

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

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Local clinics still seeing patients despite virus

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
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Dr. John Glyer and Physicians Assistant Sam Cahill from the Adventist Health Clinic in Willits spoke recently with Willits Weekly about the challenges of patient care in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

In a wide-ranging interview, they talked of the increased use of “virtual visits” with patients, strategies they’ve used in light of limited testing supplies, and concerns about how the crisis could impact those with mental health issues in the area.

While there’s certainly been some changes at the clinic, they both wanted to emphasize that the Adventist Health Clinic is still up and running for their patients, and not just for those with COVID-19 type symptoms.

“We are still open,” said Dr. Glyer, “still seeing patients, taking care of patients, doing virtual visits with patients, figuring out whether they need to be seen [in person], and then

Read the rest of
Clinics
Over on Page 11

Repeat domestic violence offender charged with murder

Jennifer Poole
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The Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office announced Friday that Elenah Louise Elston, 49, of Willits died April 2 at an out-of-county hospital. Elston was the victim of a March 30 assault incident on Goose Road where her husband, Tavion Johnson, 21, of Willits was arrested.

Johnson at the time was booked into the Mendocino County Jail on felony domestic violence charges, as well as violating a protection order, but he has now been additionally charged with murder and is being held on \$500,000 bail.

As the original MCSO press release about the incident stated, when Sheriff’s Office deputies were summoned to the Emergency Room at Adventist Health Howard Memorial for a reported fall victim being treated for major head injuries that left her unconscious and unable to communicate, “the deputies knew the female from numerous

Read the rest of
Murder
Over on Page 8



Above, from left: Wayne Hunt of T&T Towing dons a mask in the junk yard. Tom Allman, left, and Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall wear masks and social distance, too. Handmade masks in a variety of patterns were given to the staff at East Hill Veterinary Clinic. Below: Maureen Moore’s sentiments regarding mask wearing for things other than soldering and stained glass work surely is felt throughout the rest of the community, too: “Ugh. HOW MUCH LONGER do we have to do this?”



County recommends all wear masks in public

On Friday, Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan issued a formal recommendation “that everyone who leaves their home for an essential activity wears a face covering, such as a mask, scarf, bandana, or similar garment.”

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The April 3 announcement credits new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the California Department of Public Health suggesting that COVID-19 can be spread “during an asymptomatic period for 48 hours before the infected person feels sick,” as the reason for the new recommendation that people who aren’t coughing or sneezing should wear masks.

“Ordinary face coverings have *not* been proven to protect the wearer” against getting infected with the coronavirus, the recommendation warns, but “when worn by someone with COVID-19, however, they may reduce the risk of

spreading the virus to others. Since not everyone with COVID-19 knows that they are sick, wearing a face covering helps make sure that you are not unknowingly affecting others. If worn by everyone when outside the home doing essential activities, this can help slow the overall spread of the virus and keep our community safer.”

The mask recommendation has more details: “Use a cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth.... “It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. Homemade face coverings can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels,” the

Read the rest of
Masks
Over on Page 3



Above, from left: Officer Cody Pearson, a new addition to the Willits Police Department, is a retired Marine and a recipient of numerous medals. Interim Police Chief Gregory Allen brings over 40 years of experience to the Willits Police Department. Officer Maximus Barabino, who worked for the Department of Homeland Security, is an instructor in CPR, and has a master’s degree in administration, also recently joined the Willits Police Department.

Willits Police Department hires new officers and an interim chief with 35 years’ experience in Los Angeles

The uniforms look the same, but the faces of the Willits Police Department are changing. With the retirement of interim Police Chief Scott Warnock, a new interim chief was brought in to fill the position, at least until a permanent replacement has been hired.

Mathew Caine
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Chief Gregory Allen, a veteran law enforcement professional with over 40 years of experience, has been brought in to fill the position. With 35 years in Los Angeles, where he distinguished himself in such postings as patrol and detective operations, homicide, vice, narcotics, crime reduction units and community relations, and as police

academy director, he brings a unique set of skills and community awareness to the Willits Police Department.

Prior to relocating to Willits, Allen was most recently chief of the Morro Bay Police Department, having moved from Greenfield, Monterey County where he was police commander and acting chief. With so many years in the Los Angeles force, Allen has had to learn about law enforcement in a small-town rural setting.

“Police work is essentially the same everywhere,” Allen

Read the rest of
Police
Over on Page 5

Health officer eyes May 31 ‘release’ date

Mike A'Dair
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At Tuesday’s virtual meeting of the board of supervisors, Mendocino County Interim Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan said her “best estimate” is that she will be releasing the people of Mendocino County from the shelter-in-place order by May 31. But it could be earlier in May.

Doohan was answering a question posed to her by Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams.

“I will tell you that the [computer] modelling that we will get I think will help us to answer that question, based on fact and science,” Doohan said. “And I think we will get that modelling quickly ... within 10 days, because it’s already set up for Sonoma.

“But, without that modelling, let me say that I think it’s fairly certain that it will be [at least] through May 3. Again, my sheltering-in-place order is open-ended, but the Bay Area’s is through May 3.

Read the rest of
Order
Over on Page 11

County addresses homeless at risk of COVID-19

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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The Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency is currently working with different groups to “de-intensify the current homeless shelter system” in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to HHSA Director Tammy Moss Chandler, who spoke to the board of supervisors on Tuesday, homeless people “are at especially high risk for infection during an outbreak of COVID-19.”

Chandler told the supervisors that the county has so far housed 80 people in various hotels and motels in the county. Seventy-three are adults, and seven are children.

The 2019 “Point in Time” survey on homelessness in the county – an annual count conducted on a January night – showed 123 “chronically homeless” individuals, and a grand total of 645 people living unsheltered or in emergency and transitional housing. The Point in Time survey is conducted by

Read the rest of
Homeless
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Outreach work continues

To the Editor:

To all of my Outreach clients: I would like to thank all my clients over the years for the trust, confidence, laughter and tears we shared.

Though I am no longer affiliated with the Senior Center, I am still performing Outreach work.

Same contacts, different location. When the ban on socializing is over, we will be able to meet in person.

Until then, I am operating by phone. I am branching out on my own, so those that have my cell number can still call me that way. Those that are interested in my services can call 707-354-5661.

Once again thank you, and God bless all in this unusual time

Priscilla Tarver, Outreach worker, Willits

Easter cross

To the Editor:

On Saturday, April 12 the United Methodist Church will place a cross covered with wire in the front of the church, in the Labyrinth/Peace Garden. Next to the cross will be a bucket of flowers.

If you are out getting groceries or meds or on a walk, you are invited to stop by the church and place flowers in the wires, to cover the cross.

This is not a call to or a place to congregate. This is not meant to ignore our shelter-in-place orders. It is meant to be something you can do with others while not being around others.

Our prayer is that the community will remember Easter as a day of resurrection, and that one day we, too, will rise above this crisis.

We are located at 286 School Street, across from the Grange. Shalom.

Pastor Rosemary Landry, Willits

Calling all Easter Bunnies

To the Editor:

In these frightening times of uncertainly, I am constantly amazed at the resiliency and creativity of so many who are doing their best to live safely and help lift the spirits of their neighbors.

Many of you may have heard about how some communities are spreading a little springtime cheer. Easter has not been cancelled in spite of the fact that most community Easter egg hunts will not take place this year.

Here is a simple thing that we can all do. Place teddy bears and bunnies in your windows so that families can safely wander the neighborhood searching for them. I already know where five bears can be found! Let's all join together with our neighbors and friends to make this special day a little more special. Thanks to all of you and be safe!

Norma Hanson, Willits



The rest of
Masks | From Page 1

recommendation advises.

"Patterns for home-made/sewn face coverings can be found on the internet," the recommendation continues, "for example: <https://santacruz.ideafabllabs.com/masks/>

The recommendation continues to support using "the best face covering that you can" but to "save purchasing new surgical masks and protective equipment for the professionals ... unless you already have a supply at home for personal use."

Where to find masks locally

Regular face masks have been hard to find in Willits, after selling out early, and with local retailers' repeated orders for them remaining unfulfilled.

Local seamstresses on Facebook are offering handsewn, washable masks by word of mouth, and a couple of essential businesses still open are offering locally made face coverings, too.

"We reached out to a good friend who's a local and very crafty," said Ashtan Bloomquist of J.D. Redhouse. "I pulled

one of my favorite scarfs off the shelves – with these recommendations, we wanted to make sure our employees are covered – and she came in and grabbed the fabric and started with our employees' masks.

