

## Superintendent promises graduation ceremony when possible

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As is the new custom, the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting this April was a Zoom affair.

Education continues. Graduation will happen (sometime). Kids are being fed. Funding for schools will go down.

Some things are sacred. "I don't care if it's the first day of Frontier Days, we're going to have a graduation for kids," said Superintendent Mark Westerborg.

"If we have to have it

Read the rest of **Graduation**

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## Strategic plan on homelessness ready for review

Mike A'Dair  
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The draft "Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness in Mendocino County" was scheduled for the first review by the Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care on Monday, however, technical problems associated with the CoC's Zoom meeting prohibited discussion of the item.

The hearing has been rescheduled for Monday, April 27 at 1:30 pm.

The Mendocino County Homeless Services

Read the rest of **Plan**

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## Pine Mountain cell tower hearing rescheduled

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Due to a public noticing error, the Planning Commission's public hearing on the Pine Mountain cell tower that had been scheduled for April 16, has been rescheduled to May 21.

The mistake had to do with the announced date for the public hearing, in a document in the Planning Commission's online agenda packet. The document incorrectly stated, on page 1, in the

Read the rest of **Tower**

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Ramon Chavez, Mendo Mill of Willits "Employee of the Year," key holder, and paint department head, celebrates his three-year-employment anniversary with Mendo Mill this month, and keeps up his excellent customer service by bringing an order right out to the window for pickup.

Photos by  
Maureen  
Moore

## At Your (Window) Service

Willits businesses aim to keep shopping easy, and compliant, during the COVID crisis, offering curbside and window service

Adapt to changing guidelines. Clean even more than usual. Stay compliant. Keep shelves stocked. Stay open. It's a minefield of hurdles for local businesses during this coronavirus health emergency, but they're trying their best to keep things as normal in a time where everything seems anything but.

Many businesses are persevering, offering needed goods to the community while keeping their employees,

and their customers, as safe as possible.

One of the most helpful services for those feeling uncomfortable with coming into stores, is offering curbside pick-up for orders and food.

Tony Madrigal of El Mexicano expressed his restaurant's willingness to make sure customers are comfortable and practicing safe distancing.

"We're happy to get your order ready and waiting so that you can come in and grab it from the table here, or we can deliver it out to the curb, too," said Madrigal. "We've been leaving the door to the

Read the rest of **Service**

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At left: Masked-up Mark Adley, front-end manager at Mariposa Market, is more than happy to bring out groceries to the car for anyone needing the service. "Mark is a great employee and takes his job very seriously and does so great with interpersonal communication," explained Mary Anne Trevey, owner of Mariposa Market. "His job is to keep the front-end operations flowing easily, and he works so hard to achieve that on a daily basis. Thank you Mark!"



Photos by  
Maureen  
Moore

Tony Madrigal, owner of Willits landmark El Mexicano Restaurant, won't leave the community without the tastiest chile relleno burrito in these trying times – just give them a call and they'll have your order ready and waiting.

Diners can come in and grab their to-go order on the bar table inside, shown at right, or the El Mex staff will bring it right out to your car, shown above.

"I just really want to express my thanks and appreciation to the community for coming out and supporting not just my business, but all of the businesses here in town during this time," said Madrigal. "I hope we can all come out of this not so far in debt that we cannot dig ourselves back out afterwards, and continue to operate here in Willits."



## New health orders on Friday to mandate face coverings in public

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Mendocino County Interim Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan will issue three new health orders on Friday. One of the orders will make wearing facial coverings, or masks, generally mandatory in public settings.

The second order will require that medical-grade face masks be worn by staffers and authorized visitors in patient care settings, as well as by emergency medical providers and other first

Read the rest of **Masks**

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## Sen. McGuire says state is working on testing

Mike A'Dair  
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California State Senator Mike McGuire phoned in to a meeting of the county board of supervisors on Monday and said the state is working on creating a structure for testing for the novel coronavirus.

"The state is working on it, I can tell you that," McGuire said. "It will need another couple of weeks to get a matrix deployed."

When that matrix is deployed, McGuire said, "the state will be able to do 25,000 tests per day."

McGuire believes that

Read the rest of **Testing**

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## Teens arrested for burglary during shelter-in-place order

Submitted by the Willits Police Department

On Saturday, April 18 at approximately 2:14 am, the owner of Kure Wellness on South Main Street was notified of a security alert for his business. The owner checked his CCTV security system and observed two males forcing entry inside his business. The males partially disabled the security cameras upon entering.

The owner immediately contacted Willits Police Department and notified them of the events. In a matter of minutes, WPD

Read the rest of **Burglary**

Over on Page 6



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Time to allow outdoor activities

To the Editor:

It is time that Mendocino County got in line with the rest of the state to allow outdoor activities with proper social distancing. The stress from not being able to work, stuck at home, and kids without much to do is very destructive to people's mental health and is being woefully ignored.

The governor's ordinance and ordinances from Bay Area counties, Sacramento area counties, and rural counties to the north of Mendocino do *not* require people to start their exercise activities from their home. They *only* require social distancing while out exercising and not to congregate at places that would result in significant contact (e.g., parking areas where everyone touches the same surfaces). Being a rural county, social distancing is not that hard to do.

The lack of COVID-19 cases has nothing to do with locking down county residents, but the lack of people coming from outside the county which is and has been only controlled by the governor's order and not the county order.

Why have our supervisors gone along with this?

Paul Futscher, Willits

## Medicinal plants progress report

To the Editor:

For eight years I have had both a gut leaking bacteria and a failed root canal pumping pathogens into my system 24/7. I have literally kept myself alive through the use of several medicinal herbs – originally using extracts of Stephen Buhner's "top three" tropical herbs, Sida, Cryptolepis, and Alchornea, the most powerful herbal antibiotics known. Cryptolepis and Alchornea became pretty much unavailable after about six years – the word had spread. Necessity caused me to substitute Bidens pilosa for Cryptolepis and Alchornea, and that has worked well.

Powerful as Sida is, no one herb can protect us against all pathogenic bacteria and fungi. Fortunately Bidens pilosa compliments Sida well, and I have found my daily intake of Sida and Bidens has (so far) kept me bacteria- and fungi-free. These herbs are extremely non-toxic and, if anything, augment the effectiveness of pharmaceuticals. Besides their pathogenic protection, they are also chock-full of many other healthy benefits (blood cleaner, clot reducer, liver and brain protectant, highly antioxidant, etc.).

I have been growing Sida acuta in my backyard for eight years, and it has provided me with enough harvest to supply my own medicinal needs. Nevertheless Sida grows poorly at my 1800 foot location, though it grows well in the Ukiah valley (after all it is a tropical weed). Certainly growing Sida in a greenhouse would

be optimal, but it is possible to get an adequate crop if you can grow it like heirloom tomatoes.

I also grew out two other Sida species which are essentially as strong medicinally as S. acuta, and grow somewhat better here. Sida rhombifolia, from Costa Rica, is a beautiful plant that grew over 6 feet after over-wintering inside. Sida indica actually grows wild all over our county, which means it can grow with poor soil and minimal moisture. These two species produce five times more harvestable matter than acuta. The whole Sida plant is medicinal – you can dry it and keep it for years, and it is equally effective as a tincture or tea (must be acidic water).

Bidens pilosa grows profusely for me, and would grow well anywhere in our county. It tried to spread to other garden beds which is fine with me. It is a tasty vegetable and high in vitamins and minerals (especially silica). I cook it in my scrambled eggs most mornings, and after giving a shopping bag full of Bidens to vegetarian friends, they are addicted to it in their sandwiches. Our local horses will push each other out of the way for Bidens leftovers. Sida plants are equally tasty with leaves that have 30 percent+ protein (!), but produce much less edibles.

Most experts think Bidens is much less strong than Sida with a more restricted range of effectiveness. Current research rebuts much of this, and I find Bidens to independently be very effective against my athlete's foot and other fungi, among other things.

I encourage you to grow these two herbs in your garden. These herbs never engender pathogen resistance. They take to containers very well as annuals. While Bidens loses much medicinal value once dried, I was able to harvest it fresh well into November, and Bidens so far works as a house plant. I use a lot of Sida and Bidens in a year, and 100 square feet covers my need for Sida, and perhaps 50 square feet gives me a ton of Bidens pilosa. I would say a 5 gallon container of each could net you a starter harvest of either. Any garden soil will work if heavily fertilized, but better soil gives better plants.

I wrote two seminal books on Sida, and copies are in our Willits library. Your can also see copies at our Herb Guild booth at our Willits Farmers Market, which also offers seeds for these medicinal species (half of what you pay goes back to the Guild). More information is on my website: bbruneau.com.

A number of small and experimental gardeners (and medical practitioners) are already testing out these medicinals, but what we really need are commercial-sized grow-outs if we are going to protect our whole community. These two herbs should make most herbal preparations better and more powerful; in a few years we could see all our empty storefronts filled with dispensaries, not particularly marijuana, and people coming from the Bay Area and Sacramento for our solutions.

The best revenge is to have fun anyhow.

Bill Bruneau, Willits

## Coronavirus haikus

*Editor's note: Willits High School teacher Jill Walton submitted these haikus from her 12th grade Creative Writing class. "Unleash your inner poet, give voice to your anxiety, hopes and fears," she wrote in the assignment instructions. "Write haikus about your experience during the coronavirus pandemic to share with WHS and our community. As we practice social distancing, I hope this creative communal activity will help to bring us together."*

*Willits Weekly also received another poem from a student about her COVID experience, which we're publishing in this edition on page 13. We encourage other local students to write us, with letters to the editor or poems about their experience of "distance learning." Hopefully they might count towards some credit for an English class!*

### By Joscelyn Beebe:

The symptoms evolve  
The doctors are not certain  
Do we all have it?

Recipes to try,  
Too much food to eat all day,  
But my schoolwork sits.

The roads are empty  
But the humans find a way  
And love is still spread.

Rain covers the sky  
I smell mildew in the air  
I forgot Goodbye.

