

Read the rest of **Clinic**
Over on *Page 6*

Howard Foundation: Free cloth masks

By Arnie Mello, CEO, Frank R. Howard Foundation

As you may know, the Frank R. Howard Foundation has committed to the purchase of 10,000 cloth masks for the use of Willits area community members. These masks are being manufactured by local individuals and businesses who have offered to make them at cost.

We are beginning to collect them now and should make the first deliveries early next week (the week of April 20). We will distribute them to the following five locations in Willits:

- Mariposa Market
- Safeway
- Grocery Outlet
- Mendo Mill
- Coast Hardware

These are places we all must visit for food and supplies, so the idea is to pick up your mask(s) when you need to go shopping for other things. The masks will be delivered incrementally over a two- to three-week period, as they are manufactured.

If there are none available at the time of your visit, please be kind and patient. We will continue our deliveries until we have distributed 10,000, which should be enough for everyone who wants one. It is OK to request masks for your immediate family members as well as yourself. Although we launder our masks prior to distribution, please wash them at home prior to use (wash in hot water and tumble dry on high).

Concerning mask usage, our county health officer endorses the use of homemade cloth face coverings for members of our community when leaving their homes to engage in essential activities among the public. When used, cloth face coverings or homemade masks should be:

- Worn only by one person.

- Fitted carefully to prevent frequent adjustment; Practice strict hand washing before and after touching and adjusting the face covering or mask.

- Washed frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily; If you must re-wear your cloth face covering before washing during the day, wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face.

- Discarded if it no longer covers the nose and mouth, if it is stretched out or damaged and cannot stay on the face or has holes/tears in the fabric.

We should continue to use physical and social distancing any time we leave home for an essential activity.

Finally, the Foundation would like to thank Mariposa Market, Safeway, Grocery Outlet, Mendo Mill, and Coast Hardware for their willingness to help with the distribution of these masks to our community. It is very much appreciated! We would, of course, also like to thank our mask makers! With more joining our ranks daily, the following are currently working hard to keep us all safe:

Hayley Christensen, Aura Whittaker, Catherine Hill, Sharon Brown, Kimberly Rae Forde, Darcie Bruske, Lynn Buske, Rachel Britton, Ellen Bartholomew, Ryan Hurley, Dawn Kalin, Gabriel Cobb, Diane Smalley, Annie Waters, Catherine Carian, Ruth Burris, and Patricia Foster. Seamstresses from Nuestra Alianza and Mujeres Unidas have also joined the effort, as has Natural Pigments on Shell Lane which has committed to the production of 2,000 masks.

In a separate effort, the following have donated all time and materials to produce masks for use by our local hospital employees and patients:

Tina Moody, Kelly Carlson, Patricia Harrison, Melinda Clarke, Ann Ward, Lani Magy, Lori Mayo, Robin Lucier, Mary Vickers, Leanne Thompson, Linda McCallum, Alicia Novo, Lynn Kirch, Betty Stranske, and Kristin Byrd, along with the RNs from the Ukiah Surgery Team.

We are truly blessed in our community to have so many willing to serve. Our most heartfelt thanks go out to all of you!

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Community Car Show postponed

To the Editor:

We are sorry to report that due to the COVID-19 issue the Willits Community Festival Car & Bike Show scheduled for May 24, 2020 must be *postponed*.

We are not saying cancelled because we are looking at alternative dates later in the year. We are hoping to be able to schedule a time later this fall to hold our great event.

Stay tuned for more information later this summer.

Ron Moorhead, director,
Willits Chamber of Commerce

Senior Center needs our help

To the Editor:

On March 16 the Willits Senior Center held an emergency board of directors meeting to decide what measures needed to be taken to keep our volunteers, staff, and seniors safe and to determine what services we could continue to provide while adhering to the county public health officer's directives.

After careful consideration the decision was made

to close the Thrift Store. This decision was made to keep our employees and the general public safe, but resulted in a loss of over \$24,000 a month in revenue. We depend on the Thrift Store revenue to offset some of the financial deficits in our Transportation, Nutrition and Outreach Departments.

We are currently providing essential transportation so seniors can get their groceries and medications. We've expanded our Meals on Wheels service to meet increased demand and are offering a drive-through lunch from 12 to 1 pm Monday through Friday; as a result we are currently serving between 85 to 100 meals a day. Please visit our website at www.willitsseiorcenter.com for information about other essential services we are currently providing.

It's difficult to ask for donations when so many are facing their own financial challenges, but as a nonprofit we cannot keep our doors open without donations. If you have the means, we would deeply appreciate your financial support.

Donations can be mailed to 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits, CA 95490 or visit our website and hit the yellow donation button.

If you have any questions about the senior center please feel free to give me a call at 459-6826

Richard Baker, executive director,
Willits Seniors Inc.

Third District Supervisor's Report

April 2020

By Supervisor John Haschak

Good information is so important during this crisis. I am going to list here some reliable sources of information and how to stay connected.

The coronavirus link at the top of www.mendocinocounty.org has the latest local updates from our public health officer, the orders, and statistics, and also world news about the epidemic from Johns Hopkins University. To receive all the notifications that come from Public Health by email, there is an easy-to-use link on that page.

The Public Health Department also has a Facebook site and Mendocino County has a YouTube channel. Since our board of supervisors meetings have dealt pretty much exclusively with COVID-19, watching those meetings is another good source of information.

Each week, the BOS has been holding virtual meetings about COVID-19 and its effects on the county. Of course, it has been consuming all of our time. Staff is working to provide for public comments for these virtual meetings. It has been challenging. That is why I proposed that the BOS not consider controversial issues unless absolutely necessary until we can work out the glitches and assure that the public comment is fully accessible and considered.

State Senator Mike McGuire has held a couple of teleconference Coronavirus Town Hall meetings. They have been every other week on Wednesdays. I hope that they continue. The Town Halls have been on the radio or you can call in and listen. You can send in email questions for

the UCLA epidemiologist, who is a guest, Sen. McGuire, or county officials. The questions and answers have been useful and important. Visit <https://sd02.senate.ca.gov/> for more info.

Each evening, the BOS receives an informational update from our Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan and CEO Carmel Angelo. I post the latest information on my Facebook account and provide information through the regular media.

The shelter-in-place order was revised this past Friday. The public health officer changed some of the provisions to get stricter in some cases, while trying to accommodate some of the public's concerns. Essential businesses will have to follow protocol and post that protocol at the entry way. Overall the SIP order remains in place to provide us with the only defense against this virus that we have, which is social distancing. The more that we are out and about, the more we are putting everyone at risk. The easiest mantra to remember is "Stay Home." Many have asked me about masks. The guidance (as compared to an order) is to wear facial coverings when out in public. This might become an order.

The goal is to save lives, yet we all want to return to "normal" as soon as possible. Letting up too soon might put us all at greater risk and delay the return to normalcy that much longer. As community members who care for our neighbors, our responsibility is to adhere to the order and come out of this whole. As has been said, we are all in this together.

As always, you can contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

Arts Center asks for donations

Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts' mission is to support active cultural participation and artistic expression in the City of Willits and its surrounding communities by providing a public space for gallery shows, arts activities, education, cultural activities, and community enrichment.

Here at the Willits Center for the Arts, we are doing all we can to take care of the building and prepare to reopen the doors soon. We look forward to seeing you at the next show.

In the meantime, we exist because of donations

from you, and we need help covering expenses while we are closed. Revenue from art sales, rental fees and donations have been down because of the virus we are all trying to avoid.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers are anxious to reopen, and put up a new show as soon as things improve. Please donate whatever you can afford to help the Arts Center fulfill its mission.

You can make a donation using the "donate" button at www.willitscenterforthearts.org, or send a check to WCA PO Box 503, Willits, CA 95490. Thank you so much to those who have donated so far!



Chipper Day

Fuels Reduction project prepares for fire season by clearing brush and debris along Brooktrails roadsides

"Fire season is coming. It doesn't care about the virus," mused Keith Rutledge of Sherwood Firewise Communities. Sherwood Firewise is one of several neighborhood and area "fire safe" organizations that work in coordination with the Mendocino County Firesafe Council to "to inform, empower and mobilize county residents to survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment," as stated on the council's website: <https://firesafemendocino.org/>.

Currently, the council's main project is clearing debris, tall grasses, and small trees from a space 30 feet from the middle of county roads, particularly routes that can be utilized for egress of citizens and ingress of emergency crews in the case of emergencies, primarily fire.

Diamond Tree Service of Redwood Valley has been working under contract in the Birch Neighborhood Roadside Fuels Reduction project in Brooktrails, a project secured by Sherwood Firewise and funded by CalFire. In addition to using their chipper to reduce the materials they are extracting from both sides of the road, they are also chipping branches and other debris which the residents have been clearing from their own properties as part of the Sherwood Firewise "Chipper Days" project.

In the time of the COVID-19 virus shelter-in-place orders, it has become more difficult to ask volunteers to engage in the clearing projects, however, certain contractors like Diamond Tree Service are still working on public commitments as the fire season will soon be occurring and the mitigation of burnable fuel is an essential service for the safety of the residents.

"We're doing emergency preparedness for fire and road clearing, and fuel breaks is still an essential service," said Scott Cratty of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. "Regardless of COVID, fire season will still be here and we need to be as ready for it as we can be."

"The projects we have on at the moment," he continued, "are those that are designed to enable first responders to make sure they can get in to people and create a safe path for people to get out, and, as a secondary benefit, provide a better fuel break to make it less likely that fire will travel into populated areas."



Read the rest of
Clearing | Over on Page 11



Above: Keith Rutledge of Sherwood Firewise supervises the clearing work. At right: Jesse Frey of Diamond Tree Service finds trees and brush to clear. Far right: Jesse Frey works the chipper.



At left: Signs let the residents know to be cautious. Above: The chipper creates materials that can be utilized in compost and other purposes. Below, left: The crew for Diamond Tree Service works on clearing the road easement. Below, right: Gordon Cone of Diamond Tree Service directs cars around the work area on Birch Terrace. At bottom: The chipper is kept busy.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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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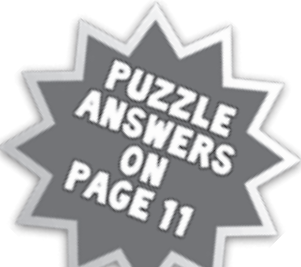
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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



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!