"She posted photos on social media, and immediately people wanted them," Bloomquist said. "She brought us 25 masks, we have a few left, and she's home right now, making more as fast as she can. We do have more local seamstresses we will be working with, as people will want more than one mask." J.D. Redhouse also has bandannas in stock.

Coast Hardware has been selling some locally made cloth masks, too. "The few cloth masks we have had at the store, we're selling on a donation basis for a local person who's sewing them for us," said Pamalee Thrift. "We're taking measures to try to secure Buffs and bandannas, too." Thrift said Coast Hardware has been placing emergency orders for regular masks and for hand sanitizer weekly, "but we're just not getting them."

Adventist Health launches online ‘Symptom Checker’

By Cici Winiger for Adventist Health

On Friday, April 3, Adventist Health announced its launch of the COVID-19 Virtual Assistant and Symptom Checker on the Adventist Health website, an easy and accessible way to check symptoms and obtain information about COVID-19 via online chat.

"During this unprecedented time of uncertainty and constant change, Adventist Health understands the essential need and our responsibility to provide up-to-date information and support to the communities we serve," said Ramesh Nathan, medical director of infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship with Adventist Health. "We know patients find these resources to be helpful, and this online tool can provide an even quicker response to those seeking information."

Adventist Health worked with GYANT, a digital health company that specializes in artificial intelligence virtual assistants for health systems, to develop the COVID-19 Virtual Assistant and Symptom Checker.

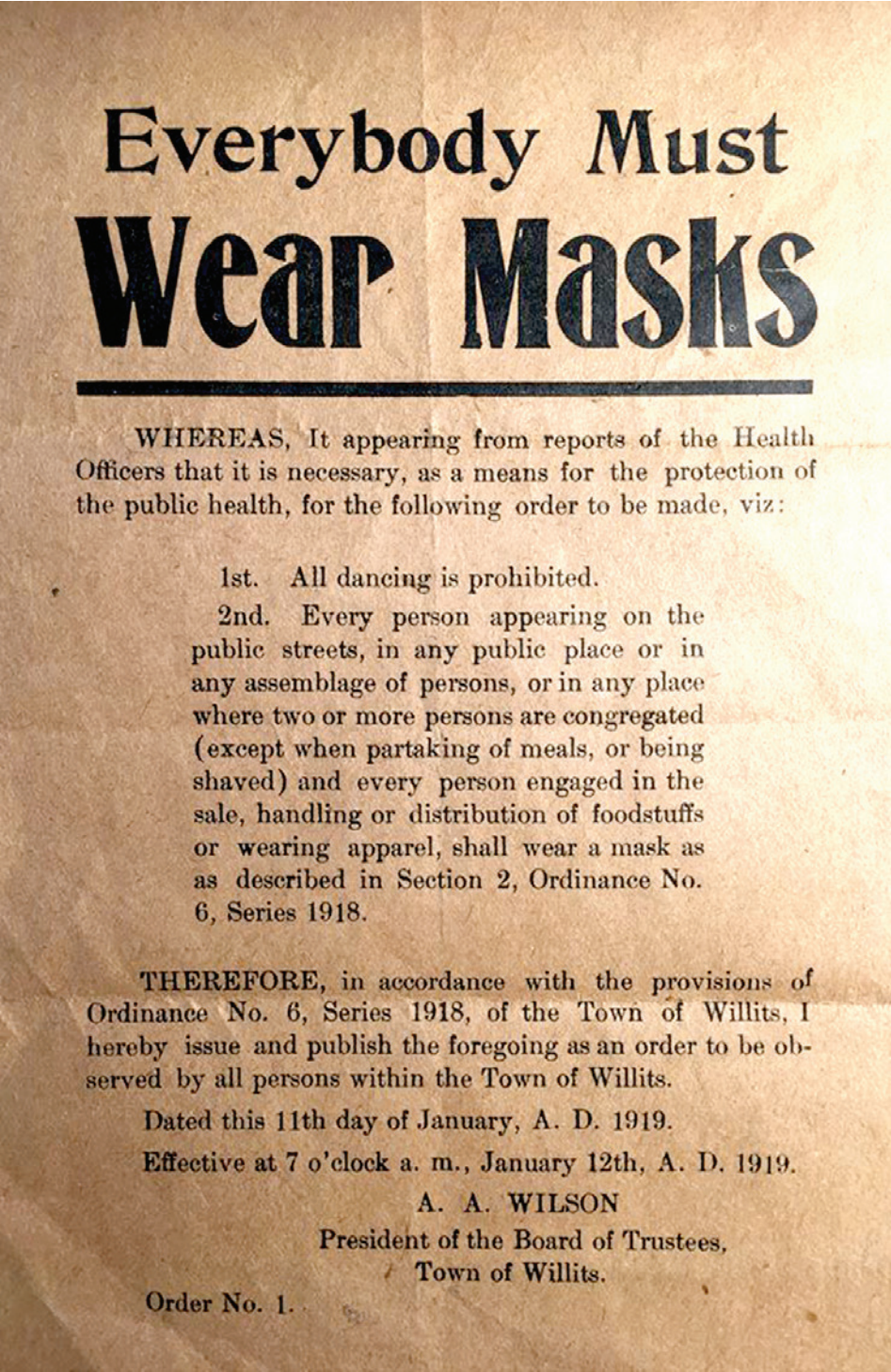
"We developed our COVID-19 Screener and Emergency Response Assistant to help hospitals and health systems manage the influx of patient inquiries during time of uncertainty," said Stefan Behrens, CEO, GYANT. "We're thrilled to help Adventist Health keep their patients better informed

and help prevent further spread of the virus. Adventist Health patients can now receive the most up-to-date information they need virtually, without needing to leave their homes."

The COVID-19 Virtual Assistant and Symptom Checker, developed using guidelines and protocols from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, provides reliable, timely information to patients and community members. This free, easy-to-use tool is accessible 24 / 7, offers a symptom checker as well as provides options for a virtual visit and information on sheltering in place. The tool is accessible using any computer or smart phone, opening a browser, and going to www.adventisthealth.org/ and clicking on the chat icon on the bottom right of the page.

"During a crisis, sharing timely and accurate information is so important to help reassure and protect our communities. We understand community members are worried and we want to be able to be there for them in any way we can," shares Jason Wells, president for Adventist Health in Mendocino County, which operates Adventist Health Howard Memorial in Willits and Adventist Health Ukiah Valley.

For additional information and resources about coronavirus, please visit www.adventisthealth.org/coronavirus-preparedness.



Above: A handbill from January 1919, issued by the then-president of the Willits, California board of trustees. Courtesy of the collection of Leonard Pitt

Mendocino County Behavioral Health Warm Line

1-707-472-2311

The Warm Line is a telephone-based non-crisis support that provides emotional support and compassion for Mendocino County residents. The Warm line is free and confidential. Individuals do not need to have a behavioral health concern to call, if an individual is feeling stressed, isolated, overwhelmed, or needs emotional support the Warm Line offers a resource to provide that support.

The Warm Line is available Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Individuals that call outside the business hours and leave a message will receive a call the next business day.

Los servicios están disponibles en Español

24/7 Toll Free Crisis Line

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis (a danger to oneself or others) and need help right away, call:

1-855-838-0404

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.

