply today!

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Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). Saturday, March 12 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Willits Food Bank Open

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

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attendees around the engine room and educated them as to use and history of the engines, motors and vehicles stored there.

"We're hoping, through the tours, that people will become interested in becoming volunteers and docents," said Mattson. "We have a sign up list for Friends of the Museum, which is the new non-profit, and a quarterly newsletter that people can sign up for, delivered online. It gives behind-the-scene things that are going on, information about upcoming programs. A good way to keep in touch."

To access more information on the museum, delve into the archives and historical photos, and find out about events, the public can go to: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum. The museum, located at 400 East Commercial Street, is open to the public Wednesday through Friday 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12 to 4 pm.

"What we're really preserving are stories. Every object has a story," mused Mattson.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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Happy Birthday River

I am not what I was yesterday, River is my name. I am made in a smooth and beautiful way, red and full of flame.

I dance above the wisps of grass, in the sunny air. I observe in awe the clouds they pass, and love is everywhere.

From my chrysalis I've emerged, into something great. And for this turn around the sun, I celebrate being eight!

Wishing a happy birthday to our beautiful butterfly!

Love, Mom, Dad, Alaska, Cricket, Mittens & Stinky



Poetry at the Playhouse

Submitted by Willits Community Theatre

Mendocino County poets Daniel Essman and Theresa Whitehill are featured readers at Starlight Lounge, a bi-monthly poetry series at the Willits Community Theatre. The reading is scheduled for 7 pm on Saturday, March 12.

An open reading will be held after the featured readers have read. Entry into the reading is by donation, and no one will be turned away from lack of funds. Audience members must show proof of vaccination upon entry, and the wearing of facial coverings by the audience is recommended.

Poet and letterpress artist Theresa Whitehill served as Poet Laureate for the City of Ukiah from 2009 through 2011 and has been involved her entire career in the production of poetry readings and literary events. Her interrelated focus on literary and book arts came out of her studies at Mills College in the early 1980s. Since 1984 she has lived in Mendocino County, where she is well-known to local poetry audiences. Her collections of poetry include "A Natural History of Mill Towns" (1993) and "A Grammar of Longing" (2009), both published by Pygmy Forest Press.

Daniel Essman is a Willits poet who for several decades co-hosted the Car Lords Poetry Series in Willits along with his wife, Robin Rule. He also has gained a following as the film reviewer for the Noyo Theatre and is known for his signature statement, "He likes his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination."

The Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane in downtown Willits. That is, one block west of Mazahar Boutique at the north end of Main Street, and one block south of Pizza To Go on the first block of West Commercial Street.



Poets Theresa Whitehill, below, and Daniel Essman, above, will read at the Starlight Lounge poetry series at the Willits Community Theatre on Saturday, March 12.



report was discussed by supervisors in 2020, and again at the February 1 meeting this year.

Assistant Ag Commissioner Aaron Hult had paused his February 1 presentation to ask if supervisors had any questions about the never-approved 2019 cannabis addendum. By the time supervisors had decided to scrap the 2019 report altogether, Chair Ted Williams asked the board if they accepted the 2020 Mendocino County Crop Report, and it was accepted without any specific presentation or discussion on the data in the 2020 cannabis addendum.

That 2020 addendum identifies the "combined production value" of cultivating legal cannabis in Mendocino County in 2020 as \$131,426,125.

This, the report emphasizes, is a "gross production value": "Capital expenditures, labor, profits, fees, taxes, and other overhead costs are not reflected in this total, and it does not represent the net profit of the industry, or any individual cultivator."

The report charts average prices of the 2020 permitted cannabis crop: \$1,500 per pound for indoor flower (4,360 pounds of it, for a total value of \$6,540,000); \$950 per pound for outdoor/mixed light flower (111,165 pounds of it, for a total value of \$105,606,750); and \$800 per pound for smalls (indoor) (1,453 pounds of it, for a total value of \$1,162,400).

More charted values: \$400 per pound for smalls (outdoor/mixed light) (37,055 pounds of it, for a total value of \$14,822,000); \$100 per pound for trim (indoor) (1,453 pounds of it, for a total value of \$145,300); and \$85 per pound for trim (outdoor/mixed light) (37,055 pounds of it, for a total value of \$3,149,675).

