

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Thursday, March 11, 2021

It's
Real Estate
Section
Thursday!

County budget review better than expected

Forrest Glyer

Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At the mid-year budget report during the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, county Chief Executive Officer Carmel Angelo said the county had done well in keeping operations going during the first six months of the fiscal year – from July 1 to December 31 of 2020 – despite all the challenges of dealing with the effects of COVID-19.

“So this has been obviously an unusual year,” said Angelo. “We know that the pandemic continues, and we certainly have been forced to make changes.... I think that Mendocino County has done really well with this, we have not had a lot of outbreaks throughout the county departments.

“The auditor/controller is able to project additional discretionary revenue at this time,” she continued. “We know that most departments right now at mid-year 2020/21 are doing well and managing their payroll and operational expenses, even

Read the rest of

Budget

Over on Page 11

Willits man arrested on drugs, weapons charges

By Sgt. Robert Moore, for MCSO

On March 3, 2021 at approximately 2:27 am, deputies from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a reported suspicious vehicle in the area of Rancho Grande Drive in Ukiah.

The deputies were advised the vehicle was an old police vehicle, black in color and having spotlights.

Deputies responded to the area and located the described vehicle at the intersection of Rancho Grande Drive and Cabana Court.

Deputies contacted the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle, Shannon Henson, 24, of Willits. While talking to Henson, deputies were given consent to search the vehicle.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Dispatch checked Henson for warrants and probation. Deputies were advised Henson was on Mendocino County Summary Probation with a term to obey all laws.

During the search

Read the rest of

Arrested

Over on Page 4



A few of the friendly faces from the Soroptimist International of Willits club, which puts out the Willits Community Telephone Directory each year, including, from left: Heidi Ahders, Vicki Ham, Marilyn Harden and Kitty Norris. Not pictured: Fran Schatz, Jane McCabe and Jennifer Andrews. At left: The cover of the 2021 phone book tries to sum up the feelings about the strange year we've all overcome with



the Twilight Zone – turned Soroptimist Zone – theme. Below: Soroptimist members meet via Zoom.

The Soroptimist Zone

It's here! The 2021 Soroptimist International of Willits Telephone Directory

You are about to enter another information source, a source not only of residential numbers and cell numbers but of also of local businesses. A journey into a wondrous land of information. Next stop, the Soroptimist Zone!

Want to be included in next year's book, or need to make a change? Now's the time to let them know! You can also send new numbers to be included – cell or residential are both accepted – via email to willitsphonebook@gmail.com.

– Maureen Jennison



'Snow Happens' (& Fire, Wind & Power Outages)

Submitted by Willits Economic Localization

WELL hosts “Snow Happens (& Fire, Wind & Power Outages),” a public Zoom Forum set for Sunday, March 14 from 3 to 5 pm, featuring representatives from county and local fire safe councils, rural subdivisions, and first responders. The forum will be moderated by Third District Supervisor John Haschak.

The intense snow and wind storm of January 26 and 27, 2021, wreaked havoc in the Willits area, with thousands of people stranded and without power for up to a week, and leaving damage that will take months to remedy.

Residents and first responders are worried about the added fire hazard posed by all the downed trees, and – after our horrible wildfires last summer – we face potentially worse conditions this year.

What have we learned from these events? What can we do to be better prepared for the next disasters?

WELL (Willits Economic Localization) is hosting this Zoom public forum to provide an update on the damage and repairs from the January storms and to help identify the resources and plans for addressing future emergencies.

In addition to hearing from our local firesafe councils, we will have first responders to answer questions, including: representatives from CalFire and local fire departments, the Sheriff's Office and police departments, and PG&E.

To join the Zoom meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/f7ak621b>

Or email Madge Strong at mstrong@willitsonline.com or call 459-1493 for other options to join this virtual public forum.

Below, left: Siblings Sarah and her big brother Grady enjoy fun in the freshly fallen snow Wednesday morning north of Willits. Below, right: The Fonsen family's horses enjoy eating flakes of hay on top of the snow-covered ground.

Photos by Mary Fonsen



Number of new COVID cases drops

Forrest Glyer

Reporter
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There was some good news at the county board of supervisors meeting on Tuesday regarding COVID-19, with county staff reporting that the number of new cases arising in Mendocino County has dropped significantly in the last two weeks as compared to previous weeks.

County Public Health Officer Andy Coren, MD said that if the numbers stay at that lower level for about one more week it could move the county out of the “purple tier” and into the “red tier” status and loosen up some restrictions on businesses and other public places in the county, such as allowing limited indoor dining again.

He said the number of average daily new cases in the county during the last week had dropped to 3.72 – about one-third of what it had been two weeks prior – and that the percentage of positive tests for those tested in the county had dropped to 2.7 percent, about half of what it had been.

Read the rest of

Not Red Yet

Over on Page 11

Planning commission considers pot changes March 18

Jennifer Poole

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The Mendocino County Planning Commission – newly constituted as a five-member body, down from its traditional seven members – holds two online meetings next week.

The first March 18 special meeting will consider two sets of amendments to Mendocino County's pot ordinance, including sections on cannabis activities and on cannabis cultivation.

According to the staff report, the proposed changes to county code regarding cannabis activities include “major revisions and expansion of retail use classification to incorporate canna-tourism uses.” This would include a number of changes including “the permitting of cannabis farmers' markets, cannabis farm tours, cannabis lodging opportunities, and on-site consumption at cannabis cultivation locations.”

The second set of

Read more of

Changes

Over on Page 4

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

CELL PHONE WORD SEARCH

Grid of letters for word search: G T S B V T K R C V Y R A N I B S M G I F G, U N G V E L U T D B E Y G E R A E V Y O C K H G U K S L W, K M R E U H T S N O E D B W D N E Y T W O R K Y I C R M, F I C R E O D S I C E I R E W M O U N A H P A L A E N N, L E W I T C T V D E I E E W D A O L N W O D I N, Y C V H N A N S E I H B O T U O K N B E I Y M, P E O W A N S F I T B O B O I N N B E I Y M, A L R H U V I E G C A O B I T G E I T Y I A R, Y L P H D M I H G R A V A C T N G R A L U T C M, A U L B F A U I Y B A V A C T N G V D A T A E, T I A N C R R L K N I T M C T M G L F B A C A C, R R S R S I D L M E I C E A S V P R Y C E, U K S U V U R F Y Y T A E H E A D P P R Y C E, C B A E O P F I N G W E R P R I N T B W O, E C M I A M G S P W A B N T N G S F K O, S Y D H T D I W D N A B N S G A E Y P I

Table with 4 columns: ACTIVATION, BINARY, COVERAGE, NETWORK, ADVANCED, BLUETOOTH, DATA, PROVIDER, ALPHANUMERIC, CACHE, DOWNLOAD, SECURITY, ANDROID, CAMERA, FINGERPRINT, SERVICE, APPLICATION, CAPACITY, ILLUMINATION, STREAMING, BANDWIDTH, CELLULAR, KEYPAD, WIFI

13 16 20 25 29 38 41 44 51 56 60 65 69 14 18 23 27 31 36 40 43 47 55 59 63 68 70

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Large dung beetle
7. Representation of a plan
13. In a fervid way
14. The Book of Psalms
16. Morning
17. Exactly the same
19. About
20. Brown and basmati are two
22. Swiss river
23. Philippine island
25. Expressions of surprise
26. An ant
28. Common Japanese surname
29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
30. Car mechanics group
31. A person's brother or sister
33. Ancient pharaoh
34. Quantitative fact
36. Vividly colored bird
38. Your home has one
40. Organic compound
41. Section at the end of a book
43. Flat tableland with steep edges
44. Criticize
45. Split pulses

