

Pg. 2 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **Willits Weekly | March 26, 2020** **Willits Weekly | March 26, 2020** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **Pg. 3**

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

Table with 9 columns and 9 rows for a Sudoku puzzle.

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

HOW TO SUDOKU
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box.

SAFE FOODS WORD SEARCH

Word search grid containing letters for finding food-related words.

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

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares.

- CLUES ACROSS
1. As soon as possible
5. Gateway (Arabic)
8. Doctors' group
11. Madder genus of plants
13. A team's best pitcher
14. Ancient Greek sophist
15. Go up
16. Neither
17. Bolivian river
18. Manila hemp
20. Comedienne Gasteyer
21. British School
22. Human reproductive organs
25. Surrenders
30. Dog with long, silky coat and drooping ears
31. Sun up in New York
32. Lead alloy
33. Eastern Asian plant
38. Rapid deployment force (abbr.)
41. Japanese warrior
43. Festivity
45. Interruptions
47. Nonsense (slang)
49. Data mining methodology (abbr.)

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

March 16 to March 22

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 130 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

- March 16
3:18 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 23000 block of Sherwood Road.
9:43 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Alder Creek.
4:15 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.
5:30 pm: NUNEZ, Gregorio (55) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of West Valley Street and South Main Street.
6:22 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.
March 17
3:54 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.
6:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious activity in the 100 block of Hillside Drive.
6:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
March 18
9:50 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.
11:43 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of Blosser Lane.
6:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Madden Lane.
10:28 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.
10:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.
11:54 pm: Officers responded to a report

The rest of SVRC From Page 2

have been postponed until further notice. When we reschedule these events, we will inform our guests with all the updated information.
In a statement, Melanie Rafanan, chairperson of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo said: "As a Tribal government and major local employer, we have made the difficult decision to temporarily close Sherwood Valley Casino for the health and safety of our team members, Tribal members, and guests due to the COVID-19 pandemic."
Rafanan added: "The Sherwood Valley community has faced difficulties and obstacles before and have overcome them, and together we will successfully get through this difficult time too."
Through this rapidly evolving situation, the Sherwood Valley Tribe remains committed to creating a safe and healthy environment for all guests and team members, as well as doing our part to slow the spread of the virus. In the meantime, stay well and we look forward to our reopening and seeing you again soon.
We appreciate your continued patience, support and trust in us as we navigate this pandemic.
We are all in this together.
We will get through this together.

The rest of Supervisor From Page 2

Willits, Laytonville and Brooktrails will all be involved in the planning and implementation to assure coordination with other activities.
I have been working with Sherwood Firewise Communities and the Mendocino County Counsel's Office to provide consistent funding for maintaining and improving emergency ingress and egress routes for one way in, one way out communities. This took a couple of steps forward. The board of supervisors approved pursuing County Service Area 3 Zones of Benefit. Sherwood Firewise also received a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County as well as \$18,250 in pro bono legal assistance from a large law firm with experience in developing CSA Benefit Zones. This will all help to collaboratively accomplish this public safety work.
With spring here and graduations coming up, I will be giving another round of scholarships to graduates who plan on entering public service. There will be three \$3,000 scholarships, one each for Willits, Laytonville, and Round Valley. These will be \$1,000 a year for three years of study. If you know of graduates going into public service, please have them contact their high school counselor.
As always, you can contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214. Stay well with calm and hope.

CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal
Alternate ways to apply or maintain benefits
Submitted by Mendocino County Health and Human Services

While our walk-in eligibility and employment services have been suspended for now, customers can still apply for benefits through C4Yourself.com, GetCalFresh.org, and CoveredCA.com. All of these application websites allow for the uploading of documents as well. CalWORKs and CalFresh applications are screened for immediate need or expedited service, and all necessary interviews can be conducted via telephone.
Customers who have opted in to the Interactive Voice Response system can access program-specific information by calling the 1-877-410-8819 phone number. To request an EBT Card replacement, or to report a card as lost or stolen, please call your worker directly or call the toll-free number at 1-877-328-9677. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards and Medi-Cal Beneficiary Identification Cards (BICs) will all be sent through the mail.
For questions regarding your benefits, or to request a paper application to be mailed to you, please call our Fort Bragg office at 1-877-327-1677 or the Ukiah office at 1-877-327-1711.



Above, left: Sideline poses with concert organizer Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra after the concert. Above, right: The Willits Community Center served as the venue for this year's concert.
At left, from far: Even 112-year-old Edie Ceccarelli attended the concert, posing with band leader Steve Dilling. Skip Cherryholmes of Sideline. Lou Celaya enjoys a moment with Marette and Earl Myers before the concert.
Photos by Mathew Caine

Rotary Bluegrass

Annual Sideline benefit concert on March 7 raises \$5,000 for high school scholarship fund