### By Tyler Bailey:

No graduation  
No senior trip, ditch day, prom  
Worst year graduate

### By Patrick Turner:

Sitting with the plague  
Never go six feet near it  
Isolation sucks

### By Aleen Hernandez:

All sheltering home  
Isolated from the world  
Missing our freedom

All schools closed their doors  
Opened our eyes to our past  
Making us grateful

### By Kylei Polen:

Scared of the virus  
My life is no longer mine  
Inevitable

### By Kylei Polen:

They don't value me  
Value my obedience  
Or fear the outcome

### By Micah Stamps:

Senior Year is gone,  
Four years gone by, I learned much,  
Now I say goodbye.

The Daily Routine,  
The Pinnacle of Boredom,  
Wake, Eat, Work, Write, Sleep.

### By Maira Trujillo:

Social distancing  
Staying away from close friends  
Being quarantined

Everyone is scared  
Nothing seems to control it  
Sick people dying

### By Eddie Llamas Calderon:

On my own at home  
Wanting to go back to school  
Please Covid end soon

### By Rachel Hageman:

Bed is never made  
Computer is always dead  
Overwhelmed in work

### By Zoe Grimm:

Dreading the homework  
Falling asleep around three  
Missing my girl group

In need of routine  
Senior year is not complete  
Rest in peace softball

### By Ethan Ferguson:

Stuck inside often  
Trying to leave everyday  
This needs to end now

Feeling paranoid  
Washing hands to prevent this  
I would like to leave

### By Matthew Licea

Times are different  
Stay away from each other  
Keeping sanitized

### By Ryan Miltimore:

Sleeping until noon  
Where are all the gloves and masks?  
I need school back now

# Willits Weekly

Your local newspaper is online and in print

## Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury seeks tech-savvy applicants

### Submitted by the Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury

Welcome to the Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury. The civil grand jury is composed of 19 legal residents of the county. This civil grand jury is empaneled to provide citizen oversight of local government agencies and their expenditures for the good of the county residents. It is sometimes referred to as the "watchdog" of the community. It functions under the authority of the Mendocino County Superior Court.

Applications are still being accepted for the 2020-2021 grand jury, with a May deadline.

The 2019-20 Coronavirus Pandemic Public Health Emergency has created the opportunity for innovative "business as usual." This is old news. What continues to be "news" is how people and organizations cope with the evolving situation.

The 2019-20 civil grand jury quickly needed to discover new ways of communication for time-is-of-the-essence methods of doing business.

Fred Branson, Willits, is foreperson of the 2019-20 county civil grand jury. An AT&T retiree, he's knowledgeable about the tech world. With the help of Logan Shine, a local business consultant, also on the grand jury, the GJ has begun using teleconferencing, videoconferencing, and other interactions for committees to meet and continue their work.

"The county GJ investigates county and municipal governments and departments to ensure our tax money and other revenues are being spent with the best outcomes for county residents. Especially with the current situation, the next GJ will bear much responsibility to make sure the county is accountable to

its residents," explained Branson.

"We found a company to create and host meetings securely after the company developed stronger security measures. Documents can be created, shared and edited in real time online. With the jury's commitment, we are making this work," added Branson.

"Clearly, there is a need for jurors with diversified interests and skills, and this pandemic has shown the need for technology savvy."

If you're interested, here is what you need to know:

- You must be a county resident, age 18 or older.
- You must have been a resident of the county for at least one year on July 1 of your service year.

Other requirements are listed in the application.

The process to become a civil grand juror for the next jury year, beginning July 1, starts in the spring. Those who have an interest in pursuing an appointment to the Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury, should go to the website: [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury/about-the-grand-jury](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury/about-the-grand-jury). Applications are accepted from all qualified citizens and may be downloaded from the website.

Applications are reviewed by the superior court judge appointed to preside over the grand jury, and a drawing is held to pick 19 jurors. Those not selected are placed in a pool of alternates. You are urged to apply as quickly as possible.

You may also contact Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury, P.O. Box 939, Ukiah, CA 95482, or call 707-463-4320. Email: [grandjury@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:grandjury@mendocinocounty.org).



Photo courtesy of Dan Tharp



Photo courtesy of Little Lake Fire Department



Above, left: The old Scott house that sat on the lot behind the firehouse on North Humboldt Street moves down Highway 20 to its new location. Above, right: After the first attempt at moving the house was cancelled, the house waits for new paperwork. At left: The house rolls down Main Street. Below: The California Highway Patrol makes some last-minute checks before okaying the move. At bottom: The old Scott house waits in the early morning rain.



# Move Over

## Next steps for a new firehouse are under way as a neighboring home is relocated and a bid on demolition is awarded

The house waited in the pouring rain to be moved from the lot directly behind the firehouse on Humboldt Street to its new location on Highway 20, but although it had been lifted onto the wheels and was ready to go, it was not to be that morning. A glitch in the paperwork caused the California Highway Patrol to postpone their permission for the operation.

However, a week later, on a much drier Sunday morning, the operation was accomplished. Due to the shelter-in-place ruling and the early start time (7 am), the structure pretty much had the roads to itself as it lumbered down Main Street and west on Highway 20, to its final location.

Little Lake Fire Department Chief Chris Wilkes explained the significance and history of the house, originally owned by the Scott family: "The house was purchased in 1994 by the fire district. It was purchased back when Jeff Smith was the fire chief, in order to either move it or tear it down, so we could expand or rebuild the firehouse.

"The district board of directors and Jeff Smith had a vision for the expansion of the firehouse. Nobody wanted to demolish it, so there was a lot of effort put out to find someone to purchase the house and have it moved. We were in fear at one point that we weren't going to be able to get that done. Recently we had local residents, the Mihelcic family, purchase the house and pay for a mover, and it happened."

"The plans for demolition and getting a new firehouse are going very well," reported Wilkes. He noted there was a lot of interest from contractors for the demolition bid and that the bids were published on [www.ciplist.com](http://www.ciplist.com).

"We had seven demolition contractors and two environmental contractors who would be responsible for the remediation of any asbestos

or lead paint that might be found in the structure at the walk-through. We've had other contractors who were not at the walk-through."

According to Wilkes, the fire department was required by law to go with the lowest responsible bid, meaning that the contractor has proper documentation and good references. The bid packages were then submitted to an architect, the firehouse consultant, and a labor-compliance consultant before a special board meeting was held and a demolition bid was awarded.

Now, the final OKs are in process. Once the contract is signed, the demolition company will have two weeks to begin and one month after that to complete the tear-down, at which point, the Little Lake Fire District will provide a fence around the perimeter of the two lots until the contract and plans for the new firehouse have received their final approval and construction begins.

As to the plans for the rebuilding of the firehouse, Wilkes was very upbeat on the progress: "We're probably 99.9 percent of the way through finalizing the architectural drawings that have already gone through the city, with the different engineers through the process. Then they had to go through the firehouse consultant and certainly us. We went over the plans to make sure every single plug is in the right place.

"We're trying to eliminate any opportunity for change orders in the project," he continued. "When the plans are done, we need them to be done exactly as we want and need them, so there are no extras, there's nothing hanging out there that can cost the district more money during the construction process. After we're done going over the plans, they will get submitted back to the city for approval."

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



Above: The house waits to be hooked up by the moving company. Below, left: Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes and volunteer Aaron Branscomb wait with their coffee in the rain. Below, right: A member of the moving crew prepares to supervise the move. At bottom: The moving crew prepares the house.



Photos by Mathew Caine



## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

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!

F	Y	B	D	G	S	G	R	U	V	D	A	I	N	D	E	M	L	R	V
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T	C	S	S	D	G	I	H	B	K	C	E	H	C	D	T	M	G	I	H
H	G	D	A	E	P	T	H	R	O	V	F	H	U	G	T	A	B	H	
N	O	W	H	S	M	E	L	F	S	P	C	O	O	N	M	P	A	U	T
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Y	R	C	S	O	B	P	R	S	A	W	G	B	S	M	V	I	R	C	
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P	I	E	L	T	I	N	I	V	T	O	P	Y	S	D	A	B	G	T	E
Y	K	E	M	T	A	D	U	A	S	R	B	A	S	M	U	Y	L	H	S
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H	G	T	T	R	N	K	V	P	A	D	W	P	R	O	K	Y	F	W	
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48					49				50					
51									52					
			53						54				55	
	56						57		58					
	59								60					

1. Revolutions per minute
4. Hymns
10. Brew
11. Did not acknowledge
12. Atomic #77
14. Partly digested food
15. Not one
16. Lesotho capital
18. Copyreading
22. Living organism that feeds on organic matter
23. One's biological father
24. An aggregate of molecules
26. Equally
27. Khoikhoi people
28. Jump in figure skating
30. Lantern
31. TV network
34. Georges \_\_\_\_, French philosopher
36. Sharp, shrill bark
37. Albanian monetary units
39. Launched Apollo
40. One who graduated
42. Passed by
48. Very unpleasant smell
50. Graduates
51. Seedless raisin
52. Self-protection
53. Clue
54. Life-savers
55. Ingest too much
56. Misrepresented
58. Small Eurasian deer
59. Most mocking
60. Soviet Socialist Republic

1. Flower cluster
2. A form
3. Inner organ regions
4. Local law enforcement
5. A citizen of Senegal
6. Positively charged electrodes
7. Connects granules
8. Business practice
9. The Mount

**Pg. 5**



responders when interacting with the public.

The third order will be a revision of Doohan's April 10 shelter-in-place order. It will contain some loosening on the prohibition against driving to recreation sites, and clarification that non-essential businesses closed to the public are allowed to use employees to ship or deliver goods to local residences.

Contacted on Wednesday afternoon, Mendocino County Deputy CEO and Public Information Officer Sarah Dukett said Doohan has been having discussions with advisors and stakeholders and making small revisions to the health orders, which were available in draft form at the Monday BOS meeting.

Dukett said she was certain that the final orders will be slightly different than the draft orders that were published with the BOS agenda on Monday, but said she did not think that the changes would be significant.

An important section of the draft face mask order for ordinary people reads:

"All persons shall wear facial coverings before they enter any indoor facility besides their residence, any enclosed open space, or while outdoors when the person is unable to maintain a 6 foot distance from another person at all times.