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Rain Totals in Willits

2019/20 rain season

Precipitation in the Willits area as of April 7

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

City of Willits Sewer Plant	23"	Southwest of Willits	30.12"
National Weather Service, Willits Howard Ranger Station	24.73"	Highway 20/Tranquility Canyon Road	26.07"
Lucky Monkey's Ranch, 2 miles west of Willits	24.39"	Brooktrails	21.39"
Mendocino College North County Center	19.85"	Pine Mountain	35.76"
		High Horse	24.17"
			23.50"

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

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

SAFETY WORD SEARCH
C R I G N K I P D T N E V E R P U A Y P T Q W
L O K O F D E I S F A F I L A H Y L K K O K Y X L L U R E
S Y L O R O T C N O F C A T D R I O N A T K K H S A E N G N
S L V E K A C U P S I M R O R R E K F A A A
S M P D F R O T T O G D S S Z L X I A E M
M R R L E L H C E M T X F N R E I E G T M R N
A C P S C C A C M U E H L U D I N T A N R O C
N J O D A F U Y I R M D J J I A A T R O C I
W D E L L C O T Y R C R J N C T R I A T I D
A O I V I C O T F I Y A E I A C E T O Q I D
T K R O W C J I T O I L N C A X S N K N E
C Y I W G M Y U C Q S N Q S C Q L H E O N C
H I E S F T D I G E S U X E A I E M C
J E C N A I L P M O C X G Y L Z V Z X E

Table with 4 columns: ACCIDENT, ERROR, MITIGATION, RISK. Rows include AUDIT, FACTORS, MONITOR, SAFETY, CHEMICALS, HANDLING, NEAR MISS, STANDARDS, CODE, HARM, OCCUPATION, STRATEGY, COMPLIANCE, HAZARD, OCCURRENCE, TOXIN, CONTROL, HEALTH, POLICY, UNSAFE, DANGER, INCIDENCE, PRACTICE, WATCH, DOCTOR, INJURIES, PRECAUTIONS, WORK, DUTY, LOSS, PREVENT, ELIMINATE, MISTAKE, QUALIFIED.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12
13 14 15
16 17 18
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 47
48 49 50 51 52
53 54 55
56 57 58 59

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Canadian law enforcers
5. Actor Idris
9. Cut or bruise
11. Vegetables
13. Aircraft delivery
15. To make obsolete
16. Things similar to those already noted
17. Columbus is a famous one
19. Age group
21. Denotes nature of sound
22. Klutz
23. Uninteresting
25. Computer manufacturer
26. 2,000 lbs.
27. Genus of seabirds
29. Emerges
31. Baseball stat
33. Witnesses
34. Observed
36. Satisfy
38. Former OSS
39. Small Eurasian deer
41. Wife of Sparta's king
43. Ballplayer accessory
44. Temporary cessation of breathing
46. Where construction workers ply their trade
48. Arguments that justify a religious doctrine
52. Thick cloud of tiny water droplets
53. Widens
54. Detection
56. Period of inactivity
57. Tomato and vodka are two
58. Greek war god
59. Urinates
CLUES DOWN
1. Churned
2. Seal bottles
3. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
4. Meat from a pig (French)
5. Within
6. Walk in a slow pace
7. Cries
8. About Andes
9. Fishermen use it
10. Expresses delight
11. Shouts
12. Feudal agricultural laborer
14. Sailboat
15. Small Eurasian willows
18. S. American native people
20. Extreme disgust
24. Nonsense (slang)
26. Produce male reproductive cells
28. Computes
30. Pop singer
32. Weds secretly
34. Having two poles
35. Yankee hero Bucky
37. Building
38. Per __, each
40. Six (Spanish)
42. Makes amends
43. Scoundrels
45. Baseball's best pitchers
47. Some are scrambled
49. Emit coherent radiation
50. Singer Redding
51. Break
55. Institute legal proceedings against

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

March 23 to April 5
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 184 incidents in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 23
12:37 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1000 block of South Main Street.
6:44 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.
2:48 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.
7:07 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.
8:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue and issued a warning.
11:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

March 24
10:14 am: Officers responded to a report of possible arson in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

11:10 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1000 block of Center Valley Road.

3:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:15 pm: ACEVESLIZARRAGA, Javier Jahir (28) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order).

6:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

11:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of rape in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

March 25
9:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.

March 26
11:07 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

2:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal dumping near the intersection of McKinley Street and West Valley Street.

3:49 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

6:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 700 block of South Main Street.

6:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

7:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Manor Way.

March 27
5:06 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of Sandy Avenue.

8:07 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Margie Drive.

1:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of rape in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

4:19 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 23000 block of North Highway 101.

10:22 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street.

March 28
7:15 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Bush Street.

8:30 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

March 29
1:02 am: Officers responded to a

disturbance in the 100 block of Harms Lane.

1:33 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Pine Street.

7:58 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

8:36 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Creekside Court and Creekside Drive.

10:50 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of North Lenore Avenue.

March 30
4:07 am: Officers initiated a robbery investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.

7:10 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

March 31
12:09 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

1:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.

1:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

April 1
11:39 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 23000 block of North Highway 101.

3:24 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1100 block of Locust Street.

4:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of Monica Lane and Margie Drive.

11:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of South Main Street.

April 2
10:54 am: Officers responded to a report of sexual assault in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:27 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

12:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Alder Court.

12:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Main Street.

2:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:39 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

April 3
10:42 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School Street.

1:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

10:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Locust Street and Della Avenue.

April 4
12:55 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:54 pm: MEDERS, William Edward (30) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Creekside Court following a report of vandalism. He was arrested pursuant to 594(B)(2) PC (Vandalism), 602.5 PC (Trespassing), 11377 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance), on felony charges of violation of parole, and on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

10:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

April 5
7:17 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.



Farm Stand
Green Uprising offers produce table on East Hill Road

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com
During this time of social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus, there are those who wish to avoid grocery stores or other places where people gather in groups, even if they are practicing "safe" social procedures. Green Uprising Farm has a partial solution, at least for those who are looking to purchase fresh greens. Their stand at 2301 East Hill Road offers a small selection of produce from their year-round operating farm right behind the kiosk.



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The rest of Police | From Page 1

explained. "All communities want to be secure in their surroundings and have a responsive police department with officers that keep their loved ones safe. In a big city, officers are literally going from call to call with little time to actually investigate, due to the sheer volume of crimes.

"In small towns," he continued, "we often have the ability to conduct more in-depth follow-up investigations from start to finish, by the officer who responded to the initial call. This increases our ability to actually solve the crime problems. Also, officers in smaller towns tend to know the suspects personally and be more familiar with the specific crimes committed by repeat offenders." This leads to less specialization and greater personal involvement and follow-through.

Small-town policing allows Allen to have more time and access to the people he serves. He believes in being highly visible to the populace and being involved in the community. Once the COVID-19 crisis has run its course, he will be increasing foot patrols by officers, so the people of Willits can see the department is working and available.

The Willits Police Department, although slightly understaffed, is up to eight officers and is actively recruiting for more. Two new officers have recently been hired and are a welcome addition.

Officer Cody Pearson is a four-year Willits resident. In the Marines, Pearson served as a motor transport mechanic and combat lifesaver, where he earned a "National Defense Medal," a "Global War on Terrorism Medal," and a "Good Conduct Medal." He now considers Willits his home.

Officer Maximus Barabino is a Riverside County Sheriff's Academy graduate. He has worked for the Department of Homeland Security as a police officer and captain. He has an Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice, a bachelor's degree in management and a master's in administration. In addition, Barabino is an instructor of CPR.

Officer Barabino has already been part of a team that saved, although temporarily, a life in the course of his duties. He was with his partner, Sergeant Ricco McCoy, on a call for a medical emergency. A woman had had an "accident" and was on the floor without a pulse.

Officer McCoy initiated CPR and continued the procedure prior to the arrival of the Little Lake Fire Department and Medstar ambulance personnel. The woman's pulse was regained detectibly, and she was transported to Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Unfortunately, she later succumbed to her injuries in an out-of-county hospital.

Having arrived in Willits just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Allen has had to contend with several new procedures in order to both protect his officers and the public. While still responding to emergencies in person and in a timely manner, the department has instituted a policy of handling calls "of a non-police, business dispute, or civil nature" telephonically.

According to a release from City Manager Stephanie Garra-brant-Sierra and Chief Allen, "priority shall be given to responding to crimes of violence, domestic violence crimes, and other emergency 'in-progress' crimes."

All officers have been supplied with protective gloves and masks "in order to reduce exposure." Additionally, the officers, at their discretion, "may decline entering your home or place of business, and may instead request that you meet them in front of your location," practicing reasonable social distancing.

Chief Allen takes the safety of his officers and the people of Willits extremely seriously and thanks the citizens of the city for their cooperation and understanding in this time of unusual circumstances. "As time goes by, with our shelter in place, as we're dealing with the crisis, people have a tendency to get a little lax, a little bit anxious at home, particularly in this next three to four weeks," Allen observed.

"We really appreciate our community's effort to practice social distancing and to just be safe and healthy, and we'll get through this together. What we would encourage folks to do is that those who need general police information can feel free to call our station at 459-6122. For life-threatening emergencies, a crime in progress, they can use the 911 system. We will respond as quick as possible, with our priority being crimes against a person."

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REAL ESTATE SECTION

Static Market

Shelter-in-place order keeps potential homebuyers holed up and real estate agents unable to show properties in person

Tara Moratti, broker and future owner of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty in Willits and Ukiah, describes how the state and county COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders, which do not define real estate as an "essential" industry, have interrupted the real estate sector of the economy.

