

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

Donations Accepted Edition No. 346

Thursday, March 19, 2020

## County has first confirmed case of coronavirus

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino County has its first confirmed case of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus. A press release issued at 6 pm Wednesday by the county Executive Office declared that an individual in the county has the virus and has been placed in isolation.

According to a Willits Weekly interview with County CEO Carmel Angelo Wednesday evening, the patient is thought to have contracted the disease through contact with another person who had the virus. "It is not from community spread, and that is good," said county CEO Carmel Angelo.

The press release said that the patient is in stable condition.

"This first case is not shocking to us," said County Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan. "Mendocino County has been preparing for a possible pandemic of COVID-19 since January, as many counties around

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

## Focus on budget at March 11 city council meeting

Forrest Glyer  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

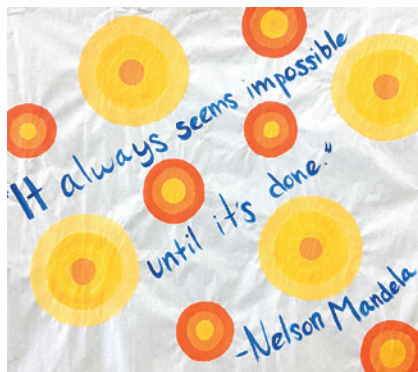
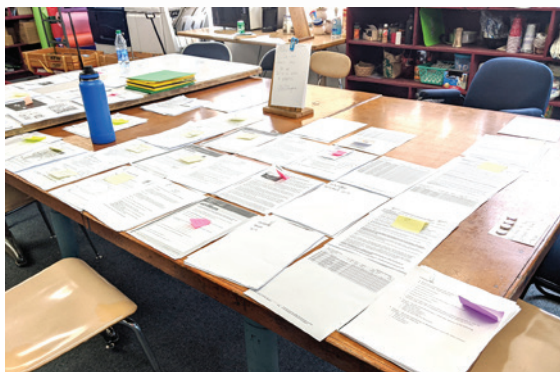
In what will likely be the last Willits City Council meeting for at least a month due to COVID-19 concerns, the March 11 meeting, the council passed over 60 amendments to the budget following a mid-fiscal year review presented by finance director Yujun Du.

The amendments will add approximately \$305,353 to expenditures of the city's General Fund, but this will be covered largely by an increase in revenue with \$87,600 coming from "cash receipts," and \$196,805 from a "revised cost allocation plan."

This means the General Fund balance is predicted to lose around \$20,000 more than originally projected for the fiscal year, adding to the sizable deficit that was initially predicted.

Enterprise Fund expenditures are expected to increase around \$564,238 due to the amendments - with \$343,363 added because of capital improvement projects in the Water Fund, and \$179,827 from the

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



Above, from left: Packet production was in full swing at Baechtel Grove Middle School Monday morning. Two packet-makers, Alisa Smith and Jocelyn Miller, helped staple the instruction packets together. A handmade poster featuring Nelson Mandela's quote: "It always seems impossible until it's done" hangs on the wall at Willits High School. Perhaps made originally for another reason, but the sentiment seems apropos for now, too. Below: This sixth-grade classroom at Baechtel Grove Middle School is empty along with all other Mendocino County classrooms.



Photos by  
Maureen  
Moore

## Empty Classrooms

### Willits district joins schools across the state in pausing in-class instruction due to coronavirus concerns

On Monday, March 16, Willits Unified School District, along with the rest of K-12 Mendocino County schools, closed the traditional classroom doors to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Joanne Moore  
Reporter  
joanne@willitsweekly.com

"It is inevitable we're going to have cases. It's not like we're the county that's going to get spared," said Willits Unified Superintendent Mark Westerburg. "The issue is separation and social distancing. That's the biggest rationale behind closing school."

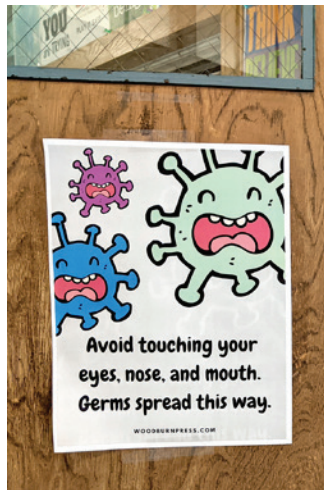
The current plan is to remain closed through the week of spring break, until April 13.

"Then we'll reevaluate what is going on," said Westerburg. "We'll have plenty of direction from county health."

School closure, though, does not mean the end of school.

It is "modified schooling, [which allows] ... the flexibility for

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



Above, from left: Despite the feeling of summer vacation, with the at-least-through April 13 break from in-class instruction, this motivational poster at Willits High School seemed to remind students picking up their mobile coursework to stay on track, regardless. Lucy Kyne and Pam Goulden answer phones and questions about the new norm Monday at the front desk of Baechtel Grove Middle School. "Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way" is good advice on the school doors for students and staff, and a good reminder for non-students, too. Below: Another empty classroom, this time at Willits High School, settles in for a long wait until students return to resume in-classroom learning.



## County orders population to 'shelter in place'

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

Responding to the global coronavirus pandemic as well as to the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Mendocino County, on Wednesday March 18 Mendocino County Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan issued an order requiring Mendocino County residents to "shelter in place."

The order requires that people leave their residence only to perform certain essential activities, and then goes on to define which activities are considered essential.

The order goes to some length to define exceptions or exemptions to sheltering in place.

According to the order, people may leave their homes to perform tasks that are essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members, including pets;

Or to obtain necessary services for themselves and their family, or to deliver those services and supplies to other people;

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

## City of Willits declares local emergency

Submitted by  
the City of Willits

The City of Willits proclaimed the issuance of a local state of emergency on Wednesday, March 18, in an effort to continue to respond against the potential spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The declaration provides a valuable opportunity to the city to mobilize resources, accelerate emergency planning, streamline staffing, facilitate inter-agency coordination, and allow for potential future reimbursement by the state and federal governments.

The city will also open its Emergency Operations Center at its lowest level. The EOC is not open to the public, but enables the city to coordinate information and responses through our dispatch center.

City facilities and departments are closed with the exception of very limited hours at City Hall for essential services. We encourage people to use our website and dropbox, as well as the U.S. mail to make payments and to access services: <https://cityofwillits.org>; 459-4601.

The City of Willits strongly advises that all community members follow the orders and directives of

Read the rest of  
**Emergency**  
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 Willits High School wrestling teams, boys and girls, we would like to thank the following for making our awards dinner a "grappling" success: Adventist Health Howard Memorial for letting us use Roots Restaurant and for providing a fantastic meal; Linda Givens, Brady Heiken, and the dietary staff for cooking and serving the delicious food; parents and grandparents for their devoted support throughout the season; and the coaches for their efforts and patience through the season.

Congratulations to all the boys and girls for winning 1st place District Champions!

Jodie Dalton and  
Diane Collins, Willits

## Voter Office SNAFU?

To the Editor:

Were you a voter by mail who never received a ballot? If this happened to you call 916-695-1592 to register your complaint (California does not have an 800 number to make this easy).

I called the registrar of voters office for Mendocino County four times. Each time I was assured my ballot was in the mail. To this day I have not received any of the four ballots I was told weresent; and I was told

by the Mendocino voter office the ballots had not been returned to them.

So where are the ballots – that's what I want to know. Make your vote count in the 2020 presidential election. Help correct problems with our election system.

Julie Cook, Willits

## RQMC has improved mental health services

To the Editor:

This letter is in support of RQMC, Redwood Quality Management Center, a 501 (c) (3) and its Chief Program Officer Camille Schrader.

I support RQMC because of the improvement I see in mental health services especially in my corner of the county at Nuestra Alianza de Willits where I work.

When the county provided its own mental health services to members of the community, I had an opportunity to see the numbers of Latinos served in Mendocino County per quarter. Those numbers ranged from 1 to 4 Latinos per quarter.

When RQMC took over mental health services for the county, they contracted with Nuestra Alianza to work with vulnerable, underserved Latinos in Willits. In addition to outreach, the services are for prevention, intervention and education for people to attend presentations on topics of interest

such as anxiety and depression, as well as to talk to a counselor and receive referrals for more services if needed. The number of people served at Nuestra Alianza averages 200 per quarter. That number is for Latinos in Willits. The Willits Latinos are approximately one-quarter of the Willits population.

The result of RQMC contracting with Nuestra Alianza has been significant. The Latino population is more knowledgeable about how to deal with anxiety and depression and is aware of services available to them in Willits, with referrals located in Ukiah and offered in English. The result for Nuestra Alianza is that RQMC has stabilized Nuestra Alianza, which in turn holds a safety net for the vulnerable Latino community. Both community and organization are stronger, more stable, and more resilient with integrated quality care that is appropriate, accessible, available, and bilingual.

Dina Hutton, board president,  
Nuestra Alianza

## Thank you from Brickhouse Coffee

To the Editor:

Dear friends of Brickhouse: One of the driving forces behind Brickhouse is being part of the Willits community. We appreciate so much when our neighbors

stop by for coffee or for a bite to eat. The Brickhouse team is mindful of making sure we do our part to help keep Willits healthy and thriving. We know everyone is thinking about what we can all do to get through the coronavirus reality. We know because we're thinking about it too.

Keeping Brickhouse clean and safe is already a matter of practice for our team, but we are making extra efforts moving forward, to help keep our neighbors and ourselves just a little safer.

You will find Brickhouse staff cleaning surfaces more often throughout the day, such as tables and door handles. We'll be washing our hands more than we already do. We encourage you to do the same, as recommended by health officials everywhere. You will get the same warm smiles and hellos at the counter, and we will continue providing yummy, healthy food and drinks for our neighbors.

I find when I worry about anything a little overwhelming in the world, that it's my friends, my family, and my neighbors who help bring me back to the basics of community and a happy, healthy existence. I wish you all peace of mind, and I'm so thankful to live in such a cool little town.