"Additionally, it is recommended that each person engaging in outdoor recreation activity such as walking, hiking, bicycling, or running bring a facial covering and wear that facial covering in circumstances where it is difficult to maintain compliance with social distancing requirements, and that they carry the facial covering in a readily accessible and safe location, such as around the person's neck (if safe) or in a pocket, for such use.

"Because running or bicycling causes people to more forcefully expel airborne particles, making the usual minimum 6 feet distance less adequate, runners and cyclists must take steps to avoid exposing others to those particles, which includes the following measures:

- a. wearing a facial covering when possible;
- b. crossing the street when running to avoid sidewalks with pedestrians;
- c. slowing down and moving to the side when unable to leave the sidewalk and nearing other people;
- d. never spitting;
- e. and avoiding running or cycling directly in front of or behind another runner or cyclist who is not a member of the same household or living unit.

"This order does not apply when the person is driving alone or with members of their households, unless the windows in the vehicle are lowered to interact with first responders, food service workers, or other persons who are not members of their households."

There are exceptions listed, including for those who have trouble breathing or those who would have safety issues with wearing a mask at work. Children under 2 should not wear masks, and children age 12 and below are not required to wear masks.

The order continues to advise that medical-grade masks should best be left for health-care workers and others in contact with infected persons.

Acceptable "facial coverings" include "any fabric or cloth that covers the nose and mouth, such as bandana, a scarf, a neck gaiter, or a homemade cover. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. Homemade face coverings can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarves, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels."

Doohan announced she was planning the new orders at Monday's virtual board of supervisors meeting. She said at that time she was considering putting a "10 mile" restriction on driving to a place of exercise or recreation, meaning that under the new order, a person could drive as far as 10 miles to recreate. Some of the supervisors, including Second District Supervisor John McCowen and Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams, said that a 10-mile limit wouldn't be enough to help many of their constituents.

Doohan also discussed the fifth case of confirmed COVID-19 in Mendocino County that was announced on Friday, April 17. She said the case is that of a man who had been an inmate at the California Institute for Men, a state prison in Chino, in San Bernardino County, where 59 positive tests for the novel coronavirus have recently been confirmed, and where one inmate death from COVID-19 has occurred.

The former inmate was released April 7

establishing a matrix to organize and coordinate the distribution of testing is an important prerequisite to opening up the state's social and economic life.

"Before we can start significantly loosening up the stay-at-home orders, we need to have a testing protocol in place," McGuire said. "Testing will be for the most vulnerable populations: nursing homes, frontline workers in health care, and law enforcement.

"We've got to figure out how quickly we can get testing rolled out into the community, which then I think will help us be able to talk about how quickly we can implement [a phased re-opening].

"I would expect -- and this is my own editorial -- this is not coming from the Department of Public Health. My own editorial is, I think that the remainder of 2020 will look different than 2019 did. A few reasons for that. Number one: I think that we're gonna look at loosening the restrictions, once we get the sampling high enough for testing. I don't think we're going to see normal seating in restaurants, potentially for the remainder of the year. I am not sure that we are going to see the large events that we see, whether it be on the coast or inland, happening this year. There will probably need to be some type of attendance limit, and there will have to be some type of social distancing.

"As far as county fairs, baseball games, etc., I think things are going to look different. I go back to what the CDC has told the state, and Dr. Fauci [Anthony Fauci, MD, a leading expert on infectious diseases and White House advisor]. Dr. Fauci believes that it won't be until the end of the year until we get back to what we all believe is normal. And the last thing I'll say is, we may not see complete normalcy until we have a vaccine for this," McGuire said.

McGuire spoke to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the North Coast economy. "We started feeling some momentum over the last couple of years on our economy, and this has been devastating," the state senator said. "I have been talking to people on the phone, every day, literally crying, because they're going to lose their business, or they can't pay their bills, or, I was talking to a gentleman in Humboldt this morning, he can't pay his mom's rent, and she's gonna lose her house. Which is why this issue of testing is so critical, and the public has a right to be so upset. So I want to talk about where we're at, and about the challenge that we have, not just in California, but the United States.

"This nation made some critical blunders in the beginning when it came to testing. Number one, we should have gone with the World Health Organization tests. It was ready to go, but we decided to do our own tests.

"It took us between six to eight weeks to do the tests, and there were then two challenges rolling out the tests. Contamination in CDC labs, which slowed the roll-out, and that [news] went public over the weekend. And number two, because of the rush to make these test kits -- for example, one of the largest batches that we received from the CDC, and the federal government -- those test kits came without having one solution or two, [needed] to complete the actual tests.

"So where we're at now, is we're taking it into our own hands. We can't continue to wait, because our economy is cratering, and the heart and soul of Mendocino County's economy is small business. So I think the more coordinated we can be as a region, the better we're off....

"We need to have better communication with the Bay Area counties, we need to be on the same page, and we need to make sure that the rural counties get what they need to open up.... I think we need to be much more coordinated as a region, from the Bay Area all the way up to the North Coast," McGuire continued.

"I think the number one goal that we all must have, is we have to get this damn testing regimen rolled out, because that's gonna define what this loosening truly looks like. And that is what the number one, number two and number three goals for the state look like, and I promise you, you are going to see some movement here in the coming few weeks."

officers were on scene and observed the subjects inside of the business and evidence of forced entry.

With the assistance of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol, WPD officers made entry into the building. A perimeter was established, and both subjects were eventually located still inside of the business.

The subjects, both juveniles, were arrested on the following charges: Penal Code 463(a) (Burglary during a state of emergency) and Health and Safety Code 120295 (Violation of shelter in place order).

They were ultimately taken into custody and booked for the mentioned charges.

first sentence of the text, that the hearing would take place at the Planning Commission's regular meeting "on Thursday, April 22, 2020."

This information was incorrect in two ways. First, the Planning Commission's regular meeting was on April 16, and second, there is no "Thursday, April 22, 2020" -- April 22, 2020 is a Wednesday.

Because of this error, Planning Commission staff announced at the April 16 meeting that the Pine Mountain cell tower hearing would be rescheduled for May 21.

where we introduce them one at a time and keep them 6 feet apart, walking across the track ... whatever we have to do," he said. "It's a rite of passage."

And Brookside Elementary second-graders will move on to become Blosser Lane third-graders.

"We're not going to hold kids back in second grade because they didn't finish the last 10 weeks," said Westerburg. "We just have to move on. We're going to start third grade in a different place.

"It's not uncommon to have a kid miss ... a couple of months," he continued. "In this case it's good, because it's everybody."

Everybody is adapting, and teachers, said Westerburg, "are doing a great job of keeping kids on track and putting great assignments out.

"The truth is, we've probably gained five years of technical skills in three weeks. Maybe that's a silver lining we'll get out of this," he said.

And there's another silver lining....

"The buildings are going to look great," he said. "Custodial's hitting all these places we've wanted to hit forever ... getting to maintenance things we've been waiting to do."

And food service keeps chugging along too, preparing "about 150 lunches and 75 breakfasts a day ... and being super-accommodating to people if they want to [pick up for] multi-days," said Westerburg.

The meals are available for pick-up at the high school between 8 and 10 am for breakfast and 11 am to 1 pm for lunch.

And they're free to "literally anybody 18 or younger ... [they] don't have to be a student at our schools," said Westerburg.

He told the board that the district will "get reimbursed" by the state for the costs of the meals.

Welcome as that reimbursement may be, that money plus "some" savings as a result of closed school buildings, doesn't amount to much in the face of a decidedly uncertain financial future.

"We're going to be fine academically. Financially is our really big concern," said Westerburg. "We're going into next year assuming we're going to lose some revenue.

"We're not running out and creating new positions," he continued. "Anytime we have a retirement or opening, if it's not a classroom teacher, we're putting it to the side right now."

"Sad to say, but I think we're going to see some significant impacts to our budget," agreed board president Alex Bowlds. "The state and federal governments are incurring huge debt right now ... sales taxes are way down.

"We happen to be the biggest cost to the state budget. I don't see us getting away from this unscathed," he said.

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Above: A view of the plant floor at METALfx in Willits. At right: METALfx's latest investment is a new automated fiber optic cutting laser with automation. The installation timeline has been extended due to travel restrictions, but the company is hopeful it can get operational soon.

## Business as usual? Not even close...

Submitted by **B.J. Gutierrez**  
for **METALfx**

On Wednesday, March 11, METALfx received an urgent communication from one of its top customers, a bio-medical manufacturer of products used in the detection and research of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

In this letter, METALfx was told they were a supplier of certain components that are critical to the customer's COVID-related products and was asked to maintain operations to produce and ship these items during this critical period of time. This was just the first of several letters from customers to METALfx.

"We knew early on that the parts we manufacture were essential, not just for our customers in the telecommunication and federal infrastructure fields working to make sure people across the nation could continue day-to-day, but even more importantly, for our customers in the medical fields who are directly involved in fighting the coronavirus," explained Henry Moss, president of METALfx.

Moss shared that the companies and products that METALfx directly supports are involved in the COVID-19 fight through research, diagnostic testing, detection, vaccines and cures, biotechnology, and surgical equipment. While some customers are ramping up production on existing products to meet demand during this crucial time period, others are developing new

technology to detect and treat the virus.

"Even knowing how important it was that we continue to operate, the safety of our employees, their families, and our community was our priority," Moss explained, reflecting on the days prior to the statewide stay-at-home orders and closures of non-essential businesses. "We knew things would have to change, so we started planning early and with the help of health experts."

One of the many steps taken was to consult with executives from Howard Memorial Hospital on what protocols should be taken to protect employees. Amy Buckingham, head of ER at the hospital, and Linda Givens, Patient Care executive, visited the METALfx facility for a roundtable discussion, where they shared their own safety protocols. METALfx determined to mirror the hospital's measures as closely as possible.

Specific protocols include a ban on non-essential visitors and a strict screening program for anyone entering the building: Prior to each shift, employees are screened for temperature, symptoms, and possible exposure and then badged. Guidelines have been documented and dispersed on how to handle suspected infection.

Once inside, the company has adjusted to a new normal in order to continue

Read the rest of  
**METALfx** | Over on Page 11



Above: Urgent sheet metal parts wait final inspection at METALfx before shipment to a bio-med customer for coronavirus test equipment. Below, left: COVID-19 Safety Protocol and Instructions sheets are posted prominently throughout the METALfx facility. Below, right: Kasey Hollifield works diligently on a fastener machine with notice posted reminding employees to wash their hands frequently and also to take a few minutes before and after each shift to sanitize machines and tools.