CUSTOMER WORD SEARCH grid with letters.

Table with 3 columns: AGENT, FOLLOW-UP, PRIORITY. Rows include ATTENTION, BUSINESS, CONSISTENCY, CUSTOMER, ESCALATION, ETIQUETTE, EXPERIENCE, IMPACT, IMPROVE, LOYALTY, MANAGEMENT, METRICS, PERCEPTION, PERFORMANCE, QUALITY, REPEAT, RESOLUTION, SATISFACTION, SERVICE, SHOPPING, SUPPORT.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-65.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Germanic mythological god
4. Cash machine
7. Improvement
12. What voters want
15. Sheepish
16. Placed at powerful level
18. Measure of illumination
19. Trent Reznor's band
20. Commercial
21. Amounts of time
24. English broadcaster
27. Rolls of tobacco
30. Position
31. Expresses pleasure
33. Corporate exec (abbr.)
34. Body part
35. Bleated
37. Businessman
39. Beats per minute
41. Defunct Italian monetary unit
42. Broken branch
44. Put in advance
47. Arrest
48. Prefix indicating adjacent to
49. Artificial intelligence

CLUES DOWN

- 50. Disfigure
52. The Fighting Irish (abbr.)
53. Not in any place
56. Predict
61. A system of getting stuff from one place to another
63. Philosophy of the principles of things
64. US gov't office (abbr.)
65. Seaborgium's former name (abbr.)
14. Close by
17. Tooth caregiver
22. Housing material
23. Flows through
24. Founder of Babism
25. Honoric title
26. A type of letter
28. Seize and hold firmly
29. Artery
32. Body fluids
36. Press against lightly
38. An island in the Pacific
40. A reminder of past events
43. Austrian spa town
44. Peter's last name
45. Something a mob might do
46. Of the bones of the feet
51. 'Amazing Stories' writer
54. Nazi-resistant youth group (abbr.)
55. Used to have (Scottish)
56. A way to cook
57. Japanese port city
58. Type of precipitation
59. Engrave
60. Female sibling
62. Expresses emotion

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

April 6 to April 12

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 96 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

April 6

9:11 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

4:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street.

April 7

12:47 am: CURRIER, Emmett Paul (28) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 273.5 PC (Domestic Corporal Injury), and misdemeanor charges of domestic battery.



Paul Emmett Currier of Willits.

8:24 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

9:23 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.

11:40 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

1:28 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.

2:10 pm: LAFLIN, Adam Powell (43) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

3:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive and issued a warning.

4:07 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Brookside Drive.

7:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

April 8

12:43 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of East Oak Street and Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

2:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:06 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

4:08 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100

block of Marcela Drive.

7:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

8:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

April 9

6:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 800 block of South Main Street.

6:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

April 10

12:44 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

1:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 400 block of Mill Street.

6:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:12 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

April 11

10:04 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:12 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:40 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:55 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

2:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle and activity near the intersection of Elm Lane and Manor Way.

8:05 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of North Street.

April 12

9:41 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

10:34 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.

12:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of North Main Street.

7:30 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

The rest of Sparetime

From Page 1

have chosen the perfect starts for your garden, please proceed to the front of the store, maintaining social distancing, and wait in line to pay.

• If you are uncomfortable and would like to stay in your car, please inform the employee directing traffic at the gate and they will make sure you are accommodated.

• We are still filling propane. We have limited parking spaces for this. You will be asked to take the canister to the filling station and then wait by your car. Please inform the employee at the gate that you are here for propane.

• New store hours will be Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm. Closed on Sundays until further notice.

We appreciate all of our amazing customers and their patience during these unfortunate times."

Selena Rowan, donning a mask, stopped by Sparetime Wednesday to purchase a Columbine start and some purple plant stakes.

"It's a very streamlined and professional system," Rowan said. "I really appreciate Sparetime's dedication to safety."

Rowan's sentiments were also shared online, with several comments on shares of the original post. "I am very impressed with the level of caution Sparetime Supply is

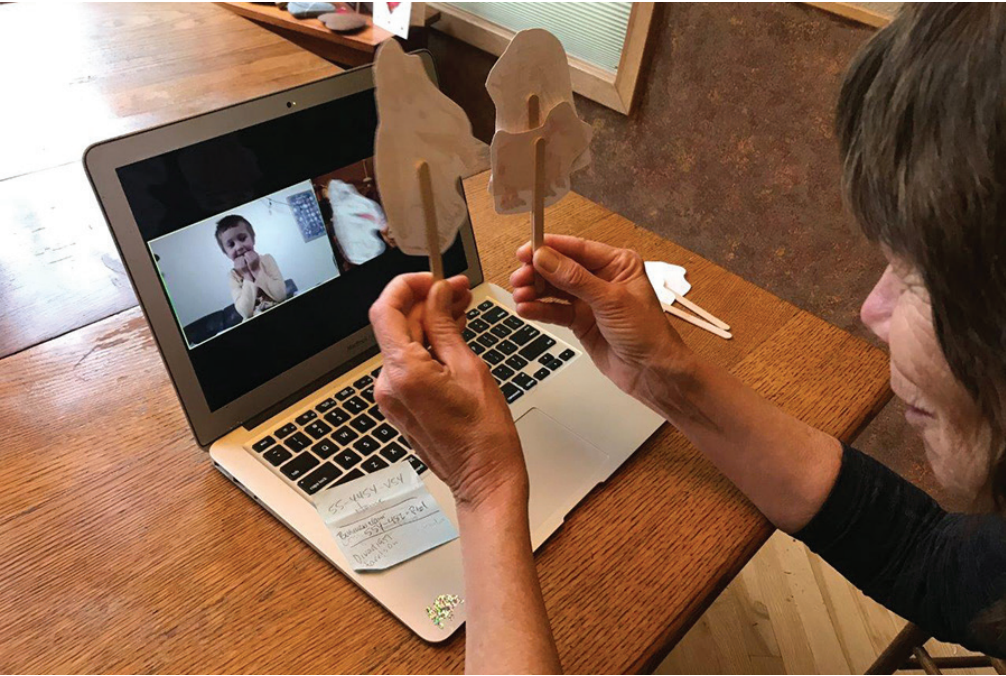
taking to keep everyone safe and healthy. I wish all the essential businesses would check out how they are handling things," posted Marilu Rosenvall Paulson.

"We were there last week, very impressed too," posted Melissa Cramer.

It was impressive: Cars lined up outside the gate, and several parking spots were blocked off with social distancing intervals in mind; mask-clad employees were stationed throughout the entrance and parking areas offering directions and guidance to unsure shoppers; a row of plants directed foot traffic to the hand-sanitizing station in front of the store; exterior point of sale systems and a "will call" station were all a help to getting customers in and out of the areas easily.

Some of the employees were wearing Sparetime and FoxFarm Buff coverings which are being offered for sale in part for the community's direct benefit of having a face covering, but also as a benefit to the Willits Rotary Club's Community Drive to benefit the Willits Senior Center, Willits Community Services and Food Bank, and Willits Daily Bread. The buffs are \$10 each, and Sparetime will match donations up to \$1,000 to the drive.

Sparetime is currently open 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday and is closed on Sundays. More info: 459-6791.



Home Ed

Parents work out the kinks of distance learning as kids 'go back to school' after spring break

With county schools officially closed until the end of the school year, children and families went back to the new normal of "distance learning" - i.e., home schooling - this week after last week's spring break.

Willits Weekly recently talked with a few parents, children, educators, and a grandparent to get an update on how it's been going.

For students, there continues to be frustration at not being free to get together with friends, run, bicycle, hang out, go to movies, or drive around with friends. Neighborhoods are much quieter without the normal laughter, squeals, and other sounds of childhood heading to school and back floating on spring breezes.

Sheryl McFadden has four boys and a girl at home ranging from ages 7 to 17. The McFaddens developed a weekly schedule for school, chores, and free time. They live in Brooktrails and go outside to walk the dog, play on the trampoline, or do other outdoor activities.

Each child is in a different class and school, so their school work isn't the same. "It's been a huge learning curve," McFadden admitted. She said it keeps her mentally and physically challenged. "I'm using Google and YouTube to help me help them with their problems."

McFadden's son Gavin, a student at Willits Charter School, said: "I'm doing pretty good. I like being home, but it's kind of hard to understand things [because] at school you get extra help and one-and-one time with the teachers." He said he can email his teacher for extra help, but it's sometimes hard to get ahold of her.

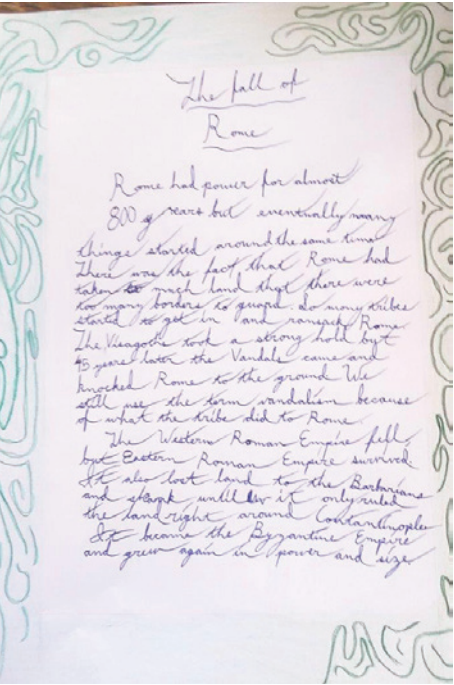
McFadden's first-grade son, Riley, is learning about the solar system. His class has a Facebook page and they use Messenger to have face-to-face time with one another and their teacher. Her teenage son is a senior at Willits High and has all his classes online. He's bummed about not seeing his friends and is concerned about graduation.

Grandparents Geri and David Hulse-Stephens have been actively involved with their 4-year-old grandson, Harrison, since he was born. They lent a helping hand by caring for Harrison twice a week.

Sheltering in place meant that Harrison's visits have been discontinued for now. His grandparents' involvement didn't skip a beat. "We draw together every day using Zoom," Geri Hulse-Stephens said. Zoom is an app that allows one to talk with and see others using a computer.

