

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Stormy weather

To the Editor:

Hi neighbors. Last August, Brenda and I sold our house in Willits, and after living for 22 years in Willits, we moved in to our 30-foot travel trailer and drove out to explore our beautiful country. For the past eight months, we drove across the southern part of the U.S. spending time in Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas and Florida. On the way back we, of course, drove through these same states, only backward.

Well not backward, exactly, just in reverse order. But you knew that!

We also walked in to Mexico to stroll through "Medical Village" (not its real name), where one could buy prescription drugs, get your eyes and/or teeth fixed, and get some fresh-cooked churros from street after street of providers!

We took a train ride to the Grand Canyon, watched the hot air balloons in Albuquerque, ate barbecue in Texas, etouffee in Louisiana, visited New Orleans, were very close to tornadoes in Arkansas and Alabama, and sustained heavy wind and rain along the way. We wound up in Morro Bay for a month, and were there when the coronavirus struck. We had always planned to return to Willits by March for our semi-annual medical and dental visits, but mostly they were postponed until sometime in the future.

Through correspondence with Willits friends during our trip, we learned that Willits had been suffering with a shortage of rain, having reached only 20-some inches in early March. We are currently camping at the Golden Rule RV Park at Ridgewood Ranch for the duration, and we are happy to note that it has been raining pretty much since we arrived.

Understand that Brenda and I are not particularly superstitious, but one has to admit that rain and heavy weather have been following us around the country, and when we heard about the rainfall shortage in Willits and surrounding areas, we wanted to see if we could entice some of that rain to follow us here. So far, we seem to have succeeded!

We are spending our time, gladly, hunkered down in our trailer, listening to CDs, reading and generally chilling out while practicing social distancing, and listening to the wonderful rain falling.

So we hope the rain helps, and you are all staying well and well away from each other during this trying time. Stay safe, comfortable and optimistic. This too will pass!

Ron Orenstein, Willits

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

Available 12 to 1 pm, outside the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road; \$5 per meal, Monday through Friday.

Home Meal Delivery

Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery; \$5 per meal, Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits.

Thursday, April 2: BBQ Chicken

Friday, April 3: Hot Beef Sandwich

Monday, April 6: Chicken & Dumplings

Tuesday, April 7: Carne Asada Tacos

Wednesday, April 8: Egg Salad Sandwich

Thursday, April 9: Chili Verde Enchiladas

Friday, April 10: Sausage Spinach Cheese Quiche

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments

Property taxes still due April 10, but late penalties can be waived

Submitted by Shari L. Schapmire, Mendocino County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office

As Mendocino County tax collector, I understand and share in the public's anxiety and concern about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

So the public is aware, county tax collectors cannot change the April 10 deadline for the second installment

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

Community Foundation creates COVID-19 Relief Fund

Submitted by Megan Barber Allende, CEO, Community Foundation

When things begin to feel hopeless, one of the greatest ways to bring a little light in is to help others. We at the Community Foundation of Mendocino County have been closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, and its many implications for our local communities. With the help of generous donors, we are pleased to announce the new COVID-19 Relief Fund, designed to support the basic needs of individuals and families in Mendocino County impacted by this crisis.

The Community Foundation has made a seed gift from the Disaster Fund of \$100,000. To date, the following donors have joined with lead gifts: The MLH Fund, Jim and Arlene Moorehead, Sonoma Clean Power, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, and the Poseley and Allende families. We have also received a significant gift from the J-Olivanti Fund.

Together we have raised \$206,000. Our initial goal was \$250,000, but we are dreaming bigger and hope to reach \$300,000. We are immensely grateful for these substantial contributions, and we are reaching out to the public to help us meet our goal. Any and all gifts are accepted and will allow us to collectively support the communities that need us most.

Based on the current economic data about our county, it is possible that as much as 55 percent of Mendocino County is unlikely to have the resources to weather the financial impacts of long-term business and school closures. This includes

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

Local clinics continuing to provide essential health care

Submitted by MCHC Health Centers

MCHC Health Centers continue to provide essential healthcare to people in Ukiah, Willits and Lakeport, while fighting to slow and ultimately stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Jill Damian said: "As the situation unfolds, we are adapting our care so people can get the services they need. Our hardworking staff and dedicated providers remain here and ready to care for patients."

In collaboration with Lake and Mendocino County Public Health and other local health care providers, MCHC is doing everything possible to protect patients and health care workers from the novel coronavirus, Damian said.

Phone consultations

One way MCHC is doing this is by replacing in-person visits with phone consultations when appropriate. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jerry Douglas said: "We want to offer as much health care to as many people as we can without increasing their risk of exposure to COVID-19. We minimize staff and patient exposure by continually disinfecting our health centers and providing care remotely when we can. I'm incredibly proud of our hard-working staff and medical team who are adapting quickly to a difficult situation."

Regular business hours with screening

Although many patient visits will be done via phone consultations, some care must be provided in person. MCHC is open during regular business hours with modified services at all four sites: in Ukiah at Hillside Health Center and Dora Street Health Center, in Willits at Little Lake Health Center, and in Lakeport at Lakeview Health Center.

When patients call for any type of appointment, they will be asked whether they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath). They will also be informed as to whether they qualify for a phone visit or need to be seen in person. Regardless of symptoms, all patients will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms when they arrive at any MCHC site before receiving care.

Services currently available

The following services are currently available:

- Medical services including urgent care, primary care, and Care for Her are available in person and via phone. Please call to schedule an appointment. If you are seeking care for COVID-19 symptoms, the medical team will explain how to proceed.
 - Dental services will remain open for emergency care.
 - All behavioral health services will be done via telephone visits.
- These services are currently suspended:
- All group visits and classes are on hold.
 - All MCHC Care-A-Van services have been suspended.

"To ensure the safety and well-being of our patients and staff," said Douglas, "we request that friends and family wait in their cars unless they are an essential caregiver or accompanying a minor. Thank you for understanding in this challenging time."

Health experts agree that the prevalence of the virus is likely to increase dramatically in the coming weeks, and that the best way to prevent overwhelming local health care facilities is for all people to stay at home unless they absolutely must go out, for example, to get food or medical care. For the latest announcements from Public Health, visit www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus or www.lakecountycga.gov/Government/PressReleases. To contact MCHC for an appointment, call 707-468-1010. For more information about MCHC services, visit www.mchcinc.org.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Willits Farmer Market shoppers keep their social distance in lines. At right, top: Willits Farmers Market Manager Francisco Hernandez makes sure safety protocols are followed. At right: Anna Hope of the Mendocino Herb Guild offers herbs, salves and tinctures for immunity and overall health.

Essential Produce

Willits Farmers Market practices new safety protocols in order to keep offering fresh, healthy food during pandemic

People have to eat during the current pandemic. This is basic. In order to get the food they require, they have few choices. They can grow the food themselves, which few have the facilities to accomplish on a scale necessary to obtain the quantities needed to sustain life, especially in the winter months.