"Right now, we're allowed to list a house and sell a house. But because of sheltering in place, and we're not an essential business, we can't meet a client at the property, look inside a house or buildings, have an inspection or visits from the appraiser – especially if someone is still living in the house," said Moratti.

Buyers aren't supposed to be out looking for a house, either. They can look at properties virtually, but Coldwell Banker is not set up with many virtual property tours. "And I've always felt you can't really replace physically seeing a property," she said.

Being in the home, opening cupboards and closets, walking around, seeing all the views from each room, where the home is situated in the neighborhood, and visualizing possibilities are all essential aspects in making such an important decision.

"I currently have a few properties that are listed for sale, and we're not allowed to show them. So, my thought for this is that they should still be marketed for sale. Because everybody's at home, you may as well leave the properties on the internet for people to look at." She's keeping a list of interested people so when the ban is lifted, they can be

contacted, and the property will quickly begin to be shown.

"It's spring, and I have a lot of sellers ready to go on the market. To all of those people, I'm saying: 'Let's just wait until shelter in place is lifted. Then let's get your house on the market, and you'll have that presence right away,'" she advised.

Moratti talked about a sales transaction that was happening just as the shelter-in-place order came down. "We were at the very end of the transaction, and the buyer had, literally, signed their loan document. The sellers signed their closing papers. That night we were told that the lender could hit send and close the transaction. It's the very last step," she said.

The next morning, they got an email from the lending company saying the loan was denied because they'd just changed from funding the kind of loan the buyer had applied for. It also coincided with a standstill in the stock market for those kinds of loans that aren't Fannie Mae nor Freddie Mac secured. "We had about 12 deals that were in the midst of being closed, and I'm having to restructure the loans for four of them, now," Moratti added.

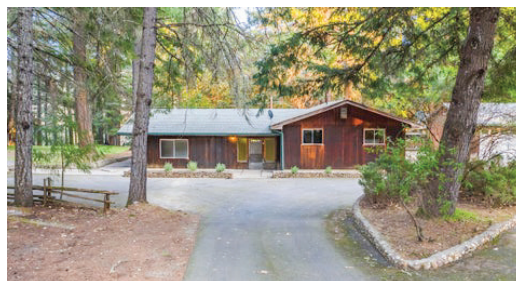
"I'm doing a lot more work and getting less done," she lamented. "Right now, I'm trying to restructure how we're doing business, where we're limited on what we can do and it could change. We could just have other problems if they say, 'Yes, you are deemed essential.' Then we're going to have another set of guidelines about how we can function and keep people safe. When you're closing a deal, you still have to go to the title company and have your documents signed and notarized to transfer the title of the property. And they have to check your ID."

Moratti has also been taking an online class about working remotely and said, "We're trying new things like getting signatures online and other products, which is great, but you can't replace the human connection." These new online products are meant to avoid some of the face-to-face situations that aren't as essential as other transactional meetings. She suspects that some of these will become common practices when shelter in place is lifted.

Visit www.mendocinocountyproperties.com or call 459-5389 to speak with any of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty's knowledgeable agents.



This three-bedroom, two-bath, 1,808-square-foot home is at 120 Haehl Creek in the Haehl Creek subdivision, above, and this two-bedroom, two-bath, 1,320-square-foot home, below, is located outside of Willits. Both are listed by Coldwell Banker.



COLUMN | How's the Market?

Got some extra time at home? Safety projects: Part 1

With the coronavirus keeping us all at home, here are some productive ways to spend your time – making your home safer. Even if you can't go to the hardware store to pick up all the parts you need 10 times a day, you can at least create an inventory of to-dos. Big thanks to Matt Jacobson, our maintenance and construction director, for these great ideas.

1. GFI outlets

A GFI, or GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter), is a device that protects us from electrocution resulting from faulty electrical devices in our home. These outlets are the ones with the little reset button on them, and they are most often found on outlets near water, since water and electricity don't play well together.

They are also found on outlets on the exterior of your home (exterior outlets should also have weather covers on them). If you have outlets near your bathroom tubs or kitchen sinks without a reset button, consider an upgrade.

COLUMN | Journal

Community partnerships

What makes a community, country or anyplace worth living in? Virtually always, it's the quality of life.

For some people, that means a more solitary life. They want to get away from it all. We see a lot of that around here. I came to Mendocino County to get away from the "city life" that had become unsatisfying. But, even living in a rural environment, I found I depended on neighbors to work on the roads at the very least. Most all rural subdivisions have some kind of road association where people work together to keep the roads passable.

On a larger scale, we humans and most other animals and even plants create communities – environments that improve our chances of surviving and thriving. Locally we have our town and county, which have many components. We have schools. A cornerstone of a healthy community. We have a business community that identifies the needs of that community and fills those needs. We have government, whose job is to identify the community's needs to function in a healthy, supportive way – and find ways to make that happen using tax dollars combined with an inspiring vision.

Actually, all of these social functions and interactions require inspiration. Real leaders are the people who can visualize what makes life better for the people they serve and find ways to implement that better way of life. Ideally, there is a place for everyone in what we call a community.

On a national level, that "community" is the whole nation. On a more local level, it's a bit easier to identify what needs to be done, but it still requires visionary leadership that looks for real solutions and methods of implementation. It's a challenge to find ways that people agree on. Since we all have our priorities, we need to start by finding, let's say, one thing we can agree on. As that one

Read the rest of Partnerships Over on Page 8

2. Fuses to breakers

Fuse boxes and circuit breakers are designed to prevent fires by stopping the flow of electricity when circuits get overheated. Old houses often have fuse boxes, while newer houses have circuit breakers.

When a fuse blows, you have to replace it, because the filament melts and that's what breaks the circuit. When a breaker is thrown, all you have to do is turn it all the way off and turn it back on again.

Both can be perfectly safe, but fuse boxes allow for some user error. For example, it's possible to use an oversized fuse; a 30-amp fuse can fit in a 20-amp circuit, which is a serious fire hazard.

Also, purely from a convenience standpoint, in the middle of the night, when it's pitch dark, it's a lot easier to flip a switch than it is to replace a fuse (assuming you happen to have one handy).

3. Railings

Like many construction standards, the requirements for railings have become more rigorous over time, and for good reason: railings that can't bear weight or that allow small

Read the rest of Projects Over on Page 8



Richard Selzer
Columnist

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Tara Moratti, broker and future owner of Coldwell Banker, has recently had to navigate the challenges of selling real estate amidst shelter-in-place orders.

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children to squeeze through don't protect people very well.

Railings are required anytime you could fall off a ledge and hurt yourself (from a 30-inch step to a second-story balcony). Openings between slats should be small enough to prevent a 4-inch sphere from fitting through, and the railing should be able to withstand 200 pounds of side impact.

While not officially "railings," grab bars are also a good idea for safety and convenience in bathrooms around toilets, in shower stalls, and near bathtubs.

4. Pool enclosures
Kissing cousins to railings are pool enclosures (fences, walls, or other barriers). The California Health and Safety Code Section 115923 says this:

- An enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:
- Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool, and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
- A minimum height of 60 inches.
- A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
- Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches in diameter.
- An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities, or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.

5. Exterior stairs
While stairs are always a good place to pay attention to your footing, exterior stairs can really benefit from some visual cues like contrasting warning stripes made of non-slip tread on the first and last stair.

If you have questions about real estate or property management, contact me at rselzer@selzerrealty.com. If you have ideas for this column, let me know. (If I use your suggestion in a column, I'll send you a \$25 gift card to Roland's Bakery!) If you'd like to read previous articles, visit www.selzerrealty.com and click on "How's the Market."

Dick Selzer is a real estate broker who has been in the business for more than 40 years.

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thing develops, other priorities are found and ideally they connect. In this way, priorities grow and serve community.

A community is really a partnership. People working together to create the kind of place they want to live in and yet preserve that precious ideal of freedom. By that, I mean freedom to do good for yourself and others. Not dictate. That's why finding the common good is so important. The "common good" are those things that we can agree make life better for, ideally, everyone.

Mental health has been identified in Mendocino County as something that most people agree needs attention. Taxpayers voted about three years ago to fund Measure B whose intention is to support county mental health services. Right now the Measure B committee and county supervisors are kind of lost.

