# Willits Online & Print A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits organizations staff Thursday, April 30, 2020 Donations Accepted Edition No. 352

# City Council refinances wastewater bonds

Forrest Glyer willitsweekly@gmail.com

At their teleconference meeting last week, the Willits City Council passed a resolution to refinance the city's wastewater bonds, which will free up money and give the city a bit more of a "financial cushion" in the upcoming years.

According City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra, this was a good time to refinance since the current bond rates are favorable, and it will accomplish multiple goals. These include establishing a reserve for the city's wastewater fund that was previously lacking, and allowing the City of Willits to be more "nimble" in the near future if it needs

Read the rest of Council

Over on Page 10

# Measure B Committee OKs funds for Community **Foundation**

Mike A'Dair mike@willitsweekly.com

At last week's meeting of the Measure B Mental Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight committee Committee, members voted 7 to 4 to recommend to the board of supervisors that it allocate a portion of Measure B funds, not to exceed \$1 million, from those funds which had been earmarked for services and operations, to the Community Foundation of Mendocino County.

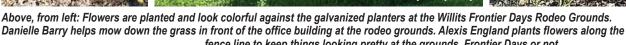
motion also gave instructions to the Community Foundation to find a way to equitably distribute those funds to the community organizations that are currently providing mental health services to people in this county.

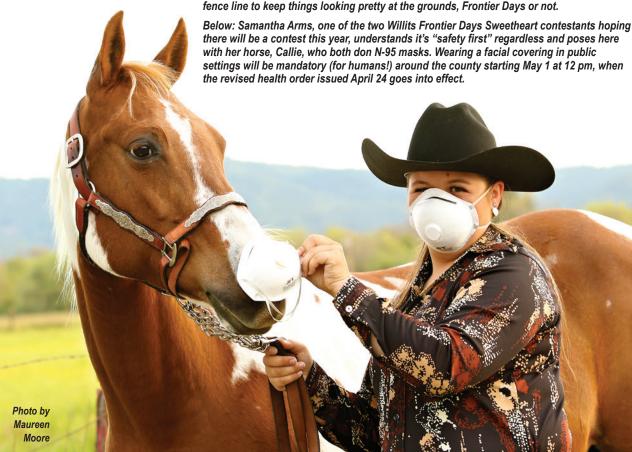
The motion was made by county CEO Carmel Angelo. In speaking in support of her motion, Angelo that currently the county is sitting on a lot of Measure B money and, with the COVID-19 pandemic upon us, there is a lot of need for mental health services in the community.

Speaking against sheriff's motion, the representative on committee, Tom Allman, said that giving money another community organization would be going against what the voters voted for.

"I certainly agree that there is a need," Allman said, "but I am in vehement disagreement of the source. Measure B is to build brick and mortar

Read the rest of Measure B Over on Page 10





# **Fate of** Frontier **Days**

# Coronavirus shutdown surely to put a halt to Fourth of July gatherings

Maureen Moore Graphics & Photographress maureen@willitsweekly.com

Of all the things being cancelled for 2020, the idea of not having Willits Frontier

Days, the regular annual gathering of community and Willits alumni alike, seems to hit home the hardest, especially with May 1 usually being the date Sweetheart candidates start selling tickets.

Well, this year looks like it might just be a very odd year, indeed.

Read the rest of

Rodeo

Over on Page 11

At right: The second Sweetheart contestant hoping to run for the 2020 title, Madison Forrester, also showcases a cowgirl-official handkerchief mask while posing with her horse, Allie.

Photo by Natalie Campbell

behind to make quick work of the open fields at the rodeo grounds.





Below, left: The metal horses at the rodeo grounds look longingly into the arena hoping to see real horses there soon. Below, right:

Bruce Cartwright mows a thick patch of grass during a recent work day. At bottom, left: The freshly mowed grass is just begging for

attendees to come and enjoy the grounds. At bottom, right: Big mowing jobs need big mowers - Fred Barry runs the tractor and drag-





# Seven COVID-19 cases in Round **Valley**

Mike A'Dair mike@willitsweekly.com

Seven tests for the coronavirus have come back positive from residents of the Round Valley Indian according Reservation, to the Mendocino County Department of Public Health. The positive test results came over the past week, with three positive results having announced on Thursday, April 23, three more on Friday, April 24, and one positive result announced on Wednesday, April 29.

This brings the current, total number of cases of COVID-19 in Mendocino County to 12.

According to Mendocino

Read the rest of Cases

Over on Page 11

# County to put up 'Closed' signs on highways

Mike A'Dair nike@willitsweekly.com

board supervisors on Tuesday directed Department of Transportation Director Howard Dashiell to put up signs advising motorists that no services are available for "guests" or out-of-county visitors in Mendocino County.

Dashiell said he would be able to speedily erect signs directly over the large welcoming signs that currently stand on Highway 101 near the county line with Sonoma County and

Read the rest of Closed

Over on Page 11

# **CalFire** to require burn permits May 1

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit will require dooryard/residential burning permits for residential burning within Mendocino County, effective Friday, May 1, at 12:01

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit is asking residents to take advantage of the following online burn permitting processes:

 CAL FIRE https:// burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/. Property owners can access this website to obtain a

Read the rest of Permits

Over on Page 11

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

# Thank you to the fire department

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the Little Lake Fire Department for the opportunity to move the house on Humboldt Street. Without their help, support and most of all patience it could not have happened.

Everyone was determined not to demolish the house. The little house has much history for many families over the years, touching everyone.

Thank you to the Little Lake Fire Department, the neighbors on Humboldt Street and the Willits community. Without vour support we could not have gotten it accomplished. What a great community Willits is! Thank you.

Mihelcic Family

# Our Yoga Center and COVID-19

To the Editor:

By Tom Allman

controlling all of us.

will always come out.

Dear Willits community: In an effort to support the health of our community, Our Yoga Center suspended holding in-person classes on March 16. We are currently offering online instruction, and, as of April 30, we will no longer have 
It's great to see how some are meeting the challenge. a yoga studio in downtown Willits. Closing our physical location was a hard choice but a necessary one to sustain our business in light of the current situation.

We are grateful to our community for eight years of support!

As we acclimate to our current situation, and hopefully

we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, I feel it

necessary to voice my concern about the dozens

(maybe hundreds) of conspiracy theories which are

bouncing all around social media. So called-experts

are pretending to know "the truth" about our world-wide

crisis. The conspiracy theorists are convinced that this

crisis is part of the American government's method of

I was a government employee for 39+ years.

know how local and state government operate as well

as anyone else. I have seen thousands of incidents

that have caused us all to shake our head, yet I truly

believe that government does not possess the ability to

implement a conspiracy against the citizens. The truth

I will say that 95+ percent of all government employees

believe in the public's right to the know the truth. There

are no big secrets in government, mainly because your

neighbor and my neighbor work for the government.

These are good, hard-working people, who want the

best for their community. They would never stand for

Are there inept people who work for the government?

Of course there are, but they are hopefully weeded

out of circulation as their careers continue. The talking

heads we all see on social media, who are telling us

that this crisis is part of a large-scale conspiracy, are

continue to serve the greater Willits community, virtually, until we feel it is safe to open up a new physical location.

We strongly encourage students to continue practicing yoga during this time – whether with us online or on your own - because yoga supports optimal health for body and mind. Our Yoga Center teachers, Jeff Brunner, Eryn Schon-Brunner, and Erin Dominy, will continue to offer limited online classes via ZOOM. The March 29 to May 30, 2020 Online Yoga Class Schedule is posted on our website. Please see instructions at www.ouryogacenter. com on how to register for class and receive a Zoom class

We want to thank the community again for its continued support. Wishing you and yours continued health and

Jeff Brunner & Eryn Brunner, Our Yoga Center

# A closer look at Waldorf

To the Editor:

Common sense on conspiracy

theories about government

Thank you for your article "Home Ed" in the April 16 edition. This is a challenging time for students, schools and parents.

I wanted to give a little more information in reference to the beautiful main lesson book pictured in the article. This book was created by a student from the Waldorf School of Mendocino County. For those not familiar with Waldorf Despite closing the physical doors of our business, we will curriculum, students do not use textbooks, instead they

creating havoc and that may be part of their plan. I'm

convinced government would not be able to conduct a

conspiracy to move lunch from 12 to 1 pm. There are

too many good, honest people who would never allow a

If you believe any of these crazy conspiracies, you

may as well believe that this very Facebook post is

part of the cover-up too. It would make sense to tell

you that you should pay no attention to the man behind

the curtain, but the simple truth is that the vast majority

of government employees would never take part in

a conspiracy to fool the citizenry. Remember, when

someone says "It's us against them," please ask that

person to define "them." Using poor grammar, "us" is

Please don't think that I believe every government

official who tells us what to do. I'm smart enough to

listen, research and make my own conclusion. This is

not an anti-Democrat or anti-Republican post, this is

a common-sense post. You are smart enough to think

for yourself, please do so. But please don't tell me that

more people die each day from car crashes. We are

approaching the tragic 50,000 death toll in the last 90

days, and car crashes are not contagious. This virus is

Thanks for allowing me to impart my thoughts

regarding this. Stay healthy, stay safe and stay home. I

hate wearing a mask, and I would love to sit down with

my friends and have a nice cold one, but for now, I'm

Editor's Note: This piece by former Mendocino County

Sheriff Tom Allman was reprinted with permission from

make them. Students beginning in first grade, create a main lesson book for every subject they learn (language arts, social studies, math and science). The day begins with their teacher presenting the day's lesson; students then create their own textbooks based on the information presented and research done on their own. All main lesson books are handwritten and illustrated with the utmost care.

You may have noted, the page is written in cursive, a skill we value and continue to teach. In addition, students starting in fourth grade write with fountain pens as they reach a new stage of mastery with their writing skills. Later, when students begin to study the Middle Ages, they will be introduced to calligraphy, and this new skill is also added to the main lesson books.