The other method is to go out and buy their supplies, which gives another few choices. Food shoppers can go to a grocery store where they are supposed to practice careful social distancing; another viable alternative for produce and other comestibles, is the Willits Farmers Market.

Thankfully, certified farmers markets are considered essential businesses under the shelter-in-place order issued by the Mendocino County public health officer. The farmers themselves are also considered essential critical infrastructure workers under the order.

Each Thursday from 3 to 5:30 pm, Market Manager Francisco Hernandez attempts to set up the market in the safest way possible, spacing the booths as far apart as possible, making sure that people are observing the 6 foot social distancing mandate, and watching the merchants practice safe, sanitary and sane techniques to ensure that the possible transmission of any viruses is kept to an absolute minimum.

With the advent of warmer weather, the market moved outdoors to the old Rexall parking lot on Main Street, further enhancing the ability for shoppers to distance themselves from one another, in the fresh air. Indeed, at the outdoor Thursday market, people were observing the space requirements, keeping 6 feet apart which created some longer-than-usual lines.

Jaye Moscarriello, who, along with her husband, Bill Taylor, sells kale chips, fresh vegetables, and herbs from Floodgate Farm, expressed a similar response as many of the other vendors. "We think we have some of the best medicine for peo-

ple, which is healthy food. We think that at times like this, it's really important that farmers markets stay open because, when you think about the food chain, this is the healthiest source of food,

"Because you know the farmer is going to wash the food," she continued, "adhere to our 'best practices,' and now, with the new regulations, everything is weighed and wrapped beforehand. People don't have to be concerned with their food being exposed to the public.

"We wash everything with grapefruit seed extract anyway," Moscarriello said, "but we know that it is recommended that people wash their produce again when they get home. We wear new gloves. We wash our hands, use sanitizer. We feel we just have to do our part to support our community - eating well, staying healthy. We have our thistle drink, which is good for the liver, which is also good for fighting infections. We're happy to be a part of this holistic solution."

Allegra Foley of Green Uprising Farm said, when asked if she felt brave to come to bring food to the public: "It doesn't feel very brave. We're outside. This is my 'don't touch the produce' table, so people can stand a little further back, no breathing on the greens. I'll get my gloves on to handle the produce. We only give clean money as change. Everything feels good. We're fairly isolated up here in Willits. The rural air makes a big difference. Not a dense population."

Amanda Fairall, who runs Fairall's Farm and serves cooked food and pastries, spoke about her precautions. "I feel safe," she said. "I'm taking all the extra precautions. I'm sanitizing three to four times as much as I would normally do. I think it's good in this open air, not crowded into a room inside. I think that helps a lot. We're 'essential,' and I appreciate that we can bring fresh produce that comes from our farm, direct to the

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



Above, left: Sandy and Tom Strong wear matching parkas and gloves. Above, right: Showoff Coffee eschews samples and only offers one of each item for viewing. At left: Eliot Hartley's bread is double-bagged for safety. Below: Money received is placed in a jar to sit for several days; change is made out of fresh bills.



The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Rain Totals in Willits

2019/20 rain season

Precipitation in the Willits area as of April 1

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

City of Willits Sewer Plant	21.47"	Highway 20/Tranquility	23.75"
National Weather Service, Willits Howard Ranger Station	23.17"	Canyon Road	19.99"
Mendocino College North County Center	18.4"	Brooktrails	33.12"
Southwest of Willits	27.84"	Pine Mountain	24.16"
		High Horse	22.11"

Willits Weekly welcomes reports of rain and other weather information at willitsweekly@gmail.com.

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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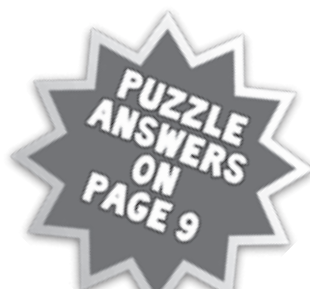
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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

Level: Advanced



HOW TO SUDOKU

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

WORDS & VERSE WORD SEARCH

W R L E N E S H O S S I S R C L M M G H
 R E P F A T L B T O Y I U R S A R C H I Q J P V H
 N V O M T F A Y N B S M H D A R C O J J P P Q R
 G C F U O M Y W N F Y L T R E Q H T I G V T B
 B A L L U S I O N L P Y H M I P E G T B
 C S F Y P I O S J L A L Q M H U A M O S P A
 L A U L D T R H I A L A L P M E S C A
 B I E U S I H W H I B V M P L T E E S L S
 S O D O M U B W Q P H L E B I N U W T A S S
 M A E Q D R A W S S E M I S R A I L H W N
 G P V S R N A T G R B N E S R E V A F A
 Y Q I L A F O D A M F L I E T I P N N L R
 M R I P C H T T A O P Q E N L H R A R C
 A D E P J D I J J Q F M E T O U P Q P L E
 R S J E P O N G E P I G R A O H P H W L O
 T J B H N E G N I U T I R W R E A O O Y R S
 A G H P U N C N T A T I O N N Q Q R I
 N I J W W M P J D N I J D W D G V A I I

ALLITERATION	END	POETRY
ALLUSION	ENJAMBMENT	PUNCTUATION
ANAPEST	EPIGRAPH	QUOTE
ANAPHORA	FOOT	REPEAT
ASSONANCE	IAMB	RHYME
CAESURA	LINES	SYLLABLES
COUPLET	METER	VERSE
EMPHASIS	METRICAL	WRITING

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
			13		14				15					
16				17					19					
20					21				22					
			23		24				25					
26	27	28	29				30							
31							32							
33							34	35	36	37	38			
				39	40	41		42	43					
			44	45				46						
							48							
49								50		51	52	53	54	55
56								57			58			
59								60						
62								63						64

CLUES ACROSS

- Bond villain Mikkelsen
- A team's best pitcher
- French river
- Mountain nymph (Greek)
- City of Angels airport
- Military force
- Scrawny
- Value
- One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- Highly seasoned sausage
- Trouble
- Prong
- Showing varying colors
- Cloaked
- Renters sign one
- Acquires
- Type of language (abbr.)
- Partner to pains
- Third portion of the small intestine
- Excessively theatrical actor
- Infracton
- Classical music for the stage
- Slogged
- One who terminates

- Breakfast is an important one
- Moved earth
- Medical procedures
- Genus of clams
- Not well
- Comparative figure of speech
- Covered thinly with gold
- Principle underlying the universe
- A parent's sisters
- Professional engineering group
- Coniferous tree
- Impudence
- Destroyed
- A way to alter
- Promotional materials
- American state
- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- 'Modern Family' network
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Exercise system ___-bo
- Type of bulb
- Opposite of beginning
- Utilize
- Type of student
- Deficiency of moisture
- Areas of the eye
- Select
- Sheets of floating ice
- Priests who act as mediums
- Roof of the mouth
- Unnatural
- Illuminated
- There are three famous ones
- Large, fast Australian birds
- 'Dracula' heroine Harker
- Substitutes (abbr.)
- Tax

CLUES DOWN

- Female parents
- Region
- Transaction
- Heroic tale
- Of algae
- Luminous intensity unit
- Uncovers
- French commune name
- Poisonous gas
- Pearl Jam's bassist
- Horse groom in India

Help for AA members who feel isolated while sheltering in place

The solitude of having to "shelter in place" is hard. Even the healthiest persons can find the loneliness and lack of human contact a daunting situation. For those who rely on almost daily connections to maintain their struggle with sobriety, it becomes an even more critical aspect of their quarantine.