Fundraiser dinners and concerts are generally a highlight of Willits life. People often gather in large groups to enjoy each other's company and hear some tasty music, too, like they did on Saturday, March 7 for the Willits Rotary Club's dinner and bluegrass concert featuring Sideline.
These days, the county's "shelter in place" orders mean these events have been shut down. There will be a time in the future when this will be possible again. In the meantime, Willits has its memories.
The evening was about music and some Southern down-home cooking. The band Sideline made their annual pilgrimage to the city of Willits to the delight of the over 80 people who attended. The event was held to raise money for the Willits Rotary Club's scholarship fund, which helps deserving Willits High School seniors defray the costs of their continuing education. These seniors are chosen on the basis of scholarship, participation in activities, and interviews, among other considerations.
The \$100 each that attendees paid for a seat and a dinner afforded them an intimate concert evening at the Willits Community Center. It was almost as if the band were playing in someone's living room; indeed, that has been the case in the past, as the event has taken place at friend of the band Bruce Burton's residence in Brooktrails.
This year, Burton was not able to produce the event and asked City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra to assume the duties. Garrabrant-Sierra, being a bluegrass aficionado, a fiddle-playing musician, and producer of a series of city-sponsored concerts in the Recreation Grove Park, was the perfect choice to carry on the tradition.
"Sideline comes here once a year because the band knows Bruce Burton," Garrabrant-Sierra said. "Bruce has had them at various locations. This year he had to travel, so he asked me to help put on the benefit concert. He asked if I wanted to take it over. I said 'sure' because I'm insane. We're really busy at the city, so it was a little bit stressful for me."
"But their booking agent," she continued, "is my fiddle teacher's mom, Maria Nadauld. My fiddle teacher, Megan Lynch Chowning, seven-time national fiddle champion, came all the way from Nashville to surprise her mom at the concert."
"Local concert promoter Da Grand Pooba volunteered to help. He did a ton of work. He met with Maria [Nadauld] and the band to figure out all the logistics, arranged for the sound [by Ancestor Radio]. He spoke with Grocery Outlet and some local farms, the senior center, and Northspur Brewery to get the donations of pork, greens, and the beer."
The concert brought in around \$5,000 for the scholarship fund. In addition, the attendees chipped in close to \$250 for tip jar that goes to the youth groups whose assistance was instrumental in creating the smoothly running event. The local Future Farmers of America and the Interact Club from Willits High School (the Junior Rotary) performed their tasks flawlessly as they helped bus the tables, dish out the dinner, clean, and more.
The Willits Rotary, according to Garrabrant-Sierra, usually throws some more money into the jar to help support these fine organizations. Several of the youth were not at first thrilled with the idea of listening to bluegrass music; however, after the concert was over, they were converted to fans. "They're really good. We really like this music," opined one of the young volunteers.
"Lots of people helped," said Garrabrant-Sierra gratefully. "Carolyn Donovan washed every single dish and much more, Alyson Bailey cooked the greens and cornbread, John Cross went out and bought sodas, brought coolers. Ann Alumbaugh, Jenny Senter and Jolene Carrillo helped with bringing utensils and basically guided me through a lot of the logistics."
"Cathy Moorhead," continued Garrabrant-Sierra, "and some of the staff at the city were very helpful as volunteers. Cathy ironed over 100 of her cloth napkins that she brought from home. After we were done, she took them back home and washed them. She decorated all the tables. I made the mac and cheese and pulled pork. Pooba made a special pineapple salsa. John Cross got Parducci to donate three cases of wine. Various Rotarians brought wine, too."
The band, Sideline, from North Carolina, has been a perennial favorite of the Willits area, with their hard-driving bluegrass and outstanding musicianship. Aside from the bodywork that Pooba treated the band to, assuaging their pains from being on the road with an extended tour, they enjoy the enthusiasm with which they are always greeted by the locals. Travelling from North Carolina, the band, on an extended nationwide tour, brought their hard-driving bluegrass style and outstanding musicianship to the stage.
Sideline has won several awards and kudos over their two decades of excellent work, winning the IBMA, Song of the Year Award for their single, "Thunder Dan." Sideline started out as a side project of founders Steve Dilling (banjo player), Skip Cherryholmes (guitarist), and Jason Moore (bassist), who all came from other highly regarded groups. This night's configuration added mandolin player Zack Arnold, fiddle player Jamie Harper, and guitarist Jacob Greer. Together, they created a memorable, foot-stomping sound that delighted the attendees.
Hopefully, Willits will be able to produce more such excellent concerts and events, sooner rather than later this year.



At left: Sideline members take the stage: Jamie Harper, Jacob Greer, Steve Dilling, Jason Moore, Zack Arnold and Skip Cherryholmes. Above, left: The tables are beautifully decorated thanks to Cathy Moorhead. Above, right: Members of Willits High School's Interact Club and FFA help to serve the feast.

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STAY HOME! WASH YOUR HANDS! ... and COMPLETE THE CENSUS!
MENDOCINO COUNTS! 2020 CENSUS
Respond Online: MendocinoCounts.org

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Above: Brickhouse, Buttercups, Off the Cuff, The Studio On Main, and Cat's Meow are all closed due to being non-essential businesses according to the COVID-19 "shelter-in-place" order. At left, from top: Safeway shopper Ele stepped up her personal protection after reading that as many as 53 percent of the California population could eventually be infected with COVID-19. Jackie Risch and Kemmy's Pies owner Brenda Moss are finishing up a large order of delicious chicken pot pies. According to Moss, their wholesale business is doing really well since they deliver food all over the county. They are open for take-out at the business' bakery next to the Willits Chamber of Commerce on Commercial Street. Buttercups owner Savannah Laughlin pays bills inside the closed store while her sons play; she will be able to take orders on their Instagram or Facebook accounts.