Waldorf education focuses on the whole child, head, heart and hands. This is why you also see our student unicycling in the article. Unicycling, in fifth grade is an integrated part of the curriculum (not an extra add-on). It takes great courage to sit atop a unicycle for the first time and peddle out. The process builds important components of cooperation (classmates helping steady each other), core strength, coordination, and accomplishment. If you can learn to ride a unicycle, you can learn to do anything!

If you are curious about Waldorf Education and would like more information please visit our website or email enroll@ mendocinowaldorf.org. I would be happy to tell you all

Emily Rose Smith, enrollment and outreach coordinator, Waldorf School of Mendocino County

# County asks businesses to fill out Economic Disaster **Impact Survey**

Submitted by the County of Mendocino

financial impact COVID-19 has had on their business.

ongoing, and cumulative data on the total amount of economic loss for businesses in Mendocino County

com/ to learn more and to start the survey, which will take 15 to 20 minutes of your time to answer

Participation in this County of Mendocino survey

completely as possible. The total amount of economic impact will be submitted to disaster recovery agencies which will, in turn, create funding to mitigate losses during this unprecedented event. This survey is for all business owners from every legal entity including

We thank you for understanding the importance of data collection. We live in an unprecedented time so this information will help us assist the business community with ongoing support they need to get through this time.

The County of Mendocino announced April 24 that the online "Mendocino County Economic Disaster Impact Survey" has launched. The county encourages all local business owners to submit information on the

The purpose of this survey is to capture current,

Visit https://mendocinocountysurvey.questionpro.

will have a direct impact on the disaster funding for post-COVID-19 economic recovery and resources for the Mendocino County business community. All information is encrypted and will be aggregated based on industry, not individuals. This survey has also been designed to take multiple times as the

Thank you for taking the time and effort to fill out as

# The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, event 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 musbe 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 equest to withhold the writer's name will be considered



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Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

# Correction The phone number was

incorrect in last week's "Pay It Forward" story about the "Shelter-in-Place: Shop Local to Win!" contest, designed to support your local businesses by buying gift certificates now to spend later. Call or text for more information at 707-671-3603 or email karperharnes@sbcglobal

following the basic rules.

an April 24 post on Facebook.

# Do you want to submit a letter to the editor?

It's easy.

We print letters from residents of the 3rd District, just email us yours: willitsweekly@gmail.com









left: Tamara and Kashava Adams bring their frozen hand-crafted pizzas to the Willits Farmers Market

A cheese pizza bubbles with gooey goodness. Kashaya Adams

works the woodfired pizza oven. At left: A pepperoni pizza is pulled from

week's specialty pizza – made with pesto, asparagus, cream cheese, and At bottom: Roscoe, pizza's biggest fan, waits patiently.

## The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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ww.agapebiblechurch.com

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ssembly of God Church

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707-303-5456 orning Worship - 10:30 a.n Pastor Burton Jernigan

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# **Grace Community** Church

Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits dult 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

# St. Anthony of Padua 61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadam

Mass times: aturday 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** North Main Street, Willits

707-459-3066 hurch Services/Communio & 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 Methodis A Christ centered, progressive church ALL ARE WELCOME

286 School St. (at Pine) Rev. Rosemary Landry, pasto Worship Celebration Sundays - 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.n 459-2855 acebook: www.facebook.con

you want to be included in this column please call: **April Tweddell** (707) 972-2475

# Emandal is back at the Willits Farmers Market with frozen wood-fired pizzas

Emandal's flavorful wood-fired pizzas online with a few brought down on spec. are back at the Willits Farmers Market. After a hiatus of a few years, a series of circumstances, primarily the result of the COVID-19 virus isolation orders, have come together to create a situation where Tamara Adams' Emandal – A Farm on a River is back in production of these tasty Mathew Caine

Kashaya bought a traveling wood-fired pizza oven," explained Adams. "She used it to do events as well as

the farmers market, which she used to do for several years. She moved down south to Geyserville and Healdsburg, and wasn't available to do it up here anymore. "Now, during the realm of COVID-19."

said Adams, "our Family Camp can't open. In order to maintain a sense of things we can do on the farm, we've come back full circle. We always make pizza in the to heat the frozen pizzas, basically 400 summers for the families. We decided we would make pizza, freeze it, and bring it to the market.

"We developed an online store, www. emandalgeneralstore.com, where people can go and order their pizzas, which they can pick up at the farmers market. You can pre-order and pay right there, which makes it so easy. We open the online store on Monday morning at 9 am and close at around 1 or 2 pm on Wednesday.

Indeed, the pizzas are a welcome addition to the varied foods found at the market. The Emandal crew were able to sell 60 of the savory baked pies and will probably increase that amount in the weeks to come. Most of the pies were ordered

week," Adams said at last week's farmers market. "This week we have cheese and pepperoni pizzas, which we will probably continue to have each week because they're standards. This week, we also have a vegetarian pizza, which has lemonparsley pesto with fresh asparagus, which we grew on the farm, a little bit of cream

cheese, and caramelized onion.'

"We will have four types of pizza each

And, Adams continued, "our other meat option is the same as the vegetarian without the cream cheese and with some of our farm bacon. The cheese and pepperoni pizzas are \$15 and the other two are \$18. We're contemplating pairing with a farm that has greens for salad because ours aren't ready yet. We'll make our choices based on whim and seasonality. On the General Store website there are directions on how degrees for 10 minutes, almost instant."

For this Thursday, April 30, the choices include: the cheese and pepperoni pizzas, which will probably remain standard. There is also a farm-grown braised chard with potatoes atop a cheesy spring asparagusinfused béchamel, parmesan cheese, and pickled red onion. Another choice is the same as above but with a spicy farm sausage. In addition, the farm is offering a fifth unconventional pizza, with a base of balsamic-glazed caramelized onions, blueberries, feta cheese, with a sprinkling

It is suggested that a customer pre-order on the website if they want to be assured of getting the pizza of their choice.



to the **Little Lake Fire Department** from the **Mihelcic Family** for all of the help with moving the old Scott house





### **COBURN'S CONSTRUCTION & CABINETRY INC.** Preview your completed project with our 3-D Computer Image Custom Homes

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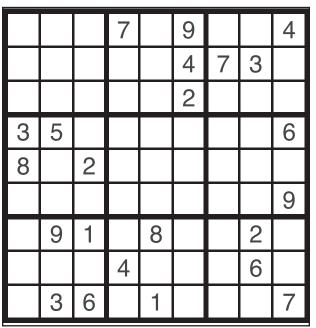
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# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



# HOW TO

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

**ASSESSMENT PROFESSIONAL** 

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# **CLUES ACROSS**

- 5. One's partner in marriage
- 11. Male admirer
- 12. Spend in a period of
- 16. Popular Easter meal
- 17. Doc 18. Bearing a heavy load
- 19. Gratitude 24. The Mount Rushmore State
- 25. Driving 26. Girl
- 27. British thermal unit
- 28. Makes a mistake 29. A defined length of time
- 30. Lions do it
- 31. Large quantities
- 33. Become less intense
- 34. Famed peninsula
- 38. Emerges
- 39. Rare Hawaiian geese 40. Dance style
- 43. Drove 44. Measures speed of
- an engine (abbr.) 45. Yankee hero Bucky
- 49. Midway between west and northwest

- **LEADERSHIP** LISTENING

**CLUTTER** 

- 50. Monetary unit of Samoa 51. Makes clothing
- 1. Curved symmetrical structure 53. Spielberg's alien 54. Agreeable to the taste
- 56. Injury treatment protocol 58. Cools your house dormancy 59. Imaginary line
  - 60. New convert 63. Some do it to their windows 64. Wore away 65. Work units
  - CLUES DOWN
  - 1. Remove body tissue 2. Harvester

5. Lapp

6. Bicycled

- 3. Roadside living quarters
- 4. Excessive self-confidence 44. Populous Israeli city \_\_ Aviv 45. Widen
- 46. Magical potion 7. Entrance to a passage 47. Acknowledging 8. Western U.S. state
  - 48. Private romantic rendezvous 50. Cavalry sword 51. Terabyte 52. Artificial intelligence
- 9. Grain towers 10. 'Westworld' actress \_ Rachel Wood
- 13. Commercial 14. One who left a will 15. Makes it through 20. Within (prefix) 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)

# SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are

RESPONSIBILITY

# seven-day reporting period. **Summary of Active Investigations**

1:07 pm: Officers responded to a

disturbance in the 300 block of Pomo Court. 1:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of South Main

3:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 600 block of East

3:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

4:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street. 8:48 pm: Officers responded to a report

of Holly Street and Magnolia Avenue. 9:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

of suspicious activity near the intersection

12:11 am: Officers initiated a hit-andrun vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of Central Street and South

7:59 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

12:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Main Street. 1:01 pm: Officers responded to a report

of an assault in the 100 block of Alder Court. 2:09 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust

2:33 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Marcela

8:27 pm: SIDDONS, Mariya Rose (34) of Ukiah was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm, and on misdemeanor charges of domestic battery and violation of probation.

# April 22

3:40 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 700 block of Coast

6:55 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

pm: Officers initiated theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

# April 23

9:11 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Gregory Lane and issued a warning.

9:36 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Hazel

1:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of

Mill Creek Drive and issued a warning. 1:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of South Main

# South Main Street.

# Elder abuse arrest in Willits On April 27, at about 8:30 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a welfare check on a 73-year-old female in the 26000 block of Oriole Drive

When deputies arrived they contacted Jeffrey Michael Gabel, 50, who appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance. Deputies initially learned Gabel and the 73-year-old female were having problems and investigated the situation further. Deputies subsequently determined Gabel was acting belligerent earlier in the day, causing the woman to leave her home.

When she returned, Gabel again began being belligerent and pushed her. During the assault, Gabel struck the woman with his elbow, causing her to complain of pain in her

Due to the victim's age, Gabel was arrested on suspicion of felony elder abuse resulting in bodily harm and was transported to the Mendocino County Jail.