- 47. Brief trend
48. Cool!
51. Purposes
53. Brews
55. Skin condition
56. Pops
58. American air travel company
59. Minute bug
60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
61. One who rides in your car
64. One of the Gospels
65. City in southern Spain
67. Inquisitive
69. Jean Paul __, author
70. Pop singer Harry

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An ape or monkey
2. Chemical element
3. Zodiac sign
4. Removes
5. Brew
6. Nickname
7. Architectural structures
8. Trigonometric function
9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna
10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two

- 11. Mountain (abbr.)
12. Landscaping practice
13. Capacitance unit
15. Redirect
18. Hat for women
21. In a way, dressed down
24. Granny
26. Feed
27. Endpoint
30. Indian instrument
32. Bleated
35. Cablegram (abbr.)
37. Root mean square (abbr.)
38. Jellyfishes
39. Individual TV installments
42. Talk
43. More (Spanish)
46. Leaseholder
47. Monetary units
49. Hostility
50. Work stations
52. Linguistics giant
54. Female sheep
55. Calendar month
57. Seasoning
59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey
62. Single Lens Reflex
63. A way to remove
66. Virginia
68. Old English

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

March 1 to March 7

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 100 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 1

10:01 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Wood Street and Catherine Lane.
4:37 pm: CAVINO, Richard Kevin (57) of Willits and CAVINO, Dustin Michael (29) of Willits were contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. Richard Cavino was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol content of 0.08% or higher. Dustin Cavino was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

5:29 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

March 2

1:54 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
7:06 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.
9:46 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Blosser Lane.
10:50 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Creekside Court and Creekside Drive.

12:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Hillside Drive.

March 3

5:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East Commercial Street and South Lenore Avenue.
8:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

March 4

12:07 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
6:02 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
6:47 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of Coast Street.
8:19 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

The rest of Arrested From Page 1

At right: Shannon Henson, 24, of Willits.

of the vehicle, deputies located three bulbous glass methamphetamine smoking pipes [11364(a) HS], an assault weapon [30605(a) PC], switchblade knife [21510(a) PC], and approximately 8 grams gross weight of suspected methamphetamine.

Henson was also arrested for being a drug user while being in possession of a firearm [29800(a)(1) PC] and violation of his Summary Probation [1203.2 PC]. Henson was subsequently booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

More of Changes From Page 1

proposed changes to the county code focuses on cannabis cultivation.

According to the staff report, in addition to other changes: "The proposed ordinance will regulate the cultivation of cannabis as a land use issue and review it under existing standards within the Zoning Code, specifically Division I of Title 20 of County Code, and provides for site specific review of all proposed sites."

The changes seek "to eliminate the duplicative permitting process that is currently required by Chapter 10A.17, where cultivators must obtain a local permit and also a state License that are largely reviewing the exact same criteria.... Since each cannabis cultivation operation will be reviewed under a discretionary permit, each site will be reviewed individually for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. This will allow for appropriate site specific conditions and/or mitigations to be applied to these operations to reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels."

The staff recommendation is for the Planning Commission to support these changes in a recommendation to the

Read the rest of Changes Over on Page 11



'Pain Free'
Doctor of Physical Therapy Elizabeth Basterrechea opens new downtown practice on Main Street

"Anybody who has physical-therapy needs should come see me. If they have pain or they're not moving correctly, if they're weaker than you should be or if they have swelling or repetitive injuries," stated Elizabeth Basterrechea, doctor of physical therapy. She opened her new location in January at 23 South Main Street and has begun to offer her specialties to those in need in a well-equipped and safe environment.

Basterrechea is a "board-certified clinical specialist in orthopedic physical therapy, and a certified lymphedema therapist" from the Lymphology Association of North America. She received her doctorate in physical therapy from Pacific University in Oregon in 2010 and has been constantly studying and honing her practice for several years.

Of her two main specialties is the alleviation of lymphedema, "a build-up of lymph fluid within the interstitium of the body," she explained. "There are hereditary cases where people have either not enough lymph or there is something wrong with the lymph system, where they don't have enough nodes and the pathways are not there or connected, so they develop a lymphedema.

"Usually," she continued, "primary is bilateral, where both hands are affected. Secondary is most common after lymph removal or breast surgery, as in radical mastectomies, where lymph nodes are removed or the lymphatics are damaged through radiation. The pathway is disturbed, so the lymph builds up and creates swelling. It's a protein-rich fluid that is osmotic and stays in the interstitium," a contiguous fluid-filled space existing between a structural barrier, such as a cell wall or the skin, and internal structures, such as organs, including muscles and the circulatory system.

"I come in," said Basterrechea, "and we figure the pathway through which the fluid needs to drain and we do what is called 'complete decongestive therapy.' That involves home recommended programs, education, self-management, as well as doing the manual lymphatic drainage and appropriate compression."

Basterrechea's other specialty is physical therapy, and the alleviation of 'acute / chronic pain in the back, neck, and throughout the body, as well as pre / post-surgical limitations, impaired balance, gait abnormalities, and sports injuries," according to her flyer.

She has a full array of physical therapeutic, balancing, and strengthening equipment in her studio, including a Total Gym, recumbent bike, Biodex Balance System, fluidity bar (for balance and core work), tread climber (combination of stair climber and an elliptical), high-low table for manual work, Bowflex (for various resistance exercises), massage chair, and table.

She has had a long and interesting journey on her way to setting up practice in Willits. Her parents emigrated from the Basque Country in Spain, a place she visited with her soccer team in college. "At 16, I became a lifeguard," Basterrechea related. "My boss was working on his recreational-therapy degree. He would study people who had tyrannic brain injuries, a young man with cerebral palsy, a lady who had had a stroke, and similar maladies.

"At different times of the week," she said, "he would have these people come in. He would include me. It was interesting as far as the neurological deficits that were present and what he would do to encourage movement, and a strengthening and repatterning by using the water as a medium for them to move more easily.

"When he left to finish his degree," explained Basterrechea, "he introduced me to a warm-water therapy program. After people would rehab, the therapist would give them an exercise program they would do independently. I took on that job in my senior year of high school. I started off as a massage therapist.

"One of the massage therapists where I went to school," she continued, "worked on the oncology ward for palliative care, but he was also interested in the lymph system, so I learned a lot from him. We were able to go through the different wards and offer student massages to the people in the hospital. It helped to relieve the stress of being in a hospital and stuck to a bed.

"My first job at St. Mary's in Reno," she shared, "was at a big hospital at a breast cancer center. We would go to the oncology board meetings and listen to the doctors, radiologists and oncologists, and the genetic counselors. It was really enlightening and fascinating. They would refer patients to us and ask if we thought we could help them."

Basterrechea's orthopedic specialty was certified in 2015. It is a specialty that involves "a lot of research and knowledge of physiology."

Her practice follows all the COVID protocols, including the taking of temperatures prior to the approximately one-hour sessions, masking and distancing as much as possible, and allowing time between clients for sanitizing the equipment. She has a large industrial-sized air filter that is run between patients.

Basterrechea sees patients in Willits at 23 South Main Street on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Saturday sessions can be arranged if needed. Her practice takes Medicare and other forms of insurance. Call for details: 707-513-8852. Visit www.willitspt.com for more information.

"I find pleasure in helping people," Basterrechea said, "getting them moving, and helping them to be pain free in their bodies. It's important for the quality of their lives."



At top, left: Elizabeth Basterrechea instructs her son in the use of the equipment as dad Ryan McGrath looks on.



At top, right: Basterrechea's practice, in its downtown Willits location between Cat's Meow and Off the Cuff.

Above: Elizabeth Basterrechea, doctor of physical therapy, poses for a photo in her office

At left: The office skeleton is ready for St. Patrick's Day.