The visionary leadership hasn't been good. The effective implementation has been poor and tax-payers and citizens haven't been well served. County leadership hasn't found a way yet to create an inspiring vision. Vision is the seed from which projects and partnerships grow.

Affordable, good housing is another area. Recently, Governor Newsome identified affordable housing as the number-one area of need in California. It's certainly a need here locally. There are creative solutions to affordable housing. In order to build more housing, you need to expand infrastructure like sewer, water, roads, power. Appropriate land use and construction designs. The basics. That takes money. That means jobs.

Jobs are another area of partnership. We have a problem in our area, as many communities do, of drug use. People often misuse drugs because of mental health issues. See how the connections connect? Start working effectively on mental health hand-in-hand with schools, job creation, affordable housing, infrastructure – the vision grows. It's like that basic plant or animal community that creates a good environment to grow and thrive in.

Here it is, you see – someone has a good idea with a solution to a need. Those with leadership ability who care about the community develop an inspiring vision. Others are inspired to get involved. The solution improves and develops. Ways to implement that solution are identified. This is where good government that serves the people comes in. That government has resources of tax income, land, and functional bureaucracy whose purpose is, ideally, to lead the way to make it happen.

It really takes all of us to participate at that point. We work together to make good things happen. We want good schools, to inspire kids to want a good education. They ask "why do I need to know?" Show them why. Inspire them to want to be part of building a better future.

If leaders aren't inspiring and looking for good solutions, find new leaders who can. Who's saying "we can do this"? That's who you want leading the way. Leaders listen! That's important, so I'll say it again. Leaders listen.

Better schools, better housing, better business environment, better care for those in need of mental health assistance, better medical care, better infrastructure, better management of tax dollars. What do you think will make our community better? You, after all, are a part of the whole. Your caring involvement is the fuel that makes it happen in partnership with others.

It's all connected. We're all connected. The U.S. dollar used to say "E Pluribus Unum," meaning, "Out of many, one." That's the motto of the United States of America. In the 1950's some senator thought that was too "communist" I guess, even though our nation's founders decided it was the vision that made this a great country.

It doesn't mean we all have to be the same. It's our diversity that makes us strong. After all, respect for the individual is what makes this a free nation and finding those solutions that make life better for everyone facilitates freedom. Solutions. Freedom. Goodness. Diversity. Inspiring good leadership. Community partnerships.

Bill Barksdale is a referral agent for Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty Inc. CaDRE #01106662 He can be reached at 707-489-2232. Read some of his columns at bbarksdale.com

work with California school districts to ensure that students are not penalized for coronavirus-related disruptions.

In the meantime, Hutchins said: "We will continue to collaborate with Mendocino County Public Health. If the situation changes and it's safe for students to return to the classroom, we'll do so, but I do not expect this to be the case. I know this is hard for everyone. I remain impressed with and grateful to local teachers and administrators who are facing this challenge with grace while coming up with creative solutions. And my heart goes out to parents who find themselves overwhelmed by the need to serve simultaneously as full-time, stay-at-home workers and homeschoolers. Please remember, parents, that teachers remain available to support you and your student."

Hutchins promised to provide updates as they become available. For details about modified learning schedules, meal delivery, access to educational material, and more, contact your local school district.

The Mendocino County Office of Education is a public agency whose primary purpose is to provide educational leadership, resources and services to schools to ensure wide-ranging educational opportunities for all students.

prior calls for service, which included calls for domestic violence involving the same victim."

The press release continues: "The deputies contacted the suspect ... at his residence in the 2600 block of Goose Road. After completing their investigation, which included interviewing Johnson, and inspecting the crime scene, Deputies determined that there had been a violent encounter between Johnson and the victim, who is Johnson's wife."

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Division assumed jurisdiction in determining the cause, manner and classification of her death, scheduling a forensic autopsy for April 3 as part of the death investigation.

Sheriff's Office detectives are continuing investigations into this incident and are being assisted by investigators from the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office and criminalists from the California Department of Justice.

Sheriff says domestic violence, child abuse calls up

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall told KZYX Radio Tuesday morning that although overall the Sheriff's Office is seeing about an 18 percent decrease in calls for service, "child abuse cases are up 36 percent; physical domestic violence incidents are up 25 percent."

The KZYX interview also included Dina Polkinghorn from Project Sanctuary, who said local counselors were still doing phone and video conferencing. Finding shelter for those needing a safe place to stay, and keeping their shelter safe from coronavirus transmission, as well as helping people to obtain restraining orders was all a challenge during this time.

"We've reached out to the county, and were able to get some motel room help for clients with specific health risks, so right now," Polkinghorn said, "we're able to meet the need, but my fear is if it goes up."

If you are experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault, you can still reach a Project Sanctuary advocate 24/7 at 707-463-4357 for the inland county area, and 707-964-4357 for the coast. Visit www.projectsanctuary.org for more information or to donate. You can hear KZYX Radio at 91.5 FM in Willits and Ukiah or visit www.kzyx.org for schedule or livestream.

This report was partially based on press releases from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

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Medicare and coronavirus: What you need to know

By Seema Verma, administrator, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Since older Americans are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus (COVID-19), I wanted to let you know the steps we're taking to help our Medicare beneficiaries cope with the pandemic.

We're warning Medicare beneficiaries that scammers may try to use this emergency to steal their Medicare number, banking information, or other personal data.

Unfortunately, scammers come out of the woodwork during times of uncertainty and change. So make sure you give your Medicare number only to your doctor, pharmacist, hospital, health insurer, or other trusted healthcare provider.

If someone calls you on the phone, says they're from Medicare, and asks for your Medicare number or other personal information – just hang up.

Remember: Medicare never calls its beneficiaries to ask for or to "verify" Medicare numbers.

My agency finished removing Social Security numbers from all Medicare cards last year in order to reduce fraud and protect Medicare beneficiaries from identity theft. Even with this change, you should guard your Medicare card. Treat it like a credit card. Be sure to check your Medicare claim summaries for errors and questionable bills.

If you suspect Medicare fraud, please report it by calling Medicare's toll-free customer service center at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or by visiting www.medicare.gov/fraud.

I also want to inform you what Medicare covers with regard to coronavirus.

If your doctor orders a COVID-19 test for you, Medicare covers all of the costs. You should not have any cost-sharing.

Medicare also covers all medically necessary hospitalizations. This includes extra days in the hospital for in-patients who were on the verge of being discharged, but were diagnosed with COVID-19 and had to stay longer under quarantine.

There's no vaccine for COVID-19 at this time. However, if one becomes available, Medicare will cover it.

If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you have the same benefits as people with Original Medicare. Medicare Advantage plans are now required to have the same cost-sharing for COVID-19 lab tests as Original Medicare: zero.

Medicare also recently expanded its coverage of telehealth services to enable beneficiaries across the country to receive a wider range of healthcare services from doctors without having to travel to a healthcare facility.

These changes allow beneficiaries to communicate with their doctors without having to physically go to a healthcare facility, thus cutting their risk of acquiring or spreading the virus. And frontline clinicians will be better able to stay safe themselves while treating people with Medicare.

Doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers can deliver telehealth services via phone and video chat. Medicare beneficiaries can receive telehealth services in their home as well as in any healthcare facility, including a physician's office, hospital, nursing home, or rural health clinic.

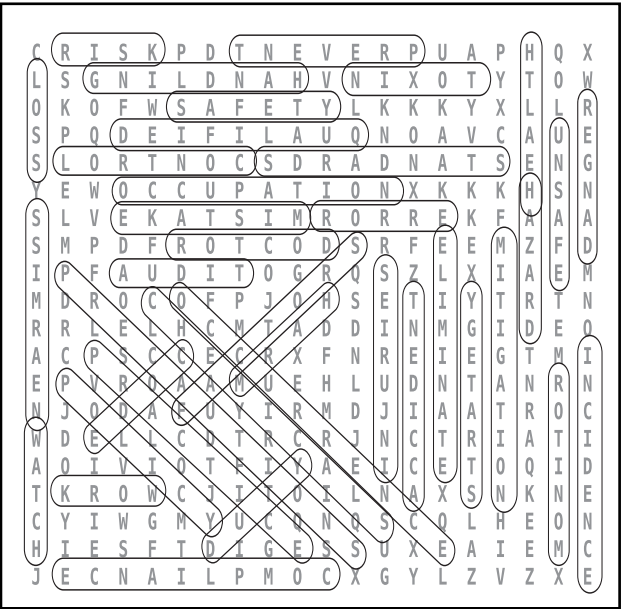
Telehealth services include routine office visits, mental health counseling, and preventive health screenings for cancer and other illnesses.