In accordance with the COVID-19 emergency order issued by the State of California Judicial Council, Gabel's bail was set at \$0, and he was released after the jail booking

Please visit the following link to hear Sheriff Matthew C. Kendall provide a public safety message on the current COVID-19 emergency order related to \$0 bail: www.facebook. com/MendocinoSheriff/videos/2568683186688486/.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT **POLICE LOG** April 20 to April 26

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police 5:05 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle Department handled 122 incidents in this theft investigation in the 100 block of East

Commercial Street. 5:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 200 block of

South Humboldt Street 5:48 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation near the intersection of West Van Lane and South Main Street.

5:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning

6:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of West Van Lane and Muir Lane.

8:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Pine Street.

10:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

10:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1300 block of

11:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of South Main

# April 24

4:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of a sexual assault in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

8:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of East Commercial Street 10:04 pm: Officers responded to a

disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia 11:26 pm: Officers initiated a burglary

investigation in the 1700 block of South

# Main Street.

April 25 10:23 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of School Street

3:07 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:05 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

11:41 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South

11:53 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside

# April 26

9:05 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street

12:12 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main

1:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of East

Commercial Street. 4:41 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Bush Street.

disturbance in the 300 block of North Street. 8:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of

7:35 pm: Officers responded to a

# and the community

create their own paints – an ancient practice performed by artists for

pigments are also manufactured and available through their business.

Willits Weekly sat down with the owners of the company, George O'Hanlon and his wife, Tatiana Zaytseva, last Sunday to talk about the recent addition to their product countywide. The sanitizers were sent off a few weeks ago.

the plant and formulating different sanitizers or products is part of the company's manufacturing process and up. protocols. According to O'Hanlon, "We make various based paints, we have to sanitize all the equipment. The bacteria will spoil water-based paint, but not oil-based paint." The bacteria love water-based paints like acrylics and watercolor. If bacteria were to infect the paints, they

would easily degrade."

had just ordered more when COVID-19 hit. O'Hanlon saw the writing on the wall, "What we did when we heard about sheltering-in-place was decide to make hand sanitizers for our employees and their families to

Organization. The company is freely providing their

Soon after he produced the sanitizers for his employees, O'Hanlon was contacted by a friend at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. to see if they could get some hand sanitizers for their employees and families from Natural Pigments.

This stepped up what the company was doing. They found procuring appropriate bottles near impossible. The



Friday, May 8 Chicken Casserole

Call 707-459-6826

to Schedule

Pick Up and Drop Off for:

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At left: Natural Pigments owners Tatiana Zaytseva, George O'Hanlon, and Petaluma artist and author Virgil Elliott in front of the Natural Pigments building. Elliott authored the book, "Traditional Oil Painting," which is

# **Shifting Gears**

Natural Pigments manufacturers is now providing hand sanitizer and masks to hospital local employees

Natural Pigments is an art materials manufacturing business in Willits. With six employees, they manufacture and distribute an extensive list of artist materials worldwide. What sets the business apart from other art material distributers is their expertise and focus on organic, raw pigment and other natural materials for artists to grind and

www.naturalpigments.com

Ree Slocum centuries. Premade paints from their

Photo courtesy of the Natural Pigments archives

How did this art materials business easily segue into employees. providing hand sanitizer?

line. Safe distancing practices were in place.

It turns out that having large quantities of alcohol at formulations here and because we work with some water-

Zaytseva emphasized that they thoroughly sanitize all of the water-based paint-making equipment, counters, and packaging stations before and after each use. That's why the company had a good supply of alcohol on hand and

ensure they were all protected."

The hand sanitizer they make is different than the hard-surface formulation because they add glycerin – a humectant used to reduce the loss of moisture. O'Hanlon's formulation is one recommended by the World Health employees and families with the product.

company they'd been ordering spray bottles from for 15 years couldn't fill an order until August. They researched and found an attractive cosmetic-grade bottle with a squirt insert that fit the bill. Soon a packed box of hand sanitizer was sent off to D.C. During that time the couple realized they had enough ingredients for more hand sanitizer and decided to go even

infection. This time they wanted to keep their efforts local. O'Hanlon called Arnie Mello at the Howard Foundation to see if they wanted hand sanitizer for the hospital According to a Howard Foundation public relations report, the foundation purchased 1,000 8-ounce bottles of

further in helping keep people safe from the coronavirus

hand sanitizers, at cost, for use by hospital employees Currently the couple is waiting for a bulk shipment of premade hand sanitizer that they'll bottle and make

In addition, the company has been able to provide 500 cloth masks to the Willits community, thanks to the hard work of three of its employees, who have sewn them while

Natural Pigments employees are still working because the business is considered essential. The bulk of their usual orders are from professional artists who make a living working at home. Instead of laying off employees to maintain social distancing, the company has cut back hours and with people working in shifts, so only two people are in the large factory at a time. They work in different areas. This seems to have been a successful approach.

To the amazement of everyone, "The employees like working by themselves in the factory," Zaytseva said. They like supervising themselves and they've stepped up. It's good to see that. In normal life we'd never have thought of doing this, but because of the current situation with social distancing, we gave it a try. It's going to be different after this [when the orders are lifted].

Read the rest of Pigments | Over on Page 13

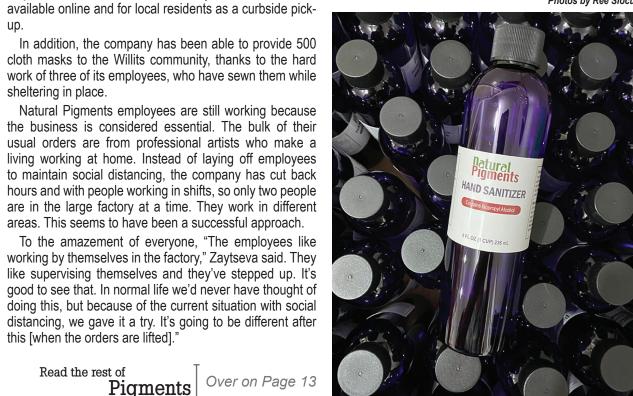




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At top: Natural Pigments owner Tatiana Zaytseva sorts some of the masks sewn by employees while sheltering in place at home. Above: This type of spray bottle has Natural Pigment disinfectant in it and is used to clean things at the shop like the water-based paint machines, counters, and packing stations. Below: A bottle of Natural Pigments' hand sanitizer. At bottom: Three of Natural Pigments' employees, while sheltering at home, have sewn over 500 face masks for distribution throughout the Willits community







Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

54. Bullfighting maneuver

57. Santa says it three times

55. Breezed through

61. \_\_ and behold

62. 36 inches (abbr.)

22. Cigarettes (slang)

27. Constrictor snakes

23. A doctrine

29. Atomic #73

30. Baseball stat

34. Belgian city

35. Go in again

38. Blood type

42. Millihenry

31. Female sibling

32. A soft gray metal (abbr.)

33. Southern constellation

36. In a different, more

37. A place for sleeping

40. Syrian news agency (abbr.)

41. A salt or ester of acetic acid

positive way

Please Visit —

**Transportation** 

For

Seniors

willitspower@gmail.com

Fax: 707 459-6369

# Willits is Senior Strong

Class of 2020 graduates honored in Willits Weekly and in Willits due to atypical end to the school year



Martin Alejandras



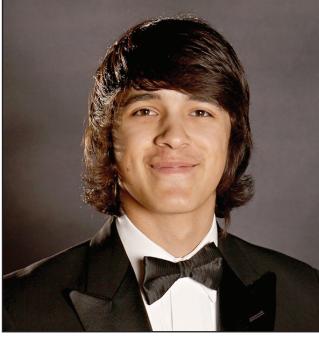
**Austin Andrade** 



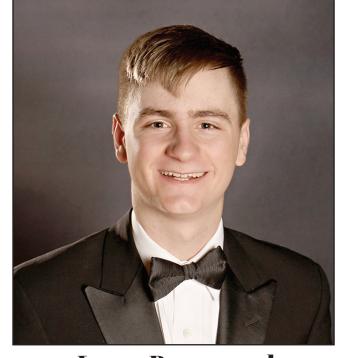
**Jacob Arms** 



Jimi Beshura



**Beau Betts** 



**Lucas Branscomb** 



McKenna Buckingham



Jessica Buzzard



Patricia Carrillo



pho-tog-ra-phress photography by maureen moore

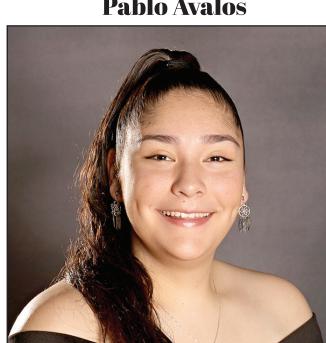


So proud to have photographed all of you this year!

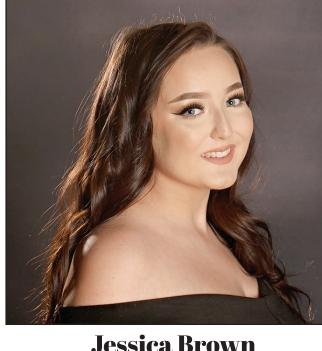
www.mphotographress.com | 707-972-7047



**Pablo Avalos** 



Star Brightman



**Tyler Bailey** 

Jessica Brown



**KC Brown** 





Honoring the Willits Unified School District

2020 graduates is something on the minds

of students, parents, teachers and the

community alike, and brainstorming has been

plentiful to figure out what to do for a class

that undoubtedly will not get the traditional

Normally, seniors would be picking out

their formal attire for the prom; deciding to

whom they'd be bequeathing their lockers;

cramming for the last weeks of school and

prepping for finals; talking themselves

into signing up to be a Ducky Derby duck

wrangler; enjoying the last weeks with their

friends all together in a way that will never be

again; and of course, bailing out as soon as

But. for the Class of 2020, this just won't be

able to be so. What do we do to give them an

experience they won't forget and celebrate

While Pinterest has always provided an

idea stream for people with plenty of time

on their hands, the usual hustle and bustle

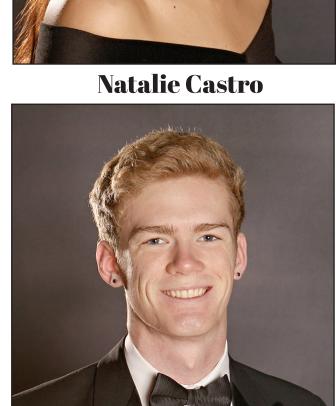
possible for lazy days on the river.

them and their achievements?