At left: Forming Lead Don Manion, right, administers a now-routine health check to Pete Mackay before start-of-shift.

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At right: One of the colorful kites fly high in the sky at the Yokum ranch.

Two kites rise above the hills.

Maci Yokum watches her sister Kylie hold onto a kite with dangling yellow tails which float out like limbs in the afternoon breeze.

Photos by Bobbie Yokum



## Local Eats

Support your local restaurants and eateries with this handy reference guide

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

Name	Phone	Hours	Take out	Delivery
101 Drive in	707-459-1010	7 days, 11 am - 6:30 pm	Y	N
101 Burgers & More	707-354-6777	Tues - Sat, 11 am - 8 pm	Y	N
Call-in, drive thru window, order inside				
Aztec Grill	707-459-3231	Mon - Fri, 5 am - 3 pm	Y	N
Limit - four customers inside at a time				
April Mays	No phone listed	Sat, 7 am - 5:30 pm	Y	N
M - F, 5:30 am - 5:30 pm				
Sat, Sun, 6 am - 5 pm				
Bangkok	707-510-6611	7 days, 11 am - 9 pm	Y	Y
Call for curbside pickup if desired				
Brewed Awakening	707-459-7055	Mon - Fri, 6 am - 2 pm	Y	N
Sat, 7 am - 2 pm				
Cafe 77	707-459-2233	7 days, 8 am - 2 pm	Y	N
El Chicano	707-841-3144	7 days, 9 am - 9 pm	Y	Y
El Mexicano	707-459-5702	Mon - Sat, 10 am - 8 pm	Y	N
Happy Donuts	707- 841-3030	7 days, 6 am - 2 pm	Y	N
Harrah Senior Center	707-459-6826	Mon - Fri, 12 - 1 pm	Y	Y
J.D. Redhouse	707-459-1214	Mon - Fri, 9 am - 6 pm	Y	N
Call ahead for drive-thru or curbside p/u				
KarKar Deli	707-501-9221	Sat, Sun, 10 am - 5 pm	Y	N
Mon - Fri, 9 am - 6 pm				
Sat, 9 am - 4 pm				
Kemmy's Pies	707-367-5498	Mon - Fri, 7 am - 5 pm	Y	Y
Call for curbside or home delivery				
La Siciliana	707-459-5626	7 days, 11:30 am - 7:30 pm	Y	N
Loose Caboose	707-459-1434	Mon - Sat, 10 am - 3 pm	Y	N
Northspur Brewing	707-518-4208	7 days, 1 - 7 pm	Y	Y
Call ahead or order online for curbside, in-house p/u, home delivery, www.northspurbrewing.com				
Papa Murphy's	707-459-0888	7 days, 2 - 8 pm	Y	N
Call ahead or walk-in				
Peter's Sushi	707 459-6086	7 days, 11:30 am - 9:30 pm	Y	Y
Pizza to Go	707-459-1813	Sun - Thu, 11 am - 9 pm	Y	Y
Fri - Sat, 11 am - 10 pm				
Old Mission	707-459-6811	Wed - Sun, 1 - 6 pm	Y	N
Rio's Fish & Chips	707-459-3105	Mon - Sat, 11 am - 8 pm	Y	Y
Rollin Dough	707-354-2040	M, W, Thu, Sat, 7 am - 5 pm	Y	Y
Scoop's	707 272-9646	7 Days, 12 - 5 pm	Y	Y
Delivery 12 - 3 pm				
Subway	707-456-0668	7-Days, 9 am - 8 pm	Y	N
Call-in or order online at www.subway.com, walk-in				
Super Taco	707-459-1282	7 days, 11 am - 9 pm	Y	N
Szechuan	707-456-0688	7 days, 11:30 am - 9:30 pm	Y	Y
Taqueria Bravo	707-459-0905	7 days, 10 am - 9 pm	Y	N
Taqueria Jalos	707-456-1110	7 days, 9 am - 9 pm	Y	N
Taqueria Maria	707-459-3900	M-Tu, Thu-F, 11 am - 8 pm	Y	N
Sat, Sun, 10 am - 6 or 7 pm				
Taqueria Ramirez	707-367-0324	Mon - Fri, 10 am - 4 pm	Y	N
TNT Market Indian	707-456-1290	7-days, 11 am - 10 pm	Y	N

## Grocery Stores

	Curbside	Senior Hours	Delivery
Brooktrails Market	707-841-7368	N	N
7 days, 9 am - 10 pm			
Grocery Outlet	707-456-0400	Y - call in, credit card	N
7 days, 7 am - 7 pm			
Mariposa Market	707-459-9630	Y - order on website	N
7 days, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm			
www.mariposamarket.com			
limit - 12 people in store			
Safeway	707-459-5862	N	Tu & Th, 6 - 9 am
7 days, 6 am - 10 pm			
Instacart.com			
888-246-7822			

Thanks to the Willits Chamber of Commerce for starting this handy list of local restaurants that offer take-out, curbside pickup, or delivery services. Mathew Caine has updated the list with current information, and added information about four local grocery stores. But as Chamber Director Ron Moorhead advises: Always call first to check current hours and offerings.

# Kites in the Sky

Social distancing fun at grandma's house with high-flying kites



At right: A squirt of hand sanitizer from shop owner Linda Matz completes a COVID-safe transaction at Cat's Meow.

Below, left: While Mazahar looks closed for business, they're open for call-in orders and curbside service - check out their Facebook page.

Below, right: The marquee at the Noyo Theatre advises patrons the local movie house is "Closed for Your Safety."

Photos by Ree Slocum

## The rest of Certificates

live in Laytonville or Covelo and points beyond. We want them to feel some of the love, too."

This way of supporting businesses is easy to do. People don't have to go somewhere to purchase the certificates - although, in some cases, they can be purchased and picked up in-person. Gift certificates can be purchased over the phone by credit card or check, and sent in the mail, or if the business is set up for it, gift certificates can be purchased online.

After receiving the gift certificate, purchasers should make sure to take a photo or scan it and email it to Kanne. There will be three lucky winners getting a \$300 gift certificate from Mariposa Market, J.D. Redhouse, or Sparetime Supply.

To be eligible for the drawing, gift certificates for \$20 or more must be purchased between April 5 and May 5, and the photographed or scanned gift certificate sent to karperhames@sbcbglobal.net. The drawings will be May

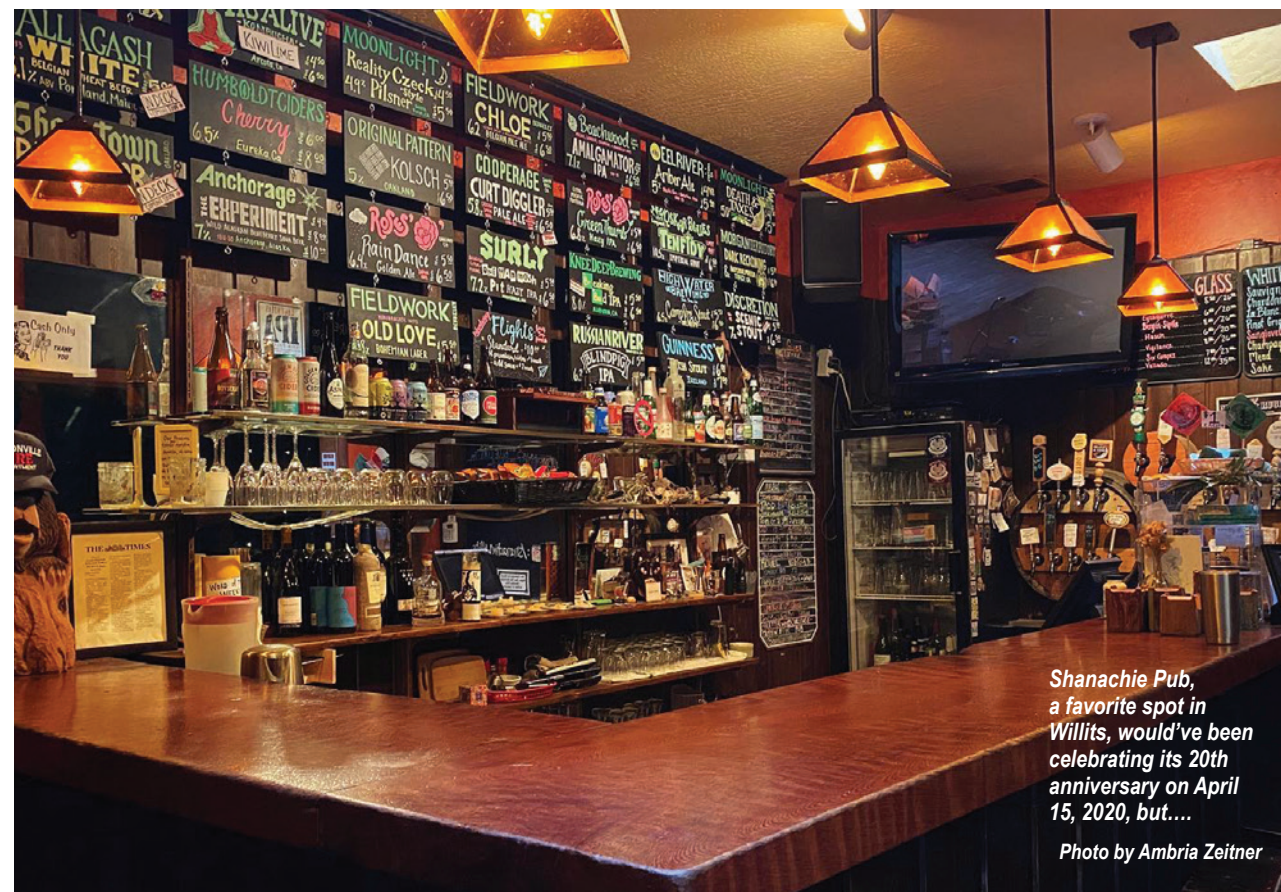
6. For further information, call or text 707-671-3606.