At left, top: Manager Kayla Lyman and cook Gus Ramos sit in an empty Cafe 77, which is closed for sit-down service, but still open for take-out and will deliver curbside. "If it stays this slow, we may have to close," Lyman acknowledged. At left, below: Smiling Mendo Mill employees, Patricia McBride, left, and Tabitha Slivensky, said they were happy to see the new safety shields installed at the Willits store. Above: While El Mexicano's dining room is closed, take-out orders are welcome. Below: It looks like Brickhouse Coffee is closed for now; they're being creative and hoping to come up with a way to continue serving the community and to keep their employees in work.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Living with COVID-19

Willits stores and restaurants find creative way to stay open, while also protecting customers and employees

It's been a mere week since the last report from Willits Weekly about how local businesses were dealing with COVID-19 in the community and the effects of Mendocino County's "shelter-in-place" order. With restaurants allowed to offer only to-go orders, with pickup or delivery options, local business owners continue to get creative about staying in business and keeping their workers employed.

On Monday Willits Weekly visited and talked with business owners, employees and shoppers in town to get an update.

Ele was just leaving Safeway after shopping. "I got everything I needed," she said. "I was surprised at the number of people shopping who are not protecting themselves using gloves and a mask and seeming not to care much."

Another person observed: "People need to take this seriously. I've seen them come in often and shop for one or two things, and they need to stop doing that. Get what you need and go home. Shelter in place. We need to lessen the spread of [COVID-19], since early on you don't know you have it and that's one way it gets spread fast."

"I take care of my parents and I had to cut the visits," said Patricia, who was wearing medical gloves as she shopped. "They said not to get close to people 60 and up, so all I do is call them now to see if they're OK. She's taking extra precautions because her parents have medical issues. She's afraid she could be exposed to the virus and spread it to them. Patricia gets whatever they need and leaves it in a box outside on their doorstep.

J.D. Redhouse co-owner Ashtan Bloomquist said the downtown store is following all of the safety protocols. They have frequent deliveries of animal feed as well as pet food. "We'll be ordering things as frequently as needed," she said. They're limiting the sale of pet and livestock feed to their customers to ensure that everyone gets some of

what they need. "That way we're keeping our ordering regular, and we're not running out," Bloomquist assured. Check out J.D. Redhouse's social media for ordering food and other products. You can take advantage of their drive-through delivery in their back warehouse.

Mendo Mill Manager Bob Doty assures people that they're doing all they can to keep their customers safe from contracting COVID-19. In order to help people stay at home, customers can order Ace products online through www.acehardware.com. They can choose to pick their order up at the store or at the curbside outside, and, in some cases, Mendo Mill will make a delivery. You can also call in your order at 459-4631.

As lovely as it is, walking down the east side of North Main Street to Commercial has an almost ghost town feeling with all the - temporarily - closed shops. Up the street a bit, Northspur Brewing Company is open every day from 1 to 7 pm for take-out brews only. They'll accept orders through their website, www.northspurbrewing.com, between 5 and 7 pm.

Most eateries and stores in town have signs in their windows letting customers know if they're open or not and what kind of services are available.

It turns out that Moon Lady and Moon Man have a robust global retail business that's continuing to do well through this crisis. Owner Marie Blancas said that everything in their store is available on their website, www.shopmoonlady.com. Customers can order what they want online and pick their purchases up curbside at the store or ask for shipping.

Mariposa Market reported good news on Monday. The county health inspector was there in the morning and told Mariposa's owner, Mary Anne Trevey, that the market is way ahead of the curve. "She said we're doing all the right things."

Mariposa has been limiting the number of customers in the store to 12 at one time; checkers sanitize their hands, checkout stands, and credit card key pads in between each customer; there are taped lines on the floors at checkouts and other areas for social distancing; and carts are sanitized after every use.

Mariposa Market Floor Manager Cindy Sanborn-Dubey talked about her experiences with sales and customers: "Customers are very happy we're limiting the number of people in the store. Sales have been great, and customers have been very understanding when we're out of stock. Things are good, and we're staying open!" she said enthusiastically.

The newest addition to Mariposa's offerings is curbside pickup of orders. Call the store, 459-9630, or email mariposacurbside@gmail.com with your list of 25 items or less. They encourage credit card payments. Note: their new hours are 9 am to 5 pm, daily.

According to Willits Safeway Store Manager Clint Heller, he takes part in a daily conference call with other district managers to check in about what changes need to be made to keep up with current intelligence around COVID-19 spread and prevention. "It's a big learning process, and we're making changes daily," he said.

Some of their changes from last week include: on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 am to 9 am, they've started hours to serve only seniors, expectant mothers and people with compromised immune systems; each checkout has a sneeze shield at the registers; they have taped 6-foot intervals for social distancing; and they're wiping down shopping carts after each customer use.

Heller's advice to employees and customers: "If you're sick, stay home!"

Willits Chamber of Commerce's list of restaurant services

Call each business to order as information and conditions are very fluid and can change at any time.