Well, things are underway.

end-of-senior-year experience.

**Alton Cooke** 



and the Fourth of July.



place orders many are under, all of a sudden,

One of the biggest hopes is to have each

from Willits High School, Sanhedrin High

School and independent study to have

individual banners printed with their formal

photo and hung on the lampposts up and

down Main Street like they do for Christmas

Amanda Maciel, Willits High School's

principal's secretary and registrar, has been

tasked with the spearheading of this project

and she is working hard to get all factors in

place to make it happen in a fair, safe and

official way. Graduate parent Carrie Clevinger

and several other community members are

also helping Maciel to achieve this massive

happen is not only purchasing the custom-

printed banners for all students, but also the

metal brackets to support them, which are

One of the largest expenses to making this



**Spencer Copperfield** 



of life prevents many of those pinned ideas different than those used for the other holiday to manifest. However, during the shelter in hangings.

Permits, approval and manpower from Caltrans and the City of Willits is also needed, and is another large hurdle to overcome to of the 103 seniors to be graduates this year get the project completed.

Maciel is already working with a banner company to get the best pricing and a sensible printing plan in place, however, they're aiming for a hang date much closer to June, the time of the usual graduation

Anyone interested in donating to help with the project, or anyone wanting more information can call Maciel at 459-7700. ext. 1501 or by emailing AmandaMaciel@ willitsunified.com.

A few more immediate plans are also underway: as shown above, Willits Weekly, and Willits High School's Senior Class photographer, Maureen Moore, will be showcasing an alphabetical batch of the seniors photographed for this year's class each week in upcoming editions.

The Willits Rotary Club also helped a group

of local volunteers purchase yard signs that were customized with senior class graduates' names and "Willits High Wolverines, Class of 2020" alongside the school's logo. Signs were given to students to display in their yards or property.

Hanna Corey

An 8x12 of each student is also being printed and donated by Moore that will be made available for local businesses wishing to display portraits of seniors in their windows.

Having several businesses each take a handful of senior's portraits will distribute them across town and make a fun game of people trying to find their student, or see a graduate they may not have realized was part of the Class of 2020

Maybe it will also offer a chance to call in an order to go at those businesses, do a little window shopping, or help keep it in the minds of all that we're all in this together.

Want to have some pictures for your business? Contact Moore at 972-7047 for

- Maureen Moore





At top, right: Raymond Hebel stands next to a sign provided by the Willits Chamber of Commerce, which reminds people to support local businesses. At top: Hebel stands in front of the Noyo Theatre, to which he awarded \$100 after conducting a poll on Facebook to determine which local business should receive his money. Above: Raymond Hebel sits outside at Scoops.



Winners announced when all entries are received

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





# **OBITUARY**

NEIL F. ORR, JR PASSED AWAY ON APRIL 18, 2020 AT HIS WILLITS HOME WITH HIS WIFE AND SONS BY HIS SIDE. NEIL WAS 54 YEARS OLD AND FOUGHT A BRAVE, INSPIRING 10 YEAR BATTLE WITH MELANOMA.

NEIL WAS BORN ON AUGUST 11, 1965 . HE WORKED FOR PG&E FOR 36 YEARS IN MANY CAPACITIES AND LOCATIONS. MOST RECENTLY HE WORKED AS A MAINTENANCE LEAD SUPERVISOR IN UKIAH. ONE OF NEILS PASSIONS WAS PUTTERING AROUND THE ELABORATE GARAGE HE BUILT ON THE COUNTRY HILLSIDE PROPERTY HE ACQUIRED AS A TEENAGER AND ON WHICH HE & JULIE BUILT THEIR HOME. NEIL ALSO ENJOYED BELONGING TO THE SHIFTER CAR CLUB AND THE MUSTANG CAR CLUB AS WELL AS ATTENDING CAR SHOWS. HE ALSO ENJOYED WATCHING AND PLAYING GOLF.

HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS LOVING WIFE OF 30 YEARS, JULIE ORR AND HIS TWO SONS, CHRISTOPHER & PATRICK ORR AS WELL AS HIS TWO SISTERS, TERRI ROBARDS & MELODEE DICKSON AND THEIR FAMILIES. NEIL WAS PROCEEDED IN DEATH BY HIS MOM, SANDRA ORR AND DAD, NEIL ORR.

AS NEIL WISHED, NO FUNERAL SERVICES ARE PLANNED. HOWEVER, A CELEBRATION OF LIFE MEMORIAL IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR THIS SUMMER TO COINCIDE WITH NEIL'S 55TH BIRTHDAY AND 30<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



# **GoFundWillits**

Local entrepreneur organizes online fundraiser to help local businesses get the money they need to survive

Viable movements come from small ideas. Raymond Hebel had an idea which developed into a plan and blossomed into a passion. He wanted to honor a small business in either Willits or Ukiah that was afflicted with a loss of income due to the COVID-19 virus with the gift of \$100. He realized that amount of money would not change the course of the business' fortunes, but nonetheless. he felt compelled to do something.

something that he was able and Mathew Caine willing to contribute. nathew@willitsweekly.com Hebel, a real estate investor,

agent and entrepreneur, had an epiphany related to his personal compulsion to contribute to the welfare of the area. He created a Facebook page and asked, mostly his friends at the time, to name the one merchant that they felt was the most deserving of his \$100.

"What is the best way to utilize this money and give it away?" he thought to himself. "I ended up doing a Facebook post just out of the blue, saying, 'What small businesses do you think in Willits and Ukiah would need this money and would benefit the most?'

"After a series of 24 different posts to multiple pages," he said, "this ended up having such an overwhelming response, it blew my mind. I wasn't prepared for the amount of response that happened.'

Hebel's post had over 150 comments from people about which businesses should get the \$100. After receiving so much feedback, Hebel took one more step. He narrowed the field down to the top five popular candidates and once again submitted the names to the online public. The five were Taco Bravo, Slam Dunk Pizza (in Ukiah), 101 Drive-In, El Mexicano, and the Noyo Theatre. He had around 200

"I was sitting in my living room with my girlfriend and her two children." he shared, "reading off the tallies, and it became very exciting, an air of anticipation, almost like an auction. In the end, the Noyo Theatre won by an overwhelming landslide. They are not making any money. Their doors are closed. Their entire business model relies on so many people being in a room at any given time.

People understood that restaurants can still do take-out. that some businesses can still have minor streams of income. But for our beloved Novo Theatre, there was no money coming in.

"What this inspired in me," continued Hebel, "is that people care. That was the biggest thing. People cared. I didn't realize the extent until I saw all the posts coming in and all the love. In total, I received over 442 comments and 58 shares. That is just Willits local people.

After seeing the overwhelming interest of the townspeople in keeping their businesses open, Hebel started a GoFundMe to raise funds, to continue to help local merchants get through these troubling and financially challenging times. He contacted Ron Moorhead, executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, to find out what aid might still be available to small businesses.

Moorhead told Hebel that the first round of Small Business Administration forgivable loans were already dried up and that he wasn't sure how much Willits businesses were going to receive. Moorhead suggested to Hebel that if the money could be raised, a board could be set up to determine who would receive the funds.

Hebel thinks the best plan is to provide low-interest loans, paid back over time. "So that it replenishes the account," explained Hebel, "and goes towards more businesses, not just a one-and-done and suddenly the money's gone. We want to help the businesses that need help. A \$2,000 or \$3,000 check right now can keep a business afloat and help them pay their expenses."

Hebel is actively working out a plan and criteria for choosing and helping the businesses. There will be a board set up of three to five people to analyze applications submitted by merchants and choose the recipients.

"My hope is to get this fund huge, to build on the awareness I've created on Facebook. We don't know how long any of our businesses that can get money from the government will take to see that money in their accounts. The whole point of this is to do something immediate. My overall goal is to have at least \$20,000 in our account. With that, we'll be able to fund around 10 businesses in Willits that really need our help."

Hebel does not want to rely on the largesse of government relief programs, the time and bureaucracy that is part of the process. He wants to get aid to the merchants now. "Let's get a small grassroots fundraiser going for our local businesses that has an immediate impact that we can control, and see that the funds are awarded fairly and that they are not waiting on a stamp of approval by the government."

To contribute, please go to the GoFundMe page: www. gofundme.com/f/willits-coronavirus-business-impact-fund or call Hebel with any questions: 707-367-9737 or email: raymondnorcalproperties@gmail.com.



# LEGAL NOTICES LEGAL NOTICES

WW267

### **CITY OF WILLITS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Ells Field-Willits Municipal Airport Runway 16-34 Rehabilitation Project - Rebid AIP No.: 3-06-0278-009-2018

PUBLIC NOTICE - Sealed proposals for the Runway 16/34 Rehabilitation Project at Ells Field-Willits Municipal Airport will be received at the City of Willits Purchasing Department, 111 East Commercial St., Willits, California 95490 until 2:00 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2020, and then will be publicly opened and read by the City Clerk at the time and place specified, via video conference.

The meeting can be viewed online at: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/960746469 and by dialing +1 (571) 317-3122, Access Code: 960-746-469.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The scope of work for this Project consists of the following:

### Runway 16-34 Rehabilitation

Both runway thresholds will be shifted to allow compliant runway safety area lengths of 240 feet beyond each threshold. Runway 16-34 and part of Taxiway A2 Connector (within the object free zone) will be rehabilitated. Cracks greater than or equal to ¼" wide will be sealed, followed by the pavement receiving a seal coat. New non-precision runway markings will be painted after seal coat application and cure time.

The shift of the runway thresholds will necessitate the relocation of the Taxiway A1 Connector. The existing Taxiway A1 Connector and a portion of Taxiway A will be demolished, and a new Taxiway A1 connector will be constructed to tie into the relocated Runway 16 end. Following the pavement construction, new taxiway markings

## • Electrical Relocations and Rehabilitations

The shift of the runway thresholds will necessitate the relocation of the Runway 34 PAPI, Runway 16 sign, Taxiway A1 sign, runway edge lights, runway threshold lights, and some taxiway edge lights. All remaining taxiway edge lights will have new LED fixtures and transformers installed.