Thank you on behalf of the Brickhouse crew,

Tom Mann, chief coffee taster, Table  
Cleaning Project team leader, and  
soup enthusiast



Above, from left: A young girl makes the most of the snow. The Parcourse in Brooktrails looks like a winter wonderland. The snow coat is just deep enough for sledding.

At left: A beautiful shot of Sherwood Road. At right: Gloves, a jacket and snow boots make snow time even more enjoyable.

Below, left: Heather Cole tries to build a snowman. Below, right: A group of children takes advantage of the rare March snow.



# Snow Day

## A late-season snowfall decorates Willits and surrounding hills on Sunday morning

After a February with no precipitation, Willits woke up to a rare blanket of pure white snow on Sunday morning, March 15. Luckily, it was not cold enough at the lower elevations for the snow to create overly dangerous driving conditions.

The ensuing rain also helped to mitigate the possibility of ice on the road, so the residents could simply enjoy the lovely views of white fields, trees laden with snow, and the beginnings of spring put on hold for the day.

Adventurous children ventured out to slide down hills, build snowmen, and generally frolic in the cold, slippery gift from above. Willits Weekly encountered mother Heather Cole off Sherwood Road, trying to build a snowman with the wet snow, for her kids who were busily sliding down the hill on makeshift sleds and generally taking advantage of the beautiful Sunday snow.



At top: Two horses try to graze under the snow.

Above: A quince bush on Sherwood Road contrasts brightly against the white snow.

At left: A dark sky looms overhead on Sherwood Road near First Gate.

Photos by Mathew Caine

## County sheriff on enforcement of new 'shelter in place' order

With the recent orders from Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan, I realize there will be several questions and concerns regarding enforcement of these orders.

The Sheriff's Office remains dedicated to providing the highest level of service to the public.

The Mendocino County health officer has implemented these orders to comply with the directions and guidelines being distributed by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and the Mendocino County Department of Public Health.

As I have said before, enforcement is more often than not education.

Our county has historically done the right thing for our families, neighbors and persons in our communities.

We have been through a lot in the past few years with several disasters and rapidly evolving situations. We have come out of these disasters stronger than before. Much of this is due to the resilient nature of our communities and our willingness to help our neighbors.

Enforcement of these orders will be completed by law enforcement officers however discretion will allow for the spirit of the law to be factored in every contact.

I am encouraging all persons to review the Mendocino County health officer's orders in their entirety. Many questions and concerns will be answered upon reading these orders.

The full content of the issued orders can be found at the following link: [www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus). Thank you.

– Sheriff Matthew C. Kendall

## The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com). Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

## Willits Weekly

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

Volume 8, Number 346  
4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays each week  
P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047  
[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) / [www.willitsweekly.com](http://www.willitsweekly.com)

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

## Rain Totals in Willits

2019/20 rain season

### Precipitation in the Willits area as of March 18

(Note: Willits Weekly's "rain year" started October 1)

City of Willits Sewer Plant	20.12	Highway 20/Tranquility	22.03"
National Weather Service	21.53"	Canyon Road	18.99"
Willits Howard Ranger Station		Brooktrails	30.62"
Lucky Monkey's Ranch, 2 miles west of Willits	20.8"	Pine Mountain	22.89"
Mendocino College North County Center	17.55"	High Horse	20.74"
Southwest of Willits	26.49"		

Willits Weekly welcomes reports of rain and other weather information at [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com).

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Web: [www.willitsweekly.com](http://www.willitsweekly.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/willitsweekly](https://www.facebook.com/willitsweekly) Email: [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)

# STAY HOME SMOKE KURE

TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU:  
1788 S. MAIN ST. IN WILLITS & 800 LAKE MENDOCINO DR. IN UKIAH

DELIVERY OPTIONS AVAILABLE - CALL FOR INFO

OPEN DAILY: 10 AM TO 7 PM KUREMENDOCINO.COM 707-459-4200

Kure Wellness



Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

1 6 9 8 7 9 6 6 4

Level: Intermediate

SAFE FOODS WORD SEARCH

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

Table with 3 columns: BACTERIA, ILLNESS, POISONING; BIOLOGICAL, KITCHEN, RECALL; CONTACT, MICROORGANISM, REFRIGERATE; CONTAMINATE, MOLD, SAFETY; DETERGENT, OUTBREAK, SANITIZE; FOODBORNE, PARASITE, SERVICE; FUNGI, PATHOGEN, TOXINS; HAZARD, PERISHABLE, VIRUS

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-67.

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Currency of Guinea
5. Avert something bad
10. Sounds
12. Immediate dangers
14. Legendary Tar Heels coach
16. Californium
18. Work standards
22. Trouble
23. A way to smile
25. Something that is not what it seems
26. Of she
27. Temporary living quarters
28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
30. Indicates near
31. Spiritual leader
33. Soup dish
35. Philippine island
37. No longer fashionable
38. Peaks
40. Alabama football team
41. \_\_\_ King Cole
- CLUES DOWN
1. Measuring instrument
13. Minor dust-ups
15. Strongly alkaline solution
17. Extreme scarcity of food
18. Dash
21. Philly culinary specialty
23. Popular lager \_\_\_ Adams
24. Snitch
27. Trimmed
29. Greek god of desire
32. Take to the limit
34. Cool!
35. Sound mental health
36. Native American group
39. Test for high schoolers
40. Rocky peak
43. Preferences
44. Bother
46. Call attention to (slang)
47. Snake-like fish
49. Bulgarian capital
51. Don't know when yet
54. Italian Seaport
59. Brooklyn hoopster
60. Where to bathe
61. Equal, prefix
62. Beverage container
64. Denotes openness

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG
March 2 to March 15
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 275 incidents in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 2
8:37 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
12:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of North Main Street.
4:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of North Main Street.
4:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1500 block of South Main Street.
9:08 pm: DURAN, Daniel Paul (21) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Oak Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 368 (B) (1) PC (felony Elder Abuse), 422 PC (Criminal Threats), and 594 PC (Vandalism).
9:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

March 3
1:46 am: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 1000 block of South Main Street.
7:15 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
8:18 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
9:10 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School Street.
11:44 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
1:08 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
2:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.
3:19 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 400 block of McKinley Street.
6:44 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Locust Street and issued a warning.
8:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

March 4
4:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
7:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Hillside Drive.
8:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

March 5
3:41 am: KIMPTON, Benjamin James (39) of Ukiah was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a report of an unwanted subject. He was arrested pursuant to 148 PC (Resisting Arrest), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm and resisting or threatening an officer.

4:51 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Raymond Lane and Coast Street.
9:09 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
12:32 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.
3:58 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
4:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Center Valley Road and East Valley Street.
6:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Sherwood Road and North Main Street.
9:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 200 block of South Main Street.

March 6
4:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Locust Street.
5:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:13 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

March 7
6:59 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
10:39 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
11:43 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1100 block of Locust Street and issued a warning.
11:44 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of School Street.
12:07 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
6:37 pm: HOGAN, Alan James (63) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Marcela Drive. He was arrested pursuant to 422 PC (Criminal Threats), and on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear on written promise.

10:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of Pearl Street.

March 8
12:32 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
12:58 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
3:28 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.
3:36 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.
4:36 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
12:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of Bush Street.
12:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

March 9
9:07 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 22000 block of Bray Road.
11:51 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street.
3:48 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300



Daniel Duran of Willits.



Benjamin Kimpton of Ukiah.

Read the rest of WPD Over on Page 11

NOTICES OF CANCELLED / RESCHEDULED EVENTS:

Willits High School Boosters Quarter Auction: originally scheduled for Saturday, March 21. Rescheduled tentatively for Saturday, May 9.

Shanachie Pub is closed until further notice, at least until Wednesday, April 1.

Willits Center for the Arts is closed indefinitely but at least through the end of March. "Unfortunately, we have also cancelled the planned April 'Art under 20' show."

Marijuana Anonymous 12 Step Meeting: Tuesdays behind the United Methodist Church is cancelled until further notice.

Willits City Council Meeting, Wednesday, March 25 has been canceled. The meeting of April 8 will likely also be canceled.

Per the City of Willits: "All events of over 25 that have been scheduled for the Willits Community Center have been canceled. We are discouraging people from having any events or meetings for the next 30 days."

Willits Skate Park closed: "In accordance with the newest guidelines from the County Public Health Official, which directs a ban on gatherings of a non-essential nature, and bans of gatherings of 10-49 people without mitigation measures in place, we have closed the Willits Skate Park, and it will remain closed until further notice. Be safe!"

Northspur Brewing Company: Open for "to go" sales, but no one allowed to drink at the facility. Possible delivery service: call 707-518-4208 for more info.

Brooktrails Township Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 24 has been cancelled. Next meeting scheduled (for now), Saturday, April 4, 9:30 am.

Noyo Movie Theatre is closed until further notice.

Willits Community Theatre: All events will be postponed until further notice, including the Ryan Ayers and Aki Miyoshi guitar concert and the opening of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged."

Ecology Action and John Jeavons 3-Day GROW BIOINTENSIVE Sustainable Mini-Farming Workshop, originally scheduled for March 27 to 29, has been postponed until November 1 to 3, 2020. Info: 459-0150, www.growbiontensive.org, or contact@growbiontensive.org.

Mendocino College Theatre Department's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," originally scheduled for March 20 to 29, has been postponed until further notice.

Mendocino County Museum: In accordance with orders made by the Health Officer of Mendocino County the Mendocino County Museum in Willits will be canceling all events through April 7, 2020.

We Can Do It!

Willits Weekly
Willits Weekly's March 19 edition is expected to be out Thursday morning as usual. With some of our storefront outlets closed, we'll do our best to keep the boxes full as long as we have papers. Use your COVID-19 avoidance skills when opening the boxes to grab your paper: use a towel or sanitize your hands right away!

Willits Farmers Market
Winter market at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursday, March 19, 3 to 5:30 pm. The market will remain in operation under the classification of an "essential service." All efforts will be made to maintain mandated social distancing (all people 6 feet apart) and sanitation.

All Mendocino County Library branches are closed through April 6th.