Name	Phone	Hours	Take out	Delivery
101 Drive in	707-459-1010	7 Days 11-6:30	Y	N
101 Burgers & More	707-354-6777	W-S 11-8 Sun 11-6	Y	N
Aztec Grill	707-459-3231	7-days 5-3	Y	N
Al's Redwood	707-459-2444	M4-8 T-5 12-8:30	Y	Y
April Mays	No Listing	7-days 6-5	Y	N
Bangkok	707-510-6611	7-day 11-9	Y	Y
Brickhouse	707-680-0188	Closed until Mon	Y	N
Buster's Burgers	707-459-3233	Wed-Sun 11:30-8:00	Closed until further notice	
Café 77	707-459-2233	7-days 7-3	Y	N
El Mexicano	707-459-5702	M-S 10-8:30	Y	N
Happy Donuts	707-841-3030	7-day 6-2	Y	N
JD Redhouse	707-459-1214	M-F 9-6 Sat Sun 10-5	Y	N
KarKar Deli	707-501-9221	M-F 9-6	Y	N
Kemmy's Pies	707-367-5498	M-F 7-5	Y	Y
La Siciliana	707-459-5626	7-days 11:30-8	Y	N
Loose Caboose	707-459-1434	M-Sat 10-3	Y	N
Lumberjacks	707-456-0300	Closed until further notice		
North Spur Brewery	707-518-4208	W-Sun 1-7	Y	N
Papa Murphy's	707-459-0888	M-Sun	Y	N
Peter's Sushi	707-459-6086	7 days 11:30-9:30	Y	Y
Pizza to Go	707-459-1813	Sun-Thurs 11-9 F-5 11-10	Y	Y
Old Mission	707-459-6811	W-Sun 1-6	Y	N
Rio's Fish & Chips	707-459-3105	11-8 M-Sat	Y	Y
Roland's Bistro	707-841-3058	Closed until further notice		
Rollin Dough	707-354-2040	7-5 M/W/Th-Sat	Y	Y
SCOOP's	707-272-9646	7 Days 12-5pm	Y	Y
Subway	707-456-0668	7 Days 9-9	Y	N
Super Taco	707-459-1282	11-9 7 days	Y	N
Szechuan	707-456-0688	7 days 11:30-9:30	Y	Y
Taqueria Bravo	707-459-0905	7 days 10-9	Y	N
Taqueria Jalos	707-456-1110	M-F 9-9 S-5 8-9	Y	N
Taqueria Maria	707-459-3900	M-T W T-F 10-9 S-5 8-9	Y	N
Taqueria Ramirez	707-367-0324	M-F 10-4	Y	N
Willits Senior Cntr	707-459-6826	M-F 12-1	Y	Y
Willits Taco House	707-841-3032	M-F 11-6 S-11-3	Closed until further notice	

Thanks to the Willits Chamber of Commerce for providing this handy list - as a starting place - for local restaurants that offer take-out or delivery services. As Director Ron Moorhead notes, always call each restaurant first to check on current conditions.



COVID-19 updates for county animal shelters

As of Monday, March 23 from Mendocino County Animal Services, Ukiah Shelter

Animal Care Services, including the animal shelter on Plant Road, is now closed to the public due to the COVID-19 Mendocino County "shelter in place" order. Staff will be here every day to care for our animal guests. No volunteers are allowed at this time.

The decision to close was to protect the public and shelter staff. We ask customers to knock on the front door during the normal business hours 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday if you need assistance.

We ask customers to keep 6 feet or more away from the door when a staff member greets you at the door.

Customers can also call Animal Care Services at 463-4427 and speak with a staff member during the Tuesday through Saturday business hours. Depending on your need/request we may be able to assist you. During the shelter in place closing, Animal Care Services is going to attempt to establish procedures for our shelter animals to continue to be fostered and adopted. Adoptions may be possible via appointments by calling 707-467-6453; we will be returning phone calls, but please understand things might take a little longer than usual. Please check our web site mendoanimalshelter.com to see our adoptable pets.

If you're looking for a lost pet, please come to the shelter during business hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, and knock on the door, and a staff member will help you. People who have lost pet animals can also file a lost pet report online on the Animal Care Services webpage under the Lost Animal Report tab, <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/animal-care-services/lost-animal-report-1801>

Please remember to have identification tags/pet license on your family pets. This will assist Animal Care Services in reconnecting you and your pet if they get lost and impounded at our facility. We are encouraging pet owners to have a contingency plan if someone in your household becomes ill due to the coronavirus. Please seek the assistance of other family members, neighbors or good friends to take on the responsibility of caring for your pet animals. The Animal Shelter can board animals in situations like above but in a limited capacity.

If you or another family member in the residence is ill, a good rule of thumb is to avoid contact like petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked by your pet. If you can care for your pet or have to be around animals while ill, please make sure to wash your hands before and after you interact with your pets and make sure to where a mask if possible.

Read the rest of Shelters Over on Page 9

Little Mouths ARE A BIG DEAL

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY
(707) 456-9600
45 Hazel St., Willits

SE HABLE ESPAÑOL. WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE.
littlelakehealthcenter.org
MCHC HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

STAY HOME SMOKE KURE

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

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

Kure Wellness

such as picnic tables and canopied areas.

The new order no longer allows “Businesses that supply products which would enhance the quality of life of members of our community while sheltering in place” to stay open by offering curbside pickups. But it retains the section stating: “Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences” are OK to continue, adding: “as long as all COVID-19 precautionary measures are implemented.”