### **ENGINEER'S COST ESTIMATE: \$806,780**

BID DOCUMENTS: Complete digital Project Bidding Documents (Plans, Specifications, and Bid Documents) are available online from Quest Construction Data Network (Quest CDN) at www.questcdn.com. Interested parties may download the digital documents for fifteen dollars (\$15.00) by inputting Quest Project #7036677 on the Project Search page. Those downloading the bidding documents electronically do so at their own risk for completeness of documents. Please contact Quest CDN at (952)233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

Note: Make sure to provide your correct email address when setting up account with Quest, as all information (i.e. addenda, correspondence, etc.) will be issued by Quest to email address provided. Also make sure QuestCDN.com is not blocked in your system; important information may end up in "junk" folder

(The Documents may also be previewed online prior to ordering at no charge via Quest CDN as specified above.)

### **PRE-BID MEETING:** There will not be a pre-bid meeting for this project.

### **BIDDER / CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Contractor's License: Bidder / Contractor must possess a valid California Contractor's License, Class A and/or combination of Class C-12 and C-32. License must be valid at time of bid and throughout Contract.

2. Registered. Per Public Works Contractor Registration Law [SB 854], Contractors and Subcontractors who intend to bid or perform work on this Project must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations. (Information is available at http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/Contractors.html.

· No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project (submitted on or after March 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 [with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)]

• No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project (awarded on or after April 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

• This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

3. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is funded under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP). Contractor(s) will be required to comply with specific federal contract provisions as listed herein and contained in the Bid Documents.

# SEE BID DOCUMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

BID SUBMISSION. Each bid shall be in accordance with the Plans and Specifications and other Contract Documents now on file with City of Willits at the address below, for review only.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish with his bid all forms and certifications contained in the Proposal Forms section of the Bid Documents. All proposals sent by mail must be posted so as to be in the hands of the clerk of the purchasing department by the hour and date set forth above for the bid opening. Bids may also be dropped in the drop box located at the entrance of City Hall by the time and date of the bid opening. All proposals shall be addressed to:

**City of Willits Purchasing Department** 111 East Commercial St. Willits, California 95490

and marked:

Runway 16-34 Rehabilitation Project - Rebid AIP No.: 3-06-0278-009-2018

Each bid/proposal must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond in an amount not less ten percent (10%) of the amount bid. The successful bidder shall be required to submit at the time of execution of the Contract a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each for 100% of the Contract price.

The CITY OF WILLITS shall have the right to reject any bids presented in accordance with Section 20150.9 of the California Public Contracts Code.

Date: 04/30/20 s/Cathy Moorhead Deputy City Manager/City Clerk

Publication Date: April 30, 2020

# **Marc Komer** Legal Document Assistant An Affordable Non-Attorney Service

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DATAMLHIYCOD NOITATNESER

# Willits Elementary Charter School

is accepting applications for the lottery to join our school in 2020-2021. We will hold the public lottery on Monday, May 4.

Applications for entering Kindergarten are available on our website and in the school office. All applications due by May 1. Questions: 707-459-1400

# 6 9 6 9 8 3

# **CLASSIFIEDS**

Brookside

Elementary

Kindergarten

Registration

Brookside Elementary

kindergarten/TK

cancelled for safety

reasons. There will not

be an assessment day

this year. Please do the

online registration for the 20/21 school year. Go

to willitsunified.com and

click on the kindergarten

important to get this done

as soon as possible

Kindergarten is for kids

turning 5 by September

kindergarten is for

kids turning 5 between

September 2, 2020 and December 2, 2020. I

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

can be reached by

email at ericabuzzard@

For Rent

willitsunified.com

any questions.

459-9601

2020. Transitional

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

### Mendocino Counts!

\$\$ Help Your Community \$\$ - the 2020 Census brings our federal tax dollars home. Mail in vour 2020 Census form now! Or fill it out online at: www.my2020census gov. More info at: www. nendocinocounts.ora

### **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. oaknvine.net/tp"

> Sewing Cloth **Face Covers** (not medical masks) Size M and L \$16.00

Barbara the Seamstress

Willits

Food Bank open

Services & Food Bank

food, with many safety

precautions, to those

in need. The front

office at 229 E San

Francisco Ave is closed

to the public, but the

back door area is open

for food distribution

on Wednesdays and

Fridays from 1 to

4:30 pm. Call 459-

needed donations of

hand sanitizer and

3333

to arrange

still distributing

Community

grades. Please share Text only to this with any parents of 7073676182 incoming kids you know.

### **WUSD Senior** Class of 2020 photo prints still available

Clean & Quiet, Large Did you realize you 2 Bdrm. 1 Bath, close need more copies of downtown area, your senior's formal Garbage & Water graduation photo? No paid. Laundry room on problem, we can still site. N/P N/S. \$950.00 order and print copies per mo. plus Security now! Info: 972-7047. Deposit. Armco: 707-

# 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 or 1.5 pound packages \$150. Natural ranchraised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a mes-







# **Current Job Openings:**

County Health Officer

**Emergency Services Specialist** Facility Project Specialist I/II

Surveyor I/II

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/ <u>human-resources</u>

EOE

SPOUSE

Pg. 9

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Willits Weekly | April 30, 2020

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

to be challenging times financially. "With the current financial situation in the country and with the COVID-19 crisis, approximately a month ago I became very cognizant of making sure our finances were in good shape, she said, "and noted that this was something we pretty much needed to jump on right away.'

She and the city's finance director, Yujun Du, were both concerned about moving forward with no reserve for the wastewater fund.

"In times of financial hardship when you don't have revenue necessarily coming in regularly, it is good to have a reserve," said Garrabrant-Sierra. "The city of Willits has a nice reserve in its General Fund, it has a nice reserve in its water fund, but does not have one in its sewer fund. And so this has caused me some worry."

The council was given three different potential refinancing plans and went with "option 3," which was recommended by both the city staff and by NHA Advisors - a financial consultant company based out of San Rafael that was hired by the city.

Eric Scriven, a representative from NHA, talked at the meeting and explained that one of the benefits of the plan is that it would delay any payments required of the city for a year and a half, and "release" about \$535,000 into the sewer fund reserves.

In her agenda summary report, Garrabrant-Sierra states: refinancing is expected to release restricted reserves of approximately \$535,000 and generate approximately \$890,000 of additional cash flow savings through November 2021. Total present value savings over the life of the bonds is estimated to be

The bonds were initiated by the city in 2007 and titled the "Series 2007A and 2007B Certificates of Participation." They will now be retitled the "City of Willits Wastewater Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2020A," with an "aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$10,500,000," according to the resolution.

Garrabrant-Sierra and NHA's Scriven agreed the option 3 plan would put the least amount of pressure on the city to raise water and wastewater rates for residents in the near future, since it will have lower annual payments required of the city for the next 13 years, though it will extend the length of the bond by two years to 2050.

Scriven said of the plan, "You do lose some savings, but you gain significant financial flexibility during the next 13 years."

Garrabrant-Sierra said refinancing will also help to "even out payments" by the city.

"It was a little bit all over the place," she explained, "because we have four different bonds and so the payments were kind of coming in and out and not in a straight line."

She emphasized that this was just a short term fix in response to the budget challenges the city will be facing due to the impact of COVID-19 and the shelter-in-place order

"This creates a way for us to be nimble in what I see as going to be a very difficult financial time, not just for our city, but all cities, and individuals and businesses and everybody," she said. "But we have to create a strategy in the long term to increase our revenue and our general fund

"Because if we have to borrow for the general fund, we have to pay this sewer fund back, and that is absolutely imperative," she continued. "And I believe that there are legal requirements that we do that in a certain amount of time. So it is not a long-term fix, it is a 'Let's get us through this next 18 months' fix."

Regarding Title IV of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act – the latest addition to the massive stimulus bill passed by the U.S. Congress - Garrabrant-Sierra said that the financial aid she and others hoped would be provided to small cities like Willits "did not pan

She added that there is still talk of stimulus help coming down the how they would feel about potentially

**Pg. 10** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

line, but not for funds like water or wastewater. "The only thing that has been discussed is first of all paying the city for actual expenses," she said. "And then there's been a little bit of talk of a potential for back-filling revenue. No one is talking about back-filling 100 percent of revenue, and that is only going to be general

The council also passed a resolution to adopt a debt management policy in accordance with the state Senate Bill 1029. Garrabrant-Sierra said that they had discovered this was required in order to do the kind of refinancing of the wastewater bond that they were

"So this takes care of the policy need for issuing debt, whether it's new money debt or in this instance refinancing the wastewater bonds, explained Scriven.

According to the agenda summary report, the debt management policy includes, "the purposes for which the debt proceeds may be used; the types of debt that may be issued; the relationship of the debt to, and integration with, the issuer's capital improvement program or budget, if applicable; policy goals related to the issuer's planning goals and objectives; and the internal control procedures that the issuer has implemented, or will implement, to ensure that the proceeds of the proposed debt issuance will be directed to the intended use.'

### Local impact of COVID

Garrabrant-Sierra gave an update at the meeting about the local impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the shelterin-place rules, and asked for input from the council on a couple matters.

"Things change constantly with the current crisis," said Garrabrant-Sierra, "and it's exhausting and it's sometimes terrifying. And I go up and down Main Street, and my heart is just with all the business owners that are trying so hard during this time.

She noted that while the CARES Act has had little in it to help small city governments, it did allocate quite a bit of money to help small businesses in the country. And she encouraged local businesses in the community to pursue getting that financial help.

She noted that the Willits Senior Center recently received \$90,000 through the Paycheck Protection Program of the CARES Act.

"I'm hoping that more people can take advantage of the PPP program and the small business loans that are being offered by the Small Business Administration," she said. "We and the West Company are really encouraging local small businesses to do that.

Councilmember Greta Kanne talked of the contest currently happening to encourage people to buy gift certificates from local businesses in Willits, Laytonville and Covelo.