As a member of the Willits City Council, Kanne is looking for ideas on how businesses can safely reopen. "I urge you to get together with other business owners - businesses in the same category as yours - and try to come up with some ideas for how you can open [with safety measures in place]. Then present those to the county and state.

"[State Senator Mike] McGuire's office is really wanting to hear from businesses," said Kanne, "so whatever protocols come down aren't just forced on us by the state, but are actually built by business owners ourselves. We know our businesses. We know our customers. We know how we can safely operate. I encourage all business

owners to be thinking about that and putting your ideas out to the powers that be."

Kanne added that she's currently in conversation with other book stores in the county to brainstorm ideas. "Our businesses are so browser-centric. We want people to come in and linger. How do we do that in the age of COVID?"



Shanachie Pub, a favorite spot in Willits, would've been celebrating its 20th anniversary on April 15, 2020, but....

Photo by Ambria Zeitner

# Shanachie Pub

Reminiscing about 20 years of craft beer, live music, and friendships

By Pete Swanton and Link

It all began as a dream 23 years ago. Fresh off a trip to Ireland, the time seemed ripe for a pub in Willits, so the search began. Right here in downtown Willits was a cozy space behind what was then the Purple Thistle restaurant, formerly occupied by Tsunami. The space had sat empty for several years, and so, two years later, the dream was starting to become a reality.

Work on the pub began in the fall of 1999 and on tax day year 2000, 20 years ago today, April 15, Shanachie Pub opened. Though its name has Celtic origins, it isn't an Irish pub, it's Willits' pub.

It was to be a hometown pub that served craft beer and good wine, a place where friends old and new gathered to debate and to share stories, thoughts and ideas. From day one, we have had live music and over the years, due to increased demand, we have expanded music to six nights a week.

For several years there were times my decision to open the pub was in question, but persistence paid off, and 20 years and a head of gray hair later, the pub is a downtown icon.

Tragedy struck six years into the pub's life. On August 21, 2006 at 3:30 pm on a hot, windy day, a cigarette was thrown into the dumpster at the rear of the building. The dumpster quickly went up in flames and the fire spread into the building. Within minutes the entire upstairs was engulfed. Crook, the alley cat, was first out the door. The self-absorbed feline escaped with a singed tail and a bad attitude.

Had it not been for the expertise of the Brooktrails and Willits fire departments, the pub would have been a total loss. The next day a ragtag work crew sifted through the charred remains and loaded up truck after truck to haul off to the dump. It wasn't an OSHA-approved workplace, but we got a lot done that day....

Many positive changes happened as a result of the fire. Ladies got their own bathroom, the whole upstairs got insulation, and a new roof and the small south bar were installed. The patio got expanded and covered, and the pub emerged better than ever. Three months later on December 11, we reopened.

The cast of characters who have "graced" the pub over the last 20 years brings a smile to my face. Many friendships have been made and several have met their spouses there.

We've said goodbye to many people over the years. Sadly, we've lost some and others have moved on, only to be replaced by a new generation of pub-goers.

The pub sits quietly these days awaiting the day that we can reopen. A few small changes are happening in the interim. Change, as we all know, is inevitable. Our anniversary celebration will be some time this summer or fall. It will be a quite a party!

A special thanks to Wesley the landlord, to my employees over the years who've believed in the vision, to the musicians who have shared their music with us, and mostly, to you, the patrons, who have had our back, supported the pub, and have co-created this dream of mine into something much bigger than I could have ever imagined. Thank you for being a part of the dream.

Visit the Shanachie Pub page on Facebook to see some videos of favorite performers posted as part of the online anniversary celebration.

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"Let's burn those old masks" sessions!

"Recreate my darn birthday" sessions!

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From far left: The Brooktrails gardeners take pride in the look of their plots, as seen here, where the end of a walkway is set up like a shrine. There are more than vegetables in the gardens, including this beautiful iris. Cathie Nicolaus oversees membership and tutors beginning gardeners.

Below: The old tennis court is surrounded by blackberries.

Below, left: One of Anthony Ward's display areas greets the gardeners.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Ember and Phoenix Hetherington love to get their hands dirty helping on their grandfather's plot.

At right: Thanks to Anthony Ward's flowers, bees are in abundance in the warmer weather.



## Growing Together

### Brooktrails Community Garden, a place where food and tranquility are cultivated organically

"All I know," said Candide, "is that we must cultivate our garden."

"You are right," said Pangloss, "for when man was placed in the Garden of Eden, he was put there 'ut operaretur eum,' so that he might work: which proves that man was not born for rest."

"Let us set to work and stop proving things," said Martin, "for that is the only way to make life bearable."

The quotes above are from "Candide," an 18th century novel by Voltaire in which, despite all his adventures, the hero comes to realize that the greatest life is in simplicity, the tending of one's own garden, a basic rewarding pursuit.

Since 2011, when a group of Brooktrails residents decided to re-purpose a tennis court that had fallen into disrepair, the Brooktrails Community Garden, across from the old Brooktrails Lodge, has been the source for a cornucopia of vegetables, flowers, bees, berries, joy and serenity.

The members love to play in the soil, to feel the materials of the earth, greet the insects and the birds which have become part of the ecosystem of the gardens and, most importantly, sense the slow, patient excitement of creating food, nursing it, and waiting for it to reach its full potential and maturation.

The gardeners have grown to trust themselves, to know where their food has been nurtured, how it has been planted

and fertilized (no chemical inorganic compounds are permitted), and the love they have instilled in each living organism.

Although they live in a farming, rural community, many of the Brooktrails and Willits residents have only a nominal knowledge of how their food is created. For many of the beginning gardeners, theirs has been an adventure of discovery, an eye-opening experiment in the production of food, the most basic of necessities.

Some learn by trial and error, but this is a community of gardeners who are more than willing and eager to share their knowledge, gained over years of working the soil in their micro-farm plots. They believe that in order to have a healthy garden community, all of the participants should thrive in their efforts.

There are work days where the gardeners get together, basically once a month, to pull weeds, work on the communal compost piles, and generally create the most welcoming agricultural area possible. Twice a year, they meet to exchange ideas and have a tasty potluck, and to plan for the coming months.

Mary Abramson, in her sixth year at the gardens, tends two of the 27 plots, some of which are cultivated communally and contain raspberries, strawberries, squash, or other vegetables and berries, which are shared by the community. Abramson, this season, is growing carrots,

Read the rest of **Garden** Over on Page 15



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**Tom Wake Plumbing**  
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**Current Job Openings:**  
County Health Officer  
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II  
Emergency Services Specialist  
Facility Project Specialist I/II  
Social Worker Assistant II  
Supervising Legal Secretary  
  
For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources)  
EOE

The rest of **METALfx** From Page 7

operations. Meetings are limited and are almost entirely virtual. Additional laptops and upgraded internet allow for office staff to work from home. Safe social distancing has been established in communal areas such as the employee break and lunch rooms. Sanitation and cleaning procedures have increased 10-fold.

"Concerns for the safety of our employees used to primarily involve making sure that equipment was safeguarded and that staff was properly trained on safety precautions," said B.J. Gutierrez, director of Human Resources at METALfx. "Now, this has caused us to look at everything we do from a different perspective. What hasn't changed is that the health and well-being of our associates continues to be our main priority."

Longtime employee, engineer Bruce Cartwright, said he's never experienced anything like this at METALfx or elsewhere. Cartwright stated: "With the exception of morning health checks, my job actually hasn't changed much. Sheet metal is sheet metal, parts are parts. Still, it's nice that I can come to work without having to worry about my safety with regards to COVID."

Cartwright added: "I'm on the board for Frontier Days, though, and we're very concerned with how COVID will affect it. We're already discussing whether we can still safely hold the event with COVID in the picture." Established in 1926, Frontier Days is Willits' premier event of the year, drawing significant numbers of locals and tourists. The event's uncertainty is just one example of how the coronavirus is affecting everyone in multiple ways.

The rest of **Move** From Page 3

### Virus means changes to medical rescue

The time of COVID-19 has created some extra challenges for the district in the manner in which they respond to calls. They still respond to all calls they receive from the dispatchers who "do a good job of interviewing the caller and pulling good information from them," Wilkes praised.

The dispatchers, usually the Willits Police Department, triage the calls as best they can, so "when we show up to these patients, we can take the proper PPE [Personal Protective Equipment]," he said. "In the past, we would get a call, and we would rush in and everybody would try and do the best job we can and provide medical attention or whatever is needed."

"Now, we have to take a different approach. The duty officers are evaluating the patient first, the area, the condi-

tion the patient is in, making sure the proper PPE is being taken to limit exposure to our volunteers. We don't normally wear face masks, but now we would certainly take that precaution.

"The big question for us," he added, "are vehicle accidents, which we do more of than anything else. We don't know that the victim or a member of his family or riders don't have the virus. We have to take precautions, leave space, ask the right questions."