Below: A wall full of diplomas and certifications speaks to the qualifications of Elizabeth Basterrechea.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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At right: Daniel Stewart's "Crystal Worlds" is a fanciful painting and a good example of the artist following his Muse. At far right: Brickhouse Coffee owner Tom Mann describes a hike he took with his son years ago to a place that looks just like Dan Stewart's painting of "Ship of the Desert," a painting comprised of five photo images the artist photographed in the desert. Below: Clouds with imaginary people and animals float over a realistic ocean scene in the top painting titled, "Riders in the Storm"; the bottom painting, "Water Windows" is one of the composite painted panes – it's one panel in a series of others in the show.



OBITUARY |

Jim Baskin

James W. Baskin (JW, Butch), 71, of Willits, California passed away on January 15, 2021 peacefully in his home after a long battle with heart problems and cancer.

Jim was born in Freeport, Texas on April 29, 1949 to Albert and Lois Baskin; they moved to Fort Bragg when Jim was 5 years old where he stayed and graduated high school in 1967. Jim met his wife, Pamela (McCa), in the summer of 1973, they were married in 1975 and had just celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.



Jim worked for 50+ years for the California Western Railroad known as the Skunk Train in various positions including track maintenance, conductor, and engineer, but his true love of the train was mentoring and training others on the railroad tracks.

Jim had a love for slow-pitch softball and enjoyed coaching his children's various extra-curricular activities over the years including sports teams and gymnastics. He had a real passion for music including blues and classic rock and enjoyed playing instruments himself. He enjoyed the outdoors and would go camping whenever he could; sitting around a campfire at night and talking to good friends were some of his fondest memories.

Jim is survived by his wife, Pam, his children Christina & Matthew and his wife, Jennifer, grandchildren Berlin, Jaxson, Liam and Stanley, sister Teresa Bradley, and niece Shauna Bradley, niece Alyssa Owens, and nephew Wesley Owens.

Jim was preceded in death by his father Albert, mother Lois, and sister Susan.

His family and friends will always hold him close to their heart, and love and remember him.



Stewart and Mann stand in the line of exquisitely detailed oil paintings. Photos by Ree Slocum

Art at Brickhouse

Oil and watercolor paintings of 'multi-dimensional artist' Daniel Stewart showing at local coffeehouse through April

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

and he visually treats viewers with his documentaries, illustrated books, and captivating paintings.

Stewart is a long-time customer at Brickhouse and through the years, he and owner Tom Mann have become friends.

"Dan is an enormously talented, multi-dimensional artist. I knew of his novels and self-illustrated books that have a lot of fantasy. It's all very well done," Mann effused. "When he showed me one of his paintings for the first time, I just went for [having him show at the café]. When he started bringing them in to hang, I was astonished by the quality and detail of his work," Mann added.

The artist is also a talented photographer who uses his camera to capture images he later paints. Sometimes he adds fanciful details to skies or backgrounds from his imagination.

While each painting is different in subject matter or medium, his attention to detail is ever-present. "I use very, very fine-tipped brushes. Painting a larger area, I use a slightly larger brush. When it comes to detail, it's almost microscopic," he said.

As with most artists, he has a historical journey with creativity.

"I started out painting when I was this high," he gestured about three feet up from the coffee-shop floor. "My mother was an artist. I became infatuated with crayons, colored pencils, watercolors, and other things. So, I attribute most of my talent to the encouragement and instruction of my mother."

The artist continued taking drawing and painting classes in school and college, along with writing and drama classes. "Now it's simply what I do. I kind of reinvent painting every time I sit down to paint," he said.

For the artist, he has a lifelong journey of creating. "I serve a bossy Muse!" he revealed.

Brickhouse Coffee is also home to local resident artists Steve Eberhard, with his photography, and Marta Alanzo's paintings.

Enjoy a freshly brewed coffee drink while gazing at Stewart's paintings at Brickhouse Coffee. It's open for take-out with breakfast and lunch, and offers tasty treat choices with outside seating. They're open Monday through Saturday 7 am to 3 pm at 3 South Main Street.

Stewart will be at Brickhouse this Saturday, March 13 from noon to 3 pm, to chat about his artwork. View book titles offered by Stewart at www.DanielBlairStewart.com. Purchase them at The Book Juggler or borrow them from the Willits Library. His videos are on You Tube and include local musicians.

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Sweet Jasper and Huxley

DONKEYS! It's time Jasper and Huxley had a loving home with a family to love on them. These are sweet boys, 3 years old. Jasper is the more outgoing, Huxley (light belly) suffered some trauma during fire evacuation and is head-shy now, but with time and TLC, he will come back around to being as affectionate as his half-brother, Jasper.

Milo Foundation wants a home with a decent pasture for these two. They like horses and other animals (to a point). Most important is to have loving people to spend time with them daily. Huxley likes to fence-run with the dogs, they're both intrigued but prefer them on the other side of the fence in general. Jasper will follow you anywhere and Huxley will follow him.

Please email sanctuary@milofoundation.org



with description of potential home, other animals, people to love them, experience (if any) and other details. There is no firm adoption fee set ... working on that, or make an offer with a donation ideally.

Visit their website, www.milofoundation.org, or Facebook page to learn more about the Milo Foundation and Sanctuary, including how to donate online, and how to adopt a Milo animal. You can also reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275 or send a check to: Milo Foundation, PO Box 6625, Albany, CA 94706.

Well-Mannered Jaxeson

You may remember Jaxeson, aka Shi Yon, from the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County box-litter last August from Covelo. Sadly, Jaxeson was returned a few weekends ago after his home did not work out. That is OK though, HSIMC is always there for their furry friends. Jaxeson is now 8 months old, looking for his second shot at love. He is a well-rounded dog who gets along with other dogs, cats and even the kiddos! He does great in his crate, walks well on a leash, has great recall, and has not had one accident in the home so far! (Fingers crossed he keeps up the good work.)

Jaxeson is actually a pretty easy dog. He just needs a buddy willing to spend some time with him, building up his self-confidence. He goes with the flow and is overall just a happy guy who is eager to please you. Jaxeson is all set and ready to start his forever life with you today.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsimc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsimc.org. Visit www.petfinder.com or the "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, visit www.mendohumaneociety.com to learn more.



Cutest Willy

Willy is a big ol' handsome dog! He's a happy and curious mixed-breed 2-year-old that weighs 90 pounds. One thing the Mendocino County Animal Shelter noted is that Willy is a fence jumper – so tall, secure fencing will be a must in his new home. To minimize his chance of escape, it will be important that Willy is inside with his new family a lot, which is exactly where he will want to be. Shelter staff unanimously agree: Willy wins the shelter cutest muzzle award!

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





SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Market

Come shop a selection of handmade goods from local herbalists and artisans!

March 20, 2021 | 11-4pm
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HOW DOES **YOUR** FACE SAY, "WINNING!"

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Willits Educational Foundation



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Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

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St. John Lutheran Church

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Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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

Sonoma Clean Power launches 'Bike Electric' program with customer incentives

Submitted by Sonoma Clean Power

Sonoma Clean Power is launching a new program focused on connecting income-qualified customers in need of clean, personal transportation with incentives for electric bicycles, or eBikes.

In SCP's service territory, where transportation is the leading source of community-wide emissions, supporting the regional transition from gas-powered vehicles to vehicles fueled by clean electricity has long been a priority of the agency.

However, tackling emissions from transportation also requires reducing the number of cars on the road.

The eBike industry has found new recognition in recent years, though various models of eBikes can be traced back as far as the 1890s. With both California and the nation setting ambitious goals to combat greenhouse-gas emissions, eBikes have caught the eye of local governments and public agencies as a solution for short-distance commuters in their communities.