Please return materials after the libraries reopen.

It's a good TIME to check out our digital items!

Attention Visitors
Atención Visitantes

Changes to Visitation Policy
Effective Tuesday, March 17, NO VISITORS will be allowed on all units with the exception of special cases. Roots Restaurant will also be closed to the public at this time.

If you are coming to the hospital, please check-in at designated entrances. Thank you for helping us protect our staff, patients and community.

Adventist Health

SPARETIME -GARDEN CENTER-
Spring Fling & Clean Sale
Saturday, March 21st
9am - 7pm
20% off Most Items
15% off Pet Food, Trim Machines, & Water Tanks
Yard Sale
8am - Noon
Limited to Stock on Hand, No Special Orders, No Deliveries
SPARETIME -GARDEN CENTER-
208 E. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA (707) 459-6791

Little Mouths ARE A BIG DEAL

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY (707) 456-9600
45 Hazel St., Willits
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL. WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE.
littlelakehealthcenter.org
MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Where love is first  
and the Bible is central.  
Sunday Services:  
9:15 a.m. - Bible Class,  
adult & children  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebiblechurch.com

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
Information: 456-9668  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
265 Margie Drive  
Willits, CA 95490  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Sacrament Meeting  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

**Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom**  
• Sound of Soul events  
• Membership Discourses  
• Spiritual Discussions  
• ECK Light & Sound Services  
More information?  
Call 707-456-9934  
www.eckankar.org

**Grace Community Church**  
Celebrating Life In Christ  
25 Hazel Street, Willits  
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.  
Worship Service &  
Children's Church - 11 a.m.  
Mid-week Bible Studies  
Potluck every 2nd Sunday  
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor  
459-3106

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Saturday confessions - 4:45 p.m.  
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass -  
9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-459-3066  
Church Services / Communion  
& Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Karl Bliese, Pastor  
Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
Bible Study / Sunday School  
following the service.  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
ALL ARE WELCOME

**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
707-459-5714  
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
4th Sabbath of every month  
family potluck at the school.  
22751 Bray Road, Willits

**Willits United Methodist**  
A Christ centered, progressive church  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: www.facebook.com

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

**\$ \$ HELP YOUR COMMUNITY! \$ \$**  
The 2020 Census brings our  
federal tax dollars home.  
**RESPOND NOW!**  
  
**MENDOCINO COUNTS!**  
2020 CENSUS  
MENDOCINOCOUNTS.ORG

**COBURN'S CONSTRUCTION & CABINETRY INC.**  
CA LIC #392108  
Preview your completed project with our 3-D Computer Image  
**Randy J. Coburn**  
General Contractor  
P.O. Box 616  
Willits, CA 95490  
707-459-9719/FAX 707-459-4984  
coburn\_randy@yahoo.com/  
coburnsconst@gmail.com

- Custom Homes
- New Construction
- ICF Structures
- Remodeling
- Cabinetry
- Kitchens and Baths
- Blueprints
- Plan Drawing
- Design

**C BROWNS**  
Groceries  
Beer & Wine  
Gas & Diesel  
Pay at the Pump  
7am - 10pm  
459-4854  
1799 So. Main St.  
P.O. Box 428  
Family owned since 1983

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

**FARMERS CANTUA INSURANCE AGENCY**  
16 W. Valley Street • Willits, CA 95490  
Bus: (707) 459-3276 • Fax: (707) 459-3298  
www.NorCalQuote.com • rcantua@farmersagent.com  
Auto • Home • Life • Health • Business

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



# Stopping COVID-19

Willits businesses and the public work together to stop the spread of the coronavirus

Willits Weekly visited a variety of businesses in town Monday to see how the community is meeting the constantly changing protocols needed to keep everyone safe from the spread of COVID-19.

Resident Chris Herreshoff took time to talk about his experiences after loading groceries in his truck. He'd just finished shopping at Safeway for his family: his mother who lives in a cabin behind their home; his wife who is home sick with Influenza A; and his two children home from school closures.

"I didn't do extra, panic shopping because I don't think it's right," Herreshoff said. "I'm only getting what we need now, and I think the suppliers will get what we need later. If you get more than what you need today, then someone who needs it won't be able to get it," he stated. When asked about any precautions he and his family are taking he laughed, "I wiped down the [shopping] cart for the first time in probably forever!" He was also staying 6 feet away from others while shopping.

"My mom's staying home. She's 70 so she's self-isolating," Herreshoff said. She did make corned beef and cabbage for the family for St. Patrick's Day dinner but stayed in her cabin. He shuttled everything back and forth.

The stores, shops, public library (by phone Tuesday), restaurants and cafes visited on Monday all had the same or similar practices: having sanitizers available at their counters for customers' use; employees frequently washing or sanitizing their hands; at least hourly washing down of counters, doors, door handles, table and counter tops; wiping some merchandise or other things frequently touched; some food preparers are wearing gloves; sick employees are told to stay home.

Notices on doors have been helpful for customers to understand what their favorite shops or restaurants are doing to keep their customers safe. Businesses are also asking people who are ill, feverish, coughing, sneezing or have runny noses to stay home and decrease the risk of infecting others.

Monday night California Governor Gavin Newsom recommended that all restaurants offer take-out meals only. Some of Willits' eateries and cafes were already thinking along those lines in order to keep their doors open and employees in work.

Brickhouse Coffee, Buster's Burgers & Brew, Loose Caboose, El Mexicano, J.D. Redhouse, Taqueria Bravo, and Mariposa Market along with many others

are offering take-out, with the option of curb-side service instead of entering the restaurant. Brickhouse is looking into taking credit cards, so ask if that's set up when you're ordering.

J.D. Redhouse is getting pet and animal feed daily. Mariposa Market is being consistently supplied, too. You can order their merchandise and get curb-side service. Coast Hardware, Mendo Mill, and Main Street Music and Video have curb-side service, too. Main Street Music & Video is also offering non-new-release movies as two-week rentals.

At any of the establishments, call ahead with your order, you can pay by credit card on the phone, and then let them know when you arrive. You can additionally pay by check or cash.

Bars, pubs, and breweries not serving food have been asked to close their doors by Gov. Newsom. Movie theaters, gyms and health clubs were also included. Shanachie Pub announced Monday that it will be closed indefinitely until this health crisis has passed. Northspur Brewing Company also closed its doors to in-house customers, but said they'll continue selling their take-out brews in Crowlers (32 ounce cans) and Growler fills (64 ounces). For now, they'll be open Wednesday through Sunday, 1 to 7pm. It's best to pre-order and they offer curb-side delivery.

Frequent deliveries by suppliers to all Willits stores are helping keep the shelves stocked with most items. At Safeway, Mariposa Market, Grocery Outlet, and Coast Hardware there were some empty shelves or spaces on shelves with popular items missing on Monday. You can't find hand sanitizers for sale anywhere in town.

According to Verle Hildebrand, manager at Coast Hardware, all three of their suppliers are out of sanitizers because manufacturers are out of ingredients. Stores and shops in Willits have sanitizers on their counters and check-outs for employees and customers. At some of the markets you can get the ingredients to make your own. Mariposa Market has ingredients and can suggest a basic sanitizer recipe, and Spacetime Supply has gallon jugs of isopropyl alcohol in stock.

Many store employees

Read the rest of COVID-19 Over on Page 13

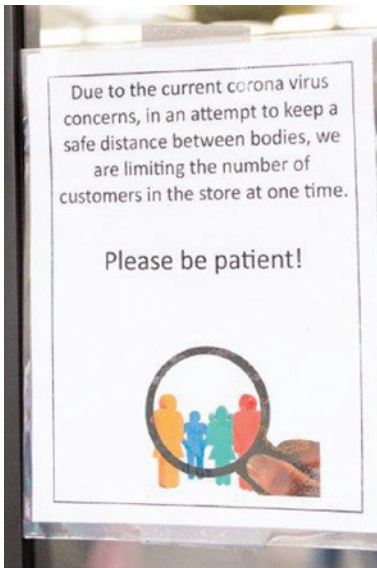
Above, left, top: Instead of featuring the coming attraction, the marquee over the top of the Noyo Theatre doors says simply "Closed for your safety" as growing restrictions designed to limit the spread of the coronavirus has forced the theater to close.

Photo by Jeff Hoover

Above left: Salvador and his great-grandmother, Priscilla Tarver, wear masks while shopping at Safeway Monday. Salvador is wearing a mask because he's prone to having asthma, and Tarver has bronchial conditions.

At right: Mariposa Market has limited toilet paper purchases to six rolls or one pack of toilet paper per customer. J.D. Redhouse employee Macy Hendry sanitizes one of the signature pads at the check-out. The note on Mariposa Market's door asks people to be patient while waiting in line because they're limiting the number of people in the store at one time.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Above, from left: While Safeway was out of bath tissue Monday, they told Willits Weekly Tuesday that they're getting more almost daily. It's being divided amongst all the Safeway stores. Mariposa employee Scott Bailey hams it up in the produce section as he shows off his COVID-19 protective attire. Brickhouse Coffee was closed Monday. Owner Tom Mann talked with staff about how to meet the crisis and employ as many people as possible. They'll scale back their crew, and their dishes and drinks will be available for take-out and curb-side service. This checker at Safeway decided to wear gloves as an alternative to sanitizers as she worked.

Below: Mariposa Market decided to limit the store to 12 customers at a time to go shopping. Deli manager Steve Miller is keeping track of people entering and exiting, letting the next ones in as the others leave.



Below, left: Shannon at Main Street Music and Video uses a bleach solution to wipe returned videos, counters, doors, door handles, windows and anything else that needs to be sanitized. Below, right: A sign of the times!





Above, from left: Yerba Mansa is a rare anti-bacterial herb that is easy to grow at home. These Sweet Williams create a magical space that also attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Homemade hot sauce is another way to be self-sufficient that's easy to do and rewarding. As you can see here, the choice of peppers is wide. Peas are a treat that are expensive to buy, but easy to grow.