The report also has a chart showing "2020 California Department of Food and Agriculture CalCannabis

systemic racism, economic inequality, and other crises.

"The need for social workers is great," deputy director Conner says. "Filling vacancies will help reduce caseloads so social workers can spend more quality time working with their clients and helping them achieve their goals.

"Staff employed in Family & Children's Services are eligible to apply for educational financial assistance with schools of Social Work to pursue bachelor and/or master's degrees in Social Work with a commitment to work in the field of child welfare post-graduation," Conner explains.

Social workers, who are often unsung heroes, are on the front lines, helping people overcome their most difficult times. They are trained to help people address personal and systemic barriers to optimal living. The goal is to effect positive change with individuals, families, groups and communities to overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential.

This National Month of Social Work Appreciation allows us to recognize all the social workers that serve our county and their important contributions. Everyone is encouraged to thank a social worker for their service not only this month, but throughout the year.

"I have a deep appreciation for the dedication and empathy our social workers provide to our most vulnerable members every day," said Stephen White, acting deputy director of Adult & Aging Services.

If you would like information on a career in social work with Mendocino County, please visit our website at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mendocinoca>.

Cultivation Licensing in Mendocino County," reporting a total of 290.68 acres in legal cannabis cultivation, under a total of 1,310 licenses "provisional and approved)."

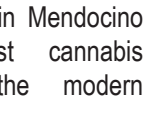
The acreage includes a total of 126.26 acres in the Small Mixed-Light (10,000 square feet) category, with 550 licenses; a total of 73.73 acres in the Nursery (up to 22,000 square feet) category, with 146 licenses; a total of 60.15 acres in the Small Outdoor (10,000 square feet) category, with 262 licenses; and a total of 10.45 acres in the Specialty Mixed Light (5,000 square feet) category, with 91 licenses.

Other licensed cultivation categories were all under 10 total acres, including a total of 7.92 acres of Specialty Outdoor (5,000 square feet), with 69 licenses; a total of 5.45 acres of Specialty Cottage Outdoor (2,500 square feet), with 95 licenses; a total of 3.78 acres of Specialty Cottage Mixed Light (2,500 square feet), with 66 licenses; a total of 1.61 acres of Small Indoor (10,000 square feet), with 7 licenses; a total of 1.32 acres of Specialty Cottage Indoor (2,500 square feet), with 23 licenses; and 0.01 acres of Specialty Indoor (5,000 square feet), with 1 license.

The report also printed "a big thanks to the cultivators that participated in the data collecting process that resulted in Mendocino County's first cannabis report in the modern cannabis era."

The annual Crop Reports, back to 1985, are posted on the county website at <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/agriculture> but neither the main 2020 Crop Report or the cannabis addendum is yet posted.

They can be found and downloaded as part of the supervisors' agenda packet for the February 1, 2022 meeting, at the BOS agenda page: <https://mendocino.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



amount of \$111,013.93.

The general manager's report cited: The lakes are full – Lake Emily is still spilling and Lake Ada Rose is holding its maximum. Current water storage can provide up to 440 days of water supply with average usage. Brooktrails, at the water treatment plant, had just under 36 inches of rain this water year.

The board then moved another step closer to establishing uniform penalty fees for water theft. Background information provided by General Manager Tamara Alaniz: Senate Bill 427 was signed into law in 2021, establishing uniform penalty fees to be used by local agencies providing water services for occurrences of water theft. This item proposes that Ordinance 163 be adopted by the board to implement the consequences identified in the legislation and provide administrative remedy to water theft.

In addition, Ordinance 163 will give Brooktrails staff the ability to charge a penalty fee when they have repeat offenders who are not complying with the water-usage cap. The board voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 163 and moved to consider final adoption at the upcoming March 8 board meeting.

Finally, the full board voted to continue meeting via Zoom for that March 8 meeting.



repairs, maintenance, upgrades, and projects – water pipe replacement, street repaving, sidewalk rehabilitation, city hall roof patch, airport runway cleaning, rail-trail construction, police recruiting and training, vehicle replacements, tree mulching, storm drain cleaning, sewer maintenance, weeding, garbage pickup – all of it constantly requiring attention.