When compared to a traditional bike, eBikes allow riders to travel longer distances in a shorter amount of time. The extra range and assisted pedaling can help replace car trips, ease commutes to work, and solve the "last mile" issue some people face when using public transit.

For those without a vehicle, eBikes may also present a lower-cost alternative to car ownership.

Starting March 8, SCP customers who qualify for CARE / FERA (state programs that provide discounted electric rates administered by PG&E), CalFresh / SNAP, LIHEAP, Head Start, and other income-based assistance programs, can apply to receive \$1,000 off the purchase of an eBike.

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SNOWMAGEDDON!!!

Join us to get the latest information on what is being done in the recovery efforts to deal with all the downed trees caused by the snowstorm last January. Area Fire Safe Councils are joining efforts to recruit disaster recovery volunteers from professional disaster response groups who can bring the equipment and manpower to the large volume of downed vegetation.

March 11, 6 to 8 pm
Zoom: <https://us/j/85625036304>
ID: 856 2503 6304, Password: 918795

Telephone (audio only): 669-900-6833
ID: 856 2503 6304, Password: 918795

send questions to: info@sherwoodfirewise.org

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Above: Electric bikes provide an affordable way to commute to work.

Photo courtesy of Sonoma Clean Power

Below: An eBike rider attaches a box to the rack behind her seat.

Photo courtesy of BikePartners Bike Shop

on which stores offer payment-plan options. Additionally, customers can learn more about the free trainings on eBike safety and best practices that are being offered in partnership with the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition.

Through the "Bike Electric" program, SCP hopes to stimulate the local eBike market, further support the adoption of clean modes of transportation, and make eBikes accessible to residents who could benefit most from owning one.

To learn more or to apply, please visit www.sonomacleanpower.org/programs/bike-electric.

About Sonoma Clean Power

Sonoma Clean Power is the public power provider for Sonoma and Mendocino counties. We contract with cleaner generating sources that have fewer greenhouse-gas emissions, and provide power to residents, businesses and municipalities in our service territory at rates that are competitive with PG&E. Climate change affects everyone, so our services and programs are designed for everyone. To learn more, visit www.sonomacleanpower.org or call 855-202-2139.



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The rest of Letters | From Page 2

meta and granular data tracked, harvested and sold, be experimented on, and become a target of the latest high-powered, low latency, weaponized communications system? There have been no safety studies done by the industry to prove this technology is safe. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits denial of towers on the basis of radio frequency emissions if they fall below the standards determined by them. Knowing that children are especially vulnerable, do you agree to have this 70-foot-tall tower within 1,600 feet from the Spyrock Elementary School? The children play at the playground and in the garden (they plant, harvest and eat the plants they grow). 5G reaches 6.2 miles.

Since 1999 the telecom industry wanted to replace the then 20-foot tower with a 75-foot tower. Due to overwhelming community opposition this did not happen until 2009 when a 50-foot tower was approved. Twice locals were told that the height of the tower would not change. Mendocino County guidelines do not allow a tower that is taller than 37 feet for that site.

The public hearing starts March 18 at 9 am (see Planning Commission agenda where this project will be discussed) and is a virtual hearing. To voice your opinion send a letter with subject: Public Comment UM_2020-0004 (Crown Castle) to Mendocino County Planning Commission at 860 N. Bush St. Ukiah, CA 95482. You can also send an e-mail no later than 5 pm on March 17 (include the case number UM_2020-0004 (Crown Castle) in the subject line) to both addresses: pbs@mendocinocounty.org pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org

Look for agenda, staff report, and public comments at www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/meeting-agendas/planning-commission

In addition, you can speak to the commissioners via phone or Zoom for 3 minutes during public comment time for this project by informing the Planning and Building Services Department no later than 7 am the day of the hearing and filling out the request at www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/meeting-agendas

The hearing will be available for viewing at www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYcX7uSxr-GyRh20JtwFg

If you have no time to study the document, you might want to focus on the issue of the height increase; the location next to the school and visible from the school; concerns relating to aesthetics, privacy, community needs, droughts and wildfires in a very high fire hazard zone; need for wireless devices when satellites like Starlink, other providers and other sites offer connectivity; considerations in regards to the county's Precautionary Principle:

www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=1926 or the county's Wireless Guidelines: www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=10439

The cell phone company admitted in the hearing of February 18 this new height increase will bring in no new customers, nor will it improve reception for existing customers.

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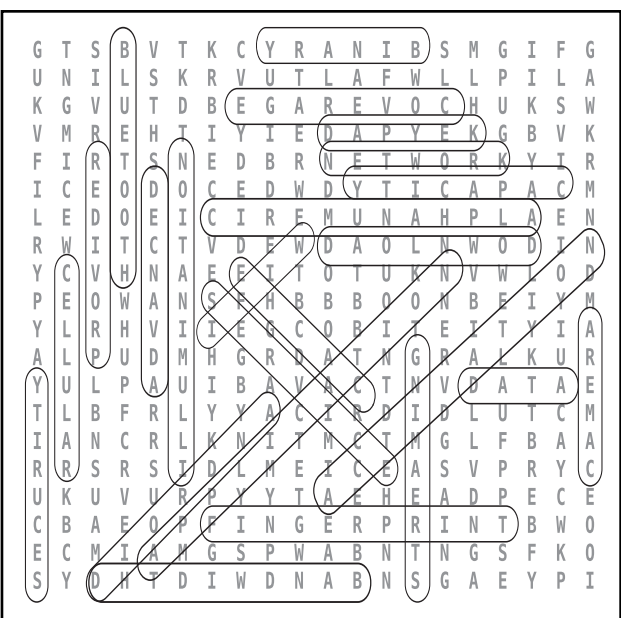
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LEGAL NOTICES

Willits Weekly can run your legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and much more. Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com

WW309 Fictitious Business Name Statement
2021-F0058
The following person is doing business as KGM Glass, 1260 North Main Street, #3, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.
Registered owner: Kevin Greer Minard, 31000 Camp One Ten Mile Road #C, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on February 4, 2021.
/s/ Kevin Minard
Publication dates: 2/18, 2/25, 3/04 and 3/11/2021

WW307 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Filed February 4, 2021
CASE NUMBER SCUCVCPT 21-75071
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner **Antonio Ramirez Madrigal**, aka Antonie Ramirez Madrigal filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Antonio Ramirez Madrigal to Tony Madrigal
Antonie Ramirez Madrigal to Tony Madrigal

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: March 19, 2021, Time: 9:30 a.m., Dept. E
Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino
100 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482
Date: 02/04/21
Publication Dates: February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 2021

WW311 NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 20th day of March, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. or immediately following the GLENMARK SOUTH auction, on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK NORTH 395 North Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:

Margaret Hale 502
Jimmy Hendry 255
Lauren Malugani 504

The goods are described as: Furniture, tools, misc totes.
Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.

Glen Green
Bond-#70784656
(707) 459-4628
Publication Dates: March 4 and 11, 2021

WW310 NOTICE OF SALE OF GOODS TO SATISFY SELF STORAGE FACILITY LIEN

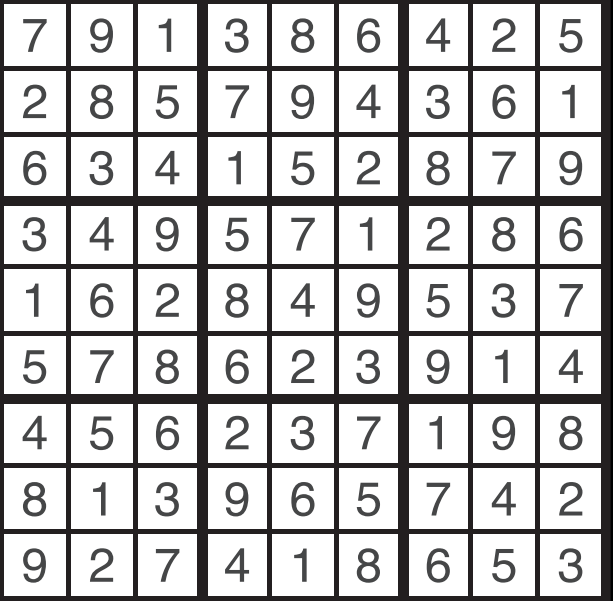
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provision of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 20th day of March, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at GLENMARK SOUTH 1788 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490, County of Mendocino, State of California the following:

Barbara Back F22
Tiffany Burgos C73C
Tiffany Burgos E87C
Matt Dearing I02
Sarah Doyle D01
Zack Forkner B17
Eugene Jacomella B11
Eugene Jacomella C74C
Miranda Mills C88C
Laurie Peratrovich E51C

The goods are described as: Big screen TV, furniture, tools, music albums, misc totes.
Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of the sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and the obliged party.