At left: Cooking greens are easy to grow and give dozens of meals per square foot of space. Teff is a high-yielding, gluten-free grain that is easy to grow and to thresh.

At left, below: Flour and tortilla corns are fun to look at and to grow. They store at room temperature, and can be ground with a cheap hand-grinder or even a food processor. There is a tomato for every taste, and starting them yourself is not difficult. Step-by-step instructions at [www.quailseeds.com/how-to/starting-seeds-indoors#](http://www.quailseeds.com/how-to/starting-seeds-indoors#/).

At left, bottom: Basil for homemade pesto is a popular reason for a home garden. It is easy to grow in a pot in a sunny place. Beans allow you to grow your own protein main dish rather than just side dishes and salads. This is Calypso, or Orca bean. It gives big yields of mild, creamy beans.

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

## March: In hard times, sow food – and joy

When things get tough, people plant and tend gardens. We plant to save money. To have something for the family to do at home. To have food when the store shelves are empty. To get exercise. To have some control over something. To have fresh herbs for fragrance and well-being. Sometimes we just need to see a red zinnia or a sunflower bright against the sky. To forget the news and the noise for a bit, and be part of the bigger living world, along with the bumblebees and the robins. I invite you to bury your troubles in the dirt for an hour, even if it is just the dirt in a single flowerpot.

The first questions with all garden planning are: What do you love? What do you most want from your garden? Cut flowers for the house to cheer you up? As much food as possible? Teas and body care products? Special foods with cultural or personal significance? Green leaves to make a shady nook? These are all good reasons to plant a garden, all with different needs for space, sunlight, soil, and amount of labor. So visualize your personal paradise and then dig in. Our local library can provide information on how to get from dream to real-life haven.

If you have never planted vegetables or flowers from seed before, you don't have to do it all at once. Different plants are planted at different times. There's a lot of help available. If you are able to go to the library, there are books and a seed librarian to help you. If you prefer to look online, I have step-by-step instructions on my website: [www.quailseeds.com/how-to/starting-seeds-indoors#](http://www.quailseeds.com/how-to/starting-seeds-indoors#/).

If you are sheltering at home, you don't need to go out to get your seeds. Mail-order companies have many choices and excellent online support. My company, Quail Seeds, is shipping orders out the

Read the rest of **Garden** | Over on Page 9



## Clean energy for every home.

Power life's special moments with 100% local, renewable energy from Sonoma Clean Power.

Call or visit to upgrade today: 1 (855) 202 2139 | [cleanenergyfuture.club](http://cleanenergyfuture.club)

**EverGreen**  
Provided by Sonoma Clean Power

COLUMN | MCOE: A Perspective on Education

## The importance of preschool and early childhood education

By Michelle Hutchins, Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools

You may have heard that during the first five years of life our brains develop more and faster than at any other time, so it's easy to understand why preschool is such an essential opportunity to shape a child's future. It is also a chance to shape society at large.

Studies show children enrolled in quality early education settings such as state-funded preschools are 50 percent less likely to require special education and 29 percent more likely to graduate from high school. They are also 50 percent less likely to become teen parents and a staggering 70 percent less likely to be arrested for a violent crime before the age of 18.

The statistics go on and on. Children enrolled in high-quality preschool are also more likely to be employed and earn salaries that are 33 percent higher than average. And according to the First Five Years Fund (ffyf.org), they experience lower rates of incarceration (46 percent reduction), lower rates of arrest for violent crimes (33 percent reduction), and are less likely to have received government assistance (26 percent reduction).

Research shows that for every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education, society gains up to \$7.30 in economic returns over the long-term.

In Mendocino County, we have 16 state-funded preschools at 10 different school districts where we help more than 400 preschoolers develop social, emotional and academic skills. State preschools are a wonderful way for young children to begin their academic careers, in part because the teacher-to-student ratio is so low (1:8), which allows students to get more individual attention.

In addition to state-funded preschools, there are also several local federally funded Head Start preschools administered by North Coast Opportunities. Both state-funded and federally funded preschools have income-eligibility requirements. In 2019, state preschools accepted families of four with household incomes of up to \$6,719 per month (or about \$80,000 per year). However, the income cap for Head Start for a family of four was \$25,750. Currently, there is a movement to adjust this federal limit based on regional salary discrepancies through the Head Start Modernization Act. Without it, it'll be increasingly difficult to find any California families who qualify.

To the untrained observer, a preschool classroom may seem like barely contained chaos, when in fact, the activities led by the teachers, who are early education specialists, use evidence-based methods that effectively prepare children for school and for life. Preschool teachers help students learn problem-solving, how to get along with others, and self-regulation. And by focusing on topics of interest to the students, more of the lessons remain in the students' long-term memory banks.

Not only do students benefit from lessons and social interactions, those with developmental delays are often identified early. Our lead preschool teachers, all of whom have Childhood Development Permits, have experience that helps them determine when children may need additional support with cognitive, behavioral or physical skills. Identifying and addressing problems early reduces the impact they have on a child's development and ability to learn.

Led by Kristin Hills, the Mendocino County Office of Education is responsible for supporting and overseeing local state-funded preschools. We provide resources, like registering students for free books through the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and we coordinate learning communities with early education specialists in local districts so teachers can collaborate and share best practices. Four of the preschools specialize in integrating students with special needs, and most of our schools have at least one teacher who is bilingual in English and Spanish.

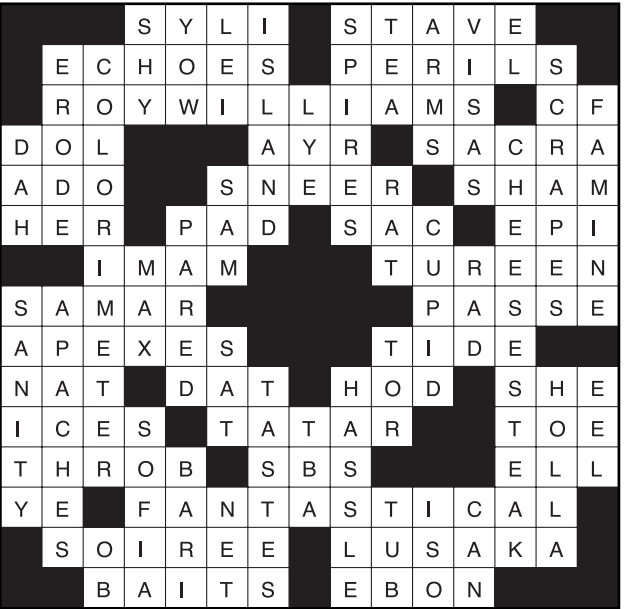
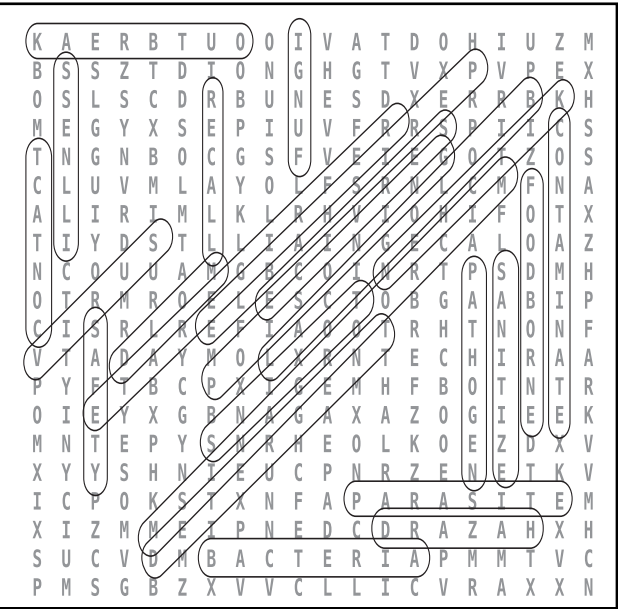
In addition to the state preschool located in Ukiah on our MCOE campus at 2240 Old River Road, there are preschools all over the county, both coastal and inland and in some of the most rural and remote areas. To find a preschool near you, visit [www.mcoe.us](http://www.mcoe.us) and click on the Schools & Districts menu or call your local school district. In the meantime, the best thing parents can do to prepare their children for school in the first five years is to talk, read and sing to them. Learn more at [www.ed.gov/early-learning/talk-read-sing](http://www.ed.gov/early-learning/talk-read-sing).

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

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

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

**Tom Wake Plumbing**  
Serving in Mendocino and Lake Counties  
**Full Service Residential, Commercial**  
•Faucets & Tubs •Garbage Disposals  
•Toilets •Pipe Repairs  
•Gas Lines •Fixture Replacement  
**25 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
**For Fast Service Call**  
**707-391-4343** Lic: #84811



## CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

**Brookside Elementary Kindergarten Registration**  
April 29th and 30th from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Please bring the following: \* Your child; \* Birth certificate; \* Immunization records; \* Active email address. Questions? Please call 459-5385

**Mendocino Counts!**  
\$\$ Help Your Community  
\$5 - the 2020 Census brings our federal tax dollars home. Mail in your 2020 Census form now! [www.mendocinocounts.org](http://www.mendocinocounts.org)

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

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

**SEWING AND ALTERATIONS**  
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher  
Barbara Carlon  
Visit my webpage: [Seamqueen.blog](http://Seamqueen.blog)  
707-367-6182, Willits

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

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

**Volunteer Opportunities**  
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our team, call Deb at 707-459-6826.

**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.



**Current Job Openings:**  
County Health Officer  
Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV  
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II  
Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist  
Office Services Supervisor  
Public Defender Investigator  
Surveyor I/II  
For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources)  
EOE

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



Or to engage in outdoor activities, such as walking, hiking or running, (provided that people who do these things maintain social distancing, defined as keeping a separation of 6 feet between themselves and others);

Or to perform work at what the order defines as an essential business. The order then defines "essential businesses" as:

Healthcare operations, including hospitals, clinics, dental offices, pharmacies, veterinary hospitals;

Essential infrastructure, including public works, construction of housing, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, or electrical operations, roads and highways, (and more);

Communications industries, including internet providers, telecommunications systems, including the provision of local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, and web-based services;

First responders, emergency management personnel, dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement, or government work, provided that each government shall assess which functions are essential and which are non-essential.