By helping healthcare institutions across the nation offer medical services remotely, telehealth helps free up hospital emergency departments and doctors' offices to deal with the most urgent COVID-19 cases. For example, you can talk with a doctor about your diabetes management or prescription refill without having to go to his or her office.

During this emergency, Medicare will pay for telehealth services at the same rates as in-person services, giving doctors and other clinicians an incentive to use this alternative and reserve their offices to treat those who truly require in-person care.

We know many Medicare beneficiaries are concerned about the spread of coronavirus and the threat it poses to their well-being. That's why we've taken these rapid steps to ensure that the Medicare program continues to protect our beneficiaries while maintaining trusted access to care in these uncertain times.

Seema Verma is administrator of the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).



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

WW266
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willits Planning Commission, at its teleconference meeting on April 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:
CASE: Conditional Use Permit KU-19-01

APPLICANT: Dan Green
PROPERTY OWNER: Helga Raab
REQUEST: Use Permit to convert an existing building to Mixed Use to support Commercial and Residential Uses consisting of a 396 square foot commercial space, 689 square foot one-bedroom residence and a 92 square foot covered area.
LOCATION: In the City of Willits, lying on the north side of Wood Street, 225 feet west of its intersection with South Main Street, located at 38 Wood Street; APN 005-224-16.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: This project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Conditions; Section 15303, Conversion of Small Structures and Section 15332, In-Fill Development Projects.

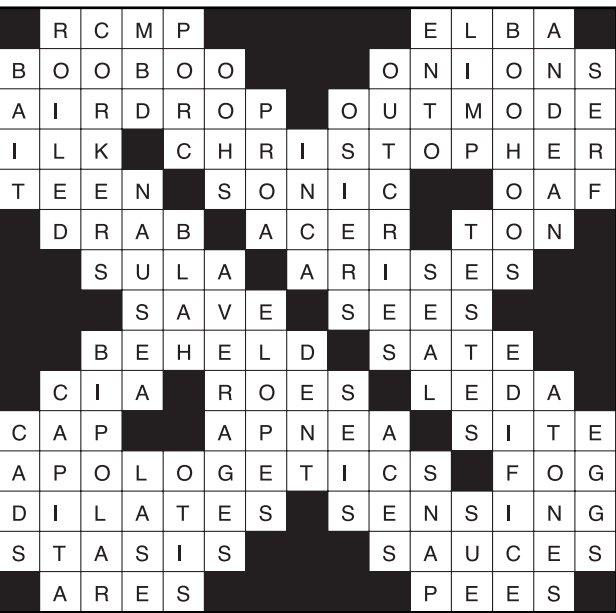
Your comments regarding the proposed project are invited. Written comments should be submitted to the Willits Community Development Department, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

Additional information regarding the above-noted item may be obtained by calling Willits City Hall at (707) 459-4601, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Oral comments may be presented to the Willits Planning Commission during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

s/ Michelle Johnson
Assistant Planner for the City of Willits
Publication Date: April 9, 2020

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CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

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

Mendocino Counts!
\$\$ Help Your Community \$\$ - the 2020 Census brings our federal tax dollars home. Mail in your 2020 Census form now! www.mendocinocounts.org

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


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

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707-367-6182, Willits

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

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/

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Friendly Chungus

Meet the handsome Chungus. Chungus is a 10-year-old senior who weighs about 7 pounds. He came to us in January when he was found wandering around as a stray. Chungus is a sweet, loveable and friendly fellow. He lives a simple life and doesn't ask for much. He enjoys eating, relaxing, and of course sleeping. If you're looking for a sweet loveable senior who will appreciate all the love you give, Chungus is your cat!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is closed to the public but "still saving lives through this COVID-19 emergency and needs your support! Dog adoptions and cat adoptions are still open by appointment: Call 707-485-0123. We have 30 cats looking for foster homes, and dogs arriving this week who will need foster homes." Keep checking in to the "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see how you can help or to donate! Visit <https://mendohumanesociety.com/> for more info and other ways to donate, including sending a check to: HSMC, 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, CA 95470.

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OBITUARY |

Raymond Stephens

Raymond "Ray" Leon Stephens, 89 of Burney, California passed away on February 27, 2020 at Mayers Burney Annex. Ray was born August 14, 1930 in McAlester, Oklahoma to Jesse and Mary Stephens.

Ray with his wife, Gladys, and their two children Cathelina and David came to California, moving around between Arvin, Willits and Rio Dell, before settling in Willits, where Ray worked in the lumber industry while pastoring the United Pentecostal Church for 30 years.

After retirement, Ray and Gladys went back to work to pastor for the United Pentecostal Church in Burney, where he remained for the next 20 years. Ray was well-known in the community as a sweet and giving and social man. There was nothing he wasn't willing to help you with.

He is preceded in death by his parents Jesse and Mary, his wife, Gladys, brothers Ernest, James, Lonzo, Everett and Jim, his daughter Cathelina, granddaughters Dana Jeffcoat and Diana Mccoy, and his grandson Duane Mccoy.

Survivors include his son David Mccoy of Bastrop, Louisiana; three grandchildren, Johnny Esskew, Lawrence Hill and Cheryl Eilers; eight great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and his special friend Betty Prickett.

Services were held on March 12 to celebrate this life of this wonderful, gentle, kind and loving man at his former church, the United Pentecostal Church in Johnson Park.

The Stephens family would like to thank the entire Mayers Medical team from both Fall River Mills and Burney Annex for the amazing care they provided. A very special thank you to Jo Davis and Carol Stovall for going above and beyond, and always being there. We greatly appreciate everything you have done.



Ukiah Shelter looking for foster homes

Can you foster a dog during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order? Not only does a lucky dog get out of the shelter and into a warm, snuggly home, we also learn a lot about each dog – information that helps his or her eventual adoption. Also, the shelter benefits by having an empty, available kennel for any emergency dog surrenders during this difficult time. Of course, fingers are crossed, and we're hoping fostered dogs will find permanent homes with their foster guardians.

Our poster dog this week is Fanny, 7 years young, and living it up in her foster digs! All Mendocino County Animal Care shelter dogs are licensed, altered, vaccinated, microchipped, and have passed the required behavioral testing. Also, longer-stay dogs have reduced adoption fees. You can see all of our available guests by visiting our website: www.mendoanimalshelter.com.

Call Amy at the Ukiah Shelter at 467-6453 if you are interested in adopting or fostering.

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mendoanimalshelter.com

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

The rest of
Homeless

From Page 1

the Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care, a collaborative effort between many local agencies around the county that work on homelessness issues.

"The county is working with Building Bridges/Redwood Community Services in Ukiah and Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center in Fort Bragg to de-intensify the current homeless shelter system to allow for appropriate social distancing," Chandler wrote in her staff report. "This includes exploring hotel and motel options for people with specific health risks who can better shelter in place in a non-congregate sheltered setting."

She also said she is drawing down on state and federal funding that was given to the county for its homeless programs last year, including approximately \$800,000 that the county was given to combat homelessness, \$900,000 that was given to the county's Continuum of Care to work on homelessness and mental health issues, and \$145,000 that the state recently gave to the county to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Encampments and COVID-19

Chandler's HHSA is also coordinating with local Continuum of Care service providers to assess the needs of people who are living in homeless encampments.

Of special note is an encampment that exists on Hastings Avenue in Ukiah, which is located approximately one block north of the north end of the Ukiah Airport.

County CEO Carmel Angelo told the supervisors on Tuesday that she was asked by City of Ukiah City Manager Sage Sangiacomo to assist the city deal with that encampment. The county recently installed portable toilets and portable sinks in the camp.

"Approximately half those surveyed were not aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and the shelter-in-place orders, and benefited from education on social distancing and the provision of personal hygiene supplies," Chandler said in her staff report.

"Approximately 20 people were over the age of 65 or had medical conditions that make them at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19. These individuals were offered the option of entering into an appropriate shelter environment to help prevent infection and manage any potential spread of COVID-19."

"Consistent with CDC recommendations, HHSA is working with high-risk individuals who are willing to relocate and shelter in place. The CDC does not recommend clearing or moving encampments, which results in dispersing people throughout the community," Chandler said.