"I decide ahead of time," she explained,

Read the rest of School Over on Page 7



Above, left: This is the cover page for Sasha's main lesson book.

Above, right: Sasha used creative pen strokes for his essay on the "Decline of the Roman Empire."

At left: Grandmother and grandson paint balloons together and share their art with one another during their daily art lessons.

Below, left: This student is learning the sounds of letters with his learning sheet. Below, right: Sasha gets to ride a unicycle for PE and fun.



At top, left: Grandmother Geri Hulse-Stephens uses the Zoom app to tell her grandson, Harrison, the story of "The Three Little Pigs" with puppets she made, while Harrison acts out the excitement of the wolf blowing the house down. At top, right: From left, Aidyn, Gavin, Dane and Riley ham it up as they time a jump together for their mother to photograph.

Above: One student draws a bear from a pattern through ClassDojo, an interactive website that allows children to interact remotely with their teachers.

Below, left: Siblings Sasha and Alea live on a farm where they have chores to do and baby goats to cuddle. Below, right: Riley has a science lesson about the properties of gases on the computer.



HARRAH SENIOR CENTER
SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1974
Home Meal Delivery
Drive Thru & Walk Up Meals
Menu - April Week 1
Menu - April Week 2
Transportation For Seniors

In addition, Cahill's parents also both work in health care, and he said that at the hospital his father works at in Burlington, Vermont, eight staff members had tested positive for COVID-19.

Still, they are confident that those at Adventist Health in Willits have done all they can to be prepared for a potential local surge in COVID-19 patients (Editor's note: You can see more details about some of these preparations in Adventist Health's "Committed to Caring for Our Community" ad on page 16.)

Both also believe that California and Mendocino County acted wisely in enacting the shelter-in-place rules early on in the crisis, which helped prevent a more deadly spike in COVID-19 cases seen elsewhere in the country.

"I feel very grateful to be in California as opposed to New York," said Cahill. "It feels like this state has really taken preparation seriously."

However, Glycer warned that based on some research models he's seen, California's strong early response could also have the effect of making the downward curve back to normalcy be longer and slower, since such a large percentage of the state's population will have not caught the virus and developed some immunity to it. So things like increased testing availability and vaccine development will be crucial.

patients has been holding steady at 4 in recent weeks, with all now recovered, and all cases suspected to be travel-related as opposed to community spread.

According to the Mendocino County Public Health Facebook page, as of Tuesday, April 14, 453 tests had been administered in the county, with results of 12 tests pending, meaning about 0.5 percent of the county has been tested now.

Of that test total, 182 tests have been done through public health labs, and 271 had used commercial labs, such as Quest, which Dr. Glycer said Adventist Health was using.

In other testing news, Third District Supervisor John Haschak confirmed that all of the COVID-19 tests, 28 or 29 of them, administered to people at the Plowshares Peace and Justice Center in Ukiah came back negative.

The testing was done by Mendocino County Public Health, in partnership with Adventist Health Ukiah Valley, and with the Public Health Region al Lab in Sonoma County.

According to a county press release, Plowshares was chosen as a testing location because "it's an essential business that provides food, and other necessities for economically disadvantaged and vulnerable populations including those experiencing homelessness, elderly and medically compromised."

As described in an earlier Public Health press release, the categories prioritized for COVID-19 testing are "healthcare workers, public safety personnel, people of high public health risk (nursing home residents, incarcerated people, homeless), people who were recently at high risk exposure (due to travel or contact), and emergency room and hospitalized patients in whom the test result will change

management of the patient."

Glycer said that description is generally in line with their prioritization at Adventist Health, though they certainly wish they could be testing much more people if possible, and hope to be able to 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."

"There was a point early on in this when we were trying to test for epidemiological purposes," added Cahill. "And then a couple days into that we realized there was a massive test swab shortage and that we couldn't do that."

Adventist Health has recently announced that they now have in-house testing at their facilities, saying that while testing is still "limited," they have a faster turnaround time for results now.

In an email on Tuesday, Glycer said: "The game changer is here for same day results – but again the supply is limited. So we [still] use great discretion in getting outpatient tests done."

Dr. Glycer said another category of people he thinks should be prioritized for testing would be patients whose underlying conditions would place them at high risk of developing complications.

"We have people who can barely get through a cold, their lung disease is so severe," he said. "They clearly should be tested. And anybody [elderly] that has a significant respiratory type infection."

One tool used by the clinic is testing patients for other viruses – tests that are much more widely available – to rule those illnesses out.

"There's a test called 'Bio Fire' which tests for basically every virus but COVID virus," said Dr. Glycer. "And so if you think they have a viral syndrome that's gotten into their lungs and they're getting sicker, and it's been present for going on a week, you can run this Bio Fire test. And that's going to eliminate a lot of people who have various viruses like influenza."

"If it's negative, then you've narrowed that person down to having a significant viral infection [but] not having any of those. Then I feel like it's appropriate ... to send that person's sample to Quest and see if they have COVID-19. It only makes sense. [That's] if we have the testing kits."

Cahill said there was a recent patient at the clinic where he implemented a similar strategy in determining they needed a test.

"This patient, their symptoms had been dragging on too long for a typical viral URI [upper respiratory infection] and they had too high of a fever," he explained. "The symptoms didn't really match flu – there wasn't much in the way of nausea or vomiting to suggest influenza."

"So I felt like that was a patient where there was enough overlap with COVID-19 and not enough overlap with other respiratory illnesses that it was worth testing them even though they weren't a healthcare worker or particularly immunocompromised. It just smacked a little bit too much of COVID-19 [so] I wanted to rule that out and make sure that it wasn't a case of community spread that we should be really paying attention to – isolating and contact tracing."

Neither Glycer nor Cahill directed any blame at local officials or organizations regarding the lack of testing available, but Glycer did say he thought the early response on the national level was clearly flawed.

He referenced a report from The New York Times which showed there was too much reliance on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to supply tests, which was not equipped to mass-produce testing kits at the level needed. Many of the first wave of test kits the CDC sent out turned out to be flawed and were not able to be used.

"I knew how important testing was, and I just couldn't believe that our country bungled it so bad," he said. "I still can't believe it."

Glycer said that Adventist Health does agree with the recent recommendation put forth by the county health officer, Dr. Noemi Doohan, and the CDC that people wear some kind of mask when out in public as a tool to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

He agreed with the language of the recommendation that the public shouldn't use up the type of masks needed by health professionals and first responders for their jobs, noting these masks were in short supply in many areas.

Also, people shouldn't use masks thinking they then don't have to follow the rules for shelter-in-place and social distancing as much, since there is still a chance of infection with a mask.

Cahill said that one of the primary benefit of masks is their usefulness in preventing those who have COVID-19 and don't know it from spreading the virus.

Glycer pointed out that it was also helpful in preventing people from touching their face, a common culprit in catching the virus.

Cahill said that they've appreciated the support they've gotten from the community during the pandemic, including having equipment and supplies donated from several local stores and companies.

"The community has really come through," he said. "The cafeteria staff are all wearing gloves from Sparetime Supply."



Above: The short leg of the "L" of the garden is back to the lovely soil, save for a few straggler sprouts. Below: The "still-to-go" portion of the garden, filled with chicken food in the making. Having the birds on the other side of the fence makes it easy to toss them the weeds, giving them variety and a no-additional-clean-up solution, too!

Get gardening – planting season will be here before you know it!

I mean, what else are we all really doing right now, anyway? Hit pause on season 4, episode 3 of "Bates Motel" and go outside, soak in some sunshine and get your fingers in the dirt.

I was able to make it through weeding out half of my garden thus far, all the while considering the benefits of just having a smaller garden and letting the rest of the weeds do as they may. But, the tomatoes will be worth it, right? Must find the motivation to finish the rest soon, as the time to plant draws nearer and nearer. It is always a gamble to catch the time right, and hope that last frost was the last, and usually I end up getting a selection of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and of course, zucchini in the ground sometime around Mother's Day in mid-May.

Don't have a garden? Or don't live on land? Don't worry, just get a container garden on your patio,

porch or windowsill! Herbs grow wonderfully indoors, and strawberries can be grown in a small area, too.

There's lots of options, you might just have to get creative and look for the opportunities around you.

– Maureen Moore



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Pastor Burton Jernigan
Information: 456-9668
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Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

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Father Aaron Bandanadam
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Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.
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459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com

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



OBITUARY |

Mary Durupt

Mary Elizabeth Durupt of Willits passed away peacefully on April 10, following an extended illness. Born on June 29, 1936 in Columbia, Louisiana to Warren and Georgia Williams, Mary moved with her family to Willits in 1947, graduating from Willits High School in 1955. Mary met and married her sweetheart, Nick, in 1956.

Known as "Nana" to all, her house was often full of activity and kids of all ages. Mary enjoyed social gatherings and spending time with her family, always looking forward to the annual Durupt family reunion at Lake Davis.

A big sports fan, she enjoyed watching sports and cheering on the SF Giants as well as attending the horse races. Gardening and tending to her yard, full of beautiful flowers, was a passion she shared with her dad. A member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Mary was very active in the Women's Guild.

Mary is survived by Nick, her husband of 63 years, and her children, Monica (Mike) Hartman, Tom (Caroline) Durupt, Patty (Doug) Snyder, and Nicholas Durupt. Grandchildren Brian (Ryan), Bethany, Derek (Gina), Dustin, Ellie (Kevin), and her sisters Neva (Sonny) Hatfield and Peggy Bloomquist, known lovingly as the golden girls, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary's family extends heartfelt thanks to the healthcare professionals at Howard Memorial Hospital and Northbrook Healthcare Center for their compassionate care.



Cats and kittens

As of April 8, Mendocino County Animal Care Services: Animal Care Services is *not* accepting cats or kittens that live outside unless they are sick or injured at this time during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order.

The decision to not accept cats and kittens has been made due to our temporary suspension of elective surgeries that includes spay and neuter procedures at the guidance and recommendation of Public Health, the shelter medical team, and veterinary teaching professionals in the animal sheltering industry.

Industry professionals concluded there is too high a risk to animal shelter staff with accepting and caring for these animals. Keeping valuable dog and cat kennel space open for unknown future COVID-19 situations, and not depleting shelter resources are the other major concerns for endorsing this guideline.