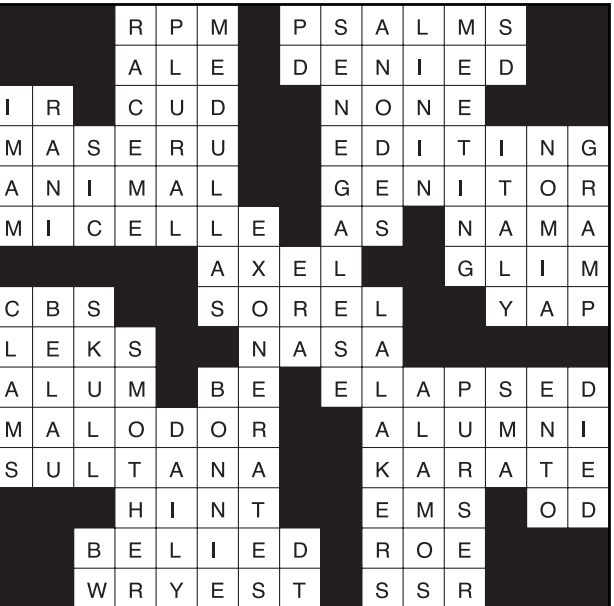
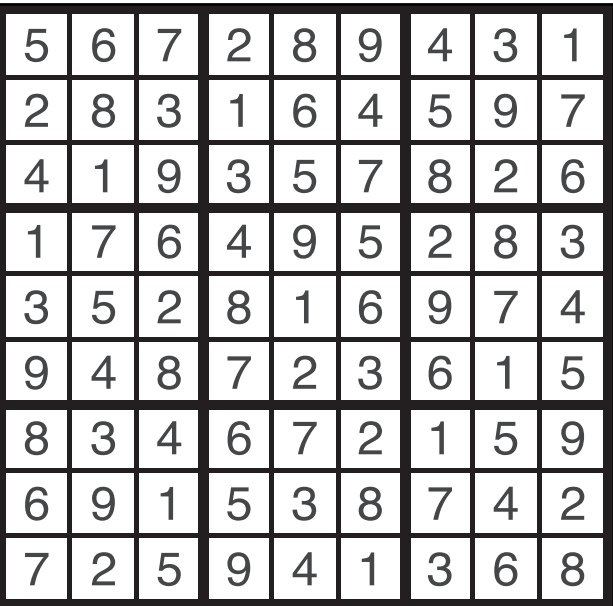
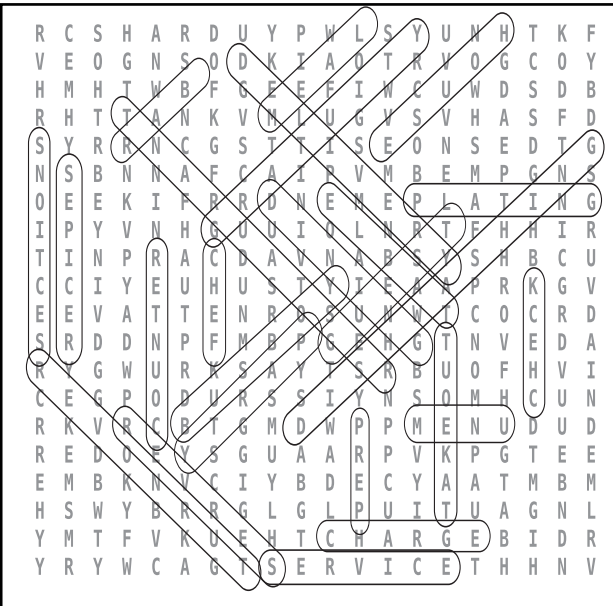
Wilkes would like to thank the local ambulance company, Medstar, for the support they have given. The service has "gone so far as to limit our contact as much as possible to protect our volunteers," he said. "They will go in and evaluate the situation before calling us to see if we're really needed."



52 North Humboldt built in 1910

52 North Humboldt was built in 1910 for A. W. Utting by the firm of Clay and McElroy but also because they are important elements of the general turn of the century vernacular architecture found around the city park in the northwestern addition to Willits.

When being built, the house at 52 North Humboldt and the house at 66 North Humboldt were described as cottages. Both houses feature a low hip roof with projecting eaves and exposed rafters. The houses are small, rectangular in shape with a recessed porch. The porch at 52 North Humboldt is semi-enclosed by the same narrow overlapping boards that cover the house.



## CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

**Brookside Elementary Kindergarten Registration**  
Brookside Elementary kindergarten/TK registration has been cancelled for safety reasons. There will not be an assessment day this year. Please do not the online registration for the 20/21 school year. Go to [willitsunified.com](http://willitsunified.com) and click on the kindergarten registration link. It is very important to get this done as soon as possible. Kindergarten is for kids turning 5 by September 1, 2020. Transitional kindergarten is for kids turning 5 between September 2, 2020 and December 2, 2020. If your student is currently enrolled in our TK program you do not need to enroll him/her. He/she will automatically roll over to the next school year just like all of our other grades. Please share this with any parents of incoming kids you know. I can be reached by email at [ericabuzzard@willitsunified.com](mailto:ericabuzzard@willitsunified.com) with any questions.

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

**Sewing Cloth Face Covers**  
(not medical masks)  
Size M and L \$16.00  
Text only to 7073676182  
Barbara the Seamstress

**Willits Food Bank open**  
Willits Community Services & Food Bank is still distributing food, with many safety precautions, to those in need, up by about 25 percent. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but staff can be reached or messaged at 459-3333. The back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Call to arrange needed donations of fresh greens and other veggies, paper products, sanitizer, gloves and masks. Funds to help buy needed items can be mailed to: WCS, 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

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

Below: 52 North Humboldt was featured in the 1988 book "The Architectural Heritage of Willits," by Nelson A. Streib and Susan Pritchard, commissioned by the City of Willits. Reprinted with permission.



# 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 you provider's office or go to [AdventistHealth.org/VirtualVisits](https://www.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

The rest of  
**Plan** | From Page 1

Continuum of Care is a collaboration between more than 30 agencies with a mission "to plan and support a coordinated and strategic approach to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency, including action steps to end homelessness and to prevent a return to homelessness."

The full 40-page draft plan can be read online at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c62064ed7819e1199bd68de/t/5e9a17d6d9d0424682706a55/1587156960740/MCHS>.

It was written by CoC's Strategic Planning Committee, a subcommittee composed of a wide array of people from various agencies, city governments, and county government agencies, including Shannon Riley (City of Ukiah); Lisa Judd (Community Development Commission); Angelica Millan (Legal Services of Northern California); Wynd Novotny (Manzanita Services); Carla Harris and Lynelle Johnson (Coast Hospitality Center); Veronica Wilson, Megan Van Sant and Heather Criss (Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency); Blythe Post and Brady Nord (Mendocino County Office of Education); Que B. Anthony (a formerly unsheltered individual); Judy Albert (Project Sanctuary); Sage Wolf (Redwood Community Services), and Dan McIntire and Ryan LaRue (Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation).

The plan stems from a visit to the county by consultant Robert Marbut, who assessed homelessness in Mendocino County in the spring of 2018, and who recommended that the county take an aggressive, creative, collaborative approach to ending homelessness here.

The draft plan offers four main strategies to reduce and minimize homelessness. They are: to make homelessness rare; to make homelessness brief and a one-time event; to improve community and policy-maker engagement concerning homelessness; and to improve the Continuum of Care's capacity to govern itself.

## Making homelessness rare

Under the rubric of making homelessness rare, the draft plan states that CoC members will work to identify new funding for development of housing for the homeless, will partner with housing developers to reserve and fund units for homeless people, and will collaborate with California state agencies to identify state-owned properties that are available for short-term and long-term housing interventions.

The CoC will review county programs to "identify and support programs that provide effective homelessness prevention services," a strategy that involves creating those programs, if need be. This will culminate in a situation where the CoC will "develop, approve and implement CoC homeless prevention policy and procedures, including inclusion in a Coordinated Entry system."

The CoC will follow the same strategy with homelessness diversion services, which are different than, but related to, homelessness prevention services.

Also, the CoC and related agencies will "promote expansion of meaningful mental health and substance abuse treatment options to address housing barriers." This strategy includes "supporting a continuum of Dual Diagnosis (Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment) services," "promoting and prioritizing successful support services that prevent homelessness due to relapse and recidivism," "promoting and supporting effective anti-stigma, trauma-informed community information, trainings and educational programs," and "developing and cross-training providers, county wide, in timely referral, warm-hand-off protocols and behavioral health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment services."

The draft plan states that planners will know that this strategy has worked if "we see a 5 percent annual decrease in the total number of homeless as measured by HUD's Longitudinal Systems Analysis."

## Making homelessness brief and one-time

The draft plan recommends a similar strategy for the second leg of its overall plan, that of making homelessness a brief and one-time experience. The plan states that the first step is to "identify the most effective homelessness programs within the county, particularly those that provide emergency, transitional and permanent housing to individuals experiencing homelessness, and provide support to expand services."

The plan wants to "increase utilization of resources already available in the system," including recruiting and hiring a landlord-tenant navigator focused on centralizing recruitment and retention of landlords," and reviewing barriers to entry and moving through the system, in order to reduce the number of steps and the length of time that passes from entering the system, to obtaining housing.

The draft plan recommends "creating a quicker and seamless movement through the homelessness system for all individuals and families experiencing homelessness." The plan suggests hiring a coordinated entry manager, a new position, and it states that this new position would be created and hired by the CoC itself "and/or collaborative applicant to identify agency or organization." It also wants to "ensure all appropriate programs are using the Coordinated Entry System," and it recommends establishing "system-wide service eligibility and triage criteria for allocating resources."

It recommends developing a homeless outreach team that would "develop and implement collaboration between county, cities and law enforcement agencies and the homeless outreach teams in each region."

The plan recommends fully building out and robustly using the Homeless Management Information System.

Finally, this branch of the plan wants to establish low-barrier and no-barrier shelters, with uniform eligibility criteria across agencies, for families with children.

## Local engagement

The third leg of the draft plan has to do with fostering community support for the CoC's approach to homelessness. According to the plan, the goal is to "gain buy-in and agreement for one overarching strategic plan" to address homelessness. The CoC plans to do this by engaging leadership in underserved areas, by sharing data on promising practices and successful strategies, by providing presentations to policy-making bodies, and by seeking the endorsement of the plan from "entities within various jurisdictions."

The plan states that it is important to "develop a community understanding of the scope, scale and structure of the homelessness problem." The plan recommends forming an outreach and public relations team and also suggests that members of the CoC's Strategic Planning Committee will "make annual presentations to the governing body of each jurisdiction to report on strategic plan progress and on upcoming initiatives."

The plan wants to "increase engagement of persons experiencing homelessness in planning, implementation and decision-making for the CoC."

## CoC governance

The fourth leg of the plan addresses how the CoC governs itself. The plan recommends that the CoC "cultivate a culture of understanding and support across all agencies while establishing a system of accountability for actions of the membership." It wants to ensure that the various committees of the organization stay "active, current and relative to the mission of the organization."

The plan suggests that it is important to "incorporate performances measures related to all four goals of the strategic plan and all contracts initiated by the CoC," and also that the CoC should "promote data-informed decisions and focus on system performance."

## Covelo man arrested for burglary, looting during emergency

*Submitted by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office*

On April 17, at about 2:54 am, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a reported burglary in progress at the Village Hearth business in Covelo.