"Individuals experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in hotel rooms must sign a service agreement and receive supportive services from Continuum of Care service providers. Individuals who are sheltered in a congregate environment must agree to follow the rules of that shelter, including adjusting to new requirements for social distancing," Chandler added.

At the supervisors' meeting on Tuesday, Angelo said the county is not going to shut the Hastings camp down and is not going to move the camp to the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah, an option which the county had previously explored. "We are going to work with the city to find an alternate site for the camp," she said.

Isolation and quarantine facility

The county is taking additional action on finding locations for homeless people who are in need of isolation and quarantine for medical reasons. According to an April 7 report to the supervisors by Deputy CEO Darcie Antle, the county has secured a facility which will serve as an alternate care site, both for people who are in need of isolation, and those who are in need of quarantine, and who do not have a home of their own.

Antle said this facility contains 35 rooms and up to 74 beds and is located in the City of Ukiah. Efforts by Willits Weekly to learn where this facility was were not successful.

"We are trying to protect the people that are in there, and that are going to be in there," County CEO Carmel Angelo said. "I cannot divulge to you, quite yet, the identity of the facility." She did say that it has been closed for some time and that it is not an existing county building.

In wrapping up her presentation to the board of supervisors on Tuesday, Chandler said the team that has been working for close to two years on a strategic plan to combat homelessness in Mendocino County has recently finished the strategic plan, and is scheduled to present it at the Continuum of Care board meeting on April 20.

Chandler said the core of the plan are the recommendations made by Robert Marbut of Marbut Consulting in 2018 in the report "Homelessness Needs Assessment and Action Steps for Mendocino County," which advocates a zero tolerance for homelessness and an aggressive and coordinated strategy to reduce or eliminate it.

The rest of

Order

From Page 1

The president has also said, through the end of April. The governor has also said, beginning of May. So I think we can with certainty say, May 3, for my sheltering-in-place order.

"Now, when we release the shelter-in-place order," Doohan continued, "it's not like an on-off switch. It would be dangerous for it to just be released, and for everyone to just rush outside. So we do it in a step-wise fashion, that is still being discussed by health officers. My best estimate, from conversations with the health officers across the Bay Area, is that it will be May 31, when we will start releasing the sheltering-in-place order," Doohan said.

Doohan said she is working now on drafting a third version of Mendocino County's shelter-in-place order. The third version of the order will include guidance on how businesses should be conducting business, how and when people should be wearing face masks, plus operational guidance for skilled nursing facilities and for isolation and quarantines.

On Friday, April 3, Mendocino County released recommended – not mandated – guidance for wearing masks (full recommendation can be read here: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=33438>) and for "social distancing" protocols for essential businesses (full recommendation can be read here: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=33440>).

Doohan said the county's Emergency Operations Center is expanding testing for the coronavirus to at-risk populations in this county, including people who are using the services of Plowshares, in Ukiah.

She noted, of the four people in Mendocino County who have tested positive for the coronavirus since March 18, three have now recovered. One person is still in isolation. Mendocino County has been sitting at 4 positive test results since March 29.

According to the Mendocino County Public Health page on Facebook, as of the 4 pm update on April 7, there have been a total of 335 tests administered countywide for the coronavirus. There have been four positive results, 275 results have come back negative, and the results of 56 tests are pending.

Supervisor Williams asked Doohan about the accuracy of those test results. Doohan said that positive tests results are certain, and are a "true positive," but there is a 15 to 20 percent margin of error in negative test results.

Mendocino County Emergency Services Coordinator Jen Banks told the supervisors that she has received news that Adventist Health hospitals in this county have received a shipment of 20 ventilators yesterday and are expecting to receive 25 more next week. Banks said that will bring the total number of ventilators in the county to 60 by the end of next week. That is three times the number of ventilators that were in the county a week ago.

"I am comfortable that we will be able to accommodate a 50 percent surge by the end of this week," Banks said.

However when asked, again by Williams, what a 50 percent surge meant in terms of raw numbers, Banks was not able to give a definitive answer.

"To give you a number of patients that we expect to treat in Mendocino County, Dr. Doohan did a phenomenal job getting us under our shelter-in-place policies, and I think we are not seeing a rise in test numbers because we've done such a phenomenal job, as a community, to isolate ourselves from the spread of the coronavirus, so to know a determined number that we can expect to see in our hospitals at this time, it's very hard to come up with that number, because we are doing such a good job keeping ourselves isolated and protected at this time. We do expect to see a surge at some time, but determining that number and that date is a challenge," Banks said.

West Business Development Center Executive Director Mary Ann Petrillo gave a sobering report of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated shelter-in-place orders on the local economy. "Our rural economy is really in free-fall," Petrillo said, "and we should expect that it will last well beyond the ending of our shelter-in-place orders."

Petrillo noted that there are three main federal loan programs for small businesses: the Small Business Administration economic disaster loans, which are available to sole proprietorships; the Payroll Protection Program, funds from which, Petrillo said, were going to be difficult for small businesses to get; and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. Petrillo said her website has links to each of these loan programs. [Editor's note: the Savings Bank of Mendocino County is accepting applications for Payroll Protection Program loans, which can be forgivable if used to keep employees on the payroll; check their FAQ page here www.savingsbank.com/financial-wellness-page4.php]

She also said that West Company is hosting an "Open for Business" website, an online information clearinghouse, so that local companies can let the public know whether or not they are open, what products they are selling, and how the public can obtain those products and services.

Petrillo also offered some general ideas to the supervisors on how the county might meet the economic crisis. She said the county needed to assist in collecting economic data; that the supervisors ought to consider whether the county should extend some sort of relief from taxes; that local businesses ought to form a collective organization to assist it in securing grants; that the county could assist business in urging a strong "shop local" program; and that the supervisors ought to create an economic recovery commission.

"It's not too late to enact change, Petrillo said. "Alongside our health procedures, we must enact economic procedures to rebound quickly. It's never going to be business as usual for our county, for prosperity is built on our hope of the future, so actions now can bring hope to many for the future."

The rest of

Clinics

From Page 1

seeing them if they need to be seen."

"That's an important thing. People want to have that security, and I think it's a really important security. And of course we're not the only ones. Baechtler Creek Clinic's doing it, and Little Lake Health Clinic's doing it."

"Yeah I think that's definitely a message that needs to get out there," added Cahill. "Because I've had a couple of calls in the last week from patients where I feel like they've been waiting on things and haven't even contacted the clinic."

Dr. Glycer said he currently has been having about eight appointments per workday done either over the phone or with a video/audio app like FaceTime – and he expects that number to increase.

According to Glycer, this has been made possible partly by a loosening of rules and regulations on doctors during the pandemic regarding telephone appointments, allowing them to have more discretion to use the method for patients with a wide array of ailments.

He described Cahill as the "the front line guy" at the clinic, who often is the first to check people with COVID-19 type symptoms like fever and cough.

All staff at the Adventist Health clinic and hospital currently get a temperature check for fever every day, and all patients who come in person are checked for temperature and oxygen levels among other tests.

For patients with COVID-19 type symptoms, staff members at the clinic – generally Cahill and a medical assistant – will go in full personal protective equipment – N95 mask, goggles, gown, gloves – to check the patient for fever and oxygen level, and then take history and do a physical to determine what the best next step is.

While COVID-19 test supplies are still very limited, Glycer and Cahill agreed the addition of having the private company Quest available for tests has helped improve the situation significantly. And they're hoping that availability could continue to increase with the anticipated possible arrival of some more testing swabs.

"If we have the swabs – and we're hoping there'll be more swabs coming this week – then we can start liberalizing a little bit, and I think people will really appreciate that," said Glycer.

Health care providers are still having to prioritize categories of people who are at more public health risk such as health care workers, but Glycer hopes that will change soon.

"All this is because there's a shortage of testing, so we have to change the rules," he said. "Ideally you would test a lot of people because there's a lot of people who have the virus that aren't really sick ... [or] ones that are just a little sick."

The Quest test generally takes about five to seven days to get results back – a little longer than the three days for the Public Health lab tests. But that is still highly preferred over having to tell patients with symptoms to go into a heightened isolation mode for what can be two weeks or more, depending on the length of their symptoms and recovery time, and then having them never really know if they had the virus or not.

They also use the strategy of testing those with strong flu symptoms for other viruses to rule them out, using tests that are widely available. If the patient comes back negative for those viruses, it makes COVID-19 a much more likely suspect.

Overall, both Glycer and Cahill said they've been very impressed by the team they work with at Adventist Health since the crisis started.