Cretins: "Constantly requiring attention" is, sadly, the ongoing vandalism in Snyder Park (City Park). Morons have been damaging the restrooms and the children's playground equipment and spraying graffiti. The city's Public Works Department has spent long hours repeatedly rescuing the park, making repairs, repainting walls defaced by cretinous pinheads. The city is planning to install security cameras in an attempt to catch the brain-dead vandals who seem to hate kids and everything else.

Trouble in Tesla Land: Chief of Police Fabian Lizarraga reported on the latest Irritated Citizens' Irritations: Gasoline-powered cars parking in electric charging station slots which, probably unknown to many, is against the law. Our local Tesla patriots are not hesitating to do their civic duty and calling the police and especially the manager of the Safeway, who contacted the police to report that the store was "inundated" with complaints, and asked the police department for help.

The police, after a period of issuing warnings, are now ticketing the scofflaws. Due to the citations, Chief Lizarraga said habitual recidivism is down.

Actual crime in Willits is not increasing, according to the 2021 year-end report presented to the city council; but arrests nearly doubled, from 212 in 2020 to 402 in 2021. Chief Lizarraga explained that 2020 was the height of COVID, and protocols to slow the spread of the coronavirus resulted in less interaction between police and the public. This was further exacerbated by COVID-constrained county jail limits.

The year 2021 saw an easing of COVID restrictions and an increase of police presence in the community – and a more settled police department with the hiring of our new and finally permanent chief of police – much to the dismay of our town's second-rate probrotes.

Help for business: Local businesses impacted by COVID will get a helping hand from the city's new Business Loan Assistance Program that will offer loans between \$15,000 and \$40,000, loans that in many cases will not have to be paid back. City Planner Dusty Duley, who has been quarterbacking this project since last fall, announced that there will be an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, March 8 at 6 pm at the Community Center (City Hall Building, 111 East Commercial Street). Duley encouraged local businesses to attend and to contact him at City Hall for more information.

The loan program is part of the city's ongoing championing of locally owned small businesses, years-long efforts to encourage economic development, to bring more businesses to town, and encourage local residents to shop in Willits.

A well-known U.S. Small Business Administration study reported that 80% of the money spent at locally owned businesses stays in town, re-spent and re-circulated in town. Of the money spent at

Convicted murderer Jameson Jackson sentenced to life without parole+

Posted by Mendocino County DA on Facebook

Ukiah, February 23 – After delaying his sentencing for six months, murder defendant Jameson Wolfgang Jackson ran out of excuses late Wednesday morning and was sentenced to life without parole – plus an additional 32 years to life – in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Defendant Jackson, age 36, formerly of Redwood Valley and Talmage, was convicted most recently by jury in August 2021 of murder in the first degree and attempted murder in the first degree.

The jury found true a special circumstance alleging that the defendant committed the murder by firing a handgun from inside a motor vehicle. The jury also found true the special allegations that the defendant personally and intentionally fired a firearm causing the death of the first man, and personally and intentionally fired the same firearm in an attempt to murder a second man.

The law enforcement agencies that developed the evidence used to convict defendant Jackson were the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol, the Round Valley Tribal Police Department, the California Department of Justice forensic laboratory, and the District Attorney's own Bureau of Investigations.

District Attorney David Eyster also extends a special thank you again to Pure Gold Forensics for their speedy DNA work on the case.

The attorney who prosecuted the case to verdict and argued for today's sentencing outcome was Assistant District Attorney Dale P. Trigg.

detectives believed there was sufficient probable cause to arrest Mitchell for 288.5 PC (Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child Under 14 years of Age).

On February 24, 2022 at about 3 pm, Mitchell was located in the Ukiah area and arrested. Following the arrest, he was booked into the Mendocino County Jail

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder presided over Wednesday's sentencing proceedings.

Unfortunately, as some may remember, these are not this defendant's first violent convictions.

In 2001, Jackson was convicted and sentenced as a juvenile for the robbery/murder of Joan LeFeat, a Brooktrails shop owner.