The order goes on to list the types of businesses that it regards as essential. These include:

Grocery stores, certified farmers markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores (and more); farms, ranching, the raising of livestock, fishing; operations where cannabis and other medicines are legally grown; businesses that are necessary to supply agriculture, food, and beverage cultivation, processing and distribution; businesses that provide food, shelter, social services and other necessities of life for disadvantaged or needy individuals; newspapers, television, radio and other media services;

Gas stations, auto supply and auto repair facilities; banks and related financial institutions; hardware stores; home improvement stores and nurseries; plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers that provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and operations of essential activities and essential businesses; businesses that provide mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;

Educational institutions, including public and private kindergarten through grade 12 schools, colleges and universities, for the purpose of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing is practiced to greatest extent possible; laundromats, dry-cleaners, laundry service providers; restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery and carry-out.

Here the order gave close attention to institutions that provide food. It states, "School and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public should continue to do so under this order, on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site," the order states.

The order continues with its list of the businesses that qualify as essential under the exemption to the prohibition. The list includes:

Businesses that supply products that would enhance the quality of life for community members while they are sheltering in place. Such items may be sold only to the extent that they may be purchased in a way that prevents handling by the customer prior to the purchase, such as, for curbside pick-up;

Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the products or supplies necessary to operate; businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services to residences, so long as COVID-19 precautionary measures are implemented; taxis and private transportation providers; home-based care or residential facilities for people; legal or accounting services when these are necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities.

The order also provided an exemption to childcare facilities, when those facilities enable employees who are exempted by the order from having to shelter in place and, instead, permit them to work at some essential business.

The order states that such childcare facilities shall operate so that the childcare is provided to children in stable groups of 12 or fewer, where stable means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group every day. Under such circumstances, children should not change from one group to another. If more than one group of 12 or fewer children is being cared for at any facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.

The order states that one may leave one's residence in order to work in a non-essential business when that work is being done to maintain minimum basic operations of that business, defined as "the minimum necessary activities needed to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits," or to do "the minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees to be able to continue to work remotely from their residences."

The order also limits travel to that which is related to essential activities, essential government functions, essential businesses or minimum basic operations to keep a non-essential business going.

In addition to the aforementioned purposes of travel, travel may also be permitted when it is to care for elderly people, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities or other vulnerable persons; or travel to educational institutions when it is for the purpose of receiving materials related to distance learning, or for receiving meals; or for the purpose of returning to one's residence from outside the jurisdiction; or travel required by law enforcement or by a court order; or travel required by non-residents so that they can return to their place of residence outside the county.

The order states that a violation of the order is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine, or by jail, or by both.

The order states that it will go into effect on 10 pm on Wednesday, March 18 and will remain in force until 11:59 pm on April 7, and that it may be extended, rescinded, superseded or amended in writing by the public health officer.

us have reported cases and community spread of COVID-19."

The press release did not give the name of the patient or what part of the county they lived in.

The announcement of Mendocino County's first case of COVID-19 caps a whirlwind week of press conferences, directives and orders coming from Doohan. On Monday evening, Doohan ordered a ban on all non-essential public or private gatherings of 50 people or more and simultaneously ordered that for all gatherings of 10 to 50 people, COVID-19 mitigation measures must be implemented, including social distancing, which requires that all attendees at an event must stand or sit at least 6 feet away from any other attendee.

However, the order issued yesterday, which requires the Mendocino County populace to "shelter in place," obsolesces the March 16 order prohibiting events and large meetings. The March 18 order prohibits all non-essential travel and activities, and requires people to stay in their homes or, if they must leave their homes, to avoid close contact with other people, with certain exceptions.

The order provides that people may leave their home for certain reasons, including attending to essential business, essential government work, essential types of public infrastructure work, or attending to minimum basic operations of their business.

See the accompanying article ["County orders population to 'shelter in place'"] in this week's edition of Willits Weekly for more information about what "shelter in place" means.

Doohan spoke at a press conference in the board of supervisors' chambers in Ukiah at noon on Tuesday, March 17. According to Doohan, at that time 52 tests had been done on county residents for coronavirus. Of those, 21 test results had come back negative. Doohan said that results for the other 31 tests were pending.

On March 6, two regionally-based health and medical laboratories, LabCorp and Quest, announced that they will now be providing testing services for the novel coronavirus.

Both companies said on their websites that people who are seeking testing for the new coronavirus should have tests done by their doctors or by other health care workers at local hospitals or health clinics. Statements by LabCorp and by Quest said that people who want tests for coronavirus should not come to Quest or LabCorp facilities, seeking tests. According to Mendocino County Director of Child Support Services Anne Molgaard, the tests should cost nothing.

"Both the federal and the state governments have passed laws saying that the tests will be free, but those laws are so new that we don't really know exactly how they will be free. But they will be free," Molgaard said.

The response to the coronavirus has had an impact in Willits. The Willits Unified School District has closed its schools and has directed that students be taught remotely. According to an announcement on the district's website, the school closure will be in force until April 13. However, California Governor Newsom said in a published interview that he personally didn't think that the schools would come back in session this year.

revised Cost Allocation Plan.

However, Du pointed out that currently the Enterprise Fund expenditures were currently considerably less than half their projections, largely because of capital improvement projects that had not been completely paid for yet.

Revenue for the enterprise funds were generally well on track, with water, wastewater and airport money all coming in well over 50 percent.

Du said that while the General Fund revenues were showing only about 38 percent of their totals in the first half of the year, she expected them to end close to their projections since there were large one-time sums for things like the vehicle license and property taxes which had yet to come in.

She also noted that the city's excise cannabis tax was on track to produce about \$150,000 for Willits in the fiscal year, well over the \$115,000 projected initially, which will help with General Fund money.

However, City Manager Stephanie Garra-brant-Sierra pointed out that the excess revenue would largely go to the Little Lake Fire Department who will now receive 25 percent of the cannabis tax money thanks to a new agreement with the city.

One item that was coming in below projections was the city's Sales and Use Tax, which had only raised \$622,383 through the first six months of the fiscal year, about 38.46% of the \$1,618,100 originally predicted.

Du said the city should get a clearer picture of the current state of their sales tax situation when a consultant scheduled to soon help with the matter looks it over.

(Note: this was all before many businesses in town had to shut their doors due to COVID-19 concerns and before tighter restrictions on gatherings and travel were put in place, all of which will likely impact the budget picture for the city.)

Garra-brant-Sierra talked about the communication between County of Mendocino officials and the city regarding the COVID-19 crisis up to that point (March 11), and the plans being put in place.

She gave county CEO Carmel Angelo and other officials high marks for how they had been handling their outreach efforts.

"I wanted to let everybody know that I've been participating in calls with the county," she said. "Carmel

According to Adventist Health Chief Medical Officer Basan Parker, who also addressed the public at the March 17 press conference, Adventist hospitals in the county have effected a "no visitor" policy for its patients, with the exception of end-of-life patients and beginning-of-life patients, otherwise known as obstetrics or childbirth.

Numerous other activities and community events have likewise been cancelled or postponed.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has changed how it will conduct its meetings and how it will create its agenda for those meetings. According to Third District Supervisors and board Chair John Haschak, he and county CEO/ Clerk of the Board Carmel Angelo decided last week that the board will continue to meet, but that they are moving contentious or high-interest issues off their agenda for the time being, in order to reduce the number of people who will come down to Ukiah to attend the meeting.

"The governor has given us leeway on the Brown Act," Haschak said. "So now, remote meetings will be okay." That term means meetings where the participants are not physically present but attend the meeting via digital means.

"Also, in order to conduct our meetings and at the same time keeping the public safe, we won't be doing contentious issues. We'll just be doing the essential stuff that we need to take care of. Like, for example, the meeting on the ambulance and the EMS issues that we had scheduled for March 23, we cancelled that. We cancelled the Latin-X workshop. The consideration of the cannabis recommendations has been postponed and the hemp item has been postponed. The vaping ordinance that we were considering has been postponed," Haschak said.

In addition, some 'high interest' meetings not specifically connected to the board of supervisors have been cancelled. The planning commission's public hearing on the proposed cell tower on Pine Mountain, which was scheduled for Thursday March 19, has been cancelled.

CEO Carmel Angelo told members of the press on Tuesday March 17 that all county offices are currently open to serve the public. However, Angelo added that she and her staff will be looking at all county departments and assessing which ones are essential, which ones are to remain open to the public, which will remain open to do in-house work only, and which departments will be temporarily closed.

On the plus side, during Doohan's press conference on Tuesday she did have some good news. She said, finally, after nearly three months, the rate of spread of disease in China has begun to slow. "There were only 29 new cases of coronavirus in China yesterday," she said. Doohan added that China has currently recorded approximately 80,000 cases of COVID-19.

On the negative side, Doohan noted that the rate of disease spread outside of China still remains significant. "There are approximately 86,000 cases of COVID-19 outside of China," Doohan said on March 17. "Yesterday, there were 13,000 new cases, outside of China."

Now, in Mendocino County, there is one more.

Angelo, the CEO of Mendocino County, has been conducting regular calls with the city managers of all the cities in Mendocino County to keep us abreast of everything that is going on regarding the coronavirus – the COVID-19."

"We are receiving updates from many, many sources every day," she continued. "So far as Carmel put it, we are sort of in a bubble up here, which is really great. We are exercising all sorts of precautions, and the county has really been wonderful in keeping us informed of what is going on. They are keeping their web page very up to date on everything that is happening.

"Many different sources send us duplicative things all the time," Garra-brant-Sierra noted, "and so we do urge residents to look at the county website that is updated pretty constantly – sometimes three times a day – regarding any updates. They have a very busy Public Health department, and they are really on top of their game."