Like the rest of Willits' citizens, Alcoholics Anonymous attendees are not able to venture out except for such certain "essential services" as groceries or medical assistance. Regular, daily AAA meetings have been closed down for the foreseeable future, so the participants have had to find other ways to preserve their human contact and sobriety, their lifeline to keep from slipping back into old habits and routines which brought them to AA in the first place.

According to one participant and "sponsor" who necessarily requires anonymity, a cornerstone of the program, many of the usual attendees are "experiencing a feeling of loss and aloneness. People feel really isolated. People are saying their sobriety is being threatened."

"Isolation," the sponsor continued, "is really bad for alcoholics because it reminds us of the end of our alcohol period. In the beginning everybody is really social, drinking with people at bars and parties. As it continues, a lot of people get to the point where they're ashamed of their drinking. So, they just stay home and drink."

"That's the isolation period that brings people to AA," they explained. "This recent

isolation is bad for people because it reminds them of the bottom part of their drinking, and it makes them want to drink." The sponsor added: "People have created a Facebook group, and people are texting, and some people use Messenger. It helps communicate about when the online meetings are going to be and Zoom links, etc. We also telephone each other. We've been able to set up some sponsor sessions over Facetime, to meet with people and see how their steps are going."

"That works pretty well because we all have the same literature and we can read together. The community is really important to us. Often, we see people at the meetings every day at the 'land meetings' (in-person meetings)."

The following are some online resources, from which those in need can stay connected and find help.



Online AA Meetings During COVID-19

Online Meetings Directory
www.aa-intergroup.org/directory.php
www.intherooms.com/home/

Speaker Tape Websites

www.aaspeaker.com/
www.recoveryaudio.org/

AA Big Book Ultimate Companion on Google Play

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pitashi.audiojoy.aabigbook>

Additional resources can be found on Google Play and iTunes.

Sign up for a temporary library card online

If you don't already have a library card, you can sign up for an online card at our website at https://find.sonomalibrary.org/client/en_US/mendocino/search/registration.

The temporary card is good for 120 days, and you can use it to check out our digital audiobooks and our eBooks. If you have any questions you can send us a message at the "Willits - Mendocino County Library" page on Facebook, or call 459-5908.

Mendocino County Library announced Wednesday that closures of branches and mobile services closures have been extended past the original date of April 6 until further notice. Book drops are closed and locked, and you are encouraged to keep your materials borrowed from the library until it is reopened. All due dates on materials are extended. Library staff is working Monday through Friday, from 10 am to 5 pm to answer questions via branch phone numbers.

— Willits Library

Willits Weekly wants to extend a huge thank you to our advertisers, who, even in this hard time, are still calling us to place ads, allowing their ads to continue running, and showing the community that they see the importance of small businesses supporting each other. This week, we decided to expand the size of all the ads running to give each of these advertisers a special boost.

Please, thank our advertisers – in this edition and all previous!

If you go into their business, let them know you saw their ad in our paper. It helps us, it helps them, and ultimately, allows Willits Weekly to continue, which helps you, and us all. Thank you!

SBA announces Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses

Submitted by the Small Business Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Following President Donald Trump's signing of the historic Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza and Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin announced Tuesday, March 31 that the SBA and Treasury Department have initiated a robust mobilization effort of banks and other lending institutions to provide small businesses with the capital they need.

The CARES Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The program will provide much-needed relief to millions of small businesses so they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.

"This unprecedented public-private partnership is going to assist small businesses with accessing capital quickly. Our goal is to position lenders as the single point-of-contact for small businesses – the application, loan processing, and disbursement of funds will all be administered at the community level," said Administrator Carranza. "Speed is the operative word; applications for the emergency capital can begin as early as this week, with lenders using their own systems and processes to make these loans. We remain committed to supporting our nation's more than 30 million small businesses and their employees, so that they can continue to be the fuel for our nation's economic engine."

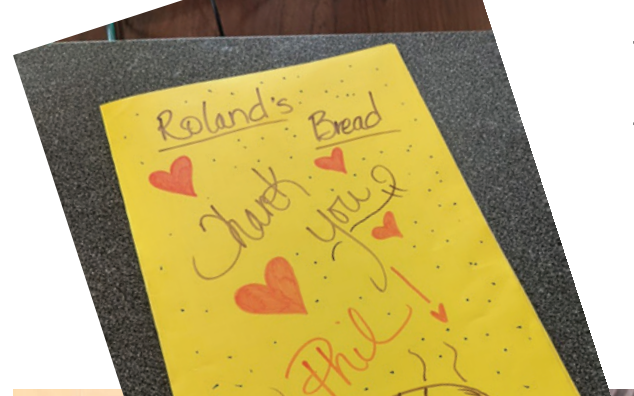
"This legislation provides small business job retention loans to provide eight weeks of payroll and certain overhead to keep workers employed," said Secretary Mnuchin. "Treasury and the Small Business Administration expect to have this program up and running by April 3 so that businesses can go to a participating SBA 7(a) lender, bank, or credit union, apply for a loan, and be approved on the same day. The loans will be forgiven as long as the funds are used to keep employees on the payroll and for certain other expenses."

The new loan program will help small businesses with their payroll and other business operating expenses. It will provide critical capital to businesses without collateral requirements, personal guarantees, or SBA fees – all with a 100 percent guarantee from SBA. All loan payments will be deferred for six months. Most importantly, the SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.

The Paycheck Protection Program is specifically designed to help small businesses keep their workforce employed. Visit SBA.gov/Coronavirus for more information on the Paycheck Protection Program.

The new loan program will be available retroactively from February 15, 2020, so employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020.

Read the rest of Paycheck Over on Page 10



Farewell, Phil

Willits baker, Phil Roland, gifts community free bread loaves before moving to Oregon

Willits and the Northern California area is losing a special baker – Phil Roland is packing up and heading north to Oregon after providing locals with sweet and savory treats for 20 years.

Over the years, Roland has opened several businesses and partnered with other professionals in the industry, including Escape from San Francisco; two locations for Roland's Bakery and Cafe including the one here in Willits, and one in San Francisco; Roland's Bistro, where he worked with brother Ray; and most recently Caked and Glazed where he partnered with Jenn Westmoreland to create delicious sweet treats, donuts and more.