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Publication Dates: March 4 and 11, 2021



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Carpenter. Will trade services for housing, something simple, off-grid is OK. Part-time work, long-term. Michael: 707-462-1324.

Help Wanted
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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 uicearbhail@gmail.com

For Rent
Smallish cabin with studio. Washer/dryer. Perfect for one person. Non-smoker. 5 ½ miles southwest of Willits. No cultivation. Discount for cat(s). No dogs. References required. \$800/month. Available April 1. Call Marc 707-459-3236

Stay Safe
I'll be back to help you with your Alterations and Sewing Needs when it is safe to do so. Barbara the Seamstress

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.

Freezer Empty? We can help!
Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

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while designed to be able to meet the current needs of the force, additionally is built for future requirements and contingencies.

"The filing room has an island in the middle where we can do plan reviews," continued Wilkes. "We need plenty of filing space even though we are moving to electronic records. Our offices are relatively small comparatively. We are moving all the files into this room. That way we can have a smaller office and be more efficient with the space. We made some changes in this room by putting in overhead storage cabinets and leaving a space for the copy machine."

As the firehouse is being constructed, the planners, fire personal, and contractors are prone to finding minor ways to improve the design. Making the small but efficient changes greatly improves the efficacy and flow of the internal workings, creating a more coherent internal situation in which the personnel can work.

The conference room is equipped to be the disaster center as well as a location for private conferences. "One of the NFPA requirements is that in the event of a disaster, you have the ability to be your own emergency operations center," said Wilkes. "This room would be that. There will be a lot of communications devices in here. Our radio systems are all on ethernet and have static IP addresses with the radio heads, so you can literally take a radio head and plug it into any comm-port in the building. All the data and power is in the floor and will come up in the table, so there are no visible cables."

The massive bays in the back are large enough to accommodate all but the largest ladder trucks. In the past, the department has had to spend thousands of extra dollars to customize engines to fit into the small bays that were available. Now, they will be able to utilize standard equipment.

Wilkes is looking at early August for a reasonable completion projection, although they originally wanted it for the Fourth of July parade and rodeo. The Oak Fire and weather created some roadblocks to construction but most important is getting a firehouse that is functional, esthetically a part of the downtown, and far-sighted enough to be used for many years.

"You have to have the vision for it or it will never happen," Wilkes mused. "The board and the previous fire chiefs all had the vision, even though the plans have changed over time. They purchased that house [located behind the firehouse] in the early 90s in order to be able to expand onto that property. We failed on the tax in 2013 but the vision never left. There have been all these city projects that people have wanted but they fell by the wayside because they lost the vision. As soon as you lose the vision, it's gone. You have to want it and try. The past fire chiefs and the board never lost the vision."

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Join the Noyo Center for a March Celebration of Whales

The Noyo Center for Marine Science in Fort Bragg invites the local public to participate in a celebration of whales this March!

Despite the uncertainty of the Annual Whale Festival traditionally organized by the Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce, the Noyo Center will still be offering its own Whale Festival events for 2021. If you want to learn more about these cerebral cetaceans, or simply celebrate in the safety of your own "pod," we welcome you to join us! Please check our website at noyocenter.org for details, as well as a complete list of Whale Festival activities and events! March 2021 activities include:

- Scavenger Hunt (Registration required. Prizes available)
- A variety of virtual whale-related science talks
- Migrating whale census research with Mendonoma Whale and Seal Study and Noyo Center educators via Facebook Live
- Virtual tour of California Academy of Science's marine

Mendocino County Crop Report 2019

March 2021

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County:

In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2019 annual crop report for Mendocino County. This report reflects the total gross value of agricultural commodities produced in the county and not the net returns for producers.

The total gross agricultural value for all commodities produced in 2019 was \$271,619,209, which represents a 15.3 percent decrease compared to the 2018 value of \$320,810,620. The leading agricultural commodity continues to be wine grapes, at \$114,432,271.

Agricultural production, excluding timber, totaled \$162,036,841. Timber represents the second highest value commodity, with a gross "at mill" value of \$109,582,368, a 17.3 percent decrease over the previous year's total of \$132,516,260. Mendocino County ranked fourth in the state in timber volumes and produced roughly 8.5 percent of the state's total timber harvest in 2019.

MENDOCINO COUNTY



2019 CROP REPORT

Slowing construction of new homes in 2018 lead to the 17.3 percent decrease in gross timber value over the previous year. Pear production tons were down significantly, as were prices, leading to a 28.9 percent decrease in overall value. Apple prices were down moderately, but continued demand for fresh packed apples and juice, primarily for cider, lead to a 36.6 percent increase in total market value.


Cattle production was slightly up, but the overall population stayed relatively the same as projections about the availability of future forage remains uncertain. Even with slightly lower prices, production values were calculated to be \$17,583,500 in 2019, a 1 percent increase over the previous year. Milk production values were not available due to the state switching over to a new federal marketing system. Historical values for milk production are usually between \$3 and \$4 million.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the many producers and agencies that furnish the necessary information that makes this report possible. I would also like to thank the University of California Cooperative Extension and all the members of my staff, including Juliana Parlet and Aaron Hult for their hard work, valuable input and assistance in producing this report.

Respectfully submitted,


Jim Donnelly, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

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MON - SAT

mammal collection

The Scavenger Hunt FUNdraiser has returned with a new set of questions and activities with a focus on whales! This 15-day event will get us outside to learn more about the magnificent Mendocino coast, gray whales, migration, citizen science, and all we do at the Noyo Center for Marine Science.

Participants in last year's Scavenger Hunt remarked how much they enjoyed the challenge and also the opportunity to get outside with friends and family in a COVID-safe manner. Comments ranged from "How much fun to explore our area and learn something new" to "Loved how the questions had something for everyone – from history to marine biology and botany."

The Noyo Center's Whale Festival will be the culmination

of Noyo Center's Sustaining Membership Drive taking place right now. To become a sustaining member, or to make a donation, please visit <https://noyocenter.org/membership-program/>

The Noyo Center for Marine Science is a non-profit organization located in Fort Bragg, California. Its mission is to advance ocean conservation through education, exploration and experience. They are making our dramatic coastline available for innovative scientific research, hands-on education and natural resource stewardship.

Art Talks
Friday, March 12th
6:30 P.M.



Baroque II
The Golden Age of Dutch Painting

WCA's online Art Talk March 12

The Willits Center for the Arts presents "Baroque, Part II" Art Talk. Grab a cocktail or a glass of wine and join us online on Friday, March 12 at 6:30 pm.

We spent last month going over southern Europe and some Baroque artists. In this presentation, we will look to the North of Europe and take a look at the Golden Age of Dutch Paintings. Experience some of the most extraordinary masterpieces of the 17th century: Rembrandt, Vermeer, Franz Hals and others.