If you have found kittens that are being cared for by their mother and seem healthy, please leave them with their mother.

If the kittens are sick, injured or in danger, please call us at 707-463-4427 to make an appointment to bring them to the Ukiah Animal Shelter.

Please go to the "Leave Found Kittens Alone" page on the Mendocino County website for additional information and advice: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/animal-care-services/leaving-found-kittens-alone

– Mendocino County Animal Care Services

Furry Friend Hoping for a Home Smart Max

Meet our stud Max! Max is a black-and-white mixed-breed pup who has been with us since July 2019. Max is almost 2 years old and weighs about 45 pounds. Max is a total goofball who is a non-stop go-getter with a ton of potential and even more love to give. Max is very smart and learns quickly. He loves to play and have mental stimulation. Max really wants to find a home, and we really want to make it happen. But we can't do it without you! Will you be Max's hero and give him the forever home he really wants? If so, we would love to talk to you!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is closed to the public, but dog and cat adoptions are still open by appointment: Call 707-485-0123. "Keep checking in to the 'Humane Society for Mendocino County' page on Facebook to see how you can help or to donate!" Visit <https://mendohumaneociety.com/> for more info and other ways to donate, including sending a check to: HSIMC, 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, CA 95470.



OBITUARY |

Bill Shafer

William (Bill) Shafer passed away peacefully on the morning of March 19, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 59 years Kay Shafer; his sons (William) Barclay and Randy Shafer; and their families, Barclay's wife, Teresa, daughter Samantha, and son Jacob; and Randy's wife, Mika. Bill also leaves behind his younger brother George in Arizona and numerous cousins in West Virginia.

Bill was involved in many organizations and groups in the Willits area, he loved raising his children here, and he and Kay spent many happy years gardening together.

Following his wishes, there will not be a formal ceremony. However, if you feel so inclined, donations to the following organizations in his name would be appreciated by the family: Willits Little League, Willits 4-H/FFA, or the NRA.



WW's Fantastic Find

Shed Magic by Safari

Sometimes, something crosses your path, and life is just never the same afterwards. Shed Magic by Safari is also just one of those specific things. Have I talked to you about the purple Shark vacuum?... I'll save that for another post.

Available at Willits' J.D. Redhouse (call 459-1214 to order) this unassuming metal-pronged "brush" is unbelievably successful in the battle against any hairy dog. The tool's de-fluffing abilities and ease of use are unmatched by any other de-furring product I've encountered. They come in a few sizes, and are well worth a purchase. Now, what to do with all that hair?

– Maureen Moore



Happy 2nd Birthday

We are so grateful for these four crazy kitty beast siblings: Ziggy, Sunny, Juniper and Zinger who are so cute when they sleep! They'll be celebrating their second birthdays on April 15.

– Maureen Moore
and Danya Davis



Call to Connect Howard Foundation's Avenues to Wellness offers a local telephone support system

"The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen. Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention." – Dr. Rachel Naomi

Are you feeling lonely and isolated in these difficult times? Are you unsure how to meet your social needs? Loneliness and isolation can be damaging to mental health, especially in challenging times.

Human connection is vital to mental and emotional well-being and can reduce stress. "Call to Connect" is a program that will match you to another person who will listen in a non-judgmental way. There is great value in just listening without the need to "fix it." The purpose of CTC is to match you with a "buddy" to help you feel supported, connected, and not alone in these challenging times.

Perhaps you are someone who would like to help others during these tough times. CTC provides volunteers an opportunity to help folks feeling lonely. CTC is a service you could offer without leaving your home.

Getting started

CTC is coordinated by Suzanne Picetti-Johnson of the Avenues to Wellness program. You can reach her by calling: 707-367-5078 or emailing her at bluesky@pacific.net.

After a brief interview, Picetti-Johnson will match you with a buddy.



Call to Connect

A telephone-based emotional support system
A PROGRAM OF THE FRANK R. HOWARD FOUNDATION'S AVENUES TO WELLNESS

"The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen. Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention."
Dr. Rachel Naomi

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'We've got your back'

Howard Foundation updates community on what they're doing to help

By Margie Handley, president of the Frank R. Howard Foundation

Given our current health emergency, the Frank R. Howard Foundation wants you to know what we're doing to help.

To begin with, the old Howard Hospital is available to add capacity if needed. We have met with county officials and have drawn up a lease agreement agreeable to both parties which can be executed at any time.

In a partnership with the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, the Howard Foundation recently purchased 50,000 surgical masks, 3,000 face shields, and hundreds of goggles to ensure that our health care workers receive the personal protective equipment they need to do their jobs safely during this emergency.

Specifically, this equipment is for the use of our hospital employees in Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg. We purchased an additional 50,000 surgical masks for use by our first responders, nursing homes, senior centers, etc. within Mendocino County. This personal protective equipment is expected to arrive by April 17.

In light of the recent directives from the state and county levels, we also

recognize that our community members need personal protection to safely conduct necessary activities such as grocery shopping and medical visits. To address this need, the Frank R. Howard Foundation has committed to the purchase of 10,000 cloth masks for the use of our Willits area community members.

These masks are being manufactured by local individuals and businesses who have offered to make them at cost. The response has been overwhelming and inspirational. We will follow up with recognition of all those involved in this project at a later date.

The Foundation purchased 1,000 eight-ounce bottles of spray disinfectant for the personal use of our hospital employees countywide. This disinfectant spray is being manufactured locally, at cost, by Natural Pigments, here in Willits.

The Commonwealth Garden program, which continues to provide organically grown produce to Howard Memorial Hospital's patients and staff, is offering free vegetable and flower plant starts to our neighbors who would like to grow their own food this coming season. Please call Ananda at 707-354-2166 if you could benefit from this program.

Also, know that our speaker events will continue every month, with relevant health education. They will be filmed without an audience and broadcast online (www.avenuestowellness.org) and on Willits TV. Our topic for April is "How Stress Affects our Nervous System: Practical Tools to Cope" by Rik Halstad, L.Ac. and Karla Downing, RN, CMT.

Well, that's about all I have for now. Just know that the Foundation is here for you, and that we are doing everything we can to ensure we all make it safely through this pandemic ... together.

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At right, from top: The Willits Rotary Club invites the public to donate to their fund drive which supports three Willits organizations that feed people during this COVID-19 public health emergency: Willits Senior Center, Willits Daily Bread, and Willits Community Services and Food Bank. A screenshot of the online meeting the Willits Rotary Club held on April 9, using the Zoom application for the first time. A volunteer brings food out to the waiting clients of the Willits Daily Bread; the organization's need has increased by double during the COVID-19 crisis. The Willits Daily Bread sack lunches are prepared and ready to distribute at the Episcopal Church's Fellowship Hall on East Commercial Street and Main Street. Some of the food items contributed by several donors to help Willits Daily Bread with the increased number of attendees at their Monday through Thursday dinners.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Zoom Meeting

Rotary Club members try out video chat, start fund drive for food distribution groups

After several weeks of not being able to do their weekly lunchtime get-togethers due to the shelter-in-place order, the Willits Rotary Club had a meeting on April 9, not in person, but face to face to face to face to face....

Nineteen Willits Rotary members braved the internet and worked through an application named "Zoom" in order to attempt to continue their altruistic work, which benefits a number of worthy causes in the city and the surrounding area.

Zoom allows the members of Rotary to log on to a meeting in which they can see each other's faces, contribute ideas, share some light moments, and most importantly, decide on courses of action and how to proceed in their philanthropic ventures. As the meeting was online, there were a few faces on the screen that have not been able to get away for the normal meetings.

As with any new technology, the members had varying degrees of familiarity with the workings of the application. For some, this was their first venture into the world of online meetings. Others stated that this was their "seventh meeting of the day."

Thanks to the technical expertise of Rotarian Joe Bratt, all of the members of the club who were attending were able to join the meeting after a couple minutes. Club President Jenny Senter called the meeting to order and after the customary Pledge of Allegiance, the Rotary began its agenda. As the members had not had the pleasure of communicating with the others face-to-face, the meeting started with a cordial few words from each.

Tim King gave an update on the club's scholarship program for Willits High School seniors, which usually consists of a course of in-person interviews with the candidates. However, this year, due to the COVID-19, the process will consist mostly of a review of the applications. Rotary has had several fundraisers over the year which has funded this program sufficiently to allow it to proceed.

Willits Mayor Gerry Gonzalez reminded everyone that the parks are still closed, even with the nicer weather coming. Holly Madrigal stated that the Community Foundation has a COVID-19 fund to help with people and organizations struggling with the pandemic. She said that details and ways to contribute could be found on their website: www.communityfound.org.

Allison Findley elaborated on the Community Foundation fund. They contributed \$65,000 for food relief countywide, including \$5,000 to the Willits Senior Center, \$500 to Willits Daily Bread, and \$3,000 to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Ann Alumbaugh brought up that the Senior Center was hurting as they had to close the thrift store, their major source of funding. The Rotary has money allotted for them from the Crab Feed fundraiser and will get it to them soon.

Senter and several other members discussed aiding the hospital by sewing and providing masks, of which the hospital is looking for about 10,000. There are kits and patterns and materials, so they are basically looking for people to sew them. Tara Moratti reminded everyone of the importance of participating in the census as they bring in

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

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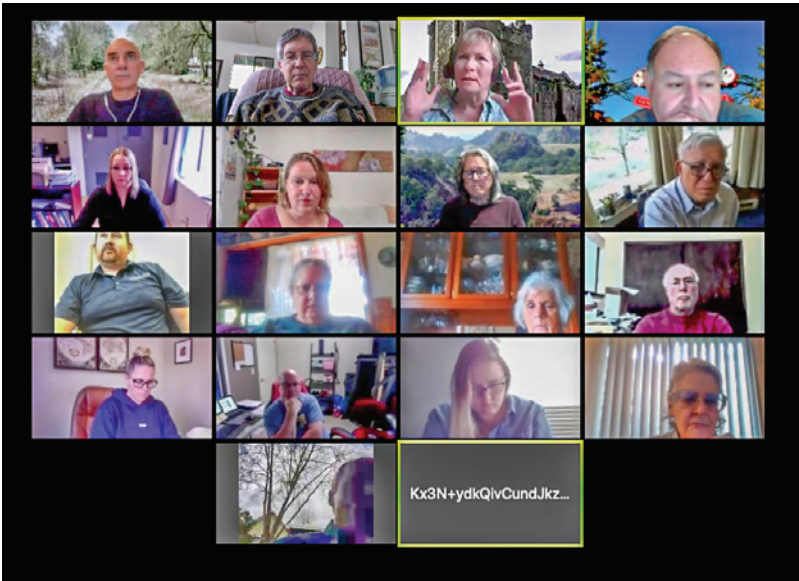
Rotary Club of Willits

People of Action Helping Those in Need

Donations received with our GoFundMe drive will be divided between:

Willits Daily Bread | Willits Community Services | Willits Senior Center

These agencies have seen a marked increase in needed services since the Covid-19 crisis



The rest of **Clearing**
From Page 3

"We have a few of those projects going on at the moment," Cratty said, "including the one in Brooktrails that started yesterday, close to the entry at Birch Street. They'll be working there for a week or so and then moving to another area, merger points and key in-and-out points in the Brooktrails community.