#### City updates

On March 16, the city issued a press release which laid out precautionary practices they are undertaking (see the City of Willits press release in this edition) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as recommended guidelines for limiting gatherings and social contact in general.

On March 18, the city declared a state of local emergency, opening their Emergency Operations Center at the lowest level. All city facilities and departments are closed to the public, except for very limited hours at City Hall.

On March 17 and 18, the County of Mendocino issued orders with strict prohibitions and recommendations for the general public, including a mandatory "shelter in place" rule requiring all county residents to stay at home, with certain multiple exceptions of providing or receiving essential services, engaging in essential activities, and working for essential businesses or governmental services. The order went into effect at 10 pm March 18, and is currently planned to continue through 11:59 pm on April 7, although that end date can change.

The city has canceled the council meeting for March 25, and said they will likely cancel the April 8 meeting as well, along with all other public meetings. You can visit the city and county websites and Facebook pages for more information and to keep up with updates.

Mendocino County's public health officer. The county is expected to announce a "Shelter in Place" order on March 18, effective at 10 pm.

The Mendocino County hotline and call center, 707-234-6052 is open 8 pm to 5 pm.

The local emergency proclamation will be presented to the Willits City Council next Wednesday, March 24, at a special meeting. The city continues to work closely with the Mendocino County Department of Health and Human Services, who is working with other local agencies, the California Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor COVID-19.

An earlier, March 16 press release from the City of Willits had more information, some of which is still current under the "Shelter in Place" order.

• The Willits City Council meeting of March 25, 2020 has been canceled. The meeting of April 8 will likely also be canceled.

• The Community Development Department will be closed to the public and will be conducting meetings via phone.

## Savings Bank services and wellness: COVID-19

*Submitted by Savings Bank of Mendocino County*

Savings Bank of Mendocino County wants you to know that they are taking proactive measures to prepare for the coronavirus (COVID-19). They are closely monitoring developments from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as state and local authorities and are aware that COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization.

"Our top priority is the health and wellness of our customers, employees and the communities we serve while continuing to provide banking services," said Scott Yandell, Savings Bank president and CEO. "We want to assure you that we have taken precautionary measures to promote good health and wellness".

The banking centers are professionally cleaned, and they are enhancing their cleaning protocols for commonly touched surfaces. Their employees have been informed and urged to follow basic preventative measures and have been asked to stay home if they or a family member have a fever or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. To help keep us all well, they ask that customers do the same.

Savings Bank has social distancing practices currently in place, which means when you stop by the bank they will greet you with a friendly smile instead of a handshake. Employees will not be traveling for business to large conferences, classes or trainings and they have put into practice alternatives to meeting in person for large group employee meetings.

The bank knows that access to your accounts is top priority. Because of this they want to remind you that they offer the latest banking technology. These tools give you the flexibility and convenience to access your accounts without coming into the bank. Savings Bank's presence on social media allows customers and the community to connect with the bank for up-to-date information from your computer or mobile device. If you haven't already done so, now is a great time to login to Online Banking, download the mobile app and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

• Drive-up Interactive Teller Machines

Open from 8am - 5pm Monday through Thursday and until 6pm on Fridays in Ukiah,

• City restrooms will remain open, as public hygiene is paramount.

• All non-essential meetings have been canceled

• Water shut-offs have been postponed for 30 days.

• We are encouraging people to use our drop box in front of City Hall, in the parking lot to pay their water bill; pay by mail; or use our website for on-line payment.

• The Willits Police Department, in conjunction with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, will be limiting their call responses to focus on urgent calls, and they encourage people to reach out via phone rather than in person..

Continue practicing common sense!

Continue to practice social distancing when out providing or receiving essential services. Continue to wash your hands. Please do not hoard – watch out for your neighbors! If you can, give generously to our Food Bank or other organizations that are helping those in need.

Redwood Valley, Willits and Fort Bragg.

•ATMs

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 14 machines to serve you in Ukiah, Redwood Valley, Willits, Fort Bragg, Mendocino and Lakeport.

• Online Banking, [www.savingsbank.com](http://www.savingsbank.com)

Access your accounts online to transfer money between your accounts, check balances, monitor account activity, view statements, pay bills, person to person payments and more.

• Mobile Banking Apps for Apple(r) and Android(r) Devices

Connect to your accounts anytime, anywhere. Deposit checks in a snap, transfer money between your accounts, check balances, monitor account activity and pay bills.

• Debit and Credit Cards

There are options for you if you prefer to use a card instead of cash.

• TeleBank 877-477-1154

Your telephone can connect you to your accounts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

• By Phone

If you would like to speak with a loan accounting representative to make a payment by phone, please call 707-462-6613, ext. 1240.

To speak to a bank representative for any other banking needs or questions, please call your local banking center. Phone numbers are available on our website locations page, <https://www.savingsbank.com/locations.php>

• Facebook and Instagram

Follow Savings Bank on Facebook and Instagram for the most current information about bank operations and services as the situation progresses.

Savings Bank of Mendocino County is well-prepared, and their team is closely monitoring local conditions, the recommendations of medical experts and governmental representatives, and they are taking appropriate measures. The bank will provide updated information on their website and on their Facebook and Instagram pages as necessary.

As your local community bank, Savings Bank is here for their customers, their employees, and the community.

social distancing guidelines to protect staff and patients. For seniors who have a special need, pick-up may be arranged. Call 456-3099 to make arrangements.

"Our top priority at Adventist Health Howard Memorial is the health and wellness of our patients, team members and the community," said Jason Wells, president for Adventist Health in Mendocino County. "This is just part of our efforts to prepare so we can be ready to take care of our community when they need us the most. Our team deals with infectious disease on a regular basis. They are highly trained for these situations, and we have processes in place. We also have the support of a healthcare system that allows us access to supplies and expertise. We appreciate our community's cooperation as we take these additional precautions to help prevent the spread of coronavirus in our community."

For those coming in for services, in the clinics, emergency room, or for outpatient services such as laboratory and medical

imaging, patients are asked *not* to bring visitors with them. Exceptions may be applied for those who cannot come to their visits without assistance or minors. This is to further reduce foot traffic and face-to-face contact to protect staff and patients.

For patients coming for services, who have flu-like symptoms, the hospital asks that patients call ahead so that staff can adequately prepare and take precautions to protect themselves and other patients.

No cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Mendocino County. (UPDATE: 1 confirmed case in Mendocino County was announced Wednesday evening, March 18). But the hospital has activated its disaster response protocol and are taking adequate preparations and precautions so that they can continue to serve the community at this critical time.

Follow the hospital's Facebook page for continued updates at [www.facebook.com/ahowardmemorial/](https://www.facebook.com/ahowardmemorial/)

the essential function that schools represent to continue," said Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan during a March 17 press conference.

"We are on a modified school plan. We're not closed. We're just doing business differently," said Westerburg. "Most of it is done through either packets or online – grades 6 through 12 use a lot of online instruction because they have one to one [laptop] Chromebooks, and K through 5 is using packets.

"The packets that students have are for a week," he said. "On Mondays, we will have students, or parents/whomever, dropping them off and picking them up. Every building has a setup for that to happen."

Students using Chromebooks "have Google Classroom. They can do things like Google Hangout and use the Zoom app where you videoconference with each other," said Westerburg. "If you have a history class, for example, the teacher is putting things in Google Classroom that students are expected to do. The teacher grades it just as if they were doing something almost like a correspondence class."

Teachers are also available to students one on one if necessary.

"They can talk on cell phones. They can email each other," said Westerburg. "They are still interacting with students ... just not in a sit-down next-to-each-other fashion."

And it works even if a student does not have access to the internet at home, which, by the way, Westerburg said was "a very small percentage" of students based on a survey at Baechtel Grove Middle School.

"A student can actually work on the Chromebook at home even if they don't have WiFi," he explained. "It remembers the last 100 things done, and as soon as you walk into WiFi with it, it syncs everything. Everything you do will get saved and emailed and sent out as soon as it gets put into WiFi."

Also, any individual glitches, questions, or problems students are having can be worked out in person.

"One of our tech guys is in the high school library from 9 to noon Monday through Friday for problems with Chromebooks or internet access," said Westerburg.

Feeding kids is also essential and food is being provided district-wide.

"Breakfast and lunch is free to anybody in town 18 or younger," said Westerburg. "And that's not just Willits Unified students. Students can go to the charter schools, La Vida ... anywhere. Or they could be home-schooled for that matter."

The meals are available at the high school cafeteria.

"There's a sign outside," he said. "It's take and go. Breakfast is from 8 to 10 and lunch from 11 to 1."

Open buildings are also part of the modified schooling model.

"Buildings are open. We're not restricting anybody or forcing teachers to come in," said Westerburg. "There's quite a few teachers in the classrooms doing things, especially the elementaries ... because that's where they have the computer set up and information. Others who have kids who don't have childcare are at home doing their work. It's really an individual thing."

Westerburg had nothing but praise for all district employees.

"I'm always proud to be the superintendent of schools here ... very proud and pleased with how all of our staff have responded to taking care of kids' needs and to adhere to safety," he said. "Our staff came together talking about what are the best things to do for kids. My special ed staff is adopting things for kids with special needs. I watched our middle-school principal talking to a Hispanic family on why we're doing this, and what their kids need to do."

The "custodial maintenance staff is coming in and doing great work as well, he said. "They're disinfecting the buildings, fixing things, and getting a lot of stuff done that we need to get done.

"Essentially, everyone's on call, and it's all hands on deck."

And, everyone will continue to get paid.

"We're going to hold all our people harmless. We're going to do payroll as if everybody were here as normal. If we have to make the time up, we'll make it up," said Westerburg. "If we don't, that's fine also. Our people, our classifieds and support staff ... they can't go without paychecks."

And, he said "students [were] handling it pretty well – not scared or fearful. They're accepting the fact that they have to do stuff from home."

Though he added that he didn't "think it will really set in for a week or two ... how difficult it will be, being at home."

block of Franklin Avenue.

7:13 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1300 block of Eva Claire Street.

#### March 10

12:32 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of Magnolia Avenue.