Go to our website for the link to the presentation. <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/>

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consent calendar, one of several dozen items passed unanimously all together, without much discussion. The "first reading" of the new ordinance – and the first vote – took place at the board's January 26 meeting, and the vote was 4 to 1, with First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty dissenting. The item to change the composition of the Planning Commission was sponsored by Third District Supervisor John Haschak and Fourth District Supervisor Ted Williams.

During the January discussion, both supervisors cited the fact that other planning commissions around California don't have seats delegated for particular industries, as a reason for the change. Also cited were difficulties getting quorums with a seven-member body.

The memo sent by supervisors Haschak and Williams with the request to put this item on the agenda, read:

"Mendocino County is unique in that we have two industry appointments. Other industries are desiring representation on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission would benefit from a more streamlined commission and a more workable quorum. To align our Planning Commission with other counties and give fair representation to all, the recommendation is to eliminate the two additional seats on the Planning Commission. With five seats on the Planning Commission, a quorum of three would be sufficient and a majority of two could move decisions."

Most of the letters sent to board members on this change to the Planning Commission opposed the move, including letters from

though we do have the burden of COVID expenses that have been placed on county operations."

The additional revenue she referred to was a more than \$2 million increase than was initially projected by the county Auditor/Controller Lloyd Weer at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The new total projected revenue for fiscal year 2020/21 of \$77,965,000 was also at least \$2 million more than the revenue every year for the county during the last four years.

Property tax, the county's biggest revenue producer, was projected to be \$1 million higher for the entire fiscal year than initially projected, and higher than recent years.

Projections for the county's cannabis tax were also increased by \$1 million and the tax is now expected to bring in around \$5 million this year, about \$576,000 less than last year.

The "sales and use tax" was projected to be about the same as the last five fiscal years for the county, despite the closures and restrictions placed on local businesses during the second half of last year due to the pandemic.

County Human Resources Director William Schurtz talked about the burden that COVID-19 has placed on the county workforce, and expenses that have been added, including hiring additional staff at the Department Operations Center.

"The [DOC] has been staffed with county employees from a number of departments since April of last year," he said. "With the surge of COVID cases in December and January, and along with the addition of the vaccine clinics, the county has been working hard to hire additional staff to meet the DOC staffing needs. Since July of last year 35 'extra help' and five regular employees have been hired into the DOC, and HR continues to recruit for employees to backfill positions and to help reduce staff burnout."

In addition, Schurtz said that since July of last year the county has had 60 employees from eight different departments test positive for COVID-19, and over 135 employees who "were quarantined due to being close contacts, experiencing symptoms, and due to traveling out of county."

Schurtz also noted that 136 employees had received "emergency paid sick leave" and 51 employees received money through the Family and Medical Leave Act, mostly due to school and day care closures.

A later presentation showed that seven general fund county departments were now projected to be at least \$150,000 over what they were initially budgeted for this fiscal year, with many impacted by overtime hours and other effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Sheriff-Coroner department had the largest number, projected to be nearly \$1.7 million over budget, followed by the District Attorney and Public Defenders, who were both more than \$900,000 over.

Deputy CEO Darcie Antle talked about the relief funding the county had received and was making efforts to receive from state and federal resources such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Disaster Assistance Act.

She said the process to ask for aid to help with COVID-19 related expenses was very labor intensive, and involved tracking all the

the Mendocino County Farm Bureau, which called the ag and timber seats on the Planning Commission "more important than ever" – "given the fact that most county elected officials and nominees are further disconnected from having knowledge of the intricacies of land use policy connected to agricultural and forest-based lands."

Many letters from locals echoed comments like these from a letter written by winemaker Martha Barra:

"We are watching your decisions, as a board, affect our natural resources to the detriment of the land, our culture, our water supplies, as well as the degradation of the beauty of Mendocino County. (Have you driven up Road D in Redwood Valley lately?) And ... tells me the once-beautiful rangeland/ag land of Potter Valley is on its way to becoming another Covelo. Am I concerned? You can bet I am.

"I humbly ask you please do not take the knowledgeable voices protecting our precious, limited natural resources away from us. If you do, this will be just another death-nail to an already declining county that we all once knew."

"I see this as an effort for better government," said Third District Supervisor John Haschak. "We've certainly heard a lot about how we need representation [but] if an issue comes up in front of the board of supervisors, if there's an issue involving ag or a planning decision or forestry, those representatives show up, and they let us know what their opinion is, whether it's through email or phone calls, they're able to share that information."

hours worked by every county employee that were related to the pandemic, as well as receipts and other payment information.

So far Antle said they had tracked "over 120,000 hours committed to COVID" that county workers had put in.

According to Antle, the county has already received about \$1.6 million in aid from FEMA and the California Disaster Assistance Act to reimburse for the "Great Plates" program, and had submitted forms to receive about \$2.4 million more for the same.

Great Plates is a program started by the state which has helped to provide food to seniors in the county who were isolated in their homes during the pandemic.

In addition, Antle said they were in the process of putting together the necessary forms to ask for another \$3.5 million for "obligated projects" which are supposed to be covered by state and federal relief programs.

As for the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding, Antle and county staff had put together an initial proposed report identifying nearly \$9 million from over a dozen line items in county expenditures related to COVID-19. The report covered expenditures from March 1 to December 31 in 2020 which the county was hoping could potentially be reimbursed.

However, Antle emphasized that "this is a pending report pending state legislation and direction," noting that the state could potentially extend relief for such expenditures into 2021, and she should know more on the matter soon after meeting with the financial department later in the week.

The supervisors also heard from Xuyen Ung, a senior administrative analyst for disaster recovery in the county, who spoke about the ongoing efforts to recover from the August and Oak fires of last year, the 2017 local fires, and to help reduce wildfire damage in the future.

She said the county had helped property owners get access to state agencies to help with debris and hazardous waste removal for the fires, and that currently the county has over \$7 million in active fire-related grant projects, and over \$25 million in pending grant applications.

She pointed out that the county was using the funding to partner with local groups such as the Fire Safe Council and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District for projects to reduce potential fire fuels, remove debris and hazardous trees, and upgrade roads and stream crossings.

She emphasized that an approach that used a balanced approach of "prevention, recovery, resiliency, and mitigation" made the most sense rather than just reacting to each disaster when they strike.

Director of Behavioral Health Jenine Miller gave a brief update on the Measure B activities, saying that the Crisis Residential Treatment facility project approved by the supervisors had "broken ground" in February, and was on track to be up and running by November 2021.

The remodeling of a Behavioral Health Training Center is also "in process with plans to be completed later this year," according to Miller.

The numbers were actually so low that they put the county in the even less restrictive "orange tier," but Coren said they would have to stay that low for an additional three weeks before the county could officially be placed in that status.

Mendocino County Public Health posted a dashboard on Wednesday, March 10 which put the county numbers at 4.68 average daily positive cases in the last week and a 1.9 percent positivity rate. That may take the county out of the orange tier, which typically requires less than 4 average daily cases per 100,000 population over a three-week period. The red tier allows for up to 7 average daily new cases per 100,000 and an 8 percent positivity rate.

Dr. Coren did warn that the drop in positive cases in Mendocino County was likely in part due to a recent decrease in COVID-19 testing, and didn't want residents to get the impression that we were clearly nearing the end of the pandemic.

"There is a lot of missing information here because the testing is significantly decreased," he said, "And it worries me that we could open too soon and not know enough about what's happening in our county, which could expose us to more outbreaks as people feel overconfident. So we do need to encourage more and more testing, and testing statewide is very low. We did get a report late last week that we're actually using 72 percent of our resources, which is better than any other county in California at this point."

Still, Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulhern advised that businesses in the county begin to make preparations for the potential changes, which she said could begin as early as March 17.