"This is an awesome time," he advised, "to be getting your emergency kits ready, putting together evacuation plans to know where you're going to go if one direction is blocked. What are your options?"

"There's a lot of preparation that can be done," continued Cratty, "when people are out taking walks. Look for the danger spots in their community, places that are particularly overgrown that need help, roads that have a lot of vegetation impinging on them. In addition to getting insights from CalFire and local fire agencies, we also collect from the neighborhood councils where work needs to happen, what they think are the highest priority items."

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council can be contacted at: firesafe@pacific.net. More information and a form with which to submit projects can be found at <https://firesafemendocino.org>. According to Cratty, there are very specific guidelines in place for the clearing projects in order to ensure that the area is left as natural as possible at the same time as the visibility is increased and the combustible fuel is reduced.

The Brooktrails neighborhood council, Sherwood Firewise Communities, is the recent recipient of a "\$447,000 CalFire fire prevention grant," said Cratty. "It will be used for roadside access clearing in the Sherwood corridor, all of Sherwood Road from Main Street to where it meets the 101 towards Laytonville.

"It's fairly clear," he added, "but there are places that need to be trimmed back for visibility and fire. Also, there is a second route heading north, which is the Ridge Road from Goose to Blue Lake to Spring Creek to Timber and then back out to Sherwood at the horse ranch. If a fire is coming from the south and people are trying to get out and they can't get down the hill, this is another way to get them out."

There are two other routes, the Firco Route, from the Brooktrails airport and another from Primrose to Highway 20 and Exley Lane. These three routes are designed to allow the fire and other emergency crews to get in as both lanes of Sherwood Road will be utilized for the evacuating residents. Of course, any of these routes can be used for either ingress or egress if the situation commander's assessment of the circumstances deems it necessary.

The clearing work from the grant to Sherwood Firewise should begin next year as volunteers cannot be used during the pandemic and there needs to be environmental considerations and assessments as well as coordination with the property owners on the route. Several other grants have been awarded to the council for the maintenance of the routes once the clearing has been completed.

While the residents shelter in place, the impending fire season creates a necessity for certain projects to continue in order to mitigate the possibility of tragic circumstances in the hills of the Willits area. To learn more about Sherwood Firewise Communities and keep up with current activities, including online meetings, visit the "Sherwood Firewise" page on Facebook.

The rest of **Zoom**
From Page 10

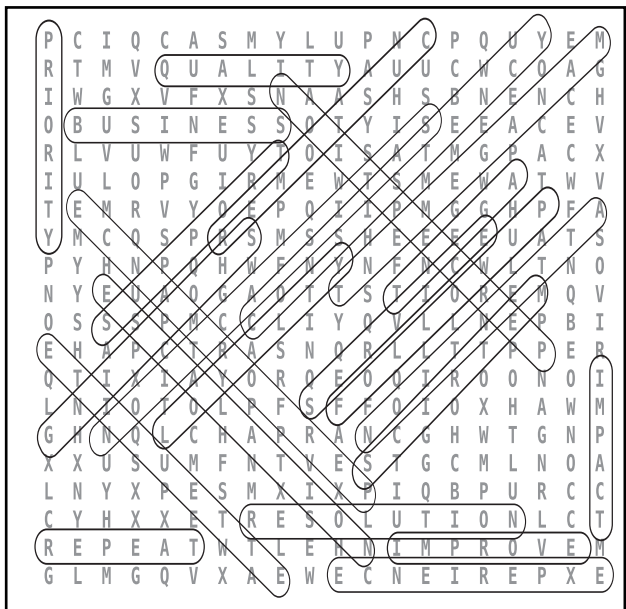
\$20,000 per person to the county over 10 years.

Jeanne King stated that the polio eradication arm of the International Rotary Club has been shifting their focus to the treatment of COVID-19. "The polio program is offering its tools, workforce, and extensive surveillance network to countries as they respond to the pandemic."

Senter then spoke about the GoFundMe account that she had created for the Rotary to raise money to support three food distribution groups in Willits: Willits Daily Bread, Willits Senior Center, and Willits Community Services and Food Bank. All three have experienced an increase in their needs as people are not able to work and many cannot buy food.

So far, several companies and more individuals have stepped up and contributed to the new Rotary fundraiser: Spartime Supply contributed \$1,000; Tom Herman, \$500; \$2,625 in online pledges (as of Tuesday afternoon); and the Howard Foundation is making a forthcoming contribution. The GoFundMe can be found at: <https://charity.gofundme.com/en/campaign/willits-rotary-community-fund-drive>. A check may also be made out and mailed to: Willits Rotary, PO Box 787, Willits, CA 95490.

After the video meeting, Senter shared a few thoughts





Northspur Brewing offers home delivery, to go and curbside pickup

The taproom at Northspur Brewing Company is closed for public gathering due to the shelter-in-place order, but the Willits brewery is open for take-away orders from 1 to 7 pm daily. Northspur can also accommodate curbside pickup, online and delivery orders as well. Visit www.northspurbrewing.com for more info or to place an order. Call 707-518-4208 or email Jakob@NorthspurBrewing.com.

— **Forrest Glyer**

Northspur Brewing Company bartender Dylan Bixler safely serves up a three-pack of crows (32 ounce cans) of their American Blonde Ale for local beer enthusiast Forrest Glyer.

Photo by Forrest Glyer

Washing Up

Hand-washing station and portable toilet at City Hall parking lot open to all

The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for all of Willits. After closing City Hall – and its public restrooms – to the public, the city faced some challenges. City management arranged for a portable toilet and handwashing station to be placed in the parking lot at 111 East Commercial street for use by anyone in the city that needs it.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

“When we closed up the park bathrooms and City Hall in the beginning of March,” said Willits City Manager Stephanie Garra-brant-Sierra, “we opened the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant] portable bathroom with a handwashing station for people who needed it and to promote public health, particularly for those experiencing homelessness.”

“The portable bathroom is easier to clean,” Garra-brant-Sierra explained, “and gets serviced by an outside vendor. It also does not break down or get clogged. We later found out that this was a recommended action by the public health officer, and cities were having a hard time finding them. So, we were happy we secured one early.”

City Hall is closed to the public, but a portable toilet and handwashing station have been set up in the parking lot at 111 East Commercial Street.

Photo by Mathew Caine



Using more electricity?

Tips for energy efficiency

While you're home, SCP encourages you to make these and other energy-saving habits part of your daily routine:

- Unplug devices and appliances that aren't being used
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room
- Wash and dry full loads of clothes and dishes
- Replace your standard incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs

Visit sonomacleanpower.org for more helpful tips.

Sonoma Clean Power

The rest of
Officer | From Page 1

Dukett confirmed Wednesday that Dr. Doohan will be staying in her home in San Diego for the time being, and will be working remotely, as she has been since March 21.

The vote to approve the item, which began as a six-month contract extension for Doohan, was unanimous. By the vote, the supervisors approved the contract extension, from June 30, 2020 to December 31, 2020, and approved increasing the cap on what could possibly be paid to Doohan from \$125,000 to \$225,000, but added a provision that Doohan will undertake “a projected transition from a full-time, interim public health officer to a consultant, scheduled for June 1.”

According to Acting County Counsel Christian Curtis, county staff will return to the board of supervisors with a resolution, providing details of how the transition from Doohan to her successor will work. At present, the county does not know who the successor will be. Dr. Flaherty told the supervisors that he does not want Dr. Doohan's job but added that he is willing to serve as a “bridge” from Dr. Doohan to the next, full-time, public health officer.

Mendocino County has been advertising to hire a new public health officer since December. Doohan had been planning to start a new job in San Diego in April.

“My new job is to be the assistant director of the Family Medicine Residency Program of the Scripps-Chula Vista Family Medicine Residency, in San Diego County,” Doohan told the supervisors Tuesday. “I was supposed to start that job this month, but they've been very flexible with me, especially because San Diego is experiencing the impacts of COVID-19, as well. So what we have come upon there is that I would start my new job June 1, and I think I would be able to delay that until July 1, if I needed to, but my intention is to not to [continue as interim public health officer] in Mendocino County beyond June 1.”

Doohan had earlier told Willits Weekly and the supervisors she was planning to continue as Mendocino County public health officer “until this [pandemic] is over.”

No supervisor criticized Doohan for her job performance; in fact, every supervisor said that they valued Doohan and thanked her for her work.

Doohan told the supervisors that she has been working 16 hours a day, every day, since Superbowl Sunday, which occurred on February 2. Part of Doohan's legacy has been three public health orders, dated March 18, March 24 and April 10, which imposed strict and early shelter-in-place restrictions on the county's population.

On April 7, Doohan told supervisors she was planning to return from San Diego to Mendocino County on Sunday, April 12.

At Tuesday's meeting, Doohan explained why she was still in San Diego.

“I was supposed to return on Easter Sunday,” she said “but, as some of you may know, there was torrential raining in San Diego, and my new place of residence here: the roof leaked, the garage flooded, my neighbor had a landslide, and, because we're sheltering in place, there's not the ability to hire someone to come and deal with these local, personal problems; so my husband and I had to do the trenching and digging out from that flood.

