Supes delay cannabis Phase 3

Forrest Glyer Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted on Monday to put a "temporary moratorium" on the implementation of Phase 3 cannabis cultivation, which had been slated to begin April 1.

However, the board is now considering making changes in the county's cannabis cultivation ordinance, including a new Chapter 22.18, which could significantly expand the size of cannabis farms allowed on some parcels if adopted as written.

The decision by the BOS on Monday to delay Phase 3 followed a meeting by the Mendocino County Planning Commission on Friday that spanned for nearly 12 hours, and included dozens of calls over four hours of public comments to go along with 400 letters and emails, many from those who were adamantly opposed to the expansion laid out.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak called Monday's BOS vote "procedural" in nature, and said that changes to the cannabis ordinance, as recommended by the planning commission, will likely be coming back to the board at their April 20 meeting.

Read the rest of Phase 3

Little Lake Fire

ISO ratings looking good

Joanne Moore joanne@willitsweekly.com

Willits' fire department's "ability to provide fire protection in its district" couldn't be better, a heartfelt thanks for a job well done, call volume back to pre-pandemic numbers, and, just maybe, a new program for aspiring young firefighters.

The Little Lake Fire Protection District's Board of Directors heard all the details at their March meeting.

The department's high marks for ability to provide fire protection come from a recent ISO (Insurance Service Organization) audit.

"It look's like we're going to maintain our three (rated) status," said Fire Chief Chris Wilkes. "That's always the goal of the fire district to be able to maintain that. It gets harder and harder every year."

Three might not sound so great, but the ratings go from one to 10, and the lower the better.

And insurance companies

Over on Page 10

Read more of LLFD





Above, left: Willits Chamber of Commerce's Donna Hart handles phone calls at the Chamber office, which will be open weekends starting this Saturday. Above, right: Chamber Board Member Jill Persico folds some of the new "Cattle Brand-danas" available for sale as a fundraiser for the Chamber. Below: Willits Chamber Board of Directors members pose together to showcase the new bandanas including, from left: Chuck Persico, Julie Orr, Tim Westby, Jill Persico, Donna Hart, Cathy Moorhead holding Ron's photo, Gloria Westby, John Kvasnicka, Chamber president Lisa Kvasnicka, and Guest Operations Manager for the Skunk Train Aaron Fultz. Not pictured: Chamber Board member Linda Givens of Adventist Health Howard Memorial.



Cattle Brand-danas

Colorful handkerchiefs showcasing many Mendocino County cattle brands available now

 $\top \textbf{Maureen Jennison}$ Graphics & Photographress

maureen@willitsweekly.com

ways, but including the history of the region's cattle industry seemed like the perfect fit for

project last year.

The bandanas, which can be worn as a pandemic "Pan-dana" facemask, or in a number of other ways, are

the Willits Chamber of Commerce to create the bandana

Representing Willits and representing Mendocino being sold for \$8 as a fundraiser for the Willits Chamber of County can be achieved in many Commerce. They come in four colors: pink, maroon, red and navy; and feature 85 unique cattle brands of ranchers from around Mendocino County. They are currently available for sale at the Chamber as well as at Scoop's.

> The 2020 project was spearheaded by then-executive director of the Chamber, Ron Moorhead, who passed away earlier this year. Moorhead did get to see the project through to completion, however, and his wife, Cathy, noted

> > his excitement and pleasure about the outcome.

> > Now, operations at the Chamber are even more of a group effort with volunteer Donna Hart manning the phones at the East Commercial Street office. Lisa Kvasnicka, owner of

Read the rest of Brand-danas Over on Page 9

At left: The bandana design which features 85 different cattle brands from around Mendocino County.

Below, left: There are four colors of bandanas available to purchase: pink, navy, red and maroon.

Below: Donna Hart, left, and Cathy Moorhead, pose with a photo of Cathy's late husband, Ron, who was the previous executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce and driving force to create the

bandanas. Photos by Maureen Jennison

Planning commission doesn't back **10% pot** expansion

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter

After a 12 hour special meeting on Friday, the Mendocino County **Planning** Commission sent a mixed message to the board of supervisors proposed changes to the county's cannabis ordinance. Commissioners recommend moving discretionary review and approve of individual permits for commercial cannabis activities, which the county argues would such make permitting process "statutorily exempt CEQA" (California Environmental Quality Act) review.

commissioners did not agree on another controversial change: the proposal that landowners in Ag, Rangeland, and Upper Residential zoned areas, under Phase 3 permits, could be permitted to grow as much as 10 percent of their parcel's acreage in cannabis, subject to a use permit process. By the end of the meeting, three commissioners of the five participating had come around to supporting a 1

Read the rest of Planning |

Over on Page 11

BOS hears from county schools chief

Forrest Glyer willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Board Supervisors heard from the county's Superintendent of Schools Michelle Hutchins Tuesday, who spoke about some of the many challenges local schools and students are facing as they attempt to re-open for in-person attendance.

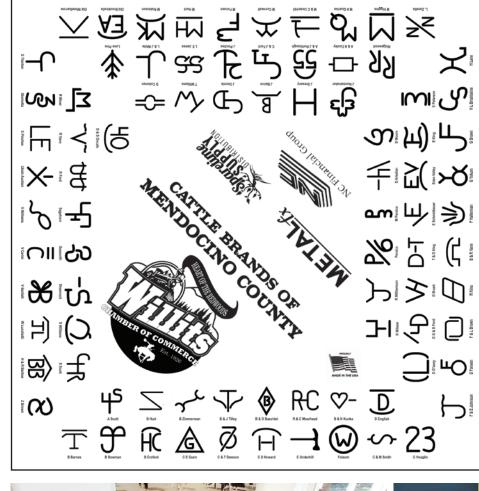
"So what a difference a year makes," said Hutchins. "It's so good to see school buses stopping for school children and not just distributing meals and operating as hotspots.

"Schools are now in the process of transitioning to in-person instruction where teachers are simultaneously teaching students at home and in the classroom," she continued. "Ingenuity is the highest we've ever seen it right now in schools. By the end of Spring Break most elementary, middle and some high schools will have transitioned to partial in person learning."

"Each school is identifying appropriate actions based

Read the rest of Schools

Over on Page 11



Fix existing cannabis issues first

To the Editor:

I urge the Planning Commission to reject the Board of Supervisors' Rangeland Expansion Ordinance. I can't fathom why an additional 10 percent [of parcel] grow concept, coupled with opening up rangeland to cannabis cultivation, is even being considered given the state of affairs surrounding the present phase.

Until such time that issues plaguing the current phase can be addressed competently, expanding those very same issues is pure folly. Whose interest is really being served

One need only look at the current and existing state of cannabis cultivation in the county to see numerous nonpermitted grows, multiple grows on parcels not zoned for such, garbage, derelict junked cars, transient camps, and criminal organizations.

Stay any length of time, in say Covelo, you will hear gunfire all too often associated with grows, or even be solicited by cartel members seeking to lease property for even more grows. You'll also notice that for the first time in ages, your water wells have been impacted by the increased water demand created by the sheer number of cultivation sites. Not quite a ringing endorsement for being able to manage current phase issues, let alone entertaining an expansion. Let's get the current situation dealt with in the proper

manner before adding more problems I urge the Planning Commission to consider the

ramifications and negative impacts of Agenda Item 6b on the citizens of the county and to Vote No.

Andrew White, Covelo

Marijuana has metastasized

To the Editor:

There is a cancer growing in our county, and it has metastasized big time. That cancer is called marijuana. I blame the county supervisors for its spread. Would someone please explain to me why it is OK to allow drug dealers to grow and sell drugs in family neighborhoods. This invites crime. There is no hiding it. The horrendous smell alone gives it away.

Then there is the water issue. Everyone is affected by our lack of rain the last few years. My neighbors and I have wells. Unfortunately I have two neighbors that are growers. One just bought an additional 80 acres. These plants require a lot of water. I am deeply concerned about our wells. Really everyone should be concern who has city, Pine Mountain, or Brooktrails water. Everyone can see the endless line of water delivery trucks going up and down our roads heading in various directions. Supervisors, where is this water coming from? Do you even know? Do you even

So the cancer has metastasized. Is there any hope? One can only pray there is.

Bonnie Brandyberry, Willits

Zoom call on senior-friendly

cohousing

To the Editor:

I want to let the community know that I am planning to host a Zoom call on April 6 at 7 pm to discuss the formation of a senior-friendly cohousing community

We will start the call out with a brief overview and outline of our call, and then we will hear from two founders of cohousing projects: Susan Burwen of Mountain View Cohousing Community http://mountainviewcohousing. org/ and Pat Darlington of Oak Creek Senior Cohousing in Stillwater, OK https://www.oakcreekstillwater.com/

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, event 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.



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Jackie Cobbs, features editor

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

After Susan and Pat share, I will go over some of the information in Chuck Durrett's book: "Senior Cohousing," that lays out the steps to form a community. And then we can have a discussion, perhaps dividing up into breakout rooms depending on the number of people attending the

Senior Cohousing vs. Multi-Generational Cohousing that is senior-friendly: I had originally intended to form a multigenerational community, and I am still open to that if there are enough people under the age of 50 who want to be part of this. From what I have been reading about, there are a lot of young people who like to visit and hang out at senior cohousing communities. The bottom line is that I want to create a place where people can age in place and remain vital members of a caring community.

Shared community areas: When you buy into a cohousing community, you have your own living space and access to shared community areas which can include a garden, kitchen, dining area, meeting rooms, art studio, woodworking studio and perhaps a recreation area of sorts. There are a lot of possibilities that will depend on people's needs and wants.