The new order still allows people to go outdoors for basic exercise activities, such as “walking, jogging, hiking or biking,” but it limits where those activities can take place.

The order states that people can’t drive to certain favored spots to do their walking or biking. The order states that any outdoor activity must be “initiated from one’s residence, which does not involve the use of a motor vehicle or public transit to the location of exercise,” and further limits the place of exercise to areas which are “within walking, jogging, hiking or biking distance of your place of residence only.”

As did the previous March 18 order, the new order reminds people that they should use social distancing when outside their residences, staying 6 feet apart from other people they encounter.

The new order explicitly states that people who are at high risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19 should “stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care.”

The new order defines those high-risk people as being people who are 65 years of age or older as well as people who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.

“Other high-risk conditions could include,” the order continues, “people with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma”; or those with a serious heart condition; people whose immune systems are compromised; or “people of any age with severe obesity ... or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, or liver disease.”

The revised order puts a tighter restriction on businesses that sell cannabis. “Licensed cannabis retail facilities and dispensaries shall operate only via curbside pick-up and delivery.”

The order also curtails aspects of the tourism industry. “Any and all vacation rentals are prohibited. The rental of transient lodging, defined as the provision of lodging services for a period of 30 calendar days or less, that is not for essential activities or essential governmental or business purposes is prohibited,” it states.

Unlike the previous order, which was issued last week, the revised order has no stated end date, but is “effective until rescinded.”

“This order is to ensure that the maximum number of people shelter in their places of residence to the maximum extent possible, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19,” Doohan stated in a press release accompanying the order. “The order directs all residents to remain at their place of residence, except to conduct essential activities, essential business, and essential government functions.

“This public health order limits activity, travel and business functions to only the most basic and essential needs, and prohibits transient lodging for non-essential purposes. To the extent that individuals must use shared or outdoor spaces, all must maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet between themselves and others while outside their residence. Our goal is to protect the public’s health by minimizing the spread of this pandemic,” Doohan said.

New COVID case confirmed

Speaking at a board of supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Doohan said that a second case of COVID-19 in Mendocino County has been confirmed. The March 24 press release which accompanied her release of the revised shelter-in-place order contained some information about this second case.

“This case is related to high-risk travel, and it does not appear to indicate community spread,” Doohan wrote. “This person is on home isolation and does not pose a risk to the public and will be actively monitored by public health officials along with their primary healthcare provider.

“The clinic where this case was identified used proper personal protective equipment and handled this case in an exemplary manner that protected their healthcare workers, staff and patients from exposure. The health officer was informed of this case this morning. We will continue to release announcements of new cases promptly, within hours, when possible,” Doohan said.

In talking with the board of supervisors, Doohan said that the second case involved a person who lives in the “interior of Mendocino County.”

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 involved a young woman who lives in the south coast area, near Point Arena or Gualala.

in Laytonville, Boonville, Fort Bragg, Point Arena and Gualala.

“All of our sites have the capacity to test for coronavirus (COVID-19),” the ARCH press release read. “Today, we have the ability to test those who meet the Centers for Disease Control criteria as long as we can continue to maintain a low case-load in our county or ‘flatten the curve.’

“At this point in time,” the press release continues, “we are testing people that fall within the CDC criteria, which is that they have fever of 100.4 (Fahrenheit) and dry cough, shortness of breath and have had travel within the last two weeks or contact with someone who has traveled to an area with a high case-load or who has tested positive for coronavirus.”

“For people that are ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should contact their primary care provider at our clinic sites for testing.”

Regarding equipment at their clinics, the ARCH press release stated, “Similar to most places, we all have a limited supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and are working with the county to ensure our stock continues to meet the demand.”

Adventist Health clinics and hospitals in Willits and Ukiah have also been continuing with extensive infection prevention measures and emphasizing the importance of everyone “sheltering in place.”

Adventist Health hospitals in Willits (Howard Memorial) and Ukiah implemented a new policy last Monday where everyone, including staff and visitors, are now screened prior to entry to the hospital for COVID-19 symptoms, which will include a temperature check for fever.

Regarding testing kit shortages, John Glycer, a physician at Adventist Health in Willits said: “We have been encouraged not to do any COVID-19 tests unless a patient needs admission to the hospital, because of a severe shortage of testing swabs. This will of course mean that we will never have an accurate count of cases in California.”

In an email, Glycer added that for COVID-19 tests: “to require that high of a fever (100.4) is going to miss around 50 percent of cases. The Chinese report that only 50 percent of hospitalized patients presented with fever. So we are testing only the tip of the iceberg.”

Dr. Glycer also sent other information regarding how the CDC wants doctors in the United States to prioritize patients for testing.

“Priority 1” patients include “hospitalized

our county partners and networking with our community partners.

On a community level we want everyone to be a good citizen and neighbor. Please help out those in the community that need it. We have regular garbage pickup, and your mail and packages are being delivered. The food supply chain is intact, and there is no need to make a run on toilet paper or other basic items.

Avoid close contact with those most at risk like the elderly and those with immune compromised systems. To that end Safeway Manager Clint Heller advised that they have a special shopping time reserved for these folks on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 am to 9 am. Please allow these folks to shop in peace. Clint tells me that courtesy clerks are wiping down shopping carts at both doors, and there are lines in place to allow for social distancing in the store checkouts. The Grocery Outlet also continues to be open serving our residents on the south end of town.