Doohan also told supervisors Tuesday she was planning to return to Mendocino County the next day, by private car, and that she intended to stay in Mendocino County “through the limited re-opening of the current shelter-in-place, which would be, I expect, June first,” she said.

During Doohan's discussions with the board of supervisors concerning the contract extension, the supervisors asked each other whether it made any sense for Doohan to physically return to Mendocino County.

Supervisor Ted Williams asked if Doohan would have to go into a two-week quarantine if she were to come back to the county, and was told that she would. Williams then asked Doohan if it made sense for her to come back, to endure a two-week quarantine (which would bring the date to April 30) and then to work only until the beginning of the period of “limited re-opening.” Williams asked Doohan if she thought it would work better for everyone if she were to stay in San Diego and work remotely, as she has been doing since March 21.

“My understanding was that it was the board of supervisors who wanted me to come back immediately, and that's why I was dutifully doing that. If it had not been requested of me, I would have made a different plan. So I would say, that is up to all of you,” Doohan said.

The supervisors did not reach an agreement on where they wanted Doohan to be living over the next month and a half. In fact, they didn't actually formally discuss the question. Supervisor Williams moved that the end date for the contract extension be pulled back to July 1. Supervisors Carre Brown and McCowen said they couldn't support Williams' idea, and Third District Supervisor and Board Chair John Haschak said he preferred that the contract end date be left at December 31. Williams then said, “As far on whether she comes back to Mendocino County or not, let's leave it up to her.”

Williams' statement brought neither agreement nor dissent from the board. Instead, McCowen moved that a proposed shift for Doohan from full-time public health officer to a consultant, scheduled for June 1, be formally inserted into the contract. This motion was approved unanimously.

According to Dukett, speaking to Willits Weekly on Wednesday morning, Doohan has decided to stay in San Diego until further notice. She will be working remotely.

The rest of
Impacts | From Page 1

other cities in the region have during the crisis.

However, Garra-brant-Sierra said the economic outlook for the city is worrisome.

“This is really, really a stressful time for small cities financially,” she said, “just like it is for small businesses. This is a pretty terrifying time.”

She noted that the economic stimulus packages rolled out by the state and federal governments recently did not have much in them to help small-town governments.

“I think our biggest worry is that [the] financial stimulus is not coming into the smaller rural cities but is sort of grouping into the larger cities and to the larger counties and urban areas,” she said.

“And so I know our representatives and I have been really clamoring to make sure that those dollars get to the people in Willits and get to our government and get to all the people here that need them as well,” she continued. “Because I am concerned that we are being disproportionately affected in certain ways by some of the actions being taken.”

She also spoke about the concern over the state's new “sales tax deferment” plan, which will allow small businesses with less than \$5 million in annual taxable sales to defer payment on up to \$50,000 of sales tax, interest-free.

“I think it's a great idea for small businesses,” she said, “and we want small businesses to be able to succeed. And anything we can do to support our small business community is very important.”

“However, this particular sales tax deferment was done with no back-fill to the agencies that were sort of expecting revenue,” she continued. “And as a small city we are disproportionately reliant on sales tax. The governor didn't bring in the League of Cities to discuss this, nor did he bring in any cities. He just sort of threw that out there.”

She noted that a state tax office representative made it clear to her that the tax deferment did not mean that a business would not owe the sales tax money, but rather that there would be a “refinancing” of it with monthly payments involved.

“So it's going to be tricky, and if you don't keep up your payments you're going to be subject to penalties at an 8 percent interest rate which is significant,” she said.

Given that the City of Willits was already operating at a “significant deficit” prior to the crisis, Garra-brant-Sierra said they are now exploring new strategies on how they will make it through this additional challenge.

“City Finance Director Yujun Du and I have been talking with our bond council and bond representatives and consultants to figure out strategies for some short-term liquidity,” she said. “So we can do some internal borrowing and refinancing of our bonds and figure out a way to go forward, and I'm actually pretty confident we're going to be able to do that.”

She added that the city has also considered cutting out one workday from certain city workers' two-week pay-period, but have decided to put off that plan for the time being. In part because it appeared the savings would be minimal, especially for the General Fund.

Garra-brant-Sierra said there will be more stimulus measures coming up, including the next phase of the CARES Act – the multi-trillion dollar stimulus package recently passed by Congress, and they may have more in them to help cities like Willits.

“I'm hopeful that CARES Act IV brings payments for small cities,” she said. “And I know that Senator McGuire is working really hard to fight for the state dollars.”

Garra-brant-Sierra pointed out some other changes enacted at the state level that were affecting people locally.

She said there is now a moratorium on evictions for both residential and commercial residents for at least 90 days, and that could possibly be extended. That means that for the next three months evictions can only occur due to “health and safety violations, but not for anything else.”

State courts have also “zeroed out

their bail requirements,” meaning that people charged with many crimes that used to require bail money for release, are now being released for \$0 bail.

“Only for serious felonies and misdemeanors and a handful of other crimes is bail available,” she said. “So there are more folks out on the street that normally may be in jail. And that is something we need to watch.”

Regarding violent crime, Garra-brant-Sierra said: “I know that many cities in this area, in Mendocino County and surrounding counties are reporting increases in violent crime. We are lucky to report that we are not experiencing that. We are experiencing some more familial disputes and some petty theft, but in terms of violent crime, according to our [chief of police], it looks like so far we're staying stable. And the police are maintaining a good visibility within the community.”

As for homelessness in the county, she stated: “The main issue is in Ukiah frankly. Ukiah has experienced an incredible increase in homelessness. Their homeless camp on Airport Boulevard was about 15 people. Now it's more like 75 people.”

She said that, “in Willits homelessness hasn't been reported as an issue” during the crisis, though one encampment near the hospital was taken down.

Food and support services are still being made available to the homeless in the city according to Garra-brant-Sierra, and she also noted some new programs the county had available to help address the homeless issue, including one to get them temporarily placed in a hotel room.

“So if we see individuals experiencing homelessness who look vulnerable, who may be over 65, who look like they're experiencing some health issues, go ahead and give the county a call,” she said. “Because they have money to house people in hotel rooms for the short term, and they will also make sure that folks get tested.”

She said that the county is now able to test some homeless people whether they have symptoms or not, and the tests have shown no positive COVID-19 test results so far.

MTA cancels some services

Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez is the council's representative on the Mendocino Transit Authority board, and she said that the MTA has been canceling some services to try and limit the movement of homeless people.

“Mendocino County has made the request that Mendocino Transit Authority cancel our transportation services that point to the south,” she said. “Anything to the airport in Sonoma County, because we were seeing an influx in homeless people coming here and gathering at the Ukiah encampment.”

“And then earlier this week on Monday the Fort Bragg City Council, the police chief over there, [and] the city manager reached out and asked that we also cancel our services between Fort Bragg and Willits,” she added, “hoping to kind of keep people in place.”

COVID updates

Councilmember Greta Kanne said that she and Rodriguez had been posting regular updates on social media (both are active on their Facebook councilmember pages) about the local impact and response to the crisis, and various ways that people can seek the support they need.

Rodriguez noted she has posted links about an order Governor Newsom has put in place to help with childcare costs for essential workers.

Rodriguez also said: “I'm really proud of our community for finding creative ways to shop local. I think now more than ever people are thinking about shopping local – not shopping on Amazon or big retail.

“Despite the shelter in place, there are ways still to conduct business and follow the order,” she continued. “And in doing this also encourages businesses to please pay your sales tax and pay it on time, because we do know that those funds are critical for providing the city services.”

Councilmember Madge Strong summarized an audio town hall meeting with State Senator Mike McGuire and

many others, which occurred the day before the council meeting. She said it was “very very well-organized and had a lot of a really good information.”

Also participating were the county health officers and the county CEOs for both Mendocino County and Lake County, county supervisors, and state medical experts.

In looking towards the near future, Strong said some were predicting a peak of COVID-19 cases in the state in late May (Note: others have predicted late April or early May as the peak), and that any changes in social distancing guidelines will likely happen gradually.

“They're talking about any opening up of the shelter in place happening kind of in steps, not all at once [opening everything],” she said, “but making sure that people continue, especially the social distancing.”

She noted there were still just four confirmed positive cases in Mendocino County (all who have now recovered), and only three in Lake County. (Lake County is now up to 5 cases.) All the cases in both counties are believed to be travel-related and not community spread.

“So, so far we don't have a contagion going, but that means we really have to keep our guard up and really observe all the shelter-in-place cautions,” she said. “Because that's what I'll keep us safe. If we're really lucky we won't have a huge impact on our health here. It is having a big impact on our economy of course.”

City parks still closed

Garra-brant-Sierra put up a post on the City of Willits Facebook page on April 11, the day after the new April 10 county order was released, to clarify that all parks in the county, including those in Willits, are still closed.

“The new order by the county health officer yesterday created some confusion as to whether parks were open or closed,” the post continued. “I just got off of a meeting convened by our county administrator and county health officer, including State Parks, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the county's four city managers. All parks at this time remain closed. This includes city parks, state parks, county parks, and Army Corps parks. The order was meant to convey that if a park was open, that very strict guidelines had to be put in place in order for people to be able to use those parks. Bottom line, however, is that all city parks do remain closed.

She added that the Army Corps representative said that Lake Mendocino would likely not be open for camping at all this summer.

Other notes

The city's wastewater staff had told Garra-brant-Sierra that they had been finding less rags in the sewer system than they were previously, which they were thankful for and hoped that residents would continue to refrain from flushing the rags down their toilets.

The council approved accepting \$149,000 awarded from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to improve the solar power system at City Hall and the Willits Community Center.

The funding, which was requested by the city, came from the OES through their Public Safety Power Shutoff Program. The improvements are expected to allow the two city buildings to operate entirely on solar power in the event of an extended power shutoff or other outage.

The upgrades will include the expansion of the existing solar array from 8.2kw to 20kw and installation of an AC-coupled system with battery bank, generator, upgraded inverter, switchgear, mounting, and enclosures.

The council also approved a resolution accepting that the Blosser Lane Drainage Project had been completed. The project, which had been contracted to Bouthillier's Construction Inc. in August of 2018, involved replacing and installing storm drain pipes, drainage inlets, and rain gardens in existing drainage ditches.