"I appreciate that Dr. Coren doesn't want to be overly optimistic," she said. "But from a business perspective – and particularly for restaurants – they really need to be prepared to safely reopen indoors at limited capacity.... And I think that it is important that we have those conversations with our business community so that they are prepared to make those changes."

According to state rules, some of the places which could open indoors in a limited capacity in the red tier status include restaurants, retailers, gyms, movie theaters and museums. Schools with older students such as high schools and middle schools could also potentially open up.

"So in summary we need to keep the case numbers down for the schools as well as businesses to open," said Coren. "It makes a significant difference if we can change to red tier. The opening should be gradual, and it will."

In other good news, Mendocino County has done well in administering vaccines, having given out over 30,000 doses of vaccines, including more than 20,000 first doses, according to Coren.

He said that amounted to about 31.5 percent of the county population of those over 16 years old, an increase of 10 percent since the last board meeting two weeks ago, and that 46 percent of those 65 and older in the county had now been vaccinated.

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams said according to a report he read Mendocino County ranked fifth out of 58 counties in California for percentage of residents vaccinated.

"That's a huge success," said Williams.

Coren said the county recently opened up the availability of vaccines to those working in the lodging industry, as well as those in the 16-to-64-year age range with chronic conditions or disabilities that would make them more vulnerable to COVID-19.

According to the county website, these conditions include certain types of kidney disease, lung disease, cancer, heart disease, sickle cell disease, pregnancy, chronic disabilities, immuno-compromised states, diabetes, and severe obesity.

In addition, Dr. Coren said that Monday the county received their first batch of the Janssen vaccine made by Johnson & Johnson, which is the only COVID-19 vaccine requiring only one dose per person.

"We have not yet set any specific vaccine clinics for this product," said Coren, "but we are strongly considering its use for more transient populations such as the homeless and hard-to-reach individuals such as the homeless."

For the other vaccines, Coren said that the county and their partners were administering about 2,000 vaccinations per week.

"The vaccine supply and distribution have definitely improved, and I hope that our record of rapidly administering what we've been given will keep those vaccines coming," he said. "We and our partners, including Adventist Health, got

out more vaccines than ever before. In our next phase we are hoping to stabilize the available vaccines so that the clinic staffing can be more consistent."

You can find upcoming county mass vaccination clinics – which are often at the Ukiah Fairgrounds – on the "COVID-19 Vaccinations" link on the county website (www.mendocinocounty.org). There is one occurring Thursday, March 11, with both first and second doses of vaccines, and one on March 13 for second doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

You can also register at www.myturn.ca.gov to receive more information about upcoming vaccine events and whether you qualify for them.

Coren said that the "MyTurn" website has been working well for the county, though there were ongoing efforts to make it more user-friendly for Spanish speakers.

He noted that it has been a challenge getting vaccines to the Hispanic population, who have represented a higher proportion of positive COVID cases than their population in the county throughout the pandemic.

He said that while 47.7 percent of the Caucasian population in the county have been vaccinated, only 15.6 percent of Hispanics have – though some in the "mixed race" and "unknown" ethnicity categories who have received vaccines likely also included some Hispanics.

Coren said they were trying to get out Spanish-language information about the vaccines through various outlets, but word of mouth from friends and family seemed to be one of the most effective ways to reach those who might otherwise be hesitant to get a vaccination.

"We are concerned that we will soon hit a slowdown due to vaccine hesitancy, and we are addressing that by more community education," said Coren. "We have been told that people won't go until they hear from friends, co-workers who have had the vaccine, and the experience was good. So we're also looking at our intake at these events and online announcements to make the process more welcoming.

"And," Coren continued, "we'll be making announcements at the events to encourage people to talk about it with their friends since word of mouth is so important to getting increased confidence and increased vaccination," he continued. "We'll try to get more photo ops there and do a lot more press information about this. Community health education is taking on a new importance and new urgency."

Coren added that the county's "education sector is well-vaccinated," and that many of the schools and school districts – including the Willits Unified School District – have now submitted their "safe reopening plans," and the county is giving feedback to help with their efforts to come into state compliance and reopen.

Coren also noted that variant strains of COVID-19 continue to be a concern, and that the county is working with Solano Labs – who they have recently become joint partners with – to better address the issue.

"I'm in discussions with them now to arrange more formal whole gene sequencing to detect emerging coronavirus variants so they can run it," he said. "But they don't have their testing facilities set up for that yet. They have the equipment, but it's not [running] yet.

"So we're not out of the woods," he added, "especially with the possibility of variants breaking through the natural vaccine immunity. There are several variants of concern that the state Department of Public Health is following, though none of the significant ones have come into California in any significant numbers."


In other COVID news, Willits will have a free COVID-19 testing site with tests administered by the county's newly up-and-running "travel team" this Friday, March 12, at Willits Veterans Memorial Building. You can sign up for an appointment at <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>, with appointment times currently available from 9 am to 5 pm.

Coren said current plans are for the testing site to return to Willits once per month.


The testing team will be working in Laytonville's Harwood Hall the following Friday, March 19, and testing is still available at the Ukiah Fairgrounds from Sunday to Thursday.

According to the March 10 update from Mendocino County Public Health, the total number of COVID-19 cases in the county since the pandemic began stood at 3,863, with 47 in isolation, 2 in the hospital and 1 in an intensive care unit.

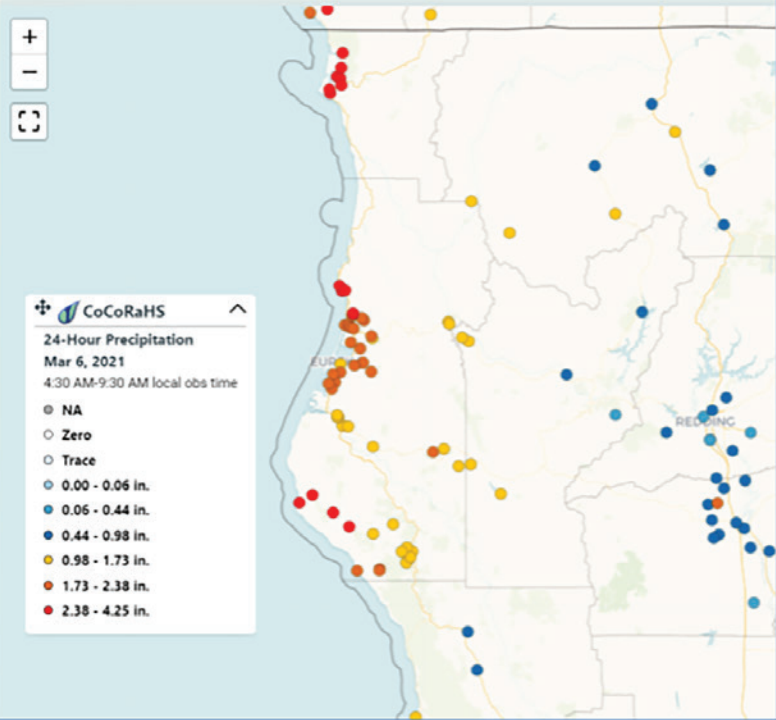
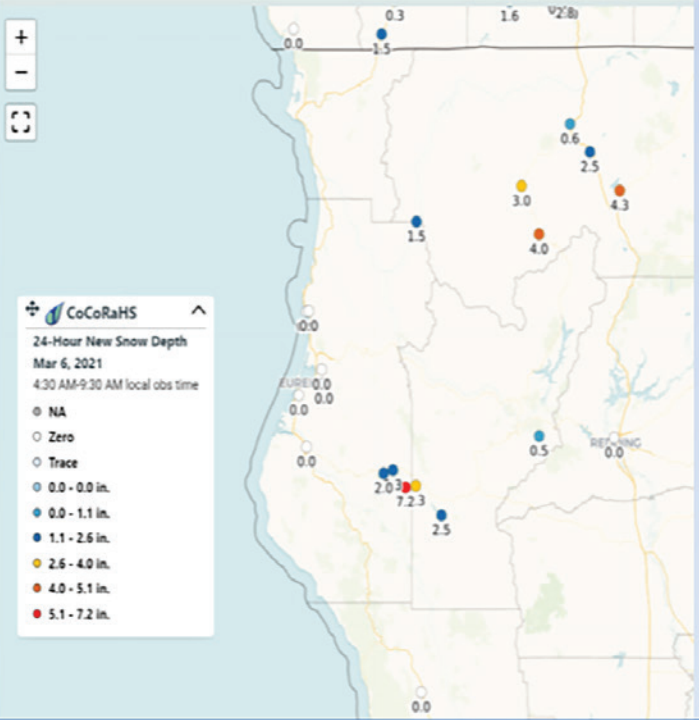
There has been 1 additional death from COVID-19 in the last two weeks, which Coren said was a 93-year-old Caucasian woman, bringing the county total of deaths to 44.