The pharmacies and Post Office are open, and many restaurants are open for take-out orders. Our hardware stores and automotive shops are open for business. Our teachers are working diligently remotely, and our children are studying at home or online. Our

interested in viewing the online service to call him at 707-303-5456.

Pastor Jim Semisch of the Calvary Chapel said people who wanted to view a live stream of his church’s service could go online to www.ccwillits.com and then click on the “watch live” tab. He said the service will feature a sermon and music from the church band.

The Grace Community Church, located near the old Howard Hospital on Hazel Street, hasn’t made a final decision to close

patients” and “symptomatic healthcare workers,” with the main symptoms for COVID-19 being a fever and acute respiratory illness such as a cough or difficulty breathing.

“Priority 2” prospects for COVID-19 testing include “patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms, patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms, patients with underlying conditions with symptoms,” and “first responders with symptoms.”

“Priority 3” patients include “critical infrastructure workers with symptoms, individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms, health care workers and first responders,” and “individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high COVID-19 hospitalizations.”

Adventist Health Howard Memorial posted on its Facebook page Wednesday afternoon that it has “established an advice line for those who have concerns or questions about their symptoms or visiting one of our hospitals or clinics. You can reach this special coronavirus advice line by calling 1-844-542-8840.” The advice line is available 7 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday.

Those with general concerns, the post suggests, can also call the Mendocino County Call Center at 707-234-6052 or email callcenter@mendocinocounty.org.

“At Adventist Health,” the post continues, “the care and safety of our patients and staff are our priority. Our team proactively trains for these scenarios and have processes in place to protect both our community and our healthcare workers. We work very closely and follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and our public health department....

“If you are extremely ill and must go to our Emergency Room, please give us a heads-up by calling 707-463-7330 in Ukiah or 707-456-3057 in Willits, so our team can make preparations to take care of you.”

The ARCH press release also talked of the importance of infection prevention measures, saying “we cannot stress enough, how important it is to heed the orders to shelter in place. Our local health system can continue to meet the needs of the community if we ensure that the coronavirus does not take hold in our community. Please stay home to protect your families and our healthcare workers.”

Currently in Mendocino County, two positive cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed. Testing information is updated each day at 5 pm at the county coronavirus information website at www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus. After the 5 pm update on

superintendent closed our schools out of an abundance of caution, and now the rest of the state has followed suit

Life goes on, and we will get over this. I know this is a stressful time, and I again want to assure all of you that we, your community, are working hard. I want to give a shout out to our many public safety workers like our Little Lake Fire Department, Medstar Ambulance, the Willits Police Department, the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Department, and the staff at Howard Hospital who are on the frontlines of this health emergency.

If you have any questions about COVID-19 call the Mendocino Public Health at 707-234-6052. For matters related to City of Willits business (non-emergency) please call 459-4601. Willits Police Department’s business line is 459-6122, and please dial 9-1-1 for emergency calls.

The City of Willits posts the latest updates on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofWillits>

Visit the City of Willits website at <https://cityofwillits.org/>

Sincerely,

Gerry Gonzalez, mayor,
City of Willits

March 24, 2020

its doors yet. “We haven’t made that decision yet,” said Senior Pastor Richard Whipkey. “But until this thing has reached a point where it’s no longer spreading, I think this is the way to go.”

The website of the Agape Bible Church has advised people to worship at home. “Home church is advised for all,” the website said. “Please set aside some specific time for prayer, worship and reading of the Word.”

Willits Weekly was not able to contact a representative from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for comment.

Wednesday, March 25, the statistics show that 156 total tests have been taken in Mendocino County for COVID-19, with two positive, 117 negative, and 37 tests still pending results.

Numbers from neighboring counties

Here are some of the latest results from other neighboring counties, according to their county health department websites.

In a March 25 press release posted on www.humboldt.gov.org, Humboldt County health officials announced, “Number of confirmed cases double in Humboldt County,” as five additional individuals have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing to 10 the number of known cases in Humboldt County.

As of March 25, Humboldt County’s Public Health Laboratory has tested 154 people, with a total of 136 people tested by all other sources, for a total of 290.

In Sonoma County, as of Wednesday, March 25, at 11:45 am, 642 have people have been tested, with 37 positive for COVID-19, two fully recovered and one death. This is according to their county website page, www.socomeergency.org/emergency/novel-coronavirus/.

Lake County reports that an estimated 35 to 40 people have been tested, and zero have tested positive for COVID-19.

According to Gov. Gavin Newsom, as of Wednesday morning, there were 2,535 confirmed coronavirus cases in California – a 17 percent increase from Tuesday. By age breakdown, those cases include: age 0-17: 37 cases; age 18-49: 1,278 cases; age 50-64: 638 cases; age 65 and older: 562 cases; and unknown age: 20 cases.

Fifty-three Californians have died from coronavirus-related complications. As of Tuesday, an estimated 66,800 COVID-19 tests have been conducted in California.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, as of Wednesday, there are 54,453 positive cases of COVID-19 in the United States, and 737 deaths.