10:23 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

5:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Laurel Street and North Street.

8:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 700 block of South Main Street.

8:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

11:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

#### March 11

12:57 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Madden Lane and issued a warning.

11:59 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Locust Street.

1:18 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of East Oak Street and Central Street.

2:15 pm: STRODES, Donna Jean (74) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

4:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

#### March 12

5:11 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

6:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and School Street and issued a warning.



Rhonda Sanders of Willits.

7:22 pm: **SANDERS, Rhonda Rennee** (59) of Willits was contacted in the 1100 block of Locust Street. She was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order), on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm, and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

8:49 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Hellums Place.

#### March 13

8:15 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

10:29 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

1:08 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

6:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of North Street and Laurel Street.

#### March 14

10:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

#### March 15

6:48 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of McKinley Street.

9:17 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1100 block of South Main Street.





Above: Harrah Senior Center Director Richard Baker surveys the dining hall, which will remain empty for now. Above, right, top: Prior to completely closing down the facility, the Senior Center considered limiting tables to four persons and spacing tables much farther apart. Above, right: Although the Senior Center Chili Cook-Off was postponed and may be cancelled, the gift basket raffle was still held.

Below: One of several programs that the Senior Center will continue to provide is the monthly distribution of free commodity food.



Photos by Mathew Caine



## Serving Seniors and Beyond

### Harrah Senior Center shuts down but is still providing Meals on Wheels, pick-up meals, and free commodities to seniors

"We are going to have our facility completely shut down," stated Harrah Senior Center Director Richard Baker, even though "people want to keep coming inside." The Senior Center has been a provider of vital services to the older population of the Willits community, which has made decisions relating to the COVID-19 virus all the more challenging.

**Mathew Caine**  
Features Writer  
mathew@willitsweekly.com

It will be difficult for many local people to make do without the abundance of tasks, services and help that the center regularly offers, such as lunches, Meals on Wheels, consulting on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, financial help, and a myriad of others. Due to the overriding need for the assistance that seniors can find at the center, the board of directors has come up with several policies in order to continue to aid the seniors while protecting their staff and cadre of volunteers.

First, the physical facilities of the Senior Center will be closed to the public. All volunteers and staff over the age of 65, the highest risk group, have been sent home, although some will continue to work and consult over the phone. The Senior Center Thrift Store is closed until further notice and will not be accepting donations. The transportation department will be discontinuing its normal services. There will be no support groups meeting, no bingo, no computer lab, and

Read the rest of **Seniors** | Over on Page 13

### Senior Center offers pick-up and delivered lunches

The Willits Senior Center dining room is closed. Programs are cancelled. Meals will be available for pickup beginning at 11:30 am, Monday through Friday, as supplies last.

Those who need Meals on Wheels deliveries – the Senior Center will expand deliveries as they are able to the community – please call the Senior Center with credit card information (\$5 a meal, Monday through Friday) at 459-6826.

### Mendocino County Library

All Mendocino County Library branches and the Bookmobile will be closed through at least April 6 in response to the growing public health concerns over COVID-19. Book drops will be closed and locked. You are encouraged to keep your materials borrowed from the library until further notice. We will extend the due dates on all materials.

Mendocino County Library staff will be available during the day to answer questions via telephone during operating hours. We also have a vast amount of resources available online including downloadable materials.

Please follow us on social media (www.facebook.com/mendolibrary) and on our website (https://www.mendolibrary.org/home) for updates, resources to access and fun tips to stay positive as we work together as a community through this difficult time.

For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency at (707) 234-2875.

### 39th Annual Community Festival Car & Bike Show

May 24

The Willits Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the 39th Annual Community Festival - Car & Bike Show. Sunday, May 24, 10 am to 4 pm. This year we will also have a party in the Recreation Grove the evening before on Saturday, May 23 with music, food and lots of fun. The fun starts with a delicious hot breakfast catered by the Willits Lions Club from 7 to 10 am. Everyone welcome to enjoy a great breakfast with a front-row seat to the parade of cars and motorcycles as they rumble to their show positions. Vendor booths with a wide array of interesting and fun gift items, arts & crafts, and information, and food. The Memorial Day Ceremony features the American Legion Willits Post 174 Color Guard presenting the colors at noon at the main stage. Questions or info about entering vehicles or motorcycles in the Car & Bike Show, call the Willits Chamber at 459-7910 or email info@willits.org.

– submitted by the Willits Chamber of Commerce

The rest of **COVID-19** |

From Page 7

and customers said they frequently wash their hands instead of using sanitizers. Safeway employee Dina Campbell, who was stocking 600 loaves of bread Monday morning said: "I'm with the public, and I don't rely on sanitizers. I wash my hands a lot instead." That practice was echoed by employees and customers elsewhere.

However, according to Baker, there are several services that will continue in order to keep the senior (and some of the younger) community members well-fed, informed, and in good health. The situation is extremely fluid, and many of the policies can change over time, given the uncertainty of the pandemic situation and the constant updates from the county, state and federal governments.

"We are continuing our Meals on Wheels program, as a delivery service to home-bound and physically challenged seniors," said Baker. "We are expanding that to the community for anybody who wants or needs to get a meal delivered, as the governor has said that anybody 65 or older should be staying at home."

"We also have a drive-through option for people to get food," he added. "For Meals on Wheels, you can call in and for \$5 apiece, we will take credit card information and we will bill weekly for anybody to have a meal delivered to their home, one meal a day, Monday through Friday. For people who are not required to stay at home and are able to be out and about, we would appreciate those people coming and getting those meals in our drive-through facility for the same price."

"Our goal is to remain operational until we are told that we can't. We'll see how the situation is going to play out. Look at what's going on in the Bay Area with 7 million people sheltered in place. No one is going to be allowed inside the facility, but we'll be doing meals delivered and meals drive-through, which will be served from 11:30 am to whenever, depending on the demand."

"We're keeping the situation fluid," said Baker. "We would like people to show up for lunches at 11:30, but if it grows to a situation where we can't service everybody in that timeframe we will extend it, if we have the volunteers to be able to do it. Our phone number is 459-6826. We need people to call in and give their name and address, credit card information, and when they want their meals delivered. We're here for the long haul, as long as we are able to do it for the community."

The Meals on Wheels drivers will be checking with their clients as to their health and well-being in order to help report cases to the county and to find aid for those who are ill.

The center will also be continuing their commodities program in which food, provided by the Redwood Empire Food Bank out of

### MTA reduces frequency of bus service

In compliance with the Mendocino Public Health Officer's "Shelter in Place" order effective at 10 am March 18, Mendocino Transit Authority will reduce bus service in Mendocino County.

During the service reduction, MTA will post temporary schedules in all buses and bus shelters, on social media, and on its website, mendocinotransit.org. MTA will run no service on Sundays for the duration of coronavirus health advisories. MTA will continue to provide approved hand sanitizing wipes to riders while supplies last and disinfect interior bus surfaces whenever the buses are in service.

MTA encourages all riders to comply with the Public Health Officer's order to 'shelter in place' and only utilize public transit for essential rides.

### Sparetime Garden Center

"At this time Mendocino County has not restricted businesses. Should the county decide only essential businesses can operate, we feel we would fall into that category. We believe now more than ever growing food, herbs and medicine at home is of the utmost importance. Gardeners need access to soil, vegetable starts, supplies, seeds, amendments, etc. in order to maintain a successful home garden. As of now we plan to remain open as long as it is safe and permitted to do so. For our senior and immune compromised customers-please call us ahead of time at 459-6791 and let us know what you need. We will try our best to accommodate your needs and will go as far as delivering your order to your car."

### Online - Brooktrails Chipper Days Community Kick-Off

March 28

Brooktrails Community Kick-off Meeting for Chipper Days: Due to the Covid-19 situation Sherwood Firewise has decided to change the March 28 Community Kick-Off for Brooktrails Chipper Days to an online webinar, or you can just call a conference number to hear the information. "Unfortunately we won't have the film, "From the Ashes" or the great Potato Bar, but we will be presenting the same information with the same speakers as we planned. There will also be time for Q&A with participants emailing questions for the presenters. Below is the link to the online meeting as well as a phone number for those who can only participate by phone. The event will also be recorded to allow viewing later. Contact info@sherwoodfirewise.org with questions. Be well! Saturday, March 28, 10 am to 12 pm. Go to: meet.google.com/mgw-tbjr-ua. Dial-in: (US) +1-440-688-1956 PIN: 269 770 722#

## Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

### Sweet Lars

Hi! My name is Lars. I have been described as a fun, goofy, energetic boy. I went to a training class, "Socialization for Mutts," with a volunteer, and she said I was a really good boy in class. I learned "Sit," "Down," "Up," "Off," and "Look at Me!"



I am tired of this kennel and would really like a home of my own. My ideal home would be one that would provide me plenty of exercise and plenty of balls to play with. Oh, and I have a really cute tail. Come down and meet me and find out what a sweet boy I am. I am a 2-year-old neutered male who currently weighs 75 pounds.

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

### Handsome Flip

Meet our handsome friend Flip! Flip had a few rough months last year when he was abandoned by his owner and found wondering around as a stray in Fort Bragg. Eventually he was rescued and brought into Mendocino Coast Humane Society, where he spent a few months before coming to us in June of 2019.



Flip is a little over 2 years old and weighs about 60 pounds. He is a quick learner, has grown to love water, enjoys a good challenge on the agility course, and the company of both humans and canines. Flip has been lucky lately scoring a foster home. He has been around other dogs, cats, and livestock.

He is dog-social, not interested in the livestock, and not fazed by the cats.

Flip loves toys! Most of the time you will find him just walking around with his favorite toy in his mouth. As if you need any more positives about this handsome fellow, he is crate-trained and house-broken! Flip is current on his vaccines and neutered, which means he is good to go home with you today! He has waited long enough for it to be his turn. Its now Flip's time to shine!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is located at 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Please give us a call at 707-485-0123 if you have questions. You can view all our adoptable dogs and cats on Petfinder, on our Facebook page, or through our website: mendocinohumane.org.