Jackson's co-defendant in those violent crimes, Christopher Matthew Coleman (then also 15 years old), was certified to adult court, convicted, and ultimately sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison.

Coleman, now age 36, remains housed in a CDCR state prison facility in San Diego County serving his life sentence. Online state prison records indicate Coleman will be eligible for parole consideration in December 2023.

While Coleman was certified to adult court, a local judge denied the prosecution's efforts to also certify Jackson to adult court.

Instead, Jackson was allowed to remain in juvenile court, was convicted of murder, and sentenced to serve his time in the California Youth Authority not to exceed his 25th birthday.

Jackson was paroled by the state authorities just after his 23rd birthday in 2008, having served only 7 years for his involvement in the LeFeat robbery/murder. Jackson then timed out on his parole in August 2010 when he turned 25.

Jumping forward to 2022, family members of Mrs. LeFeat addressed the court Wednesday morning in support of defendant Jackson being forever ineligible for parole and never again being allowed outside the walls of the California state prison system.

where he was to be held in lieu of \$200,000 bail.

Anyone with information concerning this investigation or Wilmer Mitchell is asked to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Tip-Line at 707-234-2100 or the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center at 707-463-4086.

corporate chain stores, 85% leaves town and never comes back.

Another rung on the city's ladder to a better business environment is the recently enacted and now-being-enforced building vacancy ordinance, a semi-friendly arm twisting to encourage owners of unoccupied commercial buildings to work a little harder, or for some long-time cases a lot harder, at finding tenants.

A better and maybe bigger Willits is the focus of the city's proposed 2022 Work Plan, an aspirationally ambitious agenda involving innovations that meet the changing climate and the changing world head on. One goal is to become an "Environmental Model City" by reducing the city's carbon footprint and promoting greater energy independence. Part of this mission is to convert the city's vehicle fleet to electric power, and to enact regulations restricting use of Styrofoam, plastic bags, and herbicides.

Willits is also moving to adopt an urban forestry management plan that includes a tree care ordinance, which the city does not presently have. And if that wasn't a full year's worth of major machinations, the city is also seeking out property developers willing to explore new housing opportunities and projects, some of which will require revisions to the city's zoning ordinances.

The city is continuing its attempts to expand city limits by annexing county property. The first step in the process is establishing a "sphere of influence" which is defined as "a plan for the probable physical boundary and service area" of the city. The city already provides water and sewer to some parcels outside city limits, so the sphere already has some influence. So far, the city has gotten little cooperation from the county, which does not want to share the property tax money with Willits.

Poseidon, primeval god of water, continues to favor his Willits acolytes with an abundance greatly appreciated by everyone, especially the city water department. Department head Scott Herman reported that our reservoirs are still overflowing despite a month with no rain. Herman was hopeful that the continuing flow will allow the city to install the dam boards, raising the water level and the storage capacity in the reservoirs.

An inactive, forgotten special tax district with real money to spend caught the eagle eye of the California State Controller, and then caught the attention of the county's LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) committee. LAFCO committee member and Willits city councilman Gerry Gonzalez reported that the state was going to shut down the obscure agency, which at one time was a cemetery district "or something" unless it was reactivated, pronto. Which our clever council member and his fellow LAFCO partners did, resuscitating the phantom agency, rescuing the money, and inviting cities and government districts in the county to apply for the funds. Reviving what councilmember Madge Strong called a "dummy agency" shows that sometimes our elected representatives are no dummies.

New campus: Progress on the future California Conservation Corps campus in Willits is wending its way along, according our very busy city planner Dusty Duley. The CCC center, located on 27.7 acres adjacent to East Hill Road, will have 12 buildings including residences for 120 permanent Corps members. The project is expected to take 2.5 years to complete. The California Conservation Corps is a state department, part of the California Natural Resources Agency. Corps members, who are 18-25 years old, work on environmental projects and respond to natural and man-made disasters. The CCC motto is "Hard Work, Low Pay, Miserable Conditions and More."