Deputies arrived, finding the front door open and a window broken with the business in complete disarray.

The owner of the store responded and advised an Apple iPad was missing from the store. The value of the stolen iPad and damage to the store was estimated at about \$1,300 in total.

Also located at the store on the floor was a black color pellet rifle, which did not belong to the store.

Deputies contacted Covelo resident Neil Bruce Waldron, 51, as he was in the area at the time of the reported burglaries. He was wearing a black baseball cap, black hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and light color boots.

Deputies learned Waldron was on active summary probation out of Mendocino County and had prior arrests for commercial burglaries in Covelo.

While investigating this incident, deputies learned that Keith's Market in Covelo had also been broken into.

Deputies observed the east breezeway doors had been broken. The glass on one of the entry doors was completely shattered, and the glass on the secondary entrance door was cracked. Deputies observed a carton of Marlboro cigarettes lying on the ground inside of the breezeway itself

and the door leading into the store from the breezeway was shattered as well.

The store manager responded and reviewed store video surveillance footage with the deputies.

Deputies observed Waldron on the video, who was wearing a black baseball hat, black hooded sweatshirt and jeans holding a black pellet rifle. He shattered the glass to the door leading into the store prior to entering the business.

The deputies identified the black pellet rifle as the same pellet rifle located inside of the Village Hearth.

Waldron was observed on camera taking alcoholic beverages, and cigarettes from inside the store and then leaving.

The total value of the items taken was valued at about \$630.92 and the damage to the store was estimated at \$4,000 in repair costs.

Due to the current declared state, local and federal emergency and the shelter-in-place order due to the COVID-19 crisis, Waldron was subsequently placed under arrest for 463 Penal Code (Looting during an emergency), two counts of 459/460(B) PC (Second Degree Burglary) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

Waldron was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

Deputies were later dispatched to another commercial burglary at a business in Covelo. Investigations are ongoing to determine if Waldron is connected with this additional burglary.

## West Business Development Center launches Spanish language website, webinars, and dedicated call line

*Submitted by West Business Development Center*

As part of their mission to support small businesses in both Mendocino and Lake counties, West Business Development Center announces the April 17, 2020 launch of a Latino Business Support page. This page houses all of the Latino programming information developed and presented by West Center; it can be viewed at [www.westcenter.org/latino-biz](http://www.westcenter.org/latino-biz).

In addition to the support page, West Center has set up a dedicated Spanish-language phone line for Latino business owners who have questions for West Center: 707-409-0530.

The Latino Business Support page is just the first in a number of steps West Center is taking to provide support for the Spanish-speaking business community. On April 17, West Center sent out their first Spanish-language newsletter, and this coming June they will be launching a Spanish-language version of the current West Center website.

Recognizing the need to serve the Latino community, particularly at this time of crisis, West Center has engaged the services of Mariana Almaraz who, effective April 13, 2020, is one of two dedicated Spanish-speaking small business advisors at West Center. Originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, Almaraz settled in the North Bay Area in 1997 to pursue her studies. Following graduation, she ran her own business, and in 2016 joined the Napa-Sonoma Small Business Development Center to work with the Latino business community, providing one-on-one business advising.

Mary Anne Petrillo, CEO of West Center, said: "We are thrilled that Mariana has joined the West Center at this critical time of need. She will be invaluable in our efforts to provide outreach to

our local Latino small businesses, both now and as businesses ramp up for reopening." Almaraz joins West Center veteran George Verástegui to serve the Latino community's business needs.

Beginning on April 21, and currently running through June 16, West Center will present a series of free Spanish-language webinars:

- **COVID-19: Marketing Strategies to Sustain Your Business / Estrategias para Mantener Su Negocio**, leader Erica Rojas provides marketing tips and strategies; May 5

- **COVID-19: Creating Your Brand / Creando Tu Marca**, taught by Ara Iglesias, an expert in branding and digital marketing; May 19

- **COVID-19: Social Media for Your Business / Redes Sociales para Tu Negocio**, led by Ara Iglesias, will focus on the importance of having a robust social media presence; June 2

- **COVID-19: Instagram for Small Businesses / Instagram para Pequeños Negocios**, a webinar on adapting to the current situation and creating digital content led by Mariza Baca; June 16

West Center encourages all small businesses in the county to visit their website at [www.westcenter.org](http://www.westcenter.org) for the latest business-related news and information about upcoming webinars.

**About West Business Development Center:** WBDC is a U.S. Small Business Administration funded non-profit business development center that provides reliable, no-cost confidential counseling and relevant training programs to entrepreneurs throughout Mendocino and Lake counties. West Center hosts the Mendocino Small Business Development Center and the Mendocino Women's Business Center.

## Willits Senior Center Lunch

### Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

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

### Home Meal Delivery

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

**Thursday, April 23:**

Ground Sirlion Steak

**Friday, April 24:** Turkey Dinner

**Monday, April 27:** Spaghetti

**Tuesday, April 28:**

Carne Asada Tacos

**Wednesday, April 29:** BBQ Chicken

**Thursday, April 30:** Turkey a la King

**Friday, May 1:** Steamed Pollock

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

## COVID-19

*By Kaya Freeman*

I sit here at home  
Bored out of my mind  
All alone with nothing to do  
I have nothing to watch  
It's all been canceled  
Even my school  
It's all online now

People are being fools  
They're buying toilet paper  
And stocking up on soup  
Don't ask me why  
The world isn't ending  
And neither are you

So don't get all worried  
Just stay at home  
Bored out of your mind  
With nothing to do  
That should do the trick

And I promise as much as I can  
That you should not get sick  
If you stay at home  
Bored out of your mind  
All alone with nothing to do...



SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# WE NEED YOUR HELP

WE ARE ABOUT TO RUN OUT OF FUNDING!

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, **231 students** have received **\$250** each from the Mendocino College Student Emergency Fund.

OUR GOAL IS TO HELP AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE RIGHT NOW!!

That's **\$57,750** going out to help students transition to online learning, survive job losses, provide food, or whatever individual needs arise.

On average, Mendocino College is able to provide:

- \$250** from the Student Emergency Fund (as long as they meet the criteria)
- +\$100** from the Food Pantry
- \$350 TOTAL** \$350 is not a lot for most students!

# GIVE TODAY

GIVE.CLASSY.ORG/MCGIVING2020

The Mendocino College Foundation will **match** your donation dollar for dollar up to **\$150,000!**

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HELP THEM

foundation.mendocino.edu



Above: Shoppers that happened into Mendo Mill Wednesday morning, when the bin of masks, center, was dropped off by Arnie Mello of the Frank R. Howard Foundation, got first choice of fabrics. Florals were the choice for one customer, left, and another shopper selected cats and dinosaurs, right.



Above: Frank R. Howard Foundation's Arnie Mello, left, poses on the cleaning aisle with Mendo Mill's Bob Doty and the bin of 300 masks made by local sewers donated for free to the community.



Sweet Asher

Asher, who is 4 years old and weighs 50 pounds, has been in a foster home with five other dogs since late last year. He came to the Ukiah shelter with several other dogs, all of whom were very shy. His foster guardian's been giving him a steady routine, training, and best of all, lots of TLC. Asher is learning to trust, and he discovered how much he likes to play with the other dogs. Asher is very loving to people he's met and familiar with, and he's bonded with his foster guardian.

We would love for this sweet dog to find a permanent home. The Ukiah Shelter is closed to the public, as per the county's COVID-19 order, but our dogs and cats are available to foster or adopt by appointment. For more information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453. To learn more about Asher, visit his webpage at [www.mendoanimalshelter.com/dogblog/asher](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com/dogblog/asher)

Handmade Masks

Mendo Mill, Mariposa Market, Coast Hardware, Safeway and Grocery Outlet to help distribute free fabric masks donated by Frank R. Howard Foundation

The first bin of 300 masks that will be offered for free to the Willits community was delivered by Arnie Mello of the Frank R. Howard Foundation to Mendo Mill on Wednesday morning.

Masks have been made by around 30 local sewers and are planned to be delivered weekly to Mendo Mill, Mariposa Market, Coast Hardware, Safeway and Grocery Outlet until 10,000 masks are out in the public. About 1,500 masks went out Wednesday morning.

Masks are being offered free of charge to allow everyone easy compliance with the new order expected this week, to mandate – with some exceptions – the use of facial coverings in public in Mendocino County.

– Maureen Moore



At top: This mask featured logos of the San Francisco Giants, a coveted fabric option for sure. It went to a happy, yet sports-deprived recipient. The masks donated by the foundation feature a pocket for a filter, cording to go around the wearer's head and neck, and a wire strip across the bridge of the nose portion of the mask to help keep it fitting closely on the face.

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# Shelter-in-Place Shop Local to WIN!

LOCAL LOVE! STAND UP TO COVID-19!

Local businesses are hurting... let's show 'em some love!

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES AND YOU COULD WIN ONE OF THREE \$300 GIFT CERTIFICATES

THAT'S RIGHT! THREE WINNERS WILL GET \$300 TO SPEND AT ONE OF THESE AMAZING LOCAL BUSINESSES:

**MARIPOSA MARKET • J.D. REDHOUSE SPARETIME GARDEN SUPPLY**

### HOW TO ENTER:

Buy gift cards now - spend later when the shelter-in-place order is lifted!

- 1. PURCHASE AS MANY GIFT CERTIFICATES / CARDS OF \$20 OR MORE FROM ANY LOCAL BUSINESS OF YOUR CHOICE IN WILLITS, LAYTONVILLE OR COVELO...**
- 2. E-MAIL PHOTOS OF YOUR GIFT CARDS / CERTIFICATES TO: [karperharnes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karperharnes@sbcglobal.net), BETWEEN 4/5/20 - 5/5/20... (EACH \$20 SPENT = ONE ENTRY)**

Winners announced when all entries are received

**FOR MORE INFO CALL OR TEXT: (707) 671-3603**

The rest of Garden | From Page 10

onions, tomatoes, basil, red potatoes and garlic, as well as some marigolds to brighten up the gardens.