Garra-brant-Sierra said that the wastewater and public works departments had also been working on projects on and around roads recently, taking advantage of the lighter traffic due to the shelter-in-place order being in effect.

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley

welcomes six new physicians joining residency program



Above: Angela Mapanao, DO.



Above: Moudi Hubeishy, MD.



Above: Jonathan Goorhuis, MD.

By Cici Winiger, communications manager, Adventist Health

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Family Medicine Residency Program received the names of the second set of six residents to join the program. This marks the launch of the second year of this program that focuses on the full-scope rural family medicine in Mendocino and Lake counties.

This is exciting news for the community, as this means Mendocino County will have six additional resident physicians who will train and care for our community. There is a shortage of primary care physicians nationwide, most especially in rural areas such as ours.

A recent study by the Association of American Medical Colleges projected a shortage of as many as 90,000 physicians in the next 10 years. But the good news, studies have also shown that physicians who train for more than six months in a rural area are 10 times more likely to stay and practice in that community.

In the fall of 2016, AHUV received institutional accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education to become an official teaching hospital. In 2017, Adventist Health Ukiah Valley, together with UC Davis, submitted the Family Medicine Residency program application to ACGME and in 2018, the ACGME accredited Adventist Health Ukiah Valley's Family Medicine Residency Program. In the summer of 2019, the program welcomed its first set of residents who have spent their first year training at UC Davis.

"This is a really exciting time for our program and hospital. After a very successful interview season, we finally get to have our next class of residents. Then, in July, we will have 12 resident physicians here in Ukiah serving our community and taking care of patients. This is what we have all been waiting for and we are grateful for all of the hard work and support of our team and community partners who have helped make this possible," says Chris Deuel, MD, program director.

Based on mutual rankings, a computer algorithm from the National Resident Matching Program calculates the match. The matches were revealed nationally on the third Friday of March.

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley's Family Residency Program received over 750 applications from medical students across the country and around the world. They selected 85 applicants for interviews for the second residency class. The process for selecting residents involves

a computerized ranking system called the Residency Match (based on a computer system which won the Nobel Prize!).

As part of the program, Adventist Health Ukiah Valley

FMRP will accept six new residents each year, and graduate six board-certified family doctors every year starting in 2022.

"At a time when we realize how much we depend on our physicians and health care workers; we are excited to welcome these new residents to our community. There is a shortage of physicians nationwide and the challenges are much deeper in our rural area because of our aging population. By improving access to care, we will be able to improve the overall health of our friends and neighbors and continue to help keep our community thriving," shares Jason Wells, president for Adventist Health in Mendocino County.

The six new residents come from diverse backgrounds and interests and are all excited to be in Mendocino County this summer. The new six residents, along with the hospital's 2019 residents will be on-site in July to officially begin their full-scope primary-care training.

The following new batch of residents will join the AHUV Family Medicine Residency Program:

Paul Carty-Soriano, MD, received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering from UC Berkeley, his M.S. in Health and Medical Sciences from UC Berkeley -UCSF Joint Medical Program, and will receive his MD from UCSF.

Daniel Coates, DO, received his B.S. in Biology, Nutrition from University of Utah, and will receive his DO from Rocky Vista University.

Cara Eberhardt, MD, received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of California Berkeley, and will receive her MD from UCSF.

Jonathan Goorhuis, MD, received his B.S. in Exercise Science from Pacific Union College, his M.A. in Religion and Society from Loma Linda University, and will receive his MD from Loma Linda University.

Moudi Hubeishy, MD, received his B.S. in Biochemistry from Nazareth College and will receive his MD from Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Buffalo.

Angela Mapanao, DO, received her B.A. in Psychology with Minor in Chemistry from San Jose State University and will receive her DO from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University.

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of 35,000 includes associates, medical staff physicians, allied health professionals and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. Together, we are transforming the American healthcare experience with an innovative, yet timeless, whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual and social healing.



Above: Cara Eberhardt, MD.



Above: Paul Carty-Soriano, MD.



Above: Daniel Coates, DO.

The rest of
Order From Page 1

order is to remain in force until May 10, 2020.

The order extends "essential business" exemptions to some businesses, including bike shops and bike repair shops. Arborists, landscapers, gardeners are allowed to do their work, "but only to the limited extent necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences, essential activities, essential businesses, but not for cosmetic and other purposes."

The new order includes funerals as an essential activity, and officially allows people to attend funerals, but "with no more than 10 individuals (including staff) present" and "at which members of different households or living units maintain social distancing from each other."

The April 10 order also declares that moving from one residence to another is an essential activity, "but only if it is not possible to defer an already planned move, if the move is necessitated by safety, sanitation or habitability reasons, or if the move is necessary to preserve access to shelter."

The new order slightly expands the category of grocery stores that are allowed to do business to include "establishments that sell multiple categories of products provided that they sell a significant amount of essential products identified in this paragraph, such as liquor stores that also sell a significant amount of food."

The new order adds new details about the types of construction that are considered to be essential. The new order allows building projects associated with creating or expanding health care operations, or with the construction of housing, public works projects, the construction of shelters or temporary housing, the construction of "projects immediately necessary to provide critical, non-commercial services to individuals experiencing homelessness, elderly persons, persons who are economically disadvantaged, and persons with special needs," construction that is necessary to shut down other, current, non-essential construction, and construction or repair necessary to ensure that residences and buildings containing essential businesses or non-essential businesses conducting minimum basic operations are safe, sanitary or habitable, to the extent that such construction or repair cannot reasonably be delayed." All other types of construction are not permitted during this pandemic.

The new order relaxes constraints – with conditions – on the real estate business, which was not exempted in previous versions of the order. Under the new order, "service providers that enable real estate transactions (including rentals, leases, and sales) and also including real estate agents, escrow agents, notaries, real estate brokers, and title companies" are permitted to do their work, "provided that appointments and other residential viewings must occur virtually, if feasible."

If virtual viewing is not possible, then in-person viewing is permitted, but specific protocols must be followed, including: "The viewing is made by appointment; the viewing includes no more than two visitors at a time residing within the same household or living unit and one individual showing the unit; the viewing does not involve travel with overnight accommodations; the residence being shown has been unoccupied for a period of five (5) days or more; and the person showing the property ensures that every surface touched during a viewing is disinfected, that everyone present for the viewing wears a facial covering at all times, and that social distancing requirements are adhered to at all times."

The order reiterates that "all recreational sites,

including parks, playgrounds, beaches, and navigable waterways for recreational purposes are closed," but outlines a hypothetical way for some potential use of recreational sites "if the owner, operator and/or agency responsible for the recreation site has chosen to allow the recreation site to be open," and if they follow a long list of conditions.

"Congregational areas" or areas with "high-touch equipment" at recreation sites, such as picnic tables, barbecue areas, and playground equipment must be closed to public access, by signage or physical barriers, and must be listed as "closed" in the social distancing protocols that must be adopted and posted at the site before a recreational site can be reopened.

Use of shared facilities, such as golf courses, tennis courts, rock parks, climbing walls, pools, spas, shooting and archery ranges, gyms, disc golf courses and basketball courts is prohibited, as are sports that use shared equipment, except in some very restrictive circumstances, such as when the members who are playing are members of the same family or living unit, or, if the sport is being played at different times by people who are living in a multi-family residential unit, when the equipment is disinfected in between use by different households or living units.

After all that, if an owner or agency decides to reopen a recreational site, it can only be used as outlined in Section 9.a.iii, which states:

"The recreation must be initiated from one's residence and may not involve the use of a motor vehicle or public transit to the location of exercise, except that, if exercising at, or directly from one's place of residence is unsafe or not feasible, it is permissible to drive the shortest distance possible to a location where one can safely exercise."

It's unclear if any park or recreational site is looking to reopen under these new guidelines.

The City of Willits, and the City of Ukiah Parks Department have both emphasized on Facebook that their parks remain closed. Willits City Manager Stephanie Garra-brant-Sierra posted on April 11, after a phone conference with the county, State Parks, the Army Corps of Engineers and the county's four city managers, that "all parks at this time remain closed. This includes city parks, state parks, county parks, and Army Corps parks. The order was meant to convey that if a park was open, that very strict guidelines had to be put in place in order for people to be able to use those parks."

The revised order also contains a section requiring essential businesses to prepare and to post "social distancing protocols." This is a statement from the business clarifying that it will, and how it will, limit the number of people who can enter the facility to ensure the people in the facility can keep a minimum 6 foot distance from each other; will note where lines can form; will provide hand sanitizer; will provide for contactless payment systems or, if this is impossible, will state that the business intends to disinfect all payment portals, pens, styluses, etc. after each use; that it has posted a statement at the entrance to the business advising people that they should avoid entering the facility if they have a cough or a fever, and that each customer and each employee of the facility should abide by the standard precautions that are in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

No synopsis of the order can take the place of actually reading the order. The order can be found online at www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=33692

The rest of
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gatherings and against leaving one's place of residence. Schultz said that Governor Newsom's order loosening Brown Act requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic had allowed the supervisors to conduct their board meetings "virtually" and that the planning commission is planning to follow the supervisors' model.

"The public hearing has already been cancelled twice," said Schultz. "We are following the governor's orders, and the project applicant has not requested that the item be cancelled. So it is going forward."

The agenda item calls for a public hearing on a negative declaration in connection with a 143-foot-high cell tower, to be located on the east side of Manzanita Drive near "the top of the hill" in the Pine Mountain Estates subdivision, approximately a half-mile east of the intersection of Lakewood Drive with Ridgewood Road, approximately 5 miles southeast of the City of Willits.

The planning commission meeting will be available for viewing online on the county's YouTube channel, beginning at 9 a.m. To access the meeting, viewers may go to www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYcX7uSxr-GyRh2JtuwFg/videos. According

to Schultz, the cell tower hearing will happen shortly after the meeting begins.

At the close of the board of supervisors' Tuesday April 14 meeting, Supervisor Haschak asked the planning commission to cancel their proposed hearing.

"I have received lots of comments about a controversial issue coming to the planning commission this Thursday," Haschak said. "However one may feel about the issue, my concern is that an agency is taking on a very controversial issue during this COVID-19 lockdown."

"People who are not computer savvy, who do not have internet access, and who want to make comments in real time, will feel disempowered, and that their voices aren't being heard. As a result, it is reasonable to suppose that their trust in the vital role of government will be shaken."