### Loving Dalla

Meet our beautiful loving calico, Dalla. Dalla is around 2 years old and weighs 7 pounds. She came to us in June of 2019 as a stray along with her four babies. Dalla was the most wonderful mother to her babies and was amazing at protecting them while on her own.

Now that her babies are all grown and have left the nest, Dalla is an empty nester looking for a place of her own. Dalla wants to be your baby! She is a sweet girl who doesn't ask for much. All she wants is a nice warm cozy home with her own family. Do you have some room in your heart and family for one more? We promise you won't regret it!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is located at 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Please give us a call at 707-485-0123 if you have questions. You can view all our adoptable dogs and cats on Petfinder, on our Facebook page, or through our website: mendocinohumane.org.



Made for more weekends

You were made for more. More sunrises. More adventures. More healthy years. And we're here to help you on your journey. Offering a full range of healthcare services for every age and stage of life, we believe a person's healthy mind, body and spirit are the path to total health for our community. That's why every person we serve inspires us to go the extra mile.

**Adventist Health**

Health | Care | Community

You were made for more, so learn more.  
**AdventistHealth.org**





OBITUARY |

## Richard Walker

Richard Wayne Walker was born on September 10, 1959, and sadly left us on February 4, 2020, at the age of 61. He leaves behind his immediate family, Barry Mayfield, Holly Sperling, and Brandon Maxfield, and The Willits Kids Club, as well as a son, Ryan, brother, Scott Walker, another brother, one sister, and a niece.

Rich was employed at the Willits Kids Club for the last five years – he loved those kids. Being involved with those kids brought him great joy. Life is beautiful, and he enjoyed it to the fullest. He was always smiling, no matter what was going on. Rich's life and presence left a permanent impression on all who knew him. We are truly blessed.

A celebration of Rich's life on March 28, 2020 has been postponed for now. If you have any questions, please call Holly at 707-367-1539.



OBITUARY |

## Norma Martin

Norma Joyce Martin of Willits, born June 12, 1942, in Chicago, Illinois, went to be with the Lord on February 28, 2020 at the age of 77. Norma is survived by her husband of 42 years, John Martin; children: Donna K. Ornelas, Darla Lee Ortiz, Rudy Hyatt, and Danny Martin; grandchildren: Tanya Garcia, George Ortiz, Rudy Ramiro Ruiz, Charlene Ortiz, Chad Ortiz, Brandon Martin, Amy Hendrix, Nathan Martin, Sarah Martin, and Tristan Martin; and brother and sisters: Johnny Mayor, Jean Robinson, Caroline Smith, and Judy Mayer. Joyce also leaves behind great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Martin was preceded in death by her first husband, Rudolf Christopher Hyatt on September 4, 1972; son, Gary Lamont Hyatt; grandson, Alex Shane Ortiz; father and mother: Rondy and Norma Mayor; sisters: Vivian Broyles and Marian Lawarson; and brother, Don Mayor.

Joyce loved to go camping, boating and fishing. She caught a few big ones over the years, and they didn't get away. Before her stroke, Joyce was very active alongside her husband. While he ran his auto body shop, Joyce would prepare lunch for those waiting on their vehicle repairs. She loved people, had a servant's heart, loved to cook, and loved the outdoors. She especially loved tending to her roses. She also had the most wonderful sense of humor, and enjoyed making her loved ones laugh. She could always bring a smile to your face.

"When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand that an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand. The angel said my place was ready in heaven, far above, and that I have to leave behind all those I dearly love. But, when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home. For God looked down, smiled at me, and told me ... welcome home. So, when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart. For every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart."

A celebration of life for Joyce Martin is planned for March 28, 2020 at 1850 Center Valley Road, in Willits.

OBITUARY |

## Nancy Adair

Nancy Adair passed away at age 72 at her Willits home on November 19, 2019. She spent most of her adult life in San Francisco, Mendocino County, and the Navajo reservation in New Mexico. She studied painting, sculpture, TV communication, and integral studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies.

Nancy lived a full, creative life including co-writing and co-directing the classic documentary "Word is Out: Stories of some of our lives," with her late brother Peter Adair, released in 1977. "Word is Out" became an icon of the emerging gay rights movement and a landmark in documentary history.

She was an amazing artist creating images of whimsical figures that expressed her love for creatures of all kinds. She also taught yoga and meditation at a Willits mental health center. Nancy strived to help others, including numerous homeless people, always reaching out to those in need.

During her years in Willits she was a member of both the Episcopal Church and the Buddhist Fellowship.

Tragically, she struggled with bipolar disorder for much of her adult life. She tried to shine a light on this disease in order to help others.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Carolyn Adair, and her siblings Peter Adair and Margo Adair.



OBITUARY |

## Betty King

Betty Elizabeth King passed away March 2, 2020. She was born in Clarksville, Arkansas, on June 6, 1934 to George Cecil and Ocie Marie Davis, and had lived in Willits for the past 21 years. She married Raymond Leroy King on February 25, 1952 and was proud to be "the housewife of an oilfield man."

Betty enjoyed crochet, casinos, and going out to eat. She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond King and son, Terry King; her parents, George and Ocie Davis; and brothers: Danny and Ralph Davis. She is survived by sons, Stephen (Sarah), and David; and daughter Katrina (Danny), and daughter-in-law Randi, (widow of Terry); and,

10 grandkids and 21 great-grandkids.

Private graveside services were held March 6, 2020. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

### Death Notice

## Virginia Yarberry

Virginia Mabel Yarberry of Willits passed away on March 7, 2020 at the age of 94. No services will be held at her request. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

***Willits Weekly will run free obituaries up to 350 words, with a photo, for residents of Willits, Laytonville and Covelo. Send your obit and digital photo to: willitsweekly@gmail.com***

## Joan Edna Snyder

***April 26, 1932 – March 5, 2020***



Joan Edna Snyder, 87, passed away peacefully in the presence of loving family members on March 5th at her home in Willits, California. She was born April 26, 1932 to George and Grace Huchendorf along with her identical twin sister June and was one of five children. Joan, a resident of Willits since 1969, was originally from South Dakota and worked in Rapid City as a telephone operator. She later moved with her family to Silverton, Oregon where her father had a farm and worked in construction. The love of her life, the late Fred Snyder, followed her to Silverton and they married there in 1952. They moved back to South Dakota shortly thereafter, where Fred worked in construction and they started their family in Rapid City with the birth of the first of their five children.

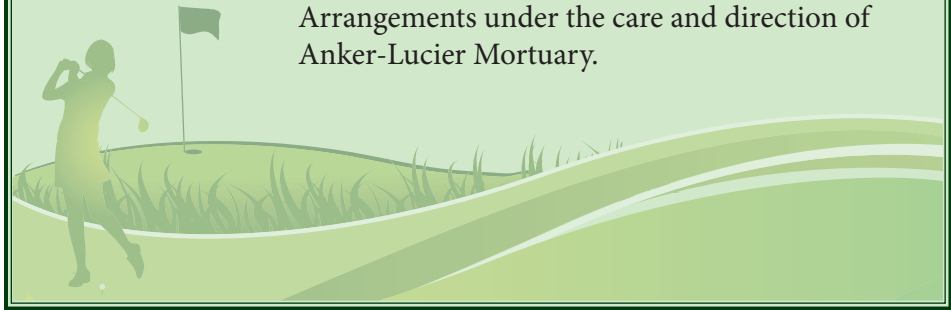
They soon relocated to the West Coast, first living in Oregon, then Cloverdale where they co-owned a rock crushing plant and then moved to Fortuna where Fred worked for Mercer Fraser and Joan and Fred owned and operated an A & W franchise. In 1969 Joan and Fred moved to Willits where they bought, owned and operated the Union 76 bulk fuel distributorship and subsequently acquired the Union 76 distributorship in Ukiah. They later also owned and operated an asphalt and rock crushing business with their son Mark, Dakota Paving.

Joan began working in the late seventies at Willits High School first as a tutor, then a librarian and media assistant and then in the school's administrative office. During her twenty years working in education Joan was well known for her hard work and friendly demeanor and was a positive influence in the lives of many students and co-workers. Most recently she worked as a volunteer at the Roots of Motive Power in Willits. During her time in Willits Joan was an avid golfer and a frequent patron of Brooktrails Golf Course. Joan loved to travel and after retirement, Joan and Fred spent many winter months in the desert areas of southern California, Arizona and Mexico where they vacationed and golfed. She was also a devout San Francisco Giants fan watching all their games on television, going to games in San Francisco and traveled each year to the Phoenix area for spring training to support the team and of course help get the team off to a good start for each season. Joan became a member of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority in 1976 and thoroughly enjoyed her membership in the group and the many friendships she made there.

Last year in April, Joan traveled to Rapid City to celebrate her 87th birthday with her twin sister June Jolley, who survives her. She is also survived by her two daughters Roberta Matteis and Kathi McCrum both of Roseville and her two sons Keith Snyder also of Willits and Doug Snyder of Reno, Nevada. She is also survived by ten grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Joan was well known for her caring attitude, unceasing energy, devotion to her family, readiness to help those in need and had many close friends in the community. She lived life to the fullest and embraced each and every day with vigor and unwavering optimism. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Services will be announced at a later date. The family is asking that contributions be made to Hospice or any charity of one's choice.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



Office: (707) 462-4514  
Mobile: (707) 367-3786

Roofing applications  
available  
to fit any roofing need

Online:  
[www.basroofing.com](http://www.basroofing.com)  
Ca. Lic # 927007  
Email:  
[basroofing@live.com](mailto:basroofing@live.com)  
W.C. & G.L. insured

Residential & Commercial  
**B.A.S.**  
**ROOFING. Inc**  
Serving areas of Mendocino,  
Lake and Sonoma Counties

## CAPABILITY BROWN LANDSCAPING

— Stonework a Specialty —



Patios • Walkways • Walls • Planters  
Planting and Irrigation

Louis Rohlicek • (707) 459-2237 • CL 542392