Talks on county quarantine facility

Several sources have confirmed to Willits Weekly that the County of Mendocino is seeking out a short-term contract for somewhere to serve as a quarantine/hospital overflow type facility should it be needed in the event of a more extensive COVID-19 outbreak in the county.

While the old Howard Hospital building in Willits has been looked at for this idea, it is unclear as to how seriously it is still being considered for this purpose.

Hopefully Willits Weekly will be able to report more extensively on this in future papers.

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WUSD Report Card

By Mark Westerburg, WUSD superintendent

During times of crisis, I think it’s important to do two things: 1. Tell the truth even when it’s hard, and 2. Share good news when you can find it.

The truth is changing every day as the COVID-19 situation evolves, and the best thing we can do is to follow recommendations from health experts. Based on what we’re seeing overseas and in the emerging hot spots here in the United States, it is paramount that we all stay home. If you have to go out, maintain social distance around others, and we all must keep washing our hands.

Kudos

Not being able to teach students in the classroom has made public school a whole new ballgame. This is where the good news comes in. I am really proud of the Willits Unified School District employees – teachers, administrators, and support staff – who have come together to completely shift how we deliver services. Educators are focused on what they can do instead of what they can’t. They’re helping each other figure out technology and going old-school when that’s the better solution. They’re coming up with some incredibly creative ways to connect with their students and to provide them with fun and enriching activities.

Focusing on what actually matters

As the superintendent, I’m focused on ways to keep students engaged in learning, which includes much more than just planning lessons. It includes keeping students fed. It includes supporting parents with their special

“I don’t think people realize – many do, but many don’t – that could all change very quickly. We have a very limited capacity in our hospitals to deal with a surge of people who become ill. We see everywhere else in the world, things go along at a relatively low level, and suddenly there’s a sharp spike. If we hit that sharp spike, our health care facilities will be overwhelmed, probably, within two weeks. That’s what we fear, that’s what we’re trying to avoid. I just don’t think that people are understanding how serious this is,” McCowen said.

McCowen asked Doohan for her assessment on what might happen if the recently issued shelter-in-place order doesn’t dramatically slow the spread of the virus.

Doohan said that if the coronavirus isn’t stopped soon, computer modeling of community spread of COVID-19, under a moderate scenario, indicates that some 40 percent of the county’s population would contract the disease. Doohan said that would be about 36,000 people, many with only mild symptoms. She said that, of those, about 10 percent would require hospitalization, and gave that number as 3,600. Then she said that half of those people needing hospitalization would need ventilators. That number is 1,800 people.

Williams then asked how many people could be put on ventilators today, and Doohan told him that that number was 45. When Williams asked how many people Doohan might expect would be likely to die in such an event, Doohan’s answer was sobering.

“My best estimate, from talking to the hospitals, and talking to the emergency physicians, is we have the capacity for 45 people to be in ICU [intensive care unit] beds, on ventilators,” Doohan said.

“So, if you look at that number that I said, that you would have 1,800 people in ICUs in 12 months – that’s the moderate scenario – that’s where you have some slowing down of the curve – and there’s another piece of information here that’s very sobering.

“It’s that, people who get very sick with

related to the Health and Human Services Agency’s Whole Person Care Pilot Program.

The supervisors voted to more than double the dollar amount of the contract, moving from \$1,485,000 for a one-year contract scheduled to end on December 31, 2019, to \$3,002,300 for a contract ending at the close of this calendar year.

Redwood Quality Management Company in an umbrella company started up in 2015 by Redwood Community Services, which used to be Redwood Children’s Services. RCS has for decades provided mental health and counseling services for children. When the county Mental Health Department sought organizations to provide mental health services for people in this county, RCS created RQMC in order to provide those services for children.

RQMC contracts and co-ordinates with other organizations including Manzanita Services, Mendocino County Youth Project, Tapestry Family Services, Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center, and the Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network.

When in 2016 Ortner Management Group was

needs students. And maybe most importantly, it includes recognizing that academics, while essential, aren’t always the most important.

We need to remember that people, children and adults, are scared right now, scared of how this pandemic will affect our physical health and the health of our pocketbooks. It would be great if everyone could telecommute, but some people can’t work from home. You can’t run a cash register or bag groceries from home, and you can’t give a haircut or clean an office remotely. A third of our economy is in the service sector, and that sector is getting walloped right now. People in our community are seriously worried about affording food and rent. People are also scared about getting sick, especially those in high-risk groups or who have loved ones who are elderly or medically fragile.

Keep calm and carry on

So, what can we do? We can be patient with each other. We can focus on the good things in our lives. We can do things that bring us peace, like reading, listening to music, or doing yoga. At Willits Unified, we understand that children often do better when they’re busy, so we’ve listed a bunch of resources on our website at www.willitsunified.com. Click on the button titled, “Modified School Information” for student work packets as well as information about offline learning opportunities, staying healthy, Google Classroom codes, and more.

For elementary school students with internet access, we’ve expanded our access to IXL, an online learning platform. Now it includes math and language arts for K-5

COVID-19 have ARDS – acute respiratory distress syndrome. This is a condition where the lungs become stiff, and it takes a long time to get better. We’re seeing people with ARDS having to be on ventilators for eight weeks.