Lisa Davis, owner of Scoop's Frozen Yogurt and Deli wanted to offer Roland a chance to give his customers a sweet farewell and helped Roland host a free loaf pick-up at her ice cream shop earlier this week.

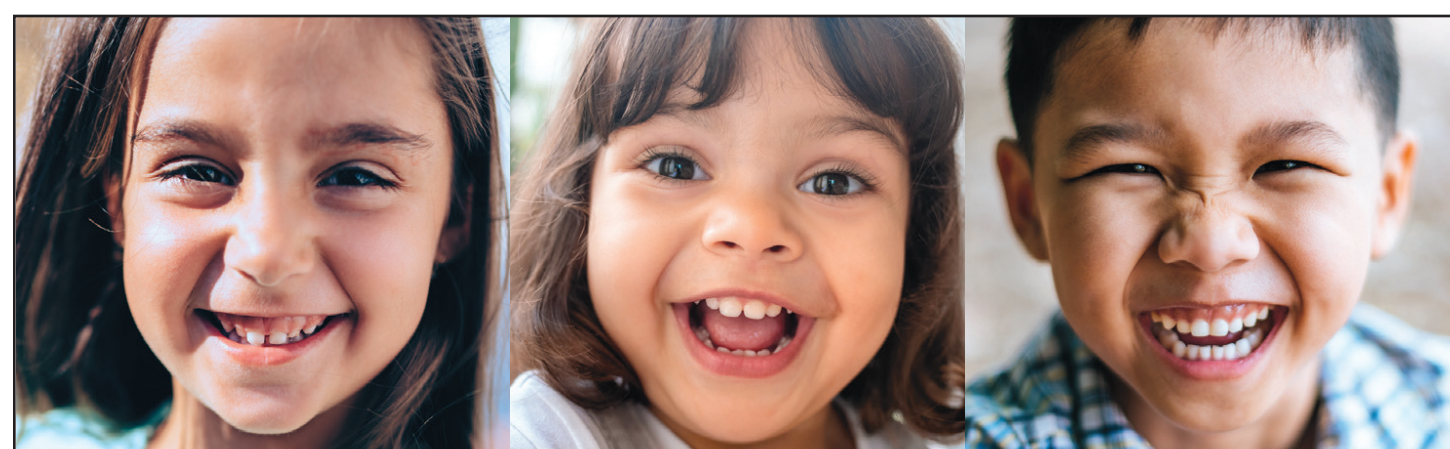
"As a farewell, Phil would like to thank all his past customers and many, many friends with a wonderful loaf of his 'farewell' batch of Italian bread or a soft pretzel," Davis posted on Facebook, encouraging her followers to "Come by Scoops, share a memory and pick up a free loaf of Phil's freshly baked bread. Phil is leaving us but not forgetting us; his roots will always be in Willits."

A card on the table was available for people to sign to help Roland remember all of his Willits fans. Good luck on your next adventure, Phil!

— Maureen Moore



At top: Phil Roland's breads are wrapped and displayed at Scoop's Frozen Yogurt and Deli for folks to come pick up for free. At left, above: The card for Phil included a sketch of his loaves. Far left: Scoop's owner Lisa Davis, left, stands with baker Phil Roland and his Italian bread. At left: Soft pretzels were also available.



Little Mouths ARE A BIG DEAL



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 Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
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 Worship Service & Children's Church - 11 a.m.
 Mid-week Bible Studies
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 Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.
 Willits, CA 95490
 Father Aaron Bandamadam
 Mass times:
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 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
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 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
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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

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 Sundays - 10:30 a.m.
 Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
 459-2855
 Facebook: www.facebook.com

Editor's note regarding Spiritual Pathways listings above: Willits churches have temporarily suspended regular services. Please contact them to inquire about online or other services they may offer.

Prevent sewer backups

Willits Wastewater Treatment Plant sees record number of clogs recently due to residents tossing 'flushable' wipes and paper towels in the toilet

There are items which do not belong in the sewers of Willits. Paper towels, napkins, feminine products, and recently an influx of "flushable" wipes all add to a possible problem for the crew of five that are responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of the sewers and other aspects of the wastewater treatment systems.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

Daniel Curtis, chief plant operator of the City of Willits Wastewater Department, stated: "The collection systems aren't designed for those items. They build up and cause sewer backups. There are chopper systems if they make it all the way to the plant, and fine-screen augers that actually catch them and throw them into a dumpster, but our fine-screen augers have been plugged ever since this whole thing started. Then we've gotten a huge increase in paper towels and wipes. It's definitely a noticeable trend that's getting pretty heavy."

"Put a trashcan next to the toilet," he advised. "We can throw that stuff away. Eventually we're going to have a backup in the sewers somewhere. If things continue the way they are, it's bound to happen."

There have been instances around the country since the COVID-19 pandemic, where clogs the size of small Volkswagens have had to be pulled from the sewers,

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The City of Willits Wastewater Treatment Plant on Sewer Plant Road.
Photo by Mathew Caine

due to an increased use of mis-named "flushable" wipes and other non-flushable items after many stores sold out of toilet paper. These products tend to catch each other "before they make it to the plant," said Curtis. "They get interlocked together and if one gets stuck, then another one gets stuck, and they build up and create a plug."

These are trying times for all citizens. People should do their best not to create even more problems for those still at work in the city. The Wastewater Department can be contacted at 459-5028 or sewer@cityofwillits.org.



Parents and children stop by the Willits High School cafeteria to pick up their school lunches.

Today's To-Do List:

- Wash those hands
- Call a friend
- Respond to the census:
 - ▶ 1-844-330-2020
 - ▶ My2020Census.gov





School Update

Willits schools extend modified learning through May 1

It can't be an easy process to close schools and continue education on a drastically different platform from the five-days-a-week, face-to-face classroom instruction with such little notice. Willits Unified School District educators stepped up to the challenges when they began educating remotely over two weeks ago.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

As Willits Unified Superintendent Mark Westerburg stated in his announcement of the extended closings, "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."

Mendocino County Public Health Department's stricter March 24 shelter-in-place order rescinded any end date to the policy until further notice. On Monday, this week the Mendocino County Office of Education announced that schools countywide will be extending "modified learning" - i.e., learning at home - through May 1. The high schools will be receiving clarity this week with regards to graduation ceremonies.

In a press release from the Mendocino County Office of Education, MCOE Assistant Superintendent Becky Jeffries said: "This is hard for everyone. Many teachers are balancing the need to care for their own children while they figure out how to provide students with educational materials so students can remain engaged in learning."

"Parents are juggling their children's needs," continued Jeffries, "with their family's economic realities. And students are trying to adjust to a new landscape full of uncertainty. We all need to be patient with one another and figure this out together."

and left messages to ask how things were going at the schools. It's obvious that principals are overloaded with other administrators, teachers, students and parents needing attention.