She said some friends and herself pooled together \$900 to purchase three \$300 gift certificates as grand prizes – one for J.D. Redhouse, one for Mariposa Market, and one for Sparetime Garden Supply. Anyone who buys a gift certificate of \$20 or more from a local business will be entered into the contest to potentially win one of the prizes.

"Our hope is that people will buy gift certificates, especially to those of our businesses who are closed and are seeing either no or greatly reduced revenue," said Kanne. "Getting a little bit of cash flow to them right now is so helpful, and it gives the purchaser a gift certificate that they can spend later when the shelter in place order is lifted.... We're just really trying to generate some support for our tiny businesses who are really suffering

The contest runs through May 5, and to enter you can email photos of your gift certificates to karperharnes@ sbcglobal.net. Each \$20 spent gives you one entry, so the more you spend the better chance you have to win. You can also call or text for information at 707-671-3603.

# Discussion on parks

while no official decisions had been made, the county was considering the possibility of relaxing some of the shelter-in-place rules in early or mid-May (Note: the current county shelterin-place order is still set to remain until May 10 at this time). She asked the council for feedback regarding

Garrabrant-Sierra reported that

reopening the city parks, since the The rest of county may allow the cities to decide some such aspects moving forward.

Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez voiced strong approval for the idea, as long as there were restrictions posted about social distancing, prohibiting the gathering of groups and sport activities, and not allowing use of the playground equipment.

"Children are playing on the sidewalks, they're playing on the pavement, they're playing in parking lots, and I don't think that's in any way a healthy alternative." she said. "And so I would support opening up the grassy area in parks.... I'm seeing an increase in concerns over mental health for children.

Councilmember Madge Strong felt that opening up the Recreation Grove made sense since it was a larger park and easier to use social distancing rules, but the city should probably wait longer to open their other smaller

Kanne was concerned that the Willits Police Department doesn't have the resources to enforce social distance rules at the park, and Police Chief Gregory Allen confirmed that would indeed be problematic.

"I understand all sides of this issue. and I want to compliment community members who have been very patient and cooperative," said Chief Allen. "We do not have the resources over in the police department to effectively monitor this, so it would really have to be a self-regulation situation.

# Testing sewage

Garrabrant-Sierra also asked for the council's opinions regarding the possibility of testing the city's wastewater effluence for COVID-19 which the state water board had offered to do for them.

She understood it could be a controversial issue, but said the test they would use had been ratified by the Centers for Disease Control, and it was being recommended by them as well as by county Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan.

"They're using it dramatically back east," said Garrabrant-Sierra, who added that Fort Bragg is planning on going ahead with the test.

"It helps the county and it helps the country sort of gather their statistics together," she noted.

As previously reported in Willits Weekly, Lake County has also undertaken the sewage tests recently. which showed positive COVID-19 results in all four of their sewage treatment plants. Doohan said test results indicate to her it's likely that there is community spread of the disease in Lake County, and that she would be requesting the testing of sewage throughout Mendocino.

Strong said she would support the tests being done, and Mayor Gerry Gonzalez and Vice Mayor Larry Stranske both voiced strong approval Kanne and Rodriguez both declined to give direction at the meeting.

"I think knowledge is power," said Gonzalez, "and if some data from Willits helps in the grand scheme of things, I'm for it, and we let our public know. And already folks believe there may be some spread out there throughout this area.

Garrabrant-Sierra said the results from the sewage test would take about two weeks to return once the test was administered, and the results would be communicated to the public through a press release in conjunction with the county health officer.

# Praise for police chief

"Because whether it's positive or negative, that certainly has some implications," she said.

Councilmember Kanne and Vice Mayor Stranske both commented they had been hearing very positive feedback about the Chief Allen, who began working as interim chief for the Willits Police Department in early

"I'm getting many comments from members of the community that they really like the tone of the police department right now," said Kanne, addressing Allen. "People are just feeling really good about the department in general.... and I hope that you're aware that the community

"Thank you so much for that comment," responded Allen, "and I will relay it to the very hard-working men and women of the Willits Police

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From Page 1 Measure B

and to improve mental health services, and, as much as I support the Community Foundation – and I do – I see us going against the voters' wishes to give any amount - whether it's a million dollars or a half a million dollars to a non-governmental organization, without knowing that's it's going to improve mental health services," Allman

"We know that when we open up a PHF [psychiatric health facility], whether it's in 2021 or 2022 or 2023, the cost of running that PHF is going to be high. And if we take a million dollars out of our account now, I think we're going to be regretting it after the first year of running the PHF and saying, 'We wish we had that money to run our psychiatric health facility," Allman said.

Second District rep Shannon Riley said that the money for future Measure B projects was already tight, and pointed out that, with the economic downturn associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, "We are going to be working with even less money than we thought."

County Auditor Lloyd Weer said he could not support the motion because of unknowns associated with the costs of running the programs that the county has already proposed to run: a psychiatric health facility, a crisis stabilization unit, and a crisis residential treatment facility

"I'm a little concerned that we don't know how much it is going to cost to run our facilities," Weer said. "I know we have asked for a report on this, but that report is still a ways off. Short of a plan that will tell us how much it is going to cost to run these operations. I am not going to support it

Voting in support of the motion were Angelo, Ross Liberty, Jed Diamond, Jenine Miller, Meeka Ferretta, Donna Moschetti, and Ace Barash. Voting against it were Allman, Riley, Mark Mertle, and Weer.

Weer reported on cash inflow and outflow from the Measure B account. He said that to date, after 22 months of payments from the state, the county's Measure B fund has received \$15,417,516. The fund has accrued \$165,476 in interest. Based on the recommendation of the committee. the board of supervisors has spent \$531,135, for a fund balance of \$15.051.857

Weer also broke that figure down into what would be the maximum amount of the current fund balance that could be dedicated to the construction of facilities and the minimum amount that could be spent on mental health services and operations. Those figures are, for construction of facilities, \$11,412,286, and for provision of services, \$3,639,570.

A little work with the calculator shows that, therefore, at least through February 2020, the balance in the Measure B account is just about on pace with projections. Assuming that economic activity over the next three years will keep pace with economic activity for the first 22 months of Measure B collection of taxes, the fund would have been on pace to accumulate the \$38 million committee members have estimated that the fund would collect over the first

However, the most recent data, which is current through February, does not reflect what has happened since March 19. when Governor Gavin Newsom issued a statewide shelter-in-place order in California

In that connection, Mendocino County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Jenine Miller warned Measure B committee members that the coronavirus was having an impact on the county's mental health budget and on her department's programs. She said that she had heard that the budget for the county's allocation of Mental Health Services Act funds would be reduced by 20 percent. Angelo said that she was certain that the county's Measure B revenue would take a hit from the virus. "There is no way that we are going to collect that \$38 million," Angelo said.

Due to a technical glitz, Measure B Project Manager Alyson Bailey was very difficult to understand during the April 22 meeting, as she was participating in the meeting remotely, and for some reason, her computer wasn't transmitting the sound of her voice very well.

Bailey did ask the committee for authority to purchase a year's subscription to Monday.com, a cloud-based software program that Bailey intends to use to keep committee members apprised of progress and pending deadlines and dates on the various projects that she is running. The committee supported Bailey's proposal unanimously at

Board Chair Donna Moschetti told the committee that a subcommittee had agreed to recommend to the full committee to set aside 15 percent of all Measure B funds as a "prudent reserve," which could be released or used by a four-fifths vote of the board of supervisors.

In discussing the subcommittee proposal, CEO Angelo mentioned that the county reserve fund policy is that 6.85 percent of the county's prior year general fund outlay shall be set aside in the county's General Reserve fund. (According to the county' 2019-2020 Final Budget, "General fund reserve and contingencies," the figure is 6.35 percent.) Second District representative to the committee Shannon Riley suggested that 6.85 percent of Measure B's fund balance be set aside as a prudent reserve. Her motion was approved unanimously.

Acting County Counsel Christian Curtis said he had studied the text of Measure B and also documents associated with Measure B, and had concluded that it would be legal, and in conformance with the goals of Measure B, for the County of Mendocino to enter into a public-private partnership with Adventist Health, in order to meet the objectives of Measure B.

County CEO Carmel Angelo told the committee she has not yet received financial details related to a proposal by Adventist Health West President Kevin Wells, to the effect that Adventist would run two PHF-like facilities in the county, on the coast and inland, in exchange for some stillto-be-determined financial contribution from the county.

Angelo asked First District representative to the Measure B committee Ace Barash to go to Wells and ask him if financial details will be forthcoming. Barash said he would do that.

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The rest of From Page 1

to see activities for children Officer Noemi Doohan: "The resume," Doohan said. "This is individuals are in condition, in isolation at home, with active public health monitoring, and did not require hospitalization. Asymptomatic close contacts of the cases are in quarantine.

Dr. Doohan participated in the meeting of the board of supervisors on Tuesday, April 28, and told the supervisors that a public health team of 10 people went out to the Round Valley Indian Reservation on Monday and administered 160 tests for the novel coronavirus.

Doohan said that the tests were driven to the Sonoma County Public Health Lab in Santa Rosa, and would be processed on Tuesday and on Wednesday. She added that on Wednesday, another team of public health workers would go out to Round Valley again, and will administer another 200 tests.

As of the April 29 update from Public Health, of the 160 tests administered in Covelo on April 27, 151 tests were negative, 1 test was positive, and 8 tests are still pending.

Doohan said on Tuesday that the people who brought the disease to the reservation picked it up from travel outside the county. "Every case [in Mendocino County] originated outside the county," Doohan said. "We still do not have community spread disease.

As per Mendocino County Public Health's April 29 update to date there have been a total 1,007 tests for the coronavirus performed in Mendocino County. There have been 944 negative results, 12 positive results, and the results of 51 tests were still pending.