“So, you can imagine that if you have 45 ventilators, taken up by people who are going to be on them for eight weeks, we do not have the capacity to respond to 1,800 people needing ICU care in our community. So the question of, how many people would die, my answer would be, 1,800 people, based on how many get ICU care,” Doohan said.

Doohan was talking to the supervisors via telephone and was not present at the meeting. A few minutes after making that statement, Doohan left the conversation, stating that she had another important phone conversation that she had to be a part of.

Other county officials, including Deputy Public Health Officer James Flaherty, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator Jen Banks, and Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall were present in the room. The board of supervisors was not physically present at the meeting. Each of the county’s five supervisors were attending the meeting remotely, by either the internet or by telephone.

Banks told the supervisors that she has been working hard over the past few weeks to make sure that hospitals and ambulances have the medical supplies they need. She said that the state has been cooperative.

“We have been able to fill every request for materials and equipment,” Banks said. She told the supervisors that the state has urged hospitals throughout the state to prepare to expand their capacity in order to meet a 30 percent surge in patients.

Flaherty told the supes that a lack of ventilators was not the most important limiting factor in preparing to meet the crisis. “We can have all the ventilators in the world, but if we don’t have the respiratory therapists we need, we can’t run them,” Flaherty said. “And we don’t have the respiratory therapists.”

Before she left the meeting, Doohan said she was pleased at the number of tests that have been done locally. The most recent information

relieved of its contract, RQMC took over providing mental health services for adults and youth over 18 years old, as well.

Health and Human Services Director Tammy Moss Chandler offered the supervisors a quick report of what the Whole Person Care Pilot Project is doing.

“It has provided a substantial amount of wrap-around services and flexibility for things that we were not able to bill to MediCal under our current state and federal arrangements,” Chandler said.

“It has allowed for peer and unlicensed support workers to be wellness coaches for persons struggling with mental illness. It’s provided additional bridges in our communication with our clinic partners and our Behavioral Health system.

“It’s allowed us to implement several creative aspects of quality improvement in these services,” Chandler continued, “and also has provided transitional services, even though it’s not permissible under current MediCal and Medicaid rules to pay for housing on a permanent basis, this pilot program has allowed us to pilot transitional services to help people have the

students, as well as science and social studies for grades 2-5. It works on smartphones, tablets, and computers. Visit the Willits Unified Facebook page or our website for details about how to sign up for this fabulous free resource.

As of now, we are only scheduled to remain closed through Spring Break and return to the classroom April 13. However, I think we all need to be prepared for a longer remote-learning period, perhaps early May.

I know many parents have gained a whole new appreciation for their child’s teacher, and they’d love to have their kids back in the classroom. Our teachers would also love to have their students back in the classroom. Sadly, that’s not going to happen for a while. So, our teachers will continue to reach out to their students/parents, and please feel free to reach out to teachers or to us here at the district if you need our help.

Looking ahead

We are in strange times, and the effects are likely to last for months and even years to come. Here at Willits Unified, we’ll just take things one day at a time. If students fall behind during this time, our trimester system will make it easier for them to catch up. Right now, we have no plans to delay high school graduation.

We’re still doing our best to keep our facilities in good working order, but we’re sure hoping we can get a bond measure passed in the fall so we don’t have to choose between fixing a leaky roof and hiring needed staff. As Willits Unified employees retire or choose to leave for other reasons during the next year or so, tasks may have to be reassigned, but we have no plans for layoffs.

We have a great team at Willits Unified, and we serve a wonderful community. COVID-19 won’t affect our lives like this forever. Please reach out to us if your student needs help, and we’ll do everything we can to support you.

schoolwork. Meditate. Perfect your stained glass skills. Learn to bake bread. Learn to French braid. French braid bread if you’re feeling extra ambitious. (Challah, anyone?)

Reach out! Call your mom, call your dad. Call your grandparents. Call your friends. Write letters. How amazing would a resurgence of the postcard industry be? (Other than what PostSecret is already doing, obviously.) Do yourself a huge favor and check out www.PostSecret.com whether we’re in self-isolation or not.

Indulge in self-care! Bubble bath? Get and give a massage with your partner, kid or cat. Mani/pedi? Pluck your eyebrows, for goodness sake. Just please, it helps no one if you cut your own bangs. Some things can wait, OK people? Let’s not ruin the rest of 2020 with hasty home haircuts.

There’s all kinds of options if you’re willing to just look around.

However, the key to all of this requires respect of the social distancing mandates. Stay home! Stay only around the people you are always around. If you need to go out – do so at least 6 feet away from others.

Wash your hands!

Containing the potential spread of this virus is the best thing we can do for each other, and inevitably, for ourselves.

Of the plethora of memes floating around the internet, this one has been one of my favorites, and sums it up in a pretty relatable way, even to the more irritated and annoyed of our youth:

“Can y’all please just follow the government instructions so we can knock this coronavirus out and be done?” I feel like a kindergartener that keeps losing more recess time because one or two kids can’t follow directions.”

Please, do what you can so we can all get back to our regularly scheduled recess. Be safe, and let’s take care of one another.

Made for more love



We were all made for more. More love. More hope. More connection. And now more than ever, it's important for us to stay connected. In times of uncertainty we pull together as a community, and together we can overcome anything.



To learn more about staying healthy, active and connected, visit [AdventistHealth.org](https://www.adventisthealth.org)