Willits Elementary Charter School Director Charlene Bredder personally answered the phone Monday and talked about the school's objectives during these trying times. "We're trying to make [the packets for families sheltering in place] supportive and fun for them, and doable for the teachers," she said. "We want everyone in the family to experience success and have fun doing it."

Bredder also mentioned that teachers have been planning for the long term. They're thinking of creative ways to engage the parents and children while they are schooled at home. "We're looking at more project-based learning and how we can support the whole family," she said.

"These are stressful times for students. They miss their friends and teachers, and it's comforting for kids to have a schedule," she added and emphasized that most children do well with a Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 3:30 educational schedule with regular classes like reading and math, including recesses and PE.

The director and her staff are proponents of "choice with structure." Parents can engage their children in helping create daily or weekly schedules. They can decide what activities happen when and which learning activities can be done through their packets or online.

Willits phoned school principals Weekly different principals

Read the rest of Schools | Over on Page 9

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• Khan Academy	• Smithsonian for Kids
SCIENCE	OTHER
• Discovery Mindblown	• Brain Pop
• NASA Kids Club	• Ted Talks
• Amazing Space	• PBS Kids
• Code Academy	• Duolingo
• How Stuff Works	• Hello Kids (drawing)

Below: Willits High School has a rotating electronic sign of announcements so students and parents know at a glance what's important for them.



Got Mice?

Mendocino County Animal Care Services
Barn Cat Buddies Program

Barn Cat Program at Animal Shelter still operating during pandemic

Although Mendocino County's Ukiah Animal Shelter is closed to the general public, the shelter's Barn Cat Program is still able to provide the community with barn cats, if needed. Animal Care Services is requesting citizens provide the necessary transport carriers. Animal Care Services can also loan transport carriers if needed.

We ask that people call Animal Care Services Shelter at 463-4427 and speak with a staff member during the Tuesday through Saturday normal business hours of 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, to make arrangements for a barn cat pick-up at the Ukiah Animal Shelter. Please knock on the front door when on site. We ask that you please keep 6 feet or more away from the door when a staff member greets you at the door. Thank you.

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

Read the rest of **Barn cat** Over on Page 9

COVID-19 UPDATE

WE ARE STILL HERE!

Humane Society donation drive

Our gates might be closed, but we are open for the animals and people who need us! We are an essential service – intakes, fostering and adoptions are still happening, but by appointment only. Every day we are facing new challenges and stress has been very high.

Just like a lot of business, we are afraid of the future, afraid of being able to keep our doors open in the long run. This year was already off to a hard start, with fundraising being a huge priority in order for us to keep going. We are now looking at the potential for major fundraisers to be cancelled. This week we had to furlough two of our employees. And at this time we don't know what the future will hold.

What we do know is that our community always supports us, you guys believe in us and we are asking for your help again! Hard decisions are much easier to make when we have the funds. Help us keep our wonderful staff, continue to take in the most vulnerable animals in our community, and keep providing excellent service to the furry friends and people who come to us in their time of need.

Read the rest of **Donation** Over on Page 9

The rest of **Schools** From Page 7

"Parents can tell them to mix it up," said Bredder. "It'll be more interesting and fun for all." She added: "It doesn't have to be a fight at home. If one math page doesn't work, try another or use IXL. Something like cooking can be considered a math lesson, too, because you're measuring ingredients. We're all experimenting, and you just have to find what's right for your family," she advised.

Superintendent Westerburg realizes that children do better when they're busy and engaged. He recommends the use of www.ixl.com, an online K-12 educational program designed to support educational State Common Core Standards. The service covers math, language arts, science, social studies and Spanish, and is easy to navigate.

In his recent announcement, Westerburg also wanted parents and teachers to recognize that "academics, while essential, aren't always the most important." He added: "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 give us peace like reading, listening to music, or doing yoga."

The following is a partial list of what area schools are providing for their sheltering-in-place students: weekly student work packets for K-5 at Brookside and Willits Elementary Charter schools and Baechtel Grove Middle School has set up Google Classroom and will have it soon for parents.

Willits Charter has packets for middle-school students who don't have internet and have online-only classes for their high school students. They can use the school's library from 9 am to 3 pm and check out Chromebooks.

Willits High School students have been doing work online. Other schools are trying to figure out ways to provide students with internet and devices for online learning to enrich their experiences.

Meal pick-up will continue at Willits High School's cafeteria with breakfast from 8 to 10 am and lunch from 11 to 1 pm. According to WUSD Food Service Director Christy Wisdom, they're serving an average of 320 breakfasts and lunches per day. These meals are available to all area youth 18 and under.

Please email or call your student's school or teacher for questions or concerns.

Editor's note: At a Wednesday afternoon press conference Gov. Gavin Newsom announced all California schools will be closed through the end of the academic year.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW265
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: RONALD ODAS KENDRICK, aka RONALD O. KENDRICK
CASE NO. SCUK CVPB 20-27343

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: RONALD ODAS KENDRICK, aka RONALD O. KENDRICK

A Petition for Probate has been filed by WANDA SUE KENDRICK in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that WANDA SUE KENDRICK be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: May 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: ALEXANDER C. RICH, ESQ., CARTER MOMSEN PC, 716 S. Main St, Unit A1, Willits, CA 95490. Telephone: 707-456-9210
Publication Dates: April 2, 9 and 16, 2020.

LEGAL NOTICES

The rest of **Donation** From Page 8

In order to make it through the next two months we need to raise at least \$10,000 to \$20,000. We know that is a big ask. But we hope that you will consider donating a little so that we can do a lot! Just \$5 or \$10 goes such a long way! Help HSMIC survive these uncertain times!

Find the Donate link here <https://www.facebook.com/humane.society.inland.mendocino/posts/2731310530448342> or visit <https://mendohumane.society.com/> for other ways to donate, including sending a check to: Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, CA 95470.

– Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County

Thank you to those who've already donated to help save Willits Weekly!

We appreciate your support!

Interested in donating? Send donations to P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490

CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

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

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

Cottage For Sale
2 bedroom cottage in town on Eva Claire Lane. Available April 1. \$178,000. Call Bobbie: 459-9228.

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

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Seamstress and Sewing Teacher
Barbara Carlson
Visit my webpage: Seamqueen.blog
707-367-6182, Willits

Willits Food Bank open
Willits Community Services & Food Bank is still distributing food, with many safety precautions, to those in need. The front office at 229 E. San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but staff is taking calls/answering messages at 459-3333. The back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Call to arrange needed donations of hand sanitizer, garden greens, fruit and construction-site heavy duty trash bags. Winter Fund Drive is nearing its \$34,000 goal; please mail checks to WCS, 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

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

Willits Weekly Updates
Please check Willits Weekly's Facebook page for important updates and useful information in between editions during this COVID-19 'shelter in place' emergency. We continue to be focused on our print edition, but during any emergency, although it's usually a wildfire not a public health emergency, we do post more often than usual on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/WillitsWeekly/

The rest of **Barn cat** From Page 8

the Lost Animal Report tab, www.mendocinocounty.org/government/animal-care-services/lost-animal-report-1801

If you're interested in fostering or adopting a pet, please call Sage or Amy at the Ukiah Shelter at 467-6453.