Ever wonder where the NWS gets their rain and snow reports?



Rain and Snow totals from CoCoRaHS Volunteers on March 6th

Many of them come from a dedicated volunteer network called CoCoRaHS



Willits Youth Soccer is back

Willits Youth Soccer is back. Registration is open March 5 - 20, for the Spring League. Cost is \$45. Spring session runs through May 15, with practices beginning April 1 “or within a day or two of that date.” Register at www.willitsyouthsoccer.com.

Team sizes: 8 players per team. COVID safety rules: Yes, per Mendocino County. Summer sessions will run May 16 - June 30. “We hope to be back to normal beginning in July.”

Common questions: What age? 5 - 15 years (must be minimum of 4 years old by January 2021). Do they have games? Yes. Uniforms? No, scrimmage gear is provided. Do they need cleats? Yes, for age 6 and up. What if I have more questions? Email: Sapinarodriguez@gmail.com and give at least a day for a response.

Willits Youth Soccer is a non-profit providing educational soccer opportunities. Our focus is on player skill development, team building, and fitness.

At left: Four happy Willits Youth Soccer players, including from left, Ayla Carter, Deegan Anderson, Daniel and Wade Hosford, in 2019, before the COVID era.

National Weather Service Eureka boosts citizen observer network

Are you interested in the weather? Did you know you can become a citizen weather observer? To get started and become a member of the nationwide Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network, or CoCoRaHS, go to www.cocorahs.org for details.

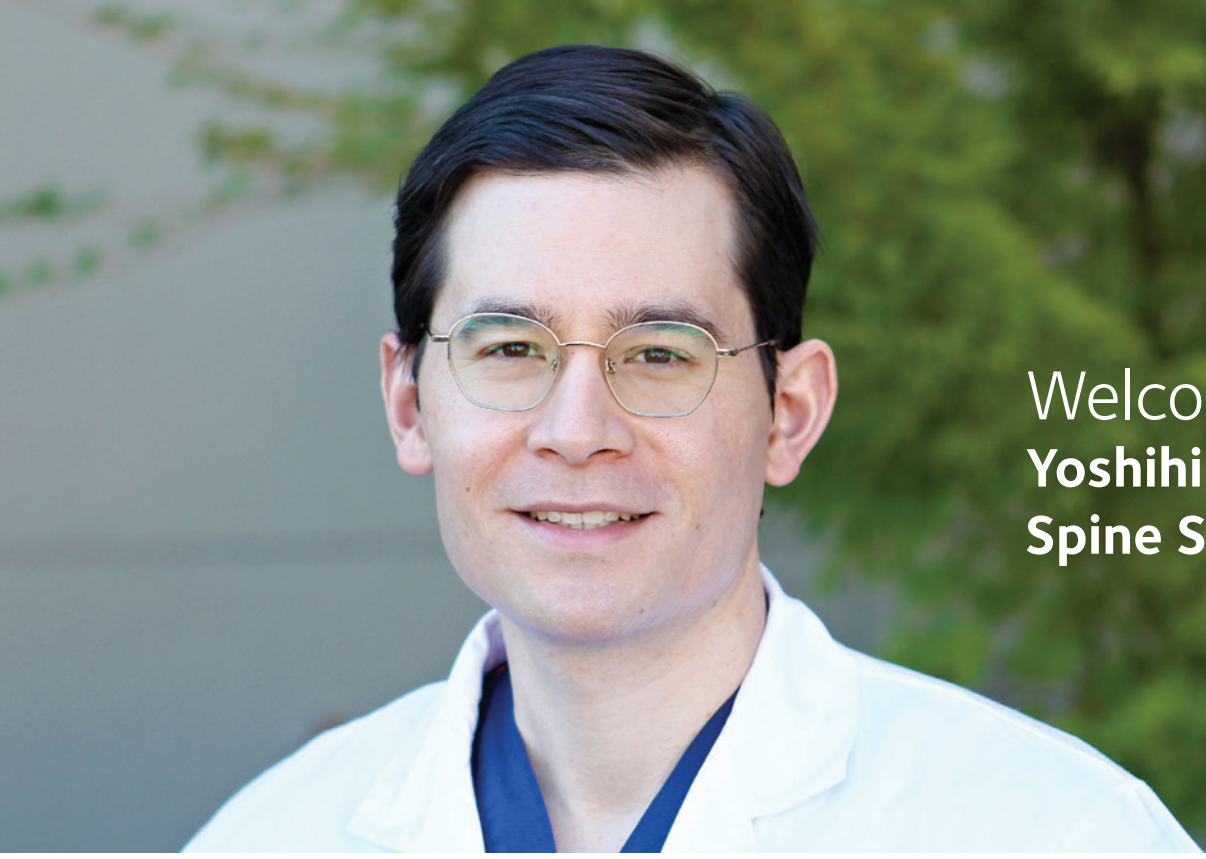
You will need to order a rain gauge (\$35) and take some short online training. Then you can sign up and get started observing the weather in your backyard. The detailed observations increase the understanding of how these events will impact the area and the flooding potential. Observers also report rain, hail, and flooding conditions. This helps improve weather forecasts, water supply forecasts, provides important data for researchers, and has many other uses.

From the website: “CoCoRaHS (pronounced KO-ko-rozz) is a grassroots volunteer network of backyard weather observers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow) in their local communities.”

Keep up with NWS Eureka alerts and forecasts by visiting “US National Weather Service Eureka California” on Facebook. Get NWS Eureka forecasts for the Willits area, by visiting <https://www.weather.gov/> and entering “Willits CA” into the “Enter Location” field at the top left of the main page.

– National Weather Service Eureka


ADVENTIST HEALTH




Welcome Yoshihiro Katsuura, MD

Spine Specialist


Joining the experienced orthopedic physicians serving Mendocino County




William Bowen, MD
Orthopedics




Paul Charpentier, MD
Orthopedics




Jeremiah Dawson, MD
Orthopedics



Ephraim Dickinson, MD
Orthopedics



Scott Gherini, MD
Orthopedics



Brian Gould, DO
Sports Medicine

Dr. Yoshihiro Katsuura is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in complex adult and pediatric spine care. He believes in using surgery only when necessary and utilizes minimally invasive techniques for better outcomes.

A graduate of Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Dr. Katsuura went on to complete a residency at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and a fellowship in spine surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery and Weill Cornell Medical College. Having spent time in Willits practicing alongside Dr. Bowen, Dr. Katsuura is thrilled to be back home in California, caring for patients at Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

Now welcoming new patients
707-459-6115
3 Marcela Drive, Suite C, Willits, CA
AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org