Above, left: Dr. Austin Tidwell, an internal medicine physician at Howard Memorial in Willits, was just promoted to the rank of Major in the National Guard. Above, right: Tidwell holds his new pin received when he was promoted to the rank of Major by the Pennsylvania National Guard after a 17-year career in the U.S. Army.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Dr. Austin Tidwell: A major force for good

By Adam Istas, public information officer, Adventist Health Mendocino County

Adventist Health Howard Memorial has major news. In January, Dr. Austin Tidwell -- an internal medicine physician at Howard Memorial in Willits -- was promoted to the rank of Major by the Pennsylvania National Guard after a 17-year career in the U.S. Army.

Dr. Tidwell first enlisted in the military at age 17, and he credits that early experience for helping to shape his perspective on relying on others; a perspective he carries with him into the overnight shift at Howard. "Joining the military at such a young age gave me a lot of exposure to diversity," says Tidwell. "I met many people all over the world with different socioeconomic backgrounds and religious beliefs, and I immediately learned that if we don't stand together, we lose."

The Pennsylvania native would later attend medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, then complete his residency in Binghamton, New York -- all while continuing to serve in the National Guard. Dr. Tidwell was promoted to Lieutenant in 2010 and to the rank of Captain in 2014. This latest promotion comes after he was offered the position of brigade physician with the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, an elite brigade combat team of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard located outside of Philadelphia.

Dr. Tidwell has now been part of the Adventist family for almost five years, having spent the first three years at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley before coming to Howard -- and he loves it. "The care we provide is less contractual and more human," he says, also noting that colleague stability and a lack of turnover are key drivers in keeping him in Mendocino County. "Everyone has been here a long time, and I've found the people here to be good for their word."

After being deployed with the National Guard to Washington, D.C. to protect the Capitol last January -- followed by a four-month deployment to Eastern Europe in 2020 -- Dr. Tidwell will retire from the military later this year, and is looking forward to further deepening his connection to the region and his patients.

"In the end, the pay is the same and the patient conditions are the same," he says. "What makes the difference is the quality of the people you run into and work with every day. I learned in the military that you rely on the person who has your back, and everyone looks after each other. And I see that Adventist Health. When you have that kind of camaraderie, it makes work enjoyable."



Above, from left: 2021 winner in the fifth-through-eighth-grade category, Veronica Cid. 2021 winner Dagny Tang of Palos Verde Estates. Millie Bricker of Fair Oaks is the artist of this 2021 award-winning drawing.

Fish & Wildlife sponsors Invasive Species Youth Art Contest

Submitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

On February 9, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is sponsoring the ninth annual California Invasive Species Youth Art Contest. This year's theme, "Unite to Fight Invasive Species," reflects the need for all Californians to work together to prevent the spread and impacts of invasive species.

"The Youth Art Contest is an opportunity for students to combine science with artistic expression while learning about an important environmental issue," said Elizabeth Brusati, an environmental scientist with CDFW's Invasive Species Program. "We want young people to look for ways to stop the spread of invasive species."

"Helpful actions," explained Brusati, "could include choosing native plants for landscaping, not releasing unwanted pets into the wild, reporting invasive species sightings, and cleaning clothing and gear to prevent

unintentionally moving organisms from one location to another."

The contest is offered by CDFW's Invasive Species Program in conjunction with California Invasive Species Action Week, which will be June 4 through 12 this year. There are three age divisions for youths in grades two through four, five through eight, and nine through twelve.

All types of media are welcome and encouraged, including (but not limited to) drawings, paintings, animations, comic strips, videos and public service announcements. Entries must reflect the 2022 theme: "Unite to Fight Invasive Species."

The top three winners in each division will receive awards and have their entries announced on CDFW's social media.

Additional details and inspiration, including prior years' winning entries, can also be found on the CDFW website.

The deadline for art-contest entries is April 1. Completed entries and entry forms should be submitted electronically. Submission instructions can be found on the CDFW website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Action-Week/Poster-Contest>.

The goal of California Invasive Species Action Week is to increase public awareness of invasive-species issues and encourage public participation in the fight against California's invasive species and their impacts on our state's natural resources and biodiversity.

The mission of CDFW's Invasive Species Program is to reduce the impacts of invasive species on the wildlands and waterways of California. The program is involved in efforts to prevent the introduction of these species into the state, detect and respond to introductions when they occur, and prevent the spread of those species that have established.

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