Vegan community kitchen: I want to be totally transparent about this. My husband, Gary, and I are both plant-based for our health and the health of our planet. I respect everyone's right to eat what they want in their own homes, but in our community spaces - dining and kitchen areas we will be plant-based. Plants are a common denominator. Everyone eats plants, and I can assure you these meals will be delicious and nutritious. If you need to eat animals and animal products at every meal, then perhaps this is recommendation that each permit application be handled

Location: We want to live in a community that has a rural feel and space for gardening and enjoying nature. Presently, Gary and I live outside of Willits and love this area. We want the community to be closer to town, ideally within walking or cycling distance; we are open to considering are being taken into account.

Affordable: We want the community to be beautiful and

Anyone interested in being on the call can email me at janae.k.stephens@gmail.com for more information.

Janae Stephens, Willits

Not the time to expand permitted cannabis

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors: Now is not the time to expand permitted acreage for cannabis production, particularly not in our valuable agricultural land. Worldwide food demands increase daily, while the land available for producing food decreases even faster. The pandemic taught us (or some of us) just how important local food sources could be, and local food producers responded magnificently. But we cannot increase our resilience, or respond to rising demand, if we are giving over more and more of our land to cannabis production.

Currently, we count at least 17 large cannabis grows in the Little Lake Valley alone. I am told that Sheriff Matt Kendall says only six of these have even begun the process of permitting. Some were set up by outside investors at a time when only "heritage producers" were allowed permits. Longtime agricultural producers in our valley find themselves surrounded by cannabis grows. And motorists around the valley complain about ugly plastic covered

The ordinance under review at this meeting takes account of environmental concerns, concerns of neighbors in residential areas, and the water needs of growers. It does not consider the needs of agriculture, neither for land nor for water. The county's General Plan was predicated in part on preserving agricultural land for food and fiber production. The cannabis boom violates this legitimate public interest.

Impact on food production

1. Land prices. Cannabis production in this county has meant inflated land prices for some time. Now we are seeing them still more inflated, discouraging those who wish to pursue food production and encouraging even families traditionally devoted to food production to cash out. At current prices it is impossible to pay off mortgages by food production alone, and most families depend upon outside income to keep their farms and ranches afloat. The cannabis boom, which will be exacerbated by expanding allowed acreage, makes that situation so much the worse.

2. Degradation of agricultural land. The cannabis grows in evidence around us rarely make full use of their land. A small portion is devoted to cannabis, the rest left fallow. But grass and grazing land left fallow quickly degrades. Overrun by weeds and blackberries, it presents a fire hazard and poses real obstacles to rehabilitation and regeneration if ever returned to agricultural production.

3. Water. While many of the long-term, artisanal ("Mom and Pop") growers of Mendocino County are careful cultivators, recent entrants don't have the experience or wisdom of a Casey O'Neil or others among our "heritage growers," and many large-scale cannabis growers have been notoriously profligate with water and fertilizer. A high margins crop like

cannabis can encourage large expenditures on inputs and carelessness in their use.

Little Lake Valley has limited water supplies. Until the City of Willits drilled new wells in the valley, all new development was severely restricted - and the opening up of those wells was opposed by many ranchers and farmers out of concern for the water table. Those concerns are real, and expanded cannabis production just increases the concern. No consideration has been given, in the county's headlong rush to reap cannabis revenues, of the possible impact on our water supply. And individual CEQA's for each grow will not address the cumulative impact.

Despite state and federal regulation of fertilizer and pesticide use, moreover, leaching of such substances into the water table is an everyday occurrence. The profligate use of agricultural chemicals in large-scale cannabis production further exacerbates this danger.

3. Economic viability of food production. Given low food crop prices and the high cost of land, small-scale production of cannabis as a "cash crop" could benefit some food producers. The state and county's approach to cannabis production, however, has been to incentivize larger scale and mono-cropped cannabis production, while creating high barriers to entry for small farmers, thanks to a complex and expensive permitting and regulatory regime.

To take one example, the intrusion of Planning and Building Services into the regulation of temporary agricultural structures such as hoop houses has been of immense concern to local vegetable producers and, in one case, contributed to the folding of a very productive farm. Developed on the model of the retail nursery "greenhouse," the regulations reflect the urban biases and training of planners and utter disregard for the realities of intensive

4. Future prospects. Mendocino County has seen the development of a small but vibrant local food movement. Moreover, recent changes in federal meat regulation, permitting on-farm slaughter of cattle and local butchering, have opened up the possibility of significantly increasing revenues for cattle production. But these gains for food security in a world growing ever more populous and a climate ever more inhospitable to agriculture are being blocked even now by land uses that betray our need to bolster and grow food production.

Enforcement

At a time when authorities lack the ability to enforce existing laws, it is astounding to read a county Planning staff on an ad hoc basis, with staff exercising the discretion to adjudge the particulars of each case. This will certainly provide more work for staff, and further expand the staffing (and revenue) needs of the county, but it will do nothing to assure the public that the larger interests of the population

That non-heritage grows should have been tolerated in the confusion of the early stages of the permitting process is understandable, perhaps, but not acceptable. That we should continue to be assaulted by plastic-covered fences around grows, in violation of the county's cannabis ordinance, is emblematic of the inability, or disinclination, of the county to enforce the law. But that all of this should be occurring to the detriment of food and traditional fiber production in this county is a travesty.

Remedies? Before the county undertakes to reap the revenues of an expanded cannabis industry, it should focus on reaping the revenues already prescribed by law by enforcing existing law. In some cases of blatant disregard for the law, the county should use the enforcement power it already has to dismantle grows. Planning and Building Services has the power to order unpermitted and unsafe buildings torn down; the same should apply to some, if not many, of these grows.

More important, the county must move to take the needs of food production into account. Cannabis growers on agricultural land should be required to lease out land not in production at reasonable rates to ranchers and farmers or put it into food production themselves. No Williamson Act relief should be afforded those who abandon traditional agricultural production on extensive tracts of land. And, above all, the expansion of cannabis production onto existing agricultural lands must be halted, not encouraged.

> Michael Foley and Sara Grusky, Green Uprising Farm, Willits

In gratitude

To the Editor:

Willits, Lavtonville, and Mendocino County, 10,000 deep bows of gratitude! Thank you for showing up to nurture your well-being through acupuncture, herbal remedies, and creative community-building opportunities.

In August of 2008, I opened my practice of acupuncture in Willits and had an office in Laytonville as well. In 2019, I moved to and began to practice in Lakeport, closed my Laytonville practice, and continued to serve at my Willits location in the Grange building. It has been an honor to serve you over the last 12 years and seven months!

As is the energy of spring, a new role has emerged for me in Lake County as the acupuncturist at Lake County Tribal health. The demand in Lake County for my private practice has grown as well.

As of April 15, I will be no longer be seeing clients at Cultivate Wellness studio in the Little Lake Grange. My friends and colleagues, Claudia Wenning, N.D., and Rosa Pena, Rosen Method practitioner, will continue offering holistic care in the Grange room #4.

I invite you to continue care with me in Lakeport. I understand that travel can be a hinderance for some and am ready with local referrals to help you transfer care to the ideal practitioner for your individual needs. The healing arts community in Mendocino County is vibrant and offers many options for care.

Thank you for supporting me in my life's work. Willits, you are a vibrant and resilient community. You have an ally in Lake County!

Michelle Jean (Cummins) Champion, L.Ac.







Above, from left: Kaitan Tripaldi of Trillium Alchemy came down from Covelo to offer her handmade soaps. Caitlin Wolf of Root Girls Herbals and Rhys May, who sells jewelry, pose for a photo. Local artist Divora Stern of One Mind Body holds one of her Zen gardens. Michiel Rueb displays three kinds of mushrooms and other goods from Mulligan Gardens in Laytonville. Below, left: The weather cooperated to create a great day for the Mendocino Herb Guild's Spring Market. Below, right: Sarah Adams of Everyday Alchemy offers herbal tonics of several types.





Spring Market

Mendocino County Herb Guild holds outdoor fair, selling and celebrating all things herbal

Mathew Caine

and this year, the Mendocino County Herb Guild Spring Market. The event was situated in the parking lot of the old Rexall building downtown

tinctures and local crafts It was also a place to go to get out of the house, to emerge, albeit masked, to see the eyes of friends and neighbors who have been, until now, sequestering in place. With the loosening of restrictions and the shifting of tiers, people took the opportunity to breathe fresh air and engage in conversation. It was a social event as much as it was a

on Main Street. The lot was filled with tents, booths and

people looking to learn about and purchase herbal potions,

The spring equinox each year brings a renewal of the

Claudia Wenning of Quantum Level Health, one of the organizers of the event for the Herb Guild, enjoyed seeing all the faces and sharing information about the many benefits of herbs. "Something is going right." she beamed. "This is a beautiful day. We have over 20 vendors. More vendors wanted to be here but it's full. This is definitely something that matters, that the community wants. We have herbs and starts and seeds. We have herbal preparations and a lot of art." Wenning wished to acknowledge the generosity of the Rexall owners, Pete Swanton and Steve Marsden for allowing them to use the space.

Wenning saw the congregation of people as a statement of connectivity. "We often ask what we have in common with other people that we feel comfortable with. The appreciation of beauty. You recognize that someone you're

with has the same appreciation of beauty. It almost makes Earth's energies, the blossoming of flowers, new growth, them your kin.

> "This is what we've been missing," she said, "the recognition of who is your connection, who is your community, your tribe. As of today, I actually believe that we are seeing this manifest. That people have come together who are appreciating beauty. That appreciation of beauty is actually a health-giving thing. It's a beautiful way to connect in a very respectful way with others and nature, the birds, everything. If we could just nourish this appreciation of beauty, that we all are so capable of, it may allow us to look differently at each other, at the world at large and possibly feed this heart-connection with other people."

The market was an exercise in healthy lifestyles. Herbs, according to practitioners from the Herb Guild, have a lot of strength, especially in the concept of preventative medicine and the girding of the immune systems in the body. One can speak for hours with the herb merchants, most of who have studied and shared their knowledge for many years.