"Again, my hope is that we use this time of crisis to build stronger community. I would hope that, following the modeling of the board of supervisors, that all county agencies will postpone, if at all possible, controversial issues until we can have full democratic discussion," Haschak said.

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The rest of
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the limited re-opening would look like. However, at the April 7 board meeting, Doohan described the logic behind a slow, step-wise return to normalcy.

"Now, when we release the sheltering-in-place order, it's not like an on-off switch," Doohan said on April 7. "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."

On April 7, Doohan said that the shelter-in-place order would likely be lifted by the end of May. On last Tuesday, Doohan said that the limited re-opening could begin in mid-May.

During discussions on Tuesday, Fort Bragg resident David Gurney, who later in the meeting phoned in a comment in which he asked the board of supervisors to immediately terminate the employment of Doohan due to gross incompetence and grossly unethical behavior, phoned in a prior comment in which he pleaded with the supervisors and with Doohan to get more coronavirus testing for Mendocino County.

"I couldn't agree more," Doohan said. "We have increased our testing capacity over the past week, because both the Ukiah hospital and Howard Hospital can do in-house testing, rapid-turnaround testing, and our excellent clinic, Baechtel Creek Clinic, in Willits, has the machine to do testing, but is waiting for the cartridges to put in the machine."

"We need more testing capacity," Doohan said. "That's why every day I'm on the phone with our state leaders to lift up our message to our elected officials, our congressmen, our senators, to say, 'We need increased testing.' Actually it is a positive thing that we have the testing capacity that we have, because, if it were not for the advocacy of our MHOAC [the "medical health operational area coordinator," a position currently filled by Mendocino County Emergency Services Coordinator Jen Banks], we would have even fewer test kits than we do today."

Doohan told the supervisors Tuesday that at that time, the county Public Health Department has conducted 181 tests, has gotten 179 negatives and 2 positives. A privately owned company, Quest Diagnostics in Santa Rosa, has analyzed 253 tests, has gotten 245 negatives, 2 positives and has the results of 6 tests pending. This is a total of 434 tests.

As of the end-of-day Wednesday update, Public Health reports a total of 479 tests administered in Mendocino County, still 4 positive cases (all 4 recovered), with the results of 7 tests still pending.

Deputy CEO Darcie Antle gave a brief report on the financial damage to the county government that has been sustained by work done to prepare for when the pandemic hits Mendocino County. She said she expects to see revenue losses in the millions, particularly from loss of sales tax, transient occupancy tax, and Prop 172 funds.

She said that county employees have worked 2,000 hours of overtime in response to the crisis and that the county has spent \$500,000 in order to prepare an alternate care facility to house excess patients during a COVID-19 surge.

Last Friday, during a press conference with Doohan, county CEO Carmel Angelo said the location of the alternate care facility was at 131 Whitmore Lane in Ukiah, the former Mendocino Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, which is located about five blocks south of the Ukiah Airport.

In a separate conversation with Willits Weekly, Second District Supervisor John McCowen said that so far, no one has been housed in the alternate care facility. "There's been no need for that," McCowen said. "That was in case we had a surge event, and we could take people out of the hospitals that needed a step-down level of care, so we could free up hospital beds for the surge. But so far that hasn't happened."

Antle added that she filed a request for \$2 million in federal assistance from FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sheriff Matt Kendall reported that he quarantined four people at the Mendocino County Jail, that he had them tested, and that all the test results came back negative. In addition, three employees in either the sheriff's office or the jail were tested, and those tests also came back negative.

Kendall said he has reduced the jail population by about 30 percent, or about 100 people. "The cities are going to cite and release," Sheriff Kendall said. "Anything that can be cited and released, is."

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gierde asked county CEO Angelo if she had had any thoughts about how the county could reduce overtime. Angelo said she has begun to reduce hours the county staff was spending on COVID-19. She was not able to give more detail, but stated that she would be able to do so in the future.

Supervisor McCowen said that the City of Ukiah had sent a letter to the county seeking to collaborate with the county on finding a resolution to the homeless crisis. A few moments later, Ukiah City Manager Sage Sanguiacomo phoned in to talk about the letter and the Ukiah City Council's request, which was for focused collaboration between the city and the county. To that end, the city council suggested that the county create the position of "point person" to take the lead in coordinating the campaign to address homelessness. The letter from Ukiah also requested the county to do more to beef up sanitation at the Hastings Avenue homeless encampment in Ukiah.

McCowen took polite exception to some of the background information in the City of Ukiah's letter. He said that he himself was instrumental in getting a porta-potty and a sink in there, and in putting in two solid waste debris boxes. He estimated that, before any steps were taken to ameliorate the situation, there were 25 cubic yards of trash piled up there. One dumpster was put in and immediately filled; a second was put in and is in the process of being filled.

McCowen said the county's Health and Human Services Agency has housed or "hoteled" 105 adults and 12 children from all over the county. He said that these people were street-level homeless and included people with children, people who were elderly, and people who are medically vulnerable.

Board Chair John Haschak said he was dissatisfied with the county's technical capacity to run the board meeting virtually, and particularly with the county's ability to allow for public comment. Fourteen people had called in during the meeting, but only six were able to speak to the supervisors.

"We have seen that it is a challenge for the county to allow people to comment in real time, during a meeting," Haschak said. "Even today, we have seen that, of the seven people who signed up for public comment, only two were able to give it during that time, and one other; and of the people who signed up to speak about item 5a (the COVID-19 update), two out of four were able to get on; and for item 5b (Dr. Doohan's contract extension) only one out of the three who had signed up were able to get on," Haschak said.

On the other hand, many more people are able to use their computers and electronic devices to watch the board meeting than physically attend the board meetings. My computer screen stated that 1,433 people were watching or had watched at least part of the April 14 board meeting.

Committed to Caring for Our Community



So much has changed in the past month for all of us in Mendocino County, yet our commitment to our community has never been more intense. I am inspired daily by our 1,000 team members who have stepped up and are serving tirelessly preparing for a potential wave of community members needing care. We’ve doubled the capacity of our hospitals and the surge planning has been impressive. Our teams stand ready to serve.

We are working in collaboration with Mendocino County Public Health Department and our clinical teams are closely following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Because of robust infectious disease protocols, we are confident we have the necessary precautions and training in place to protect our community through this and potential future pandemics.

Creating Capacity

In preparation for a possible influx of COVID-19 patients, we’ve created more capacity and prepared new units with beds and equipment that we will need. We have also designated isolation rooms in our nursing units to mitigate the spread of infection, while caring for patients who are under investigation or have tested positive for COVID-19.

Visitation Restriction and Patient Screening

To protect our staff and patients, we now have limited entry to our facilities. For those patients coming in for services, we ask that they not bring a companion with them. Exceptions may be made for those patients who require assistance and minors. As always, our team will work with families who have special circumstances, such as end of life situations. We understand and value family support as part of the healing process. Our team will work with friends and families of patients to extend their support using communication through mobile devices or tablets for special circumstances. We miss having the hospital serve as a community gathering place as so many

come in to visit and bring joy to our patients. We are looking forward to once again returning to the open access we love to promote.

Care for You and Your Family: Primary and Specialty Care at Our Medical Offices

Our primary care and specialty clinics in Fort Bragg, Willits and Ukiah are still open for in person and virtual visits. You can depend on us for all of your care needs, including routine care, medication refills and ruling out COVID-19.

Virtual Visits

Your health, safety and wellbeing are very important to us. This is why we are now offering on-demand virtual visits which allows you to connect with your doctor remotely using video and audio through a computer or mobile device. It’s easy. And you’re able to see and hear your doctor as if you were in the same room. In-person office visits remain an option and may be necessary based on your health care needs. To learn more or schedule a virtual visit, call your provider’s office or go to AdventistHealth.org/VirtualVisits.

Keeping Our Staff Safe

All hospital employees are being screened before entering our facilities. If an employee screens positive to one of the criteria, they will not be allowed to work and must follow guidelines to be cleared to return to work. We are also constantly working to make sure we are keeping our staff safe by providing them with the tools they need to provide exceptional care, including personal protective equipment and training based on the latest clinical guidelines. We have rescheduled non-essential surgeries as part of the effort of conserving those limited resources that we will need in this challenge.

In House Testing

While testing supplies are limited, we are now able to do testing for COVID-19 at our facilities. Following CDC guidelines, we are now able to administer tests for hospitalized and high-risk patients and process the samples at our facilities. This means faster turnaround time, which will help us save valuable PPE and allow our care team to provide responsive care and keep our patients and staff safe.

Virtual Assistant and Symptom Checker

We understand that accurate and timely information is so important during this crisis. We’ve created our Virtual Assistant to help. This free, easy to use interactive tool is accessible 24/7 on our website. It provides up-to-date information on COVID-19 and a symptom checker.

How the community can help:

We have been touched by so many in our community who have reached out to offer their support during this unprecedented time. So what can you do to help besides continuing to stay home, maintain social distancing, and practice good hand washing?

For people wanting to donate supplies or prepackaged meals or snacks, make cloth masks for distribution, please reach out to Allyne Brown at 707-463-7623.

For those wanting to send messages of support for our team, we thank you and encourage you to share that goodwill on social media and tag our hospitals. We’ll make sure we “like” and “share” so that our team members get your message.

If you want to learn more about COVID-19 and connect to great online resources from Adventist Health, please visit <https://www.adventisthealth.org/coronavirus-preparedness/>

Thank you!

I have been so impressed with the support our community has shown our caregivers. Thank you for the generous outpouring of love and gifts of supplies to keep our team safe. I know we have been pulled closer together through this crisis and I look forward to the new normal, which I believe will be a more connected, more collaborative future. I trust we all will emerge from this crisis with a greater appreciation of how connected we all are and what a great community we have.

Thank you for doing your part to “flatten the curve.” Please continue to pray for and support our first responders and healthcare workers— all of them, from nurses to housekeepers to physicians to respiratory therapists and everyone in between. We are here for you. We are honored and proud to serve Mendocino County.

Most Sincerely,
Jason Wells | President
Adventist Health Mendocino County



Adventist Health
Howard Memorial



Adventist Health
Ukiah Valley