# Looking to the future

Other than the news from Round Valley, most of the discussion that took place on Tuesday had to do with Doohan's prognosis on how the re-opening of the county might proceed. Doohan said she is anticipating that a new public health order for Mendocino County will go into effect around May 8. at which time the shelter-in-place restrictions will be somewhat relaxed

She noted, though, that her course of action is dependent on what California Governor Gavin Newsom does. Doohan said several times that, under state law, she is permitted to be more restrictive than the state order, but cannot be less restrictive. Doohan also noted that the Bay Area health officers have announced that they are going to keep the shelter-inplace orders for the seven large Bay Area counties in place until the end of May

Doohan was asked to speculate on how things might look in Mendocino County over the next three months. After offering a caveat that she is not a prophet and does not know the future, and after reminding the board that a lot depends on the governor, and after stating that what she was about to say were guesses, Doohan said she thought it would be likely that over the next three months, gatherings of over 18 people would not be permitted. People who are older than 65 years old, or who are in frail health or compromised medical situations, would be required to stay home.

On the other hand, children would most likely be allowed to go back to school, and to go to camp, with proper social distancing protocols being observed

"All of the conversations that I am hearing are that we want

From Page 1 Closed on Highway 20 near Potter Valley, close to the Lake County line.

The rest of

based on the fact that children

do not seem to be seriously

affected overall by COVID.

although we know that they

could be reservoirs to infect

elders. This is why we have

social distancing and shelter in

place for people who are 65,

to the extent possible, likely to

"But we do want to see

universally, across the board.

with all the conversations that

I have – at the governor level.

with ABAHO [the Association

of Bay Area Health Officers]

and with RANCHO [the Rural

Association of Northern

California Health Officers] - we

want to see children's activities

"What we are talking about

is stable groups: stable groups

of 10, stable groups of 12. In

other words, you have a certain

cohort of children, with one or

two teachers, and they stay

together. It's kind of that old-

fashioned schoolhouse model

"And we are already seeing

that in the current orders with

childcare, that it's a stable

group of 12. So I think we will

see summer camp activities for

children, opening up in that way,

with a stable group size and a

limited number of teachers,"

describe her guesses of what

the first phase of re-opening will

look like. The parks would be

opened, and people would be

allowed to play golf. Restaurants

would be permitted to be open

for "regular business" but could

only operate with half the seats

that they normally have. Doohan

said she thought it would be

unlikely that large events, such

as Fourth of July events or fairs

and festivals would be allowed

to take place. She thought that

wineries that offer wine tasting

residents and not to tourists

Fifth District Supervisor Ted

Williams asked whether she

thought that tourism might be

permitted to resume if room

bookings were limited to county

residents only. Doohan said,

When asked to name those

types of businesses that she

imagined would likely not be

permitted to re-open over the

next three months, Doohan

mentioned bars, theaters,

indoor gyms, and indoor

Doohan said the revised

shelter-in-place order she

expected to release around May

8 would be in effect for about a

month, with a following order

scheduled to be released in

early June. When asked for the

reasoning behind this schedule,

Doohan said, "It's going to take

time to see how the community

responds to the May 8th order.

Doohan expanded on how

she is envisioning that the

"wait and see" approach to

re-opening will go. "If we did

have an outbreak in a certain

business type under a limited

re-opening, then I would expect

be closed," she said. "I am

anticipating that if we allowed a

certain business category that

we thought was low-risk to re-

open, and we saw outbreaks

in that business category, it

would put us in a position where

we would have to look at that

particular type of business

When she was asked for an

"normal," Doohan said, "Sadly,

back to the way it was before.

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being closed."

business type would

exercise studios.

"Sounds like a good idea."

from out of county.

continued

of teaching.

Doohan said.

Doohan

101 near the Humboldt County line. Dashiell said he anticipated the signs will state, "Mendocino County Closed to Guests. No Services" - although he added

Dashiell said that he could also put up a third sign on Highway

that he welcomed help on the exact wording Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams told Dashiell that he would support the action if Dashiell would also put up signs on Highway 1 near Gualala and on Highway 128, which is the

highway that runs from Cloverdale in northern Sonoma County up through Boonville, Philo, and Navarro and then follows the Navarro River down to Highway 1 near Albion.

"Highway 128 and Highway 1 would take longer," Dashiell said. "It would mean installing posts and getting the permit to do it. I mean, not that you couldn't do that, but it would take longer."

Dashiell said he had gotten permission from Caltrans to put up the signs. He added that he believed that just the signs on 101 near the county line with Sonoma County and on 20 near the eastern border with Lake County would get the message to a majority of travelers.

"The traffic counts indicate that the majority of traffic enters our county either on 101 or on 20," Dashiell said.

Dashiell said he would put up the signs, apparently meaning the signs on 101 at the Sonoma County border and also on Highway 20 near the border with Lake County. As the conversation came around to the decision point, Dashiell did not specifically say that he was going to put up a sign along Highway 101 near the county's border with Humboldt County, and he did not promise to do anything on Highway 1 and on Highway 128. The board of supervisors did not direct Dashiell to add those locations to his list. They just agreed that Dashiell could have employees in his department put up the proposed signage. No vote was taken on

The impetus to direct Dashiell to put up the anti-tourist signs came at the suggestion of Supervisor Williams, who, along with Second District Supervisor John McCowen, brought the item to the board of supervisors.

The item was a discussion point that took place within agenda item 6a: "Discussion and possible action regarding economic recovery, including phases and timelines for relaxing COVID-19 restrictions on business activity in Mendocino County.

It seems that both Williams and McCowen wanted to enlist the help of Mendocino County Interim Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan in their agenda item. They wanted Doohan to explicitly state what business types would be allowed in the first phase of re-opening, which in the second phase, and which in the third phase. Doohan would not let herself be boxed in, in that way. Instead she offered guesses about which businesses would be allowed to re-open soon, and which types of businesses would likely not be allowed to re-open within the next three months. Doohan offered a number of direct answers to questions posed by Williams and other supervisors, but it was not enough to construct a coherent timeline of phases and dates.

While discussing item 6a, Williams told the supervisors that the county was suffering from a lack of evenness and fairness in enforcement of that part of the health order that forbids gathering on beaches. He showed a number of photographs that he had received that day. Tuesday, showing cars, campers. RVs, and cars with trailers, all with out-of-state license plates. These vehicles all appeared to be parked on the streets of the village of Mendocino.

ams also said he had repeatedly seen a large number of cars parked at one of the state beaches near his home. He pointed out that it was unfair for out-of-county and out-of-state people to visit state beaches, while locals cannot, as state beaches remain closed for the present.

"We have a large influx of visitors here," Williams said. "And what we are hearing from Public Health is, the guicker we can comply with the order, the sooner we can re-open our economy. I don't want to tell the local art store that they can't sell pens, or paper, but Walmart can. If we could look one another in the face, they would roll their eyes and say: 'How is it any different risk? You're supporting a big box store, with corporate ownership from out of town, but you're putting the small family businesses

"What we're hearing is, we need to comply with the order, so we can get them to re-open sooner. What is the way forward to compliance? Because if we tell the public, there's nothing we can do about it, we're not going to have people continuing to follow an order, when they see visitors disregarding. These people from Virginia, from Colorado, from Oregon and New Mexico, they've driven more than 20 miles. If they're in the town of Mendocino, they've broken our health order, which says you can drive 20 miles. They've driven all the way across our county, perhaps across our state.... We need to have an answer, Williams said. He asked Sheriff Matt Kendall if his deputies were willing to more strenuously enforce the health order.

Sheriff Kendall explained why his deputies wouldn't be doing that. "Everybody needs to understand that [with] a civil notice of violation, we have to find someone that we believe to be in violation. With that civil notice, we have to warn them on it, and then give them 24 hours. They can be fined after that 24 hours. We haven't had people who are continuing to violate the order after 24 hours. As a matter of fact, almost everyone that we run into immediately comes into compliance.

"As far as stopping vehicles and what not, the license plate

frame on a car is not probable cause for a stop," Kendall said. "It simply isn't. We're not going to get into the weeds of, 'We're gonna stop someone because they don't look like they belong here.' The fact of the matter is. we've got to have probable cause for a stop, we've got to have probable cause for a contact, and if we

estimate on how long it would "When it comes to state parks, we have to allow be before things returned to the state parks to police their jurisdictions, in the same manner that we allow the Fort Bragg Police think we will be looking at 12 to Department and the Ukiah Police Depart to police 18 months before we see life go theirs." Kendall said.

don't, then we're gonna be violating peoples' rights.

burn permit, free of charge, by watching a short educational video and submitting an application. Permits must be printed, signed, and on hand while burning. The process provides the necessary information needed to conduct the burn safely, while minimizing the chance for fire escape. Permits are valid for the calendar year in which they are issued and must be reissued annually on or after January 1 of each year.

From Page 1

The rest of

 Mendocino County Air Management District http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/ agmd/burning-information.html.

Before you burn, always call Mendocino County Air Management District at 707-463-4391 to confirm that you have all the required burn permits and to ensure it is a permissive burn day. Burning can only be done on permissive burn days and is prohibited on

Property owners requiring an alternative to the online burn permits can call the CAL FIRE Mendocino Headquarters at 459-7414, from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Staff will take the information over the phone and mail the burn permit, as our administrative offices and stations remain closed to the public during the COVID-19 situation.

IMPORTANT: CALFIRE Burn Permits are only for residents who live in the State Response Area, known as "the SRA," or where CAL FIRE has jurisdictional authority It is the responsibility of the land owner to call local agencies to determine any additional permits that might be required, and if there are any additional burning restrictions for

CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit reminds everyone that it is their individual responsibility to use fire safely and to prevent fires.

For more information about how you and your family can prepare for wildfire, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

The rest of From Page 1 Rodeo

While Willits Frontier Days Vice President Marcy Barry hasn't officially pulled the plug on the festivities just yet, the latest health orders coming from the county and state level seem to make it unlikely that the annual gathering will be allowed to happen. Barry and the WFD board hope to have a definitive answer and make a plan on what to do after May 10.