There were familiar vendors from the weekly Willits Farmers Market: Michelle Costa of Mendo Ferments with her array of home-crafted fermented foods, elixirs, krauts, etc.; Mama Wolf Coffee (previously She Wolf) purveyor of fine coffee and organic pastries; Mulligan Gardens, known for their blue oyster mushrooms, brought several dried spices, herbs and some starts for the gardens. Michiel Rueb of Mulligan Gardens shared a space with Casey O'Neil of Happy Day Farms of Bell Springs.

Of course, herbs and herb products were the theme and

Market Over on Page 10



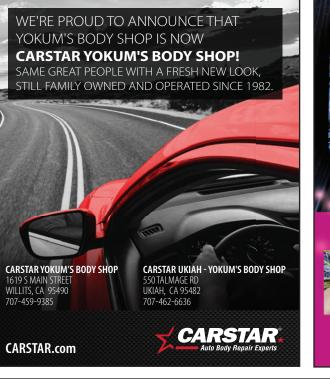




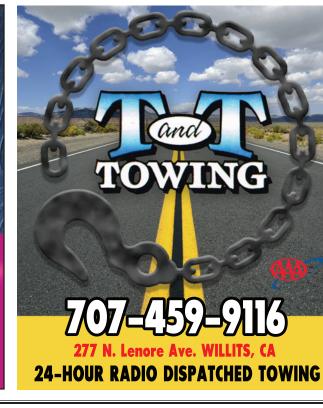
Michelle Costa of Mendo Ferments can be found at the weekly

Sara Grusky's special Fire Cider Salad from Green Uprising Farm. At left: The Forget-Me-Not Flower booth is colorful and attracts

Photos by Mathew Caine

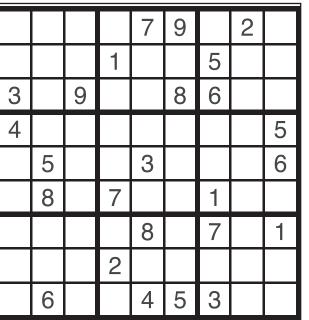






Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



SUDOKU

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





CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Volcanic crater 5. Long times
- 10. Swedish rock group
- 14. Having the means to do something
- Rods or spindles 16. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 17. Missing soldiers 18. Measuring instrument
- 19. All of the components considered individually
- 20. Play '__ Irish Rose'
- 22. Gene 23. Barrels
- 24. London-based soccer team
- 27. Feline
- 30. Breed of sheep
- 31. Body part 32. Doctors' group
- 35. One who follows the rules 37. Cigarette residue
- 38. Ancient Greek sophist 39. Polish yeast cakes 40. Promotional materials
- 41. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour 42. Completed perfectly
- 43. Photo
- 44. A peninsula in SW Asia 45. The common gibbon

- 46. Disfigure 47. Ribonucleic acid
- 48. Japanese honorific 49. Pieces of music
- 52. Expressed pleasure 55. Having ten 56. Type of sword
- 60. Humble request for help 61. Eating houses 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Cain and ___ 65. Measure the depth 66. U. of Miami's mascot
- 67. Political outsiders 68. Greek sorceress 69. Body part
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Mother 2. Jewish calendar month 3. Jai ___, sport
- 4. Establish again 5. Swiss river 6. Racetrack wager
- 7. __ but goodie 8. Closeness 9. Soviet Socialist Republic 10. At right angles to
- a ship's length 11. Women's undergarments 12. Mountain stream 13. Expresses pleasure

Sudoku puzzles are

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

4:46 pm: Officer responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of South

6:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

9:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

disturbance in the 100 block of Wood

5:55 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 800 block of Railroad

March 17

Main Street.

of a suspicious person near the intersection of Sherwood Road and North Main Street.

1:01 pm: Officers responded to a report

4:08 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South

4:53 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of West

5:34 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 300 block of Fort Bragg

Willits and GAMEZ, Luis Enrique (32) of Willits were contacted in the 100 block of Marcela Drive. Manies was arrested on felony charges of cruelty to a child (inflict injury) and conspiracy to obstruct justice. Gamez was arrested on felony charges of cruelty to a child (inflict injury) and obstruction of justice.

March 18

21. Painful places on the body

23. Automobile

25. Scandinavian

god of battle

26. Expresses surprise

27. Secret political clique

28. Yields manila hemp

29. River in central Italy

32. Brain injury science

34. A person from Asia

38. Cooked or prepared

in a specified style

37. General's assistant (abbr.)

acronym

40. Large terrier

41. Hillsides

44. Not or

43. Golf score

46. Type of student

47. Flower cluster

49. Closes tightly

53. Actress Jessica

54. Pay attention to

59. Take a chance

61. Cost per mille

62. Helps little firms

50. Saudi Arabian desert

51. Famed vaccine developer

52. Multi-function radar (abbr.)

57. Beloved big screen pig

58. __ Clapton, musician

36. Father

33. Mental illness

The rest of

changes being considered.

not start is we recognize Phase 1 and 2 were a disaster," he said. "And the current Phase 3 that's on the books would follow. And it's a difficult place for this board to be in that we need to make changes to make this program work. But if we start out with a mountain of complaints about how bad it is - well we know that and that's why we need to make changes.... We reasonable that has enforcement elements that meets the state requirements.

POLICE LOG

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

March 15 to March 21

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

March 19

of Willits was contacted in the 1300 block

of South Main Street. He was arrested on

11:06 am: Officers initiated a fraud

12:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft

1:47 pm: Officers initiated a theft

investigation in the 800 block of South Main

4:56 pm: Officers initiated a theft

6:18 pm: Officers responded to a report

9:22 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1400 block of

9:35 pm: Officers responded to a

10:26 pm: Officers responded to a

disturbance in the 800 block of South Main

11:29 am: HERNANDEZ, Uriel Aldean

(25) of Willits was contacted in the 200

block of Margie Drive following a domestic

disturbance. He was arrested pursuant

to 245 (A) (1) PC (Assault with a Deadly

Weapon), 273.5 PC (Domestic Corporal

Injury), 273 (A) PC (Child Endangerment),

1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on

felony charges of cruelty to a child (inflict

4:42 pm: CRABTREE Sr., Ezra

Bartholomew (44) of Willits was contacted

in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He

was arrested pursuant to 422 PC (Criminal

6:27 pm: Officers responded to a report

of unwanted subjects in the 200 block of

12:43 am: KENNY, Anna Marie (30)

of Willits was contacted in the 200 block

of South Main Street. She was arrested

pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication),

415 PC (Disturbing the Peace), and

on misdemeanor charges of disorderly

3:54 am: Officers responded to a

1:08 pm: Officers responded to a report

of suspicious activity in the 800 block of

3:51 pm: Officers responded to a report

7:05 pm: Officers responded to a report

Willits

Weekly

We're online and

in print

WWW.

WillitsWeekly.

com

of suspicious activity in the 25000 block of

of suspicious activity in the 100 block of

disturbance near the intersection of State

Street and North Main Street.

conduct (alcohol)

South Main Street.

Madrone Street.

East Commercial Street and issued a

disturbance near the intersection of North

Street and West Mendocino Avenue.

of trespassing in the 400 block of East

Commercial Street.

South Main Street.

March 20

investigation in the 1700 block of South

investigation in the 100 block of Mill Creek

investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel

felony charges of violation of parole.

The officers of the Willits Police 10:06 pm: GARCIA, Javier Ryan (33)

Department handled 114 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

12:53 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South

11:47 pm: Officers responded to a

9:33 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main

11:02 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South

11:11 am: Officers responded to a report

12:50 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

of a suspicious person in the 800 block of South Main Street.

Humboldt Street.

Mendocino Avenue and South Main Street.

10:59 pm: MANIES, Bobbi Anne (35) of

10:30 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of

8:01 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South

From Page 1 Phase 3

There is also a special BOS meeting scheduled for Monday, April 12 which will include several informational reports regarding the local cannabis industry to help the supervisors make their decision about expansion and other

The reports will include a presentation from California Department of Fish & Wildlife focused on water usage, a look at the cannabis policies of Humboldt County and how they compare to Mendocino, and a look at enforcement of illegal cannabis grows by the Sheriff's Office and county counsel and whether the county should change their approach.

At the Monday meeting, First District Supervisor Ted Williams, a member of the cannabis ad hoc committee, talked about why they were shifting away from the Phase 3 plan "The reason we want to freeze this today and

need to replace [Phase 3] with something that's



Above: WHS Native American Club advisor Buffey Bourassa, left, Anthony Wright, Joscelyn Beebe, and WHS Interact Club advisor Lucy Kyne are ready for customers. At right, from top: WHS Principal Mike Colvig is happy to pick up seeds for his garden and support the Native American and Interact clubs in their Clean Water Project. Willits Rotarian Mathew Caine and Willits Rotary President Jason Korte are some of the first customers. Advisor and Willits Rotarian Buffey Bourassa and Anthony Wright of the Native American Club assist in helping them decide. A packet of seeds came with eight sixpack trays ready for planting. WHS Assistant Principal Marian Lohne, left, is ready to make her purchases from students Joscelyn Beebe and Anthony Wright, while WHS counselor and Interact advisor Lucy Kyne

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The sun cooperated and shined down on the Willits High School Interact and Native American clubs' Vernal Equinox Seed Sale held in front of WHS on March 17 and 18. This

Jenny Senter

well-organized event offered driveup service and eight sixpack trays filled with potting soil as a bonus when donations were given for the

be done when was add seeds! Also available for sale were 0.75-cubic-feet bags of potting soil. WHS Interact Club members Joscelyn Beebe, Michael Kale, Anthony Wright, Paris Hanserger, and Allegra Silveira

quality flower, herb and vegetable seeds. All that needed to

helped with the sale. Soil and seeds were donated by Sparetime Supply and this fundraiser was the first of several for the clubs' mutual Clean Water Project for Willits. The clubs' goal is to purchase three outdoor water stations for the parks in Willits - City Park, Recreation Grove, and Babcock Park. Initial cost estimates for the stations are \$2,000 each. An indoor station has been donated to the clubs by Mendocino County Public Health, and the students are working with

the City of Willits for a suitable location.