"I'm crazy about gardening," she said. "I find the value of growing my own food is that you get a lot of food without having to go to the store to buy it. It's wonderful to watch it grow. It doesn't always work. Sometimes it can be a big disaster, but when everything works out right, you've got all this wonderful produce. You know it's healthy and organic and that the soil is really rich in nutrients. And you have the pleasure of being outside, which is its own reward.

"It's just so exciting," she added, "when you dig up your potatoes or pull up your garlic and you have these beautiful garlic bulbs, that you grew from a clove of garlic. You think to yourself, 'this worked!' This is a community that has people who are adept at gardening. They teach the beginners."

Cathie Nicolaus, the membership coordinator this year, was there at the beginning of the gardens. "We had to come in and get all the asphalt out," she explained. "Then we had to have the soil tested to make sure there was no residual toxicity. That was through the Gardens Project of NCO [North Coast Opportunities] who are instrumental in getting some gardens going in the area. The California Conservation Corps came for the day and cut back all the blackberries, built the original starts of the raised beds."

Nicolaus has two personal garden beds that she tends. "Growing my own food," she shared, "gives me piece of mind. I feel happiest when I'm digging in dirt, growing things. It's a good mental health thing for me to be working outdoors. When you grow something from a seed, every year it's like hope, a feeling of renewal.

"I like the community aspect," continued Nicolaus, "getting to know some of the people in Brooktrails. I like to know where my food comes from. I know how I tend it, how I take care of it.

"I tend to eat more seasonally. Through the summer and the fall, I tend to eat mostly the vegetables that I grow." She acknowledged the artistry of member Anthony Ward, who is a talented flower cultivator and arranger and is responsible for the flower displays that give the gardens a sense of warmth and beauty. Not only are the gardens a place to grow food, but they also serve as a place to sit, breathe, and enjoy moments of serenity and peace.

Garden plots are \$50 for the year, which entitles the member to water and use of the communal plots. These plots have already been booked. However, there is also a Friends of the Garden membership and it entitles that person to come into the garden, help tend the communal plots, and have a share in some of the communal harvest.

They can be active in helping with compost, garden chores, watering communal beds, and learning about starting their own garden from other members.

Plot owners must reside in Brooktrails, but Friends of the Garden can be anyone in the community. Visit the Brooktrails Community Garden Facebook page for more info.

COLUMN | WUSD Report Card

A hometown farewell to the class of 2020

By Mark Westerburg, WUSD superintendent

Every day, I see stories and social media posts about how sad it is for our high school seniors because of COVID-19. The class of 2020 is missing out on their last high school experiences, things like sports, prom, and numerous other activities, possibly even their graduation ceremony.

No doubt, this whole coronavirus pandemic has caused disruptions big and small in everyone's lives. But as someone who tends to be a contrarian, I'd argue that this year's high school seniors are getting something quite valuable from all of this disruption. In fact, I'm wondering if the class of 2020 isn't getting some of the most important lessons of all.

The coronavirus tossed a wrench into this era of "ME, ME, ME" and the continuous posts and tweets about things that really don't matter. No one seems to care too much lately about celebrity buzz and who's dating whom; instead, we're all a lot more concerned about making sure the people we care about are safe.

I think our soon-to-be graduates are re-learning many of the essential lessons we all learned

1. Be kind.
2. Share.
3. Play fair.
4. Wash your hands before you eat.
5. Participate in learning every day.

Be kind

Everywhere I look, I see local adults using those kindergarten rules. People are going out of their way to help one another and give where they can. Unlike in a big city, we know our first responders, healthcare professionals, and essential service people. They are our neighbors, friends, and family members. Right now, they are displaying the work ethic and sacrifice we want our high school graduates to emulate in their future lives.

Share

Right now, sharing can come in many forms. I've seen people donate their time and talent to help those who are vulnerable when they can. I've also seen people sharing some of their hard-earned

The rest of Opportunity | From Page 4

educational and emotional challenges of home study during times like these.

Keep routines in place and create a daily plan

One of the best ways to reduce children's stress is to maintain familiar routines. Create consistent wake-up, mealtime, and bedtime routines. Then start each morning by sharing the day's plan, so children know what to expect.

Create a schedule that incorporates both work and relaxation time in accordance with your child's developmental age and stage, including academics, non-screen creative time, exercise, snacks/meals, outdoor time, chores, free time, and more.

Include exercise in the mix

One of the best ways to reduce stress is to move. Get kids up and active. Walk around the block or race them to a visible landmark. Do an indoor scavenger hunt if the weather is poor. It's hard to overstate the importance of exercise during a time like this.

Try new things or go back to old favorites

Being at home together allows you to try new things and go back to old favorites. Bake cookies together. Do puzzles. Play board games or cards.

Humane Society update

Submitted by the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County

Spring is here, and our shelter, located on 5 acres here in inland Mendocino County, is especially beautiful right now! We wish we could see all of our wonderful volunteers and supporters and enjoy the beauty with you, we miss you guys!

Things are so different due to COVID-19. Our gates are closed. We have more cows onsite than dogs. Our yards are full of goats instead of playgroups. Cats are going out to foster in record numbers. We had our first virtual board meeting on Tuesday – for many of us it was our first time using Zoom!

Every day we are trying our best to stay connected and keep up with the demands of adoptions and fostering, despite the new rules. We want to give a big thank you to our community for all the support we have received. Hundreds of fosters have shown up to support our dogs and cats, they are writing the bios, sharing the pics, so we can find the homes and adoption applications keep flowing in.

Our little rural shelter has been working hard to adjust to the virtual world we are now living in, and we couldn't do it without you guys! Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these challenging times. We are still here for our community and the animals who need us! #CommunityPower

Currently we have 133 animals in our care and 73 are living in foster homes. In March we saw 48 dogs and 29 cats get adopted.

For the time being, we are not doing adoptions, fosters or transfers outside of Mendocino County. This decision was made to keep our staff and community as safe as possible. We appreciate our supporters from near and far, and look forward to working with you again in the future.

Our fundraiser "Pasta for Paws," which was scheduled for April 25, has been rescheduled for June 20.

dollars by picking up dinner and other necessities from our local restaurants and other businesses. Keeping it local supports our community.

Play fair

For me, this means treating others the way you would like to be treated. Today, that means keeping our distance and smiling (even if we can only recognize each other's smiles behind the masks by the happy squint of our eyes).

Wash your hands.

If ever there was a time to remember to wash our hands, this is it! Handwashing is the best defense against infection, and the more we slow the infection rate, the safer everyone will be.

Participate in learning every day

I think most students would much rather be at school than be isolated at home, even students who skipped school from time to time. And, though they might not admit it, I think they recognize that learning something from Google by themselves in front of their computer is way less fun

than sitting in a classroom full of friends and peers with a teacher who challenges them, makes them think, and encourages them to dig more deeply into learning. I hope they hold onto this feeling.

Willits isn't so bad

I also hope that the class of 2020 thinks it's not so bad to live in a rural area, up among the redwood trees where a sense of community and safety are normal. Although our local stores don't have everything someone could want, they truly have what we need. We are also very fortunate to have a five-star hospital in our community, one staffed by a dedicated group of incredible people. With only a few five-star hospitals in the nation, you bet we can be proud! Maybe it's not so bad to call little old Willits home.

As our seniors look to next fall, I hope all the lessons from kindergarten stay with them, and I hope they appreciate all the good things about being brought up here, because, as Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz" so famously said, "There's no place like home."

During difficult times, the human capacity for kindness and compassion is often on display in extraordinary ways. Share examples with your children when you see them, and brainstorm with them about ways they can be helpful and kind.

Remember, most folks are doing the best they can under difficult conditions. Try to be patient with yourself, your children, your partner, your colleagues, and your children's teachers. Practicing gratitude and helping your children practice gratitude is a great way to reduce stress and bring joy into your life. Whether we like it or not, our actions serve as a model for our children. Let's model the behavior we want them to use.

At the end of it all, we're in this together. Let's support one another.

The rest of Service | From Page 1

restaurant propped open during business hours so that no one has to touch the handle. We're cleaning even more than usual, making sure to focus on washing our hands and sanitizing everywhere customers and employees touch."

Madrigal also noted how grateful to the community he was for all of the customers who have continued to come in and support his business, and all the local businesses, during this hard time.

"We have such a wonderful community," Madrigal said. "We have had customers come in and just leave money for us, without ordering anything. They basically just gave us what they'd usually come in and spend in a month, and didn't even want to order anything in return. It was so amazing. Jerry Ward of Solid Wastes of Willits also came in and bought a \$500 gift card; he usually buys lunch for the crew out there and wanted to make sure to help us out. We're so grateful for people like that."

Madrigal noted that this is going to be a hard time for all the businesses, and that COVID-19 is just another obstacle for businesses already trying to recover from the bypass, change in the marijuana industry, the region's wildfires, PGE's proactive power shut-offs, and now this.

"I've already heard of a few businesses who are on the edge of closing," Madrigal said. "Unfortunately the fixed costs for any business don't change, even if they're closed. Payments for electricity to keep fridges running for example still need to be paid. Insurance, rent ... the list goes on."

Mariposa Market has been implementing strict social distancing and cleaning practices to help keep customers safe and healthy and will continue to respect the new guidelines as they are being issued by the county.

"We will be requiring all customers to wear masks when they come in to shop," said Mary Anne Trevey, owner of Mariposa Market. "All of our employees will continue to be masked as well, and we will continue to regulate the number of shoppers in the store at one time to the 12 people limit. We do ask that customers please not clump in the aisles as well as keeping in-store socializing to a minimum to try and get people in and out as quickly as possible. The lines forming outside the store are long, and we ask that everyone be patient."

As a hardware store, Mendo Mill is listed as an essential business and is open daily for customers to shop for home, yard and garden project needs, tools, and more.

"Mendo Mill is doing everything possible to make it easy and safe for our customers," said store Manager Bob Doty. "People can call in their order or place an order online, and we can get it ready for them to pick up in the store, or even on the curb – however they want to do it, we'll make it work."

All businesses are doing their best to try and make shopping as easy and possible for everyone during this hard time, and as a community, let's try and support as many as we are able to do so comfortably, and hopefully we can all weather this challenging time as best as we can, together.





# 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

Visit [sonomacleanpower.org](https://sonomacleanpower.org) for more helpful tips.