"I think our clinic is pretty exceptional in the sense that

people really have a strong sense of being a team and having a mission for our patients," said Dr. Glycer. "And that kind of holds us together."

He pointed out that when they were discussing plans to start opening the clinic on Saturday and Sunday, the staff was on board immediately.

"I was just amazed at how much people were willing to pitch in," he said.

The plan to be open on weekends has been put on hold for the time being, since there hasn't been a surge in COVID-19 patients and the testing availability is still so limited.

Cahill said overall the number of patients coming into the clinic has declined quite a bit since the shelter-in-place rules went into effect, since patients have been "deferring whatever they can in terms of clinic visits."

"So for us, it's been really quiet," he said. "But I think everyone's kind of prepared themselves mentally for it to come," referring to a potential local surge in COVID-19 cases.

"I think the health care workers themselves are kind of inured to the thought of getting some sort of respiratory infection at some point," Cahill added. "But I think it's probably falling a little more heavily on family members."

Both he and Glycer also expressed particular concern about how the pandemic and the social isolation and sheltering rules could effect the mental health of community residents.

"My main interaction is with patients, and they're feeling stressed," said Glycer. "They're worried. They watch the news like I do – probably too much – and get worried. And then they're also isolated. And so it's not a great combination, being worried and isolated."

"I think it's a slow-moving mental health disaster that's going to be coming down the pipe for us," added Cahill. "I'm really worried about the next couple weeks."

Still he and Glycer said it was vital that residents continue to follow the shelter-in-place rules, which can save lives.

While the rural location of Mendocino County is helpful in some ways, it doesn't guarantee protection, and Glycer pointed out that there have been some rural areas in the world that have been hit hard by the virus,

Cahill also noted that the small population size of Willits and other places in the county means there are limited medical resources as well, and a large surge in COVID-19 cases could max out capacity at health facilities quickly.

In terms of personal protective equipment, unlike many health centers across the nation, both said that the clinic had all they needed for the time being, though staff was being careful not to be wasteful.

Glycer said he generally used one disposable mask each workday, while Cahill said he's been using his N95 mask daily.

Both felt that Adventist Health Howard Memorial is well prepared for a surge in COVID-19 patients if it comes, especially considering it's a relatively small facility.

Glycer said that in addition to the four ventilators they normally have available in the Intensive Care Unit, the hospital has been able to gather another 12 ventilators which are now in storage should they be needed.

He added that AHM also has been having patients put off all elective surgery and procedures to keep the maximum number of beds available in case of a surge.

"I think when the surge comes ... we're going to be so thankful that we have such a together hospital with people who are devoted to the community and to the hospital," he said. "I really do. I have great faith in our hospital community."



Adventist Health and Howard Memorial doctors donate to Willits Food Bank

Dr. John Glycer, left, Willits Community Services and Food Bank volunteer Diane Carter, center, and WCS Director Ruthanne Volz ensure a donation from the medical staff at Adventist Health Howard Memorial and from the hospital for the food bank is safely handed over. The doctors from AVHM gave a \$1,000 donation, and the hospital also donated an additional \$1,000 to help keep the food bank distributing essentials to local individuals and families in need during this COVID-19 shelter-in-place order.

First COVID-19 food relief grants awarded

Submitted by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County

Last week the Community Foundation of Mendocino County announced our new COVID-19 Relief Fund, asking donors to help us raise funds to support basic needs in Mendocino County during this pandemic. We are pleased to announce that we have raised close to \$300,000 so far and have just released \$65,000 from our COVID-19 Relief and Hunger Express Poverty Funds to countywide nonprofits to support food relief.

Each of these partners are dedicated to serving their community, providing basic food relief to those in need. We can see the deep impact this virus is making on both our vulnerable populations, as well as those who are suddenly thrown into a state of instability as we stay home to protect ourselves and each other.

These nonprofit partners have ramped up many of their services to ensure the food banks are open, the Meals on Wheels programs continue, and that senior centers can serve this critical population. To provide this immediate food relief throughout our county, we awarded grants to:

- Anderson Valley Food Pantry
- Anderson Valley Senior Center
- Caring Kitchen (NCO)
- Coastal Seniors
- Ford Street Community Food Bank
- Hospitality House
- Indian Senior Center
- Laytonville Healthy Start
- Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program
- Plowshares

No one should go hungry during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are in need of food or basic supplies, please contact one of these organizations in your community for immediate assistance.

- Potter Valley Youth and Community Center
- Redwood Coast Seniors
- Round Valley Food Pantry
- Round Valley Indian Tribes Senior Center
- Ukiah Senior Center
- Willits Community Services
- Willits Daily Bread
- Willits Senior Center

Amidst this crisis we have families who have been furloughed or laid off, and in addition to the many pressing expenses in life are facing critical food shortages. No one should go hungry during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are in need of food or basic supplies, please contact one of these organizations in your community for immediate assistance.

The generosity of our donors makes this important work possible, and we are so grateful to the lead donors who helped us rise towards our goal. To date the following lead donors have joined us: The MLH Fund, Jim and Arlene Moorehead, Sonoma Clean Power, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Harold and Vienne Henderson Fund, the Candelaria Fund, the DeLucia Family Fund, Harvest Market, and the Poseley and Allende families. We are so grateful to them and to the kindness of all our donors.

If you are in a position to give, please join our lead donors and make a contribution today to our COVID-19 Relief Fund to reach our \$350,000 goal (www.communityfound.org).

To learn more about the Community Foundation of Mendocino County's COVID-19 Relief Fund, or to make a contribution, visit us at: www.communityfound.org.

Food resources in Willits

Willits Senior Center

Willits Senior Center has closed its dining room, but is providing the same meals, Monday through Friday to pick up (12 to 1 pm outside the center, 1501 Baechtel Road) or on a home delivery basis for \$5 each. See menu in this edition, and call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery.

WCS Food Bank

Willits Community Services is busy serving families and individuals in need of food and other incidental items and services, with all precautions and sanitizing efforts, including a rented hand-washing station near the back door area. That back door area is open for food distributing on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. The front office is closed to the public for now, but can be reached at 459-3330 (please leave a message if necessary). Garden produce, donations and volunteers welcome. To donate, mail checks to WCS, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.

Willits Daily Bread

Willits Daily Bread offers a meal to anyone who is hungry Monday through Thursday, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in front of the Fellowship Hall at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East

Commercial Street at Main Street. "What we need is snack foods, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, canned anything, meat and cheese for sandwiches, any clothing, blankets, socks," said Cindy Savage, director of Willits Daily Bread. "We are seeing new faces, and with people out of work there will be more hungry in our community. Questions: call Savage at 707-367-5669.

Saturday Brown Bag Lunch

Due to the closure of the parks, Saturday Brown Bag Lunches are now available across the street from City Park in the City Hall parking lot (or under the overhang if it's raining) from 1 to 2 pm every Saturday.

The rotating groups of volunteer lunch providers set up a table, put out lunches, along with information on food handling and COVID-19 for those who come pick up a lunch, and personal hygiene kits organizer Tommie Brown's wife, Louise, and then wait in their cars. Brown said attendance varies, maybe from 12 to 30. There is a handwashing station and a Porta Potty in the parking lot, as well.

"With this virus, it's obviously very serious," Brown said, "and we want to keep everybody safe, the community, ourselves, and those individuals that we're trying to help."

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 9:

Chili Verde Enchiladas

Friday, April 10:

Sausage Spinach Cheese Quiche

Monday, April 13:

Chicken Parmesan

Tuesday, April 14:

Chili Rellenos Casserole

Wednesday, April 15:

Bacon, Veggie & Cheese Frittata

Thursday, April 16:

BBQ Spare Ribs

Friday, April 17:

Steak Dinner

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

"Still counts as Class of 2020 in August" sessions!

"I had my baby months ago" sessions!

"Let's burn those old masks" sessions!

"Recreate my darn birthday" sessions!

"GO AWAY COVID-19"

PRE-BOOKING SUMMER/FALL PHOTO APPOINTMENTS NOW

Need something to look forward to? Me too!

Let's cross our fingers for the COVID crisis to end soon, and get you pre-scheduled for a fabulous photo session with Mphotographress in the coming months and receive a free 8x12 or two 4x6 prints from your session!

Photos by Maureen Moore | 707-972-7047 | maureengetsmail@gmail.com

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SPARETIME
-GARDEN CENTER-

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