WHS Interact Club members decided on the Clean Water Project idea during the 2019 / 20 school year. Willits Rotarians, of which WHS Interact Club is affiliated, Dickey Winkle and Mathew Caine went with students to the city council meeting to present this idea.

Native American Club advisor Buffey Bourassa mentioned the project to Tina Tyler O'Shea, program administrator at Mendocino Public Health and she said they had an indoor water-hydration station to donate to the project. Both Kenan O'Shea and Tina Tyler O'Shea presented their plan for help with the project to WHS Interact Club this school year. WHS Interact Club advisor Lucv Kyne is also assisting the students in their fundraising

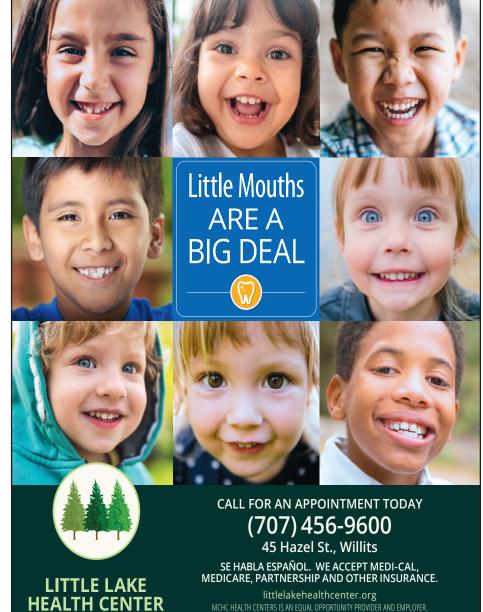
Kyne said the club met their goal of earning \$500 on this sale. They sold out of the soil and starter packs but have leftover seeds, which they plan to plant for starts to sell in May. Watch for an announcement in early May for a sale.

If you would like to support this project, donations can be sent to Willits High School Interact Club, 299 North Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.









Loveable Luna

Luna sits for da treats! She is 2 years old and putting her "ruff" past behind her. Luna was suffering from a horrible skin condition and an injured back leg. We are so sorry for what she had gone through. We worked our hardest to make things right again and so did all of you. We



are so glad we're able to give her this second chance at a new life! Luna would love to meet you and show you all her tricks. She is ready to go home to her best friend today.

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

Friendly Cheeks

Cheeks McGee is one handsome boy. This 3-year-old neutered male is very loving and affectionate, and we think he would do well with both other cats and kids, making him a great addition to any family.

For more about Cheeks McGee or to see the

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





far right: Garden Manager Cathie Nicolaus is looking for new gardeners who have time to help maintain the garden

At right, below: Some crops, like several varieties of garlic,

At right, bottom: Brooktrails Garden member Brian Weller

addresses the group at the spring equinox meeting.

are able to thrive through the Brooktrails winter.







At far left: The Brooktrails Community Garden is beginning to come back to life. At left, above: The spacious greenhouse is available to all gardeners. At left: The Brooktrails Garden community comes together four times a year to exchange ideas and learn the latest ideas. Above: The grape arbors are ready for the new season.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Below: Inside the cover, the vegetables are thriving and ready for the warmer weather

DRIVE THROUGH

ner comes with Saag Aloo greens and potato curry (vegan available), na tikka masala (garbanzo tomato curry), raita (cucumber salad), tney & pickle served with rice, and your choice of:

DINNER Friday
March 26
Fundraiser 2-8pm

Chef: Michael McKaskle

Indian Cuisine

Sides - Choose One for \$5

Pakoras (fried vegie balls Deep fried curry shiitake

all gluten free, vegan possible

Community Gardens

For those who like to grow their own food but don't have the space, Willits offers many communal plots

"I think this is going to be a good year," opined Cathie Nicolaus, manager of the Brooktrails Community Garden, after the spring equinox meeting of the participants. "We have a great group of gardeners." The growers at the gardens are a tight-knit community of experienced and novice vegetable enthusiasts.

Mathew Caine

The newer members always know that they can get the advice they require from those who have been at it for many years, which creates a garden area which is productive and vibrant. It also becomes a place of beauty and serenity when fully operational, thanks to the efforts of such as Anthony Ward, a horticulturist-artist who makes sure the area is full of color and bees.

The gardens become transformed from soil patches into a place of life and sustenance each year, although some of the more experienced gardeners utilize the spaces year-round to grow winter crops such as garlic, lettuce or kale. Some even cover their plots with materials to retain enough warmth to help their crops to survive through the coldest weather.

Now, they are looking for the climate to offer enough continuingly warming days to begin the process of conditioning the soil, rejuvenating with compost and all-organic amenities such as chicken manure, bat guano, bone meal, or palm ash, all which supply the ground with nitrogen, phosphorous, and other beneficial

Nicolaus, who has been with the garden from its inception 10 years ago when the space was converted from tennis courts into the thriving growing space of today, is proud of the accomplishments of the gardeners and what she has been able to grow. Even through the winter, she had watermelons, radishes, beets, lettuce, arugula and shallots successfully growing, as well as a sizable plot of garlic.

"We have 27 numbered plots currently," shared Nicolaus. "Four or five of them are communal. Maybe 22 are active. We do have some available plots for new members right now. If no one takes them, we'll open them up to current members. We would like new members because we need the energy. The more people we have, the more people we have for our work parties

"If no one takes them by mid-May," she continued, "we'll put them up to members who have been here for a while, who show activity in the garden, or we can just turn them into communal beds."

Work parties and work days are part of what make this communal garden function so well. Everyone is expected to take on tasks

which benefit the entire garden, tasks such as weeding, preparing compost, laying down wood chips, beautifying the entrance, etc.

The spring equinox meeting began with each gardener stating their name, which area of Brooktrails they live in, and a short statement of what they hope to accomplish with their efforts this year. This is not just a group of plots, but rather a community of people who love the fact that they can grow a sizeable portion of their own food, who love to get their hands dirty, and to watch the fruits (vegetables) of their labors come to fruition.

There are a few open spots available which people can apply for and pay the \$50 yearly per plot fee for, which includes the plot, carefully tended organic compost, organic amendments to enrich their soil, and most importantly, the group experience. Email brooktrailscommunitygarden@gmail.com if you're interested.

The Willits area has three more gardens which come under the oversight of the North Coast Opportunities Garden Project. The project is overseen by Sarah Marshall, project manager, and Lucy Kramer, project coordinator.

The Willits Community Garden can be found behind the Sheriff Sub-Station, next to Recreation Grove Park. It is managed by Julie Bailey-Todd and has a few available plots: www.facebook.com/Willits-Community-garden-101393841708625/. The gardens are going through a sort of renaissance with a new rainwater-catchment system and hopefully a new greenhouse, as the last one, installed a couple years ago, was ravaged by the snowstorm. Plots are \$25 for the year.

The Senior Center Garden, managed by Shannon Furr and the Willits Garden Club, is run on a sharecropping basis. Beds are \$25 and the gardeners are expected to share half of their crop with the Willits Harrah Senior Center to help provide fresh vegetables for the kitchen, which in turn provides inexpensive lunches for seniors as well as free Meals-On-Wheels for shut-ins. This garden has received grants and donations from the Willits Rotary Club, Fox Farm, Sparetime Supply, and a large cash-infusion from 100 Women Strong through the Gardens Project. For inquiries, call Shannon Furr at 707-321-8760.

Another garden, the newest one, is behind the White Deer Lodge on the ridge. It is primarily a garden tended by members of the New Agrarian Collective, Caroline Radice, Joshua Sternberg, and Eben Stewart. "We consider it a Willits garden," said Kramer. "It's primarily a private garden and they're not accepting more gardeners. It serves fire survivors and people from the local food movement."

In trying times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and other uncertainties, groups of gardeners are coming together to be able to provide food security outside the normal commercial food chain with its GMO and processed foods. It is a definite advantage to be able to supply oneself and one's family with fresh, unadulterated and healthful foods.

To learn more about the work, support and efforts of the NCO Gardens Project, visit www.gardensproject.org.













THE EGGS WILL BE READY AROUND TOWN MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 29TH UNTIL APRIL 4TH

Kids of all ages are welcome to join in!

Rules.

COLLECT AS MANY COLORED EGGS AS YOU

LOOK OUT FOR THE GOLDEN EGGS! 3. GOLDEN EGGS ARE LIMITED TO ONE PER

THERE IS FAKE MONEY INSIDE, TO RETRIEVE

YOUR REAL DOLLAR YOU GO TO THE OFFICE AT WILLITS HIGH SCHOOL.



Lamb Vindaloo \$20 (while supplies last)

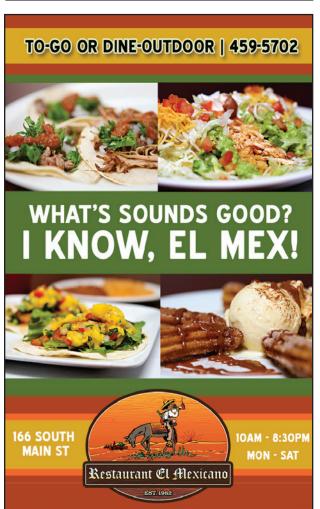
Pumpkin Curry Soup 160z \$5

Coconut Rice Pudding \$4

Mango Lassi 160z \$5

Coconut Ginger Shiitake vegetables \$16

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HOW DOES YOUR FACE SAY,













At right: Mendocino College nursing students and their instructor pose for a photo at a recent vaccination event in Ukiah: Peggy Goebel, Haley Young, Paulette Guillory, Daniel Low, Andrea Maples, Heather Eldridge and Nancy Goodman (instructor).