– Animal Care Services

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

of secured property taxes because the delinquency date of Friday, April 10, 2020 is established by state law. Furthermore, critical county services, such as emergency response, public health, schools, and other local financial obligations are dependent on these scheduled revenues.

However, the county does have authority to waive penalties, costs, or other charges resulting from tax delinquency due to reasonable cause and circumstances related to this crisis. To obtain the "Request for Penalty Cancellation" form, please visit www.mendocinocounty.org/ttforms. Please read the instructions for this process carefully.

Due to this crisis, the County Administration Building is closed to the public. All taxes, assessments, penalties, fines or fees must be remitted as follows:

- Mailed through the U.S. Postal Service
- Electronically online or by phone (see below for more information)
- Drop box in front of the County Administration Building
- Cash must be converted to money orders or cashier's checks
- Full staffing will be available by telephone to deal with urgent matters

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. Thank you in advance for your cooperation during this crisis!

Electronic Payment Information

To pay your current year secured 2019-20 tax bills, please visit www.mendocinocounty.org/securedtax and have your parcel number ready. This portal allows for direct payments to the property system and will look up the amount due on your single parcel for the current secured tax year only. If you have multiple parcels / bills to pay, you can enter it as one transaction and incur one fee by going to the miscellaneous tax payment page below.

To pay any other tax bill, such as Unsecured, Supplemental, Multiple Current Year Secured Tax, Transient Occupancy Tax, or Business Licenses, please visit www.mendocinocounty.org/misctax. You must have your bill number available and the amount due.

To pay cannabis business tax, please call our office at 707-234-6848 to obtain the correct payment amount and information regarding electronic payments.

when you're sick, then, you will want to fill out that census questionnaire, because the census affects you," Patterson said.

Patterson said that the current COVID-19 pandemic and the associated shelter-in-place orders are having an impact on the census organization's plans to get out a complete count. The local census group had been telling people for months they could respond to the census in three ways: online, over the phone, and on paper, by mailing in their forms via the U.S. Postal Service. There were supposed to be kiosks available in our communities, and census questionnaires were going to be available in local libraries.

Then came the virus. When asked how people were going to pick up paper copies of the questionnaire at the libraries, when the libraries are closed, or how people are supposed to go to local kiosks, when we are supposed to stay home, Patterson said the best way to respond to the census now is online, or by phone.

"The mail stuff is being delayed right now," Patterson said. "They will be hand-delivered by mid-April. So right now, the preferred method of doing the census is either online, or by telephone. If you want to respond by phone, two main numbers you can call are, for English speakers,

844-330-2020 and for Spanish speakers, 844-468-2020."

Residents who are able to respond online can find a census questionnaire at www.my2020census.gov.

"The census is easy to respond to, and very quick to fill out," Patterson said. "Plus, you have to remember, the population numbers that the federal government gets from the census affects federal funding, not just for one or two years, but for the next 10 years. It's very important."

The national census website has an interesting "instant response" map of the United States, showing the census response rate for the United States as well as for all 50 states and the nation's 3,007 counties. The census questionnaires are coming in quickly: in just two hours' time, the total response number for all of California went from 32.5 percent to 34.1 percent, and the response for Mendocino County went from 22.9 percent to 24.2 percent. As of March 31, California response is at 37.9 percent, while Mendocino County is up to 26.7 percent.

Interested residents can see how Mendocino County is doing on getting out a complete count by going to the instant response map at <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html#>.

T and T TOWING

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both those below poverty already (about 19 percent) and those who are asset limited, income constrained, and employed (ALICE) households with income above the federal poverty level but below the basic cost of living (about 35 percent).

This fund is designed to provide immediate relief efforts to assist Mendocino County residents with basic needs during the COVID-19 crisis, including shelter, food, utilities, and medical needs.

The current crisis in some ways has leveled the playing field, as so many of us shelter in place to flatten the curve. However, while some of us have the means to order groceries to be delivered, to shift our work remotely, and continue to pay our mortgages, this is not the case for so many of our friends and neighbors who live paycheck to paycheck and are facing layoffs and school closures.

If you can give to your local food bank, please do so. If you can give directly to a non-profit in your community that is serving those in need, please do so. If you have the means to make a contribution to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, please consider taking this opportunity to shed a little light on those in need throughout our county.

If you would like to discuss the fund or a contribution, please feel free to reach out to me directly at megan@communityfound.org or 707-468-9882 ext. 102.

To give to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, please visit www.communityfound.org.

said. "There was nothing wrong with the plan; there was nothing wrong with the project; and there was nothing wrong with the amount that we were asking for. I think, if there had not been negativity from the previous bond, I think this ballot measure would have passed.

"Most people I talk to, they say that it's too bad, and that the bond measure should have passed. What I can tell you is, what they didn't get done from the last bond that happened 10 years ago, those things are 10 years older than they were back then, and 10 more years more in need of repair.

"So what I come away with is, we had a majority of people in Willits who voted for the bond. We just needed a slightly bigger majority. We are going to put it back on the November ballot. If we don't do it in November, we're going to have to wait another two years. So yes, it's going back on. I'm not a quitter, and I'm not giving up."

School bond ballot measures were also run in Ukiah, Fort Bragg and in the town of Mendocino. The Ukiah measure was victorious, but only by a very few votes: it was approved by 55.15 percent of the voters. Likewise in Fort Bragg, where voters gave their school bond measure, Measure B, the nod with only 56.13 percent of the vote. Only in the town of Mendocino did voters vote overwhelmingly in support of a school bond measure, approving Measure H by 70.09 percent of the vote.

In other election news, the races that appeared to be decided in the Final Election Night Results, which were posted at the Mendocino County Elections Office website at 12:51 am on March 4, remain unchanged in their overall results, except that of course the number of votes were changed.

Countywide, the final results show 29,527 of the 51,968 registered voters in Mendocino County turned out to vote in the March 3 presidential primary election, making it a 56.82 percent turnout.