Below: Mendocino College nursing students and faculty, along with Jill Bartolomie, administrative director for Adventist Health Ukiah Valley, pose for a photo at a recent vaccination event in Ukiah: from left, Danielle McCallum, Nancy Goodman (faculty), Peggy Goebel (director). Heather Eldridge, Jill Bartolomie, Summer Norbury, Erin Henckell and Andrea Maples (seated).



Mendocino College nursing students put skills to use at local vaccination clinics

Submitted by Mendocino County Office of Education

Second-year Mendocino College nursing students were recently able to get hands-on experience by working side by side with nurses from Adventist Health and other health care providers at the Alex Rorabaugh Center to administer 1,000 COVID-19 vaccinations.

Each student was able to competently administer 50 to 75 vaccines under the supervision of Mendocino College Nursing Instructor Nancy Goodman and Director of Nursing Peggy Goebel. Mendocino College Nursing Program Support Specialist Ginger Bushway coordinated student requirements and schedules.

"The students did a fabulous job and were complimented by Adventist staff and multiple community clients," said Goebel. "This is a wonderful example of Mendocino College nursing students gaining confidence and competence while serving their community during this pandemic crisis."

"We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to be involved in community outreach through the participation

in the vaccination clinic," said Hailey Young, a Mendocino College nursing student. "It was wonderful to hear all of the positive feedback and gratitude directly from the community members. This is an experience I will remember

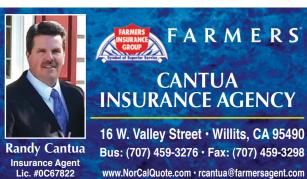
As required by the Center for Disease Control, all student vaccinators completed the CDC vaccinator course online and received their two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine at least two weeks prior to the clinic. Students practiced CDC protocol, maintained social-distancing requirements, wore masks, and washed hands frequently

"We have made a commitment to Adventist Health to continue to partner with their clinics with supervised students here in Ukiah through mid-May," said Goebel. "We have also made a commitment to partner with Mendocino County and EMS at the Ukiah Conference Center to provide faculty-supervised students at their Friday clinics through mid-May. We are all very proud of the professionalism, dedication and skill of our students.

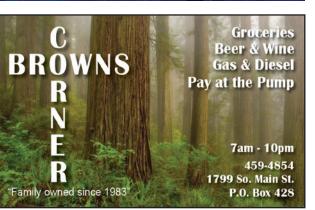








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Randy J. Coburn

coburn_randy@yahoo.com/

coburnsconst@gmail.com

8am-6pm

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General Contractor

Willits, CA 95490

P.O. Box 616

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New Construction

· Kitchens and Baths

ICF Structures

Remodeling

Cabinetry

Blueprints

9am-5pm

Plan Drawing

Mendocino County Museum plans to reopen March 31

By Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

Mendocino County moved into the Red Tier on March 13, allowing museums to reopen with limited capacity and services. In accordance with our reopening policy, the Mendocino County Museum will reopen to the public starting March 31. The museum will be open with limited hours Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 am to 3 pm. However, should Mendocino County move back into the Purple Tier, reopening plans will be delayed.

At this time, entrance fees are waived for all visitors. Regular admission fees will be reinstated when Mendocino County enters the Yellow Tier. Regular admission is \$4 for adults, \$1 for students 7 to 18 years of age, and admission is free for children 6 and under. Admission is also free to Mendocino County Library Card Holders and is free to all on the first Saturday of every month.

The health and safety of our guests, volunteers and staff is of the utmost importance. We are following measures to provide a safe environment for your next visit:

- Occupancy limited to 25 percent
- Face masks required Frequent cleanings
- Removed interactive displays
- Providing hand sanitizer

Our public restrooms are NOT open at this time in order to help reduce the spread of COVID-19

For more details on planning a safe visit, go to www. mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-servicesagency/museum/visit.







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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

1. Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of the Willits Unified School District ("District"), of the County of Mendocino, State of California, will receive sealed bids for the Willits Unified School District High School Parking Lot Improvement Project ("Project") up to, but not later than, 2:00 p.m., on April 8, 2021, and will thereafter publicly open and read aloud the bids. All bids shall be received at the office of the Willits Unified School District, 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, California, 95490.

2. Each bid shall be completed on the Bid Proposal Form included in the Contract Documents, and must conform and be fully responsive to this invitation, the plans and specifications and all other Contract Documents. Copies of the Contract Documents are available for examination at the office of the Engineer, 335 South Main Street, Willits, California, County of Mendocino, California, and digital sets on USB drive may be obtained by licensed contractors upon payment of a nonrefundable deposit of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per set

3. Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, a cashier's or certified check, or a bidder's bond executed by a surety licensed to do business in the State of California as a surety, made payable to the District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the maximum amount of the bid. The check or bid bond shall be given as a guarantee that the bidder to whom the contract is awarded will execute the Contract Documents and will provide the required payment and performance

4. The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the Labor Code pertaining to payment of the generally prevailing rate of wages and apprenticeships or other training programs The Department of Industrial Relations has made available the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which the work is to be performed for each \cdot craft, classification or type of worker needed to execute the contract, including employer payments for health and welfare, pension, vacation, apprenticeship and similar purposes. Copies of these prevailing rates are available to any interested party upon request and are online at http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR. The Contractor and all Subcontractors shall pay not less than the specified rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract. It is the Contractor's responsibility to determine any rate change

5. The schedule of per diem wages is based upon a working day of eight hours. The rate for holiday and overtime work shall be at least time and one half.

6. The substitution of appropriate securities in lieu of retention amounts from progress payments in accordance with Public Contract Code §22300 is permitted.

7. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §4104, each bid shall include the name and location of the place of business of each subcontractor who shall perform work or service or fabricate or install work for the contractor in excess of one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) of the bid price. The bid shall describe the type of the work to be performed by each listed subcontractor.

8. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening for bids except as provided by Public Contract Code §§5100 et seq. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding.

9. Minority, women, and disabled veteran contractors are encouraged to submit bids. This bid is not subject to Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise requirements

10. This project is subject to prevailing wage requirements and bidder and its subcontractors are required to pay all workers employed for the performance of this project no less than the a plicable prevailing wage rate for each such worker. If this project is for a public works project over \$25,000 or for a maintenance project over \$15,000, bidder acknowledges that the project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations in accordance with California Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1770 et seq.

11. Each bidder shall possess at the time the bid is awarded the following classification(s) of California State Contractor's license:

12. By approving these bid documents for the Project, the Governing Board finds that the Project is substantially complex and unique and therefore requires a retention amount of 5%.

13. [X] Bidders' Conference, A mandatory bidders' conference will be held at Willits High School on April 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of acquainting all prospective bidders with the Contract Documents and the Project site. Failure to attend the conference will result in the disqualification of the bid of the

Current Job Openings:

Chief Planner - Fort Bragg

Corrections Deputy

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner II

Senior Planner

For a complete list of current job openings

and to apply:

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/

<u>human-resources</u>

EOE

No Bidders' Conference.

Willits Unified School District Signed By: Mark Westerburg

DATED: March 15, 2021

PUBLICATION DATES: March 18 and 25, 2021

WW312 **Fictitious Business Name Statement**

The following persons are doing business as ColtybugZ BlankeeZ, 272 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA

Registered owners: Nicole Mcleod, 5325 Spyrock Rd., Laytonville, CA 95454, and Denise Asher, 272 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a general partnership.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on March 2, 2021. /s/ Nicole Mcleod

Publication dates: 3/18, 3/25, 4/01, 4/08/2021

State of California, will receive sealed bids for the Willits Unified Computer Help School District 2021 Multi-Site Re-Roofing Project ("Project") up publicly open and read aloud the bids. All bids shall be received

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

1. Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of the Willits

Unified School District ("District"), of the County of Mendocino,

to, but not later than, 3pm, on April 8,2021 and will thereafter

at the Willits Unified School District Office, 1277 Blosser Lane,

included in the Contract Documents, and must conform and be

fully responsive to this invitation, the plans and specifications

and all other Contract Documents. Copies of the Contract

Sebastopol CA, County of Sonoma, California, and may be

obtained by licensed contractors upon payment of a

Documents are available for examination at the office of the

Architect, Alameida Architecture, 555 S. Main Street, Suite 2.

nonrefundable deposit of one hundred and seventy five (\$175)

3. Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, a cashier's or certified

check, or a bidder's bond executed by a surety licensed to do

business in the State of California as a surety, made payable to

the District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of

the maximum amount of the bid. The check or bid bond shall be given as a guarantee that the bidder to whom the contract

awarded will execute the Contract Documents and will provide

the required payment and performance bonds and insurance

4. The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the

Labor Code pertaining to payment of the generally prevailing

rate of wages and apprenticeships or other training programs.

The Department of Industrial Relations has made available the

general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which

the work is to be performed for each craft, classification or type

of worker needed to execute the contract, including employer

apprenticeship and similar purposes. Copies of these prevailing

rates are available to any interested party upon request and are

Subcontractors shall pay not less than the specified rates to all

workers employed by them in the execution of the Contract. It is

5. The schedule of per diem wages is based upon a working day

of eight hours. The rate for holiday and ove1time work shall be

6. The substitution of appropriate securities in lieu of retention

7. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §4104, each bid shall include

subcontractor who shall perform work or service or fabricate or

percent (1/2 of 1 %) of the bid price. The bid shall describe the

type of the work to be performed by each listed subcontractor.

8. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after

the date set for the opening for bids except as provided by

9. Minority, women, and disabled veteran contractors are

encouraged to submit bids. This bid is_/ is not X subject to

10. This project is subject to prevailing wage requirements and

bidder and its subcontractors are required to pay all workers

employed for the performance of this project no less than the

maintenance project over \$15,000, bidder acknowledges that

applicable prevailing wage rate for each such worker. If this

project is for a public works project over \$25,000 or for a

the project is subject to compliance monitoring and

C-39 Roofing Contractor or B-General Contractor.

enforcement by the California Department of Industrial

Relations in accordance with California Labor Code sections

11. Each bidder shall possess at the time the bid is awarded the

following classification(s) of California State Contractor's license

12. [Optional] By approving these bid documents for the Project

complex and unique and therefore requires a retention amount

13. Bidders' Conference. Prospective bidders are invited and

strongly encouraged to attend a bidders' conference that will be

held starting at Willits High School, 299 N. Main Street, Willits

acquainting all prospective bidders with the Contract Documer

and the Project site. Following the bidders' conference a tour

will be held. Bidders must examine and judge for themselves

WW313

2021-F0091

CA 95490.

individual

Fictitious Business Name

The following person is doing

business as Mamawolf's Bakery,

25361 Poppy Dr., Willits CA 95490

Registered owner: Krista Lynn

Pickens, 25361 Poppy Dr., Willits

This business is conducted by an

The registrant commenced to

transact business under the

ictitious business name listed

FBN statement filed with the

Mendocino County Clerk-Recorde

March 18, 25 and April 1, 8, 2021

above on March 2, 2021.

on March 2, 2021

Publication dates:

s/ Krista Lynn Pickens

Statement

the location, surroundings, physical condition and nature of any work to be done. Submission of a bid shall be construed as

conclusive evidence that the bidder has made such an

examination. $__$ No Bidders' Conference.

PUBLICATION DATES: March 25 and April 1, 2021

Willits Unified School District

Signed By: Mark Westerburg

DATED: March 22, 2021

CA 95490 on March 31, 2021 at 11 a.m. for the purpose of

the Governing Board finds that the Project is substantially

Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise requirements.

Public Contract Code §§5100 et seq. The District reserves the

right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or

amounts from progress payments in accordance with Public

the name and location of the place of business of each

install work for the contactor in excess of one-half of one

Contract Code §22300 is permitted

irregularities in the bidding.

1725.5 and 1770 et seq.

onJine at http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR. The Contractor and all

the Contractor's responsibility to determine any rate change.

payments for health and welfare, pension, vacation,

certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the

2. Each bid shall be completed on the Bid Proposal Form

Willits CA 95490

Need help with your computer? Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhaill@gmail.com

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For Sale: Depression Glass and other Serious collectables. only. Call buyers between 9 am and 5 pm for appointment, 707-459-4867.

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Tony (707) 510-5895.

See at "http://www.

Stay Safe

I'll be back to help you

Willits Food Bank

Open

Willits Community Ser-

vices & Food Bank con-

oaknvine.net/tp"

when it is safe to do so. Barbara the Seamstress

CLASSIFIEDS

Freezer Empty? We can help!

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 5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and

Due to health concerns

packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-

Get your ad included!

we'll call back.

Classified ads are just \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks! Email us: willitsweekly@gmail.com

The rest of

From Page 1

Scoop's and current Chamber president, is also helping with Chamber duties as well as other members of the

"Donna is our shining star! We're trying to all come together and keep doors open, and keep supporting Willits,"

something Kvasnicka and the board are hoping will help keep things in motion, as well as continually moving up the state's reopening tiers. The Chamber used to be able to hold monthly mixers, where businesses would host a group of attendees. Even in the red tier, these events still have to

Saturday, March 27, which will be hosted by the Chamber as well as the Skunk Train, also having their opening

The train has a full load of passengers for Saturday, and Kvasnicka and crew plan on opening the Chamber early

that day - 9 am - to encourage folks to stop in, buy a bandana, and get in the red (and hopefully soon orange) tier spirit. Please remember to wear masks, be respectful and socially distance, despite the loosening tiers!

The Chamber will to be open on weekends for now, from 9 am to 4 pm (they're also looking for more volunteers who are interested in helping!) to coordinate with the Skunk Train departing for their two-hour trips at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

a reprinting is possible - but, if you would like to offer suggestions for changes, additions, or removals, please email info@willits.org to be notified when that time comes.

M A A R A E O N S A B B A

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

M P	5	1	6	3	7	9	4	2	8
P	7	2	8	1	6	4	5	9	3
S	3	4	9	5	2	8	6	1	7
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tinues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase n numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA

Brand-danas

said Kvasnicka. "We need each other more than ever now." Partnering efforts with the next-door Skunk Train is also

be more on hold than the board would like "I just want to start doing mixers! I can't remember what specifically about those tier colors," laughed Kvasnicka.

"All I can think about is RED, PINK, MAROON and NAVY!" as she pointed to the stack of bandanas sitting folded on the Chamber counter. A pseudo-mini-mixer, or ribbon-cutting, is planned for

weekend starting that day.

With 2,500 bandanas to sell, it may be a while before

More info: 459-7910

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Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

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

The Church of **Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

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

Eckankar: The Pat of Spiritual Freedo •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 **Modified Worship Service** 10 a.m.

Other ministries suspended for now. For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

Robert Schloegel Ministries

Media and Television Ministry, reaching the Nations with the Gospel Rsmworldwide.org 808-255-6317, Office P.O. Box 614, Willits 95490 Jesus Loves You

St. Anthony of Padua 61 W. San Francisco Ave.

Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadam Mass times: Confessions by appointment: 459-2252

Sunday Mass inside 9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m Covid guidelines apply. We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis **Episcopal Church** North Main Street, Willit 707-272-0177

Church Services/Com by Zoom at noon 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 Saturdays: Bible Study 2 p.m. Worship Service 3 p.m. tps://willitsca.adventistchurch. All are welcome!

Willits United Methodist Christ centered, progressive church ALL ARE WELCOME Worship Celebration

286 School St. (at Pine) Rev. Rosemary Landry, pasto Sundays - 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m 459-2855 Facebook: www.facebook.co



City of Willits asks your participation in urban forest survey Submitted by City of Willits Community Development

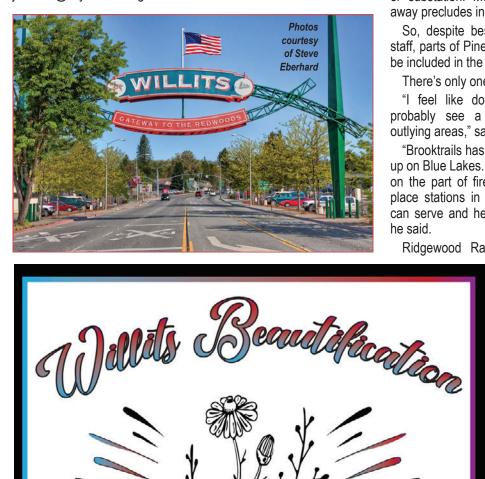
The City of Willits wants your input on taking care of our urban forest. The city's urban forest is made up of trees growing on private property, along city streets, and in parks.

Willits is in the process of creating its Urban Forest Management Plan, which will guide the city and tree care professionals to proactively and effectively manage our trees. The success of the UFMP relies on the public's input. To ensure the UFMP considers and incorporates the priorities of the people who live and work in Willits, the survey at the link following is provided for your voice to be heard: www.surveymonkey.com/r/willitstrees

We want to know where focus should be placed as the city's urban forest program is continually improved. Your feedback will be kept anonymous, and findings from the survey will only be reported in group form. All survey responses will be stored securely and confidentially. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you may stop the survey at any time.

We appreciate you taking part in this important process. For additional information about the city's Urban Forest Management Plan, please contact Project Manager Ryan Allen at rallen@dudek. com. The survey will close on April 16, 2021. Please respond before

A hard copy of the survey can be requested from Jim Robbins at jrobbins@cityofwillits.org or 459-7155.



Wilkes explained that it would be next to impossible to get below three for Little Lake Fire because the number of firefighters who are paid figures into

From Page 1

"We're literally at a point where if you look at the breakdowns ... without a paid fire department, I don't believe there'd be any way for us to get to a two," said Wilkes.

For Willits, it's mostly volunteers out there fighting fires; there's only three who are paid to do so.

"They only allow us to claim a quarter of our roster [as firefighters], because they're volunteers. If you have a roster of 40, which we do, you can claim a quarter, and that brings it down to 10," he said. "You can only provide so much fire protection with two five-man engine

Limitations with respect to the availability of time for training also affects the department's rating.

"We train as much as we can, [but] with volunteers we only have x amount of time to train," said Wilkes. "So usually, historically, we have always taken a hit on training ... just for the simple fact that we don't have the

"A paid staff, they're trained two hours a day," he said.

Another audit-imposed constraint is a location's distance from a fire station or substation. More than five miles away precludes inclusion in the rating.

So, despite best efforts by district staff, parts of Pine Mountain could not be included in the district's rating.

There's only one way to fix that. "I feel like down the road, we'll probably see a substation in our

outlying areas," said Wilkes.

"Brooktrails has a station all the way up on Blue Lakes. It's a strategic move on the part of fire departments ... to place stations in the areas that they can serve and help their ISO rating,"

Ridgewood Ranch, on the other

pay attention to the ratings, so the hand, "was able to get a classification lower the rating, the lower you might because they have a fire station down

> there," said Wilkes. "We gave them our old engine 5842.... They're working with us all the time." he said. "We're able to call that a substation

"They have a true water supply down there with a hydrant system, and so they were able to get a rating down there, and that's a big deal for them.

"They had put in a residential care facility, and the insurance was through the roof because there was no rating down there, and we were able to help them," said Wilkes. "It's exciting for them. It's exciting for us to be able to

Some help in the form of a donation, along with a letter of appreciation, also recently came the fire district's way.

Wilkes read the letter in its entirety to the board "because I think things like this are extremely important," he said.

The letter was from "the Craig family," owners of a property they call "The Ranch ... just at the end of Ryan Creek Road on the east side of Highway 101," a property Wilkes described as "certainly in the line of fire" during last fall's Oak Fire.

The letter described the property as originally purchased by Leela and Rod Craig over 80 years ago, and "a place of refuge, a place we've shared with friends and family, and a place we feel lucky to have inherited ... like a second home to the Craig family," 19 of whom were named at the letter's end.