In the Democratic Party's primary election for president of the United States, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders got 45.81 percent of

Loan Terms & Conditions

• Eligible businesses: All small businesses, including non-profits, veterans organizations, tribal concerns, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and independent contractors, with 500 or fewer employees, or no greater than the number of employees set by the SBA as the size standard for certain industries

• Maximum loan amount up to \$10 million

• Loan forgiveness if proceeds used for payroll costs and other designated business operating expenses in the 8 weeks following the date of loan origination (due to likely high subscription, it is anticipated that not more than 25 percent of the forgiven amount may be for non-payroll costs)

• All loans under this program will have the following identical features:

- Interest rate of 0.5%
- Maturity of 2 years
- First payment deferred for six months
- 100% guarantee by SBA
- No collateral
- No personal guarantees
- No borrower or lender fees payable to SBA

 Visit SBA.gov/Coronavirus for more information on SBA's assistance to small businesses.

the early closure of the meeting, the supervisors were unable to hear an update from the county Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan, or from Sheriff Matt Kendall, or from several other county staffers who were either in the room or attending the meeting remotely, including Deputy CEOs Sarah Dukett, Darcie Antle, Jenelle Rau and Steve Dunicliff, and Director of Disaster Response Nash Gonzalez.

Board members themselves were attending remotely, with none actually present in the board chambers. The visual focus of the meeting, as it was viewed by this reporter, was most frequently a composite screen showing panels featuring talking heads of three of the five supervisors, (because both Second District Supervisor John McCowen and First District Supervisor Carre Brown were attending by telephone only) or of whichever county staffer was addressing the supervisors at any given moment.

Prior to Dunham's departure, the supervisors adopted an urgency ordinance which rendered orders from the county public health officer into county ordinances, which, in turn, makes them enforceable by the county's code enforcement division, as well as by law enforcement.

The ordinance effecting this change was hot off the press, and none of the supervisors had had a chance to read it prior to its being introduced by Acting County Counsel Christian Curtis and by Deputy County Counsel Michael Makdesi.

Makdesi went through the ordinance section by section. The ordinance makes a number of county officials able to enforce health orders in the county, including the public health officer herself, or her designee, or code enforcement officers, or any peace officer with jurisdiction in the unincorporated area of Mendocino County.

Violations of the order will be deemed a misdemeanor, a public nuisance, or a civil violation, and will be punishable by fines. Violations by non-commercial parties can have fines that range up to \$500 a day, while violations by commercial entities are punishable by fines of up to \$10,000 a day.

When McCowen said that he thought the \$10,000 a day figure was a little steep, Curtis said he had been informed by certain business owners in this county, prior to drafting the ordinance, that they were planning to pay the fine, rather than shut down their business operations. Therefore, the County Counsel's Office was recommending a high fine, to discourage that response to Doohan's shelter-in-place orders.

The supervisors approved the ordinance unanimously.

The supervisors also considered a resolution authored by Third District Supervisor John Haschak to the effect that, during this period of emergency, the board would only consider items related

to the COVID-19 pandemic and other essential items of business. However, after discussion, the board came to the conclusion that Haschak's resolution was unnecessary, advising each supervisor to limit items that they put on the agenda to urgent items only.

Congressman Jared Huffman and California State Senator Mike McGuire each Skyped into the meeting and each spoke for several minutes. Huffman said the federal government had recently approved a \$2 trillion emergency assistance package, much of which would be conditioned on employers keeping people employed. "Some loans to employers will only be paid if employers hold on to employees," Huffman said.

McGuire backed up Huffman's message, noting that the federal package was a job-saver. Speaking of small business owners, McGuire said, "If you furlough your employees, instead of laying them off, government loans will become grants," McGuire said. "Plus you will get up to a 50 percent tax credit on your next year's income tax."

McGuire also touched on a few key items recently passed in Sacramento. The state legislature recently passed a \$1.1 billion bill aimed at increasing the bed count in the state by 50,000 beds. The bill orders hospitals in the state to find ways to increase their capacity by 40 percent, which amounts to 30,000 beds. McGuire said the state was on the hook to figure out how to come up with another 20,000 beds. Part of that challenge is being taken up by the state's National Guard, which is in the process of building eight field hospitals.

McGuire noted California has recently beefed up unemployment benefits to a maximum of \$450 a week for up to six months. When coupled with the federal government's pledge to pay up to \$600 in unemployment benefits for up to four months, McGuire pointed out that, taken together, a person who has recently become unemployed can receive up to \$1,050 a week for at least four months.

McGuire also said he has heard from credible sources that people can expect the state's shelter-in-place orders to be in force at least until May 1.

"We are seeing early signs of a slower surge with emergency room visits and hospitalizations," McGuire said. "That said, we are far from being out of the woods. We know that the surge is going to be more than significant, and that surge is anticipated to hit here on the North Coast and in the rest of the state of California in the next two to four weeks, which is why we are in constant contact with hospital leaders and in constant contact with your executive staff, and ensuring that the needs of the North Coast are being met with protective equipment and medical supplies," McGuire said.

public, where it's not being handled except by me."

Eliot Hartley of the New Agrarian Collective, who is well-known among shoppers for his fresh-baked bread, explains that he is using gloves and sanitizing them. He is also keeping all his products behind the table, "so customers can't touch anything." He has customers put their money in a bag and makes change out of money that is not touched by other customers.

Mulligan Gardens, purveyors of greens and mushrooms, has constructed a large sneeze guard in front of their goods. "We cleaned the whole harvesting section of the farm yesterday."

The Herb Guild is continuing to offer their selection of medicinal herbs at the Willits market. "I'm making and selling some really great medicine that I get to take myself," said Anna Hope, who also makes and sells her own hand sanitizer with essential oils as well as elderberry immune tonics and viral resistance tinctures. She wants to get her medicine to the people.

Some of the other vendors are taking further precautions, such as refraining from putting out samples and not allowing the customers to have access to the vegetables. The produce is mostly pre-bagged and set back from the front of the booths.

Hernandez thanks the City of Willits for "allowing us to come out earlier than normal [usually at the end of April]. I'm also grateful to Pete Swanton and Steve Marsden for letting us use this space. We're able to accommodate social distancing a little better, as we have more room between vendors. People, especially in this time, need access to fruits and vegetables as well as local medicines and other staples and meat. We're going to provide these things as long as we can."

Garrabrant-Sierra had proclaimed the state of emergency for the city on March 18, but it required approval by the city council to continue.

The state of emergency will now remain in effect until "its termination is declared" by the council, according to the resolution.

As for the disaster assistance resolution, the agenda summary stated: "While disasters are typically infrequent, it would be more efficient to adopt a universal resolution in order to avoid any unnecessary delays in applying for disaster assistance. Therefore, it is recommended that the city council adopt a universal resolution designating by title the city manager, deputy city manager and community development director as the city's designated agents for applying for federal and state disaster financial assistance and making the assurances required in order to obtain such assistance."

In the city's press release, Garrabrant-Sierra said, "All city facilities and departments remain closed to the public, although staff is working, either from home or isolated, as much as is practicable. These closures include City Hall, the Skate Park, the Dog Park, and the Community Center."

It also stated that there are "no known [positive COVID-19] cases in Brooktrails or Willits at this time," despite a misleading map on the County of Sonoma website that appeared to indicate there was a case in Brooktrails.

In an agenda report addressing "city business as it relates to the COVID-19 public health crisis," Garrabrant-Sierra said that while "the sales tax situation is very troubling, many of the city's major sales tax contributors are considered essential businesses and are continuing to operate. We have consulted with our sales tax advisors who are cautiously optimistic."