The donation was for \$1,000 for "gear that you go through such as gloves and hats to fight the wildland

The Craigs thanked "all the volunteers who work so tirelessly each year during the fire season, and especially those who were part of the crew on the Oak Fire last fall.... Your efforts, along with Mother Nature, were our heroes," they wrote.

Read the rest of LLFD Over on Page 11

Willits Beautification clean-up this Saturday

The Leopold Collective, Live Mendo Green, and the Zocalo Collective are sponsoring a "Willits Beautification" clean-up event on Saturday. March 27, from 10 am to 12 noon. Meet at the Willits Safeway parking lot.

"Join us in helping to keep Willits beautiful! Please bring: sun protection / hat, gloves, water and face covering."

Market

From Page 3

the inspiration for the event. Most booths were a mixture of art and herbs. Selena Rowan, of Nine Sister Botanicals of Laytonville and an Herb Guild member, was offering a book, which she helped to edit, "The Essential Guide to Western Botanical Medicine" by Christa Sinadinos. The tome is an 800-page definitive exploration of "chemistry, folklore, and clinical herbal uses," according to Rowan.

Sarah Adams' Everyday Alchemy offered herbal tonics, all alcohol-free herbal formulas that are made with organic herbs, local raw honey, and organic raw apple cider vinegar. "We have different varieties that address different areas of wellness," stated Adams.

Annie Waters was selling herbs. "We have everything from starts to finished product that people have lovingly crafted form herbs they grew themselves or they wildcrafted." Rangi and Yvonne Mayshark, whose Trillium Herb Company has a storefront in Ukiah, offered bulk herbs, spices and herbs products from local herbalists.

Jennifer Gonzales of Covelo was selling herbal body scrubs, tinctures, and herbal-infused oils and salves. Several other herbal booths were in residence at the event, including an Herb Guild booth that was having a raffle to raise funds for the guild, with prizes provided by the vendors.

In addition to herbalists, other vendors could be seen at the market. Divora Stern of One Mind Body had ceramics and other objects d'art. Kaitan Tripaldi of Trillium Alchemy showed a variety of soaps made from all-organic oils, named after her son, Trillium. Rebecca Martin and Cory Gunterman brought jewelry and polished stones and stone eggs from their Circle of Stone collection. Anna of the Meadow was back with her sensual spiritual prints inspired by visions she received from her ancestors.

There were many other vendors offering their herbs and art. The Mendocino County Herb Guild would like to produce these fairs at each equinox and solstice, if possible. However, spring is an ideal time to learn about and appreciate the benefits of herbs, as it is traditionally a time of health, hope and renewal.

"It's really exciting to see the little signs of plant life emerge," said Rowan. "I can tell from everyone here that we're all feeling the stirrings of spring. There's excitement and there's hope. That's how I like to approach herbs. That's the feeling we're all feeling right now from the seasons, from the elements, and then how can we bring herbs into our life to align us with the cycles of nature."

Upland Residential zones.

three zoning areas.

acre cap on cannabis cultivation, even for larger parcels.

should instead include the range of options discussed.

Staff suggested that since commissioners were "not going

The Planning Commission had been asked to look at these

proposed new rules for cultivation, cannabis events, and

cannabis facilities proposed by county staff, at the direction of

the board of supervisors, and then give their recommendation

to the board. The changes would apply to unincorporated

areas of inland Mendocino County in Ag, Rangeland and

The changes to the county ordinance that the Planning

Commission recommended will come back to the Board

of Supervisors on April 20, Supervisor John Haschak, who

Two commissioners, Greg Nelson (at his final Planning

Commission meeting as county ag representative), and

Diana Weidemann (representing the Fifth District) both

Commissioner Clifford Paulin (First District) and Planning

supported a 1 acre cap in Upland Residential and Rangeland,

"to keep the prices from going crazy for Rangeland," she said,

but she was "more flexible" on Ag parcels. But at the end of

the meeting, Commissioner Jones said: "I'll join you guys with

the 1 acre cap across the board, so we have three people

At that point staff suggested that the recommendation to

the supervisors should include the range of discussion on a

potential cultivation cap. With Commissioner Jones agreeing,

that's what was decided, and the final language in that section

about "Placing an acreage limitation on the amount that can

be cultivated" reads: "The commission was not able to reach

consensus on a limitation, but discussed a maximum area

The meeting had lengthy discussion by the Planning

Commission members on multiple different cannabis items.

cannabis farm tours among them, as well as nearly three

hours of public comment via the Zoom meeting or phone, in

several different segments. Some supporters of the new rules

called in, including former Second District Supervisor John

McCowen, a representative from Leef Holdings, and some

permitted cannabis growers. However the strong majority of

callers, including permitted cannabis growers, were against

The agenda page for Planning Commission lists 407 letters

of comment sent in on the proposed changes (a number were

against 10 percent expansion, or any "aggressive expansion"

that there was already insufficient water for cannabis in

big cannabis expansion, including tracking cumulative effects

of water use; there was insufficient enforcement of the current

rules; negative effects of big grows on neighbors and the

environment; the new rules would allow outside investors to

benefit to the detriment of the county's legacy small cannabis

farmers; and that a rush to expand cannabis in Mendocino

County could jeopardize the county's reputation for quality

cannabis and make it harder for artisanal growers to get a

Organizations sending letters opposing the new

changes included: Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory

Council, Covelo Community Services District, Walker Lake

Property Association, Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group,

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, Round Valley County Water

District, Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council,

Willits Environmental Center, Greenfire Law, Mendocino

Environmental Center, Sierra Club - Mendocino Group, and

Written comments in favor included letters from Cannabis

Business Association, Leef Holdings, CannaCraft Inc., Flow

Cannabis Company, Mendocino Grasslands, Countervail

Some of the main reasons brought up by those in support

were the increase in jobs and economic activity that they

believed larger farms could provide, and the fact that other

nearby counties are already embracing the larger-scale

Commissioners discussed – and made recommendations

In the morning portion of their meeting on Friday, the

county Planning Commission also examined a new "cannabis

facilities" ordinance and recommended the BOS move

One of the more interesting items up for debate involved

expanding the retail use classification to incorporate more

canna-tourism uses in the county, including "the permitting

of cannabis farmers' markets, cannabis farm tours, cannabis

lodging opportunities, and on-site consumptional cannabis

cultivation locations," as described in the planning commission

The commission did recommend going ahead with allowing

farm tours and other canna-tourism in the county, but advised

restricting each farm to three tours per week with no more

than 25 people per tour – any more than that would require a

Also tours would only be allowed on parcels with "frontage

forward with several items adding some modifications.

on – other cannabis items of interest at their 12-hour Friday,

Inc., ITW Management, LLC, and Henry's Original.

the Mendocino County Farm Bureau.

March 19 meeting.

industry locally and out of county were in support.

with the 1 acre cap across the board.'

from 1 acre up to 5 percent of the parcel."

the 10 percent expansion.

opposes the 10 percent expansion, confirmed.

to reach consensus," the recommendation to the board

The rest of

size fits all strategy.

on the unique circumstances of that community," she went on. "Safety mitigation measures must be learned and new patterns established," she went on. "The redesign of classrooms to comply with COVID measures is not a one

She noted that recently the distance students are required to keep from each other at schools was lowered by the Centers for Disease Control from 6 feet to 3 feet, and she expected the county schools to be adopting that change "definitely by the fall, if not later this spring."

Hutchins was hopeful that more such changes could come "as the pandemic wanes."

She said that there are COVID safety plans posted to each school's website, and also a "Safe Schools For All" website created by the state "that allows citizens and parents to report any concerns and also provides schools with technical assistance.

In addition, there will soon be a state dashboard tracking supported what's being called a "10 percent expansion" in all the number of people in person at each school district around the state that should be going up soon, according

Commission Chair Alison Pernell (Third District) supported a She emphasized that some good did come from all 1 acre cap in all three zones, even for bigger parcel sizes. the distance learning, with more students obtaining and Commissioner Marie Jones (Fourth District) at first said she learning how to better use computers as an example.

> "We've learned that some students can focus better on academics without the distraction of a social environment," added Hutchins. "We've learned that students who cannot attend class can still have access to class material and instruction. We've learned that long-distance learning could allow Mendocino County schools to share specialized classes and teachers such as AP Physics.

"This has the ability to expand course offerings at our small schools, expand dual enrollment opportunities with Mendocino College by sharing instructors between schools by using distance learning to invite students in."

Hutchins went on to say that the state plans to have some end-of-the-school-year testing to discover how much "learning loss" occurred due to the COVID measures among students, and "design programs to help students recover from such identified loss.

Hutchins said that schools have spent "enormous sums" to keep students in school and learning, and while they have received some one-time funding, it's not enough to cover all the costs associated with redesigning school setups to accommodate social distancing as they transition back to in-person learning.

She said things like hand washing stations, bottled water, Plexiglass separators, and new ventilation systems have all added to costs, as has the need for COVID testing at schools and personal protective equipment.

duplicates or multiple letters from one source). Letters from Additionally, Hutchins said that they do not have nearly individuals and small cannabis farmers were overwhelmingly enough buses or bus drivers as the number of students allowed on the bus has dropped from 78 to 26 students, so of cannabis cultivation, though some local landowners and a more buses and routes are needed each day. number of cannabis businesses and workers in the cannabis

Hutchins also spoke about the mental health needs of teachers and students caused by the stress related to the Just a sampling of points argued in opposition were impacts of COVID-19. that the new changes violated the county's General Plan;

"Many are extremely burnt out after an incredibly challenging year," she said. "And I think it's going to be Mendocino County; county staff was insufficient to review a difficult to have teachers work this summer and then expect it to continue in the fall. They need a break."

"And truly what schools need from their county government is support for mental health services," she continued. "We know the toll on students and families. In the COVID funding for schools – although schools are allowed to use some for mental health services - those funds must compete with practical expenses.