"We have curtailed our purchasing and look to cancel or postpone any projects which require matching funds of a not 'in kind' nature," she continued. "We may look to limited furloughs for senior staff and others, starting very soon. Our police, water, wastewater and public works staff will not be affected by any cuts."

She also expressed concern about the effect the shelter-in-place rules will have on citizens and businesses in Willits.

"We continue to be very concerned for our residents who are experiencing losses of income," she said in the agenda report. She suggested that for businesses impacted by COVID-19 who need help or information, "the West Small Business Development Center has put together an excellent section on their website listing many resources for assistance."

The West Company phone number is 707-964-7571, and the web page she referenced is www.mendosbdc.org/covid-19. There are several links there to state and federal resources which could potentially provide support to small businesses, including one for "The Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act" – the \$2 trillion dollar stimulus package passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Trump on March 27.

In the March 27 press release, Garrabrant-Sierra

noted: "The governor recently ordered a [statewide] forbearance or 'stay' of residential evictions for non-payment of rent for 60 days. There are, however, strict standards in place requiring the tenant give timely notice to their landlord (within seven days of rent being due) and requiring verifiable documentation that their failure to pay all or a portion of their rent is due to the COVID-19 crisis. The order does not relieve a tenant from the duty of paying rent in a timely manner if a tenant is able to pay all or some of their rent. It also does not relieve a tenant of liability for unpaid rent."

Willits Police Department

In the WPD press release, Police Chief Gregory Allen talked about some differences in how they will handle calls throughout the shelter-in-place period.

"As you know, the Willits Police Department is very small, but extremely committed to protecting and serving you," he said. "During this challenging period, it is necessary to prioritize our response to calls for service. We will respond to all emergency calls. For your health and safety, we will evaluate the need to immediately respond to non-emergency calls. Calls of a non-police, business dispute, or civil nature will be handled telephonically. Priority shall be given to responding to crimes of violence, domestic violence crimes, and other emergency 'in progress' crimes. All calls for service will be documented and followed up on."

"For your safety and that of our first responders, all officers have been supplied with (and may be wearing) protective gloves and masks in order to reduce exposure should they respond to your call," he continued. "Please do not be offended. There may also be situations where officers responding to your call may decline entering your home or place of business, and may instead request that you meet them in front of your location, keeping the recommended distance of a minimum of 6 feet distance as your call is handled."

Little Lake Fire Department

In an interview with Willits Weekly, Little Lake Fire Department Chief Chris Wilkes also said they will be responding to all calls, but with increased measures of protection to help prevent COVID-19 infections.

These measures will include not sending more personnel into a situation than is necessary until the scene is assessed, and using additional protective gear they will have on hand.

"We've built ... kits that go into all of our duty vehicles with all the typical stuff they want you to have as first responders for this virus," said Wilkes. "Gowns, masks, goggles, rubber gloves, alcohol wipes and different things for cleanliness."

"Our work force is volunteer," he noted. "I have to protect that workforce as much as I possibly can from getting sick for their families' sake, for the department's sake – for the response to the next call's sake. I can't have sick firefighters or somebody that's gotten into contact with the virus and is quarantined where they can't respond to the next call. So it's important for us to limit that exposure."

between 19 and 31 years of age, two were between 50 and 64; and one was 65 years old or older.

According to Doohan, one patient lived in the south coast region of the county, and three patients lived in the Ukiah valley area (including Ukiah, Talmage, Calpella, Redwood Valley and Potter Valley). So far, no cases have been confirmed for residents Willits or Brooktrails, or in any other area of the county, and Mendocino County has seen no deaths from COVID-19. Three of the cases are considered "active," and in one case the patient has now recovered.

In an interview with Willits Weekly on Wednesday afternoon, Dr. Doohan said she was pleased at the public response to her shelter-in-place orders.

"I'm very grateful to our public for following the shelter-in-place orders," Doohan said. "It's helping. You look at Sonoma County: They do have community spread. So far, they have 85 people who have had the disease, and two people have died. We are still at four cases, no serious illnesses, no hospitalizations and no deaths. So sheltering in place is helping us, more and more, every day."

As of April 1, Humboldt County is reporting 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with several cases believed to have contracted the virus through community transmission. As of April 1, Lake County is still reporting zero confirmed cases.

According to the Mendocino County Public Health page on Facebook, as of the 3 pm update on April 1, there have been a total of 229 tests administered countywide for the coronavirus, with 204 negative tests, four positive results, and 21 test results still pending.

Who is being tested

A March 29 press release from Doohan went into some detail about who is being tested for the novel coronavirus. "Across the nation, the current situation for COVID-19 testing is highly problematic due to shortages of the test sampling materials and limited testing capacity," Doohan stated.

"In response to this challenge, Mendocino County Public Health has developed a process for facilitating COVID-19 testing for our healthcare partners. Currently, the Mendocino County Public Health department can facilitate testing through our affiliated Public Health lab, located in Santa Rosa.

"Given the current restricted access to COVID-19 testing supplies and resources, the testing that Public Health facilitates is done upon request by healthcare partners, such as clinics and hospitals, for symptomatic patients from the following categories: healthcare workers, public safety personnel, people of high public health risk (nursing home residents, incarcerated people, homeless), high risk exposure (due to travel or contact) and emergency room and hospitalized patients for whom the test result will change management of the patient.

"Anyone who is tested for COVID-19 MUST remain in isolation until further directed by the clinician who ordered the test. People who are sick and being evaluated for COVID-19 can spread the disease unless they stay in isolation away from other people.

"The Public Health facilitation of COVID-19 testing is a top priority so that our healthcare partners can increase testing efficiency and ensure that individuals most at risk can be tested promptly," Doohan stated.

Recreational driving not permitted

When asked on Wednesday if recreational driving is permitted under the shelter-in-place order, Doohan confirmed it was not permitted. She noted that lots of stuff can happen when people are driving: Cars can break down, motorists can get into an accident, or they have to stop for gasoline.

"When those things happen," Doohan noted, "people can enter the health care system or at a minimum, you can get community contact based on something that at its origin was not an essential activity or an essential business. That puts a stress on our system. So, no, recreational driving is not an essential activity, so it is not permitted," Doohan said.

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Menu - April Week 1

Monday, March 30 French Dip Sandwich
Tuesday, March 31 Pork Burritos
Wednesday, April 1 Chicken Casserole
Thursday, April 2 BBQ Chicken
Friday, April 3 Hot Beef Sandwich

Menu - April Week 2

Monday, April 6 Chicken & Dumplings
Tuesday, April 7 Carne Asada Tacos
Wednesday, April 8 Egg Salad Sandwich
Thursday, April 9 Chili Verde Enchiladas
Friday, April 10 Sau. Spin. Cheese Quiche

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