She asked that the county's Mental Health Advisory Board consider allocating some funding for schools, and that a county education representative possibly be placed on the board.

She talked about some of the things which have impacted students in the last year.

"Isolation, grief, loss of loved ones to COVID," she said, "And also the loss of what could've been - senior year. prom, final sports season. In society, tragedies like the death of George Floyd have brought new awareness and sadness and anger to bear. Are students able and ready to learn today?

"It's important to make sure students basic needs are met before we ask them to stretch their brains and learn," she concluded. "It would be helpful to have an appropriate number of mental health counselors in schools as we deal with mental health problems, including those related to

COVID update

In the latest summary from County Public Health Officer Andy Coren, MD, to the board of supervisors on Tuesday, he said that the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses given in Mendocino County had risen to more than 42,000, and approximately 40 percent of eligible adults in the county have received at least one dose.

"The county is now using small travel teams to vaccinate nursing homes, prisoners, homeless and other small groups," he added. "Our vaccine supply has been a little bit better, and hopefully we'll be stable for the next two-three weeks – however [it's] not enough to give first doses for this week and next. Adventist Health has been running into the same problem of allocation and actually had to borrow from a sister hospital in LA for its [vaccine] event needs. "We've opened up our eligible tiers last week to include

construction workers as we found that our clinics were having difficulty finding enough people to fill their events," Coren continued. "And so we felt that we were topping out a little bit, at least temporarily.... Data shows we need more vaccines for Dos Rios, Leggett, Calpella, Talmage and Hopland, and we're trying to run this data weekly."

on a publicly maintained road" and would not be allowed in With the number of average daily new cases in the county hovering around five per 100,000 population, and Those wishing to learn more can visit the Planning the percentage of those tested coming back positive sitting Commission meetings page, to find links to staff reports, the around 2.3 percent, Mendocino County has now been in original resolutions, the amended resolutions that were sent the "red tier" status for more than three weeks, allowing to the board of supervisors after changes at Friday's meeting, more public places to open. and links to the hundreds of public comments. https://

Coren said that dining establishments, museums and churches can all have 25 percent capacity inside now with the right precautions, retailers 50 percent, and gyms and

In addition, on April 1, the county "will open to live outdoor events to 20 percent, which can apply to sports as well as graduations - which is a long time coming.

"Small indoor gatherings of three households or less are allowed with masking and distancing, but they're discouraged," he added. "Especially if there are any vulnerable household members included. Remember we want to open up, but we don't want to open up to another surge in infections or outbreaks that could set us back to

He reported that COVID testing continues to be fairly low statewide, but Mendocino County is better than most other

Dr. Coren said that two more county residents died who had COVID-19 in the last two weeks, bringing the total to 46 since the pandemic began. For the two who passed away recently, he said that one was an 89-year-old white man from the north county, and another was a 57-year-old woman who was suffering from significant comorbidities in addition to COVID-19 who died out of county.

He said with the opening of more schools, there has been a "slight increase in teachers and students who have tested positive, but none of these have been epidemiologically linked. This means that there have not been any outbreaks associated with the opening of schools.

He also reported that there have been no recent outbreaks in the county.

As he has at previous meetings, Coren again spoke on the topic of variants of COVID-19, saying that while none have been detected yet in Mendocino County, they continue to be a concern in the state.

"I think that what's happening now is active evaluation of all these variants," said Coren, "For their transmissibility and their virulence, and also their ability to escape our therapeutics and our vaccines. And the drug companies are developing updates to their vaccines.

When asked how he saw the next few months and years play out, Coren said that the hope was for enough people to develop immunity to the virus – either through vaccines or contracting the disease and developing antibodies - so that a "herd immunity" could build up, but with complications such as variants and "vaccine hesitancy," it was difficult to

"So it's going to be up and down and a little bit of a bumpy course," he stated. "In summary our efforts are paying off with lower case rates, entering the red tier allowing the opening of schools and many businesses. But we still have to be vigilant and disciplined since variants are coming, and because the vaccines may cause many people to become overly optimistic, forgetting the basics like masking, distancing, hand washing and [not] participating in unsafe

On the Mendocino County Public Health dashboard posted Wednesday, the number of those in the county in isolation due to COVID-19 was 40, with one in the hospital, one in the intensive care unit, and 3,832 released from isolation since the beginning of the pandemic.

From Page 10

And those tireless heroes are now "back on track to having in the mid-800 range number of calls" this year, after having been down a little bit, reported Wilkes

"Call volume. Boy, it's up. It's up right now. We're on roughly 164 calls for the year, so it's around 2.4 calls per day," he said.

And there may be some help coming from the younger generation if a Boy Scout-sponsored Explorer program for kids 14 to 18 years old gets up and running.

It's the running part of it that needs to be explored, though, before the district makes a commitment to go forward with it.

"I think it's a good program. But we have to be able to manage it," said Wilkes. "I can tell you that our four staff members that we have now, we can't manage it. That's why we have to sit down and make sure that it's something ... that it's a viable thing. I don't want to start a program and then have it go away in a month. I'm not interested in dong anything like that."

He described the program as "actually very useful.

"Laytonville has an Explorer program and they use it a lot. Redwood Valley's strong. They use it a lot," he said. "One of the only things that I know they can't do ... They can't go in an IDLH atmosphere ... stands for 'immediate danger to life or health.'

"They can't go into structure fires.... But traffic control, vehicle accidents. They can respond as fire guys.'

Besides cost and management, "there's educational and training requirements that go along with the program," said Wilkes. "We, I am sort of excited about it."

He told the board that "we could be presenting an Explorer program to the district probably next board meeting."

Willits Library plans limited reopening for March 30

We're reopening!! Starting Tuesday, March 30, the Willits Library will be open for limited services on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 5 pm. Curbside pickup will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

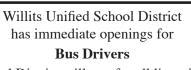
However, if Mendocino County is moved back into the Purple (Widespread) COVID Risk Tier, these plans will be

In preparation for reopening, Curbside Service will be canceled on Friday, March 26. For the latest updates, visit the "Willits - Mendocino

County Library" page on Facebook.



Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490



The School District will pay for all licensing costs plus 50 hours of training for qualified applicants selected for this opportunity.



Applications available at the Willits Unified School District Office, 1277 Blosser Lane (south end of Blosser Lane campus). Contact Mattie Pinon, DMOT Assistant, 459-5111 or Trina Cardillo, Human Resources, 459-5314, ext. 1102.

Pg. 10 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047





Join us in helping keep Willits beautiful!

Please bring: sun protection/ hat, gloves,

water and face covering.

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

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some residential zones.

services/meeting-agendas/planning-commission

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-

The link to the YouTube video of the March 19 meeting is

here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6B-bAamsavc&t=26545s.







Above, from left: Students Grady, left, and Jacoby help run the hot beans to the dinner bags. Matt from Covelo picks up his WEF tri-tip dinner Friday night. WEF volunteer Gracie at the salad station.

At right: Volunteer Madison stands behind pink bags of Kathleen Ells Lewis' delicious cookies, baked for the fundraising event. Vehicles in line at the WHS Ag Farm to pick up their tri-tip dinners for four.

Two happy WEF supporters pick up their dinner from Carrie Oliver.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Tri Tip Is Back

Willits Educational Foundation raises funds for back-to-school expenses with Friday 'take it and go' dinner

the Willits Educational Foundation was busy fundraising Friday afternoon with their annual "Take It and Go" Tri-Tip

Jennifer Poole Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

sent home to learn remotely.

"We're excited our kids are going back to school," said WEF's Jennifer Drew, as she took tickets at the check-in table at the Willits High School ag farm.

Last year's dinner was scheduled right at the start of restrictions for the pandemic: "The next day, the world shut

down," Drew said. Nonetheless, she said, WEF continued to raise funds for supplies for kids for distance learning over the last year: "Sparetime Supply donated \$10,000," Drew said, which went to filling bags of supplies for all the kids who were

All proceeds from the March 19 dinner will be going directly to the Willits Unified School District general fund for back to school supplies.

The WEF dinner for four included a tasty whole grilled tri tip, Caesar salad, beans from a huge bean pot, a loaf of delicious Emandal bread, extra-special cookies baked by Kathleen Ells Lewis, and a beautiful rose from Flowers by Annette.

Volunteers, including students, were packing bags of

Younger kids went back to school last week in Willits, and goodies, and running to bring bags to the line of vehicles picking up their dinner. The goats next door in the barn got excited, too, with all action.

> It rained a little during pick-up time of between 4 and 6 pm on Friday - had been raining off and on all day, reported the meat crew. But by the end of the evening, all 200 tickets had been sold - "thanks to Willits Power," wrote Drew in her thank you to all involved posted on the Willits Educational Foundation page on Facebook.

> "On behalf of the Willits Educational foundation I would like to thank the community and business for all the support over the past year," Drew wrote. "But this morning I would like to give a big shout-out to Cat's Meow for selling tickets again for us; Flowers by Annette Pinon for the beautiful donation of flowers; Emandal Farm for the wonderful bread; Forks Market in Ukiah for prepping all the meat; the meat and bean crew: Stan Cooley, Aaron Branscomb, Jack Drew, Tanner Drew, Tim King, Andrew Hosford, Bryan Tyler, Kevin Kvasnicka, Cail Lustig, and Matt Johnstone for delivering the big granite BBQ.

> "Also a big thank you to Bonnie Rowland Riley, Carrie Lambert, Windi Kvasnicka, Hannah Bouthillier, Gracie Bouthillier, Madison Bouthillier, and Cindi Mihelcic for the salad prepping, bag stuffing, and running the ticket table. We sold out all the tickets at the end of the night thanks to Willits Power! Thank you everyone for the support!"









Joining the experienced orthopedic physicians serving Mendocino County



William Bowen, MD Orthopedics



Paul Charpentier, MD Orthopedics



Jeremiah Dawson, MD Orthopedics



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Scott Gherini, MD Orthopedics



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

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

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