Hoping there's still a glimmer of hope for a positive outcome, this year's two Sweetheart contestants are ready and waiting if allowed to move forward with the contest. Two lovely voung equestrians. Samantha Arms and Madison Forrester, have both turned in their applications, but will be asked to hang on to their hats and reapply next year if this year's

events get canceled. "Unfortunately, if there's no Fourth of July events this year, there just won't be a Sweetheart this year, but both girls will be

welcome to run next year," said Barry. Sweetheart-less years have only happened three times in the 94 years of history of the organization: the first year, 1927 and then again in 1930 (90 years ago!), and again in

"We're still moving along, hopeful that there maybe might be something we can do, so many people look forward to this event every year, and it would be crushing to not have it at all," said Barry. "We've had a crew down at the grounds, mowing, planting flowers, weed whacking, and raking - we have to be prepared if we are able to hold anything usually prep for the events starts months and months ahead of time. We can't just throw it all together at the last minute. We're trying to be patient and hope for good news, and plan to make it an amazing year in 2021 for our 95th annual event, if nothing else.

If the events are canceled, however, Barry and the Willits Frontier Days crew are determined to do something to keep the "Longest continuously running rodeo" title true for Willits Frontier Days.

"We're hoping that by October, we will be able to be in the clear to at least hold our annual Ranch Rodeo," said Barry. "That will at least allow us to have some sort of joint rodeo event at the grounds and keep our

Keep your eyes on the pages of Willits Weekly and on the Willits Frontier Days Facebook page for more information as it is

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Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

### Handsome Rex

Meet the new guy Rex who is soooo handsome. Rex is a large mixed-breed pup weighing in at 63 pounds, who is about 2 years old. He came to us as a stray; his finder was tying him to our gate when we intervened. He was wearing a dinosaur collar, and that is how he got his name. We have tried to locate his folks with no success. So we have



promised Rex we will do our best to find him a wonderful family to love him. If you would like to add this handsome fella to you family, please fill an application out online at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is closed to the public, but open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering: Call 707-485-0123. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.

# Big Fergus

Introducing our fluffy friend Fergus. This fella is a large 3-year-old orange and white male who weighs 13 pounds. Fergus came to the shelter in April 2019 after being found in a vacant house by the house cleaners. Fergus was very afraid of everything when he first arrived.

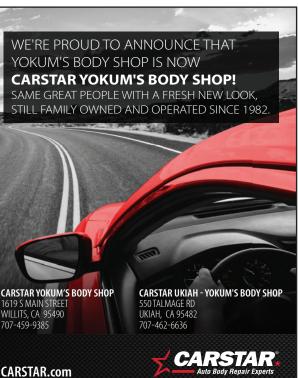
However, after lots of love and patience from our staff and volunteers, Fergus has come to enjoy living in the cattery with his roommate Avery. Fergus would like a guiet indoor home that is not too busy for him. He is a low-maintenance guy who just wants a home to call his own. Could this be with you?



Mendocino County is closed to the public, but open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only,

for intakes, adoptions and fostering: Call 707-485-0123 information. "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www. mendohumanesociety. com to learn more.











# Adventist Health Howard Memorial reminds community:

# Don't avoid the ER for medical emergencies

Submitted by Cici Winiger, communications manager for Adventist Health

As concerns around COVID-19 continues and with shelter-in-place orders, Adventist Health Howard Memorial emergency room staff are worried that patients are avoiding medical care out of fear, especially when it comes to life-threatening conditions. Hospital staff want to remind the community to come to the emergency department in if they feel they need medical care.

"We don't want patients at home suffering when we are here to provide help," shares Dr. Brandon Begley, DO, emergency physician at Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

He said people should not wait or hesitate to come to the hospital for an emergency. "We are capable of taking care of you still," said Begley. "We are ready and are taking all of the appropriate precautions to be able to safely care for all

of our patients.' For some health emergencies, waiting too long to get help can complications and can be catastrophic, explains Begley. "For example, if they come in for stroke, the treatment that we use is very timesensitive or it won't work. So we want them here, as soon as possible if they have symptoms."

It's a concern many other hospitals are The Humane Society for Inland seeing across the nation. shelter-in-place

> Read the rest of Emergency Over on Page 13

**Mendocino County Animal Care** 

mendoanimalshelter.com

Emergency rooms at Adventist Health here, have had a ignificant drop in use lately, due to concerns around COVID-19, but wants people who have health concerns making a trip to the

# Ukiah Animal Shelter update

Mendocino County's COVID-19 order is in place, Animal Care Services animal shelters in Ukiah and Fort Bragg are closed to the public. But you can still adopt and foster a dog or cat! Please visit www.mendoanimalshelter. com to see all of our dog and cat guests, along with information about fostering and adopting during this temporary closing, or visit the "Mendocino County Animal Shelter" page on

Many thanks to the folks who have fostered and/or adopted guests during this difficult time.

> - Mendocino County **Animal Care Services**

# MCHC Health Centers welcome new CEO:

# **Scott McFarland**

Submitted by MCHC Health Centers

MCHC Health Centers executive team and board of directors are pleased to announce the appointment of Scott McFarland as the organization's new chief executive officer, replacing retired CEO Carole Press. Although he originally planned to take the helm on May 1, he started early to help the organization respond to the COVID-19

"I've only just arrived," he said, "but it is already clear that the excellent

work of MCHC's staff and providers deserves recognition. Through their sacrifice and commitment, patients continue to receive the care they

McFarland's wife has been a registered nurse for 24 years and is currently working in a hospital oncology department; through her work, he understands the heavy load carried by health care professionals currently on the front lines of the COVID-19 response.

Jerry Chaney, MCHC board chairman, said, "We are very fortunate to have attracted a leader with Scott's talent and wealth of experience."



McFarland has more than 27 years of what he describes as "people-focused health care administration" experience. He blends a gregarious personality with a serious business ethic and a proven track record, balancing strategic decisions and financial discipline with a hands-on approach to leadership that results in strong employee, patient and provider satisfaction.

"I've been active in state-level health care policy-making through the California Primary Care Association for years, and I've had a chance to become familiar with many community health centers. I chose to come here because of the quality of MCHC's staff and services," McFarland

For the past 15 years, McFarland has served as the CEO of Western Sierra Medical Clinic, where he spearheaded the organization's expansion from a single-office, primary-care facility to a multi-specialty, multi-county health system with eight sites representing more than 30,000 patients. He also co-founded a three-county collaborative with representation from two hospitals, five community health center corporations, and two county governments. Prior to Western Sierra Medical Clinic, McFarland was the CEO of Peachtree Health Center

As a health care administrator, McFarland says he enjoys working closely with state and federal leaders, organizing and advocating for strong health care systems that support the mission of community health centers such as MCHC. To that end, he is active in the California Primary Care Association as a member of the executive committee and past chair of the board, and he currently serves as board chairman of the Health Alliance of Northern California.

"What some people don't understand is that community health centers like MCHC have a single focus: to provide the best possible primary health care to local people. We are all about doing essential health care right. We are a locally owned and operated, private nonprofit, run by our board of directors that is made up of community members, half of whom are also our patients, so we never lose track of what's most important," he said.

McFarland earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Long Beach State, his master's degree in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University, and his master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix. On the personal side, McFarland is excited to move to Mendocino County because he and his family "love small towns, enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, and can't wait to spend some time on the coast." He also enjoys cooking, which came up collaborates with Origins Council on communityduring his interview with MCHC.

MCHC Chief Operating Officer Jill Damian said, "I am looking forward to the leadership experience and vision Scott brings to our organization."

McFarland said, "I am really pleased to join the leadership team at MCHC. They are an impressive group with a lot of experience and cohesion. I also look forward to working collaboratively with local partners. I firmly believe that when local health care organizations work in partnership, we can achieve great things, especially in rural communities like ours."

MCHC Health Centers is a local non-profit organization providing access to comprehensive health care for people in Ukiah, Willits and Lakeport. All MCHC Health Centers accept Medi-Cal, Medicare Covered California insurance and other insurance. Learn

more at www.mchcinc.org.

# The rest of **Pigments**

From Page 5

Another difference the couple is experiencing is the development of a new website O'Hanlon is working on for artists. It takes the place of the workshops that the couple conducted internationally. "Since 2015 we were traveling a majority of the time. We decided to build the website but it was difficult to get much done before COVID-19. It forced us to work more strategically and work on it right now," O'Hanlon stated

The new website, www.paintingbestpractices, is under construction. There is a free demo course planned that will have lots of information about painting basic skills, but not the art of painting. It'll include things like the proper way to stretch canvas, and explanations as to why paintings deteriorate and the primary causes of paint failures.

As the website explains, "The courses are for anyone who wants to create paintings that last." Which is the main objective of the business that has gained international recognition for their generosity and in-depth scientific knowledge about natural art materials and methods.

For more information about Natural Pigments visit www. naturalpigments.com or call 459-9998; to order hand sanitizer, check www.naturalpigments.com/hand-sanitizer-

# COLUMN | Medicare Notes

# Telehealth: Getting medical care in your home

Medicare & Medicaid Services

At Medicare, we understand you may have concerns about going to your doctor's office during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Like so many Americans, our Medicare beneficiaries are rightly observing social distancing guidelines to protect themselves and others from possible infection. We also recognize that our beneficiaries still need checkups, prescription refills, or other care from their doctors.

The good news is that President Trump dramatically expanded access to telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries during the pandemic. Telehealth lets you communicate with your physician and other healthcare professionals using your phone, video chat, secure text messaging, email, or through a patient portal.

That means you don't have to leave your home and risk exposure to the virus.

Medicare is paying for our 62 million beneficiaries to have at-home access to a broad range of telehealth

If you're in a Medicare Advantage health plan, check with your plan. We recently authorized Medicare Advantage plans to offer expanded telehealth coverage to meet the needs of their enrollees.

Telehealth can be used for routine office visits, preventive health screenings, mental health counseling, and care that ordinarily would require a trip to an outpatient clinic or hospital emergency room.

In fact, Medicare recently added 80 more telehealth services, including radiation treatment management, therapeutic exercises, prosthetic training, assistive technology assessments, group psychotherapy, inpatient neonatal and pediatric critical care, and endstage renal disease care.

So I encourage Medicare beneficiaries to take

By Seema Verma, administrator, U.S. Centers for advantage of these great new services. Contact your doctor or health plan about available telehealth

For people with Original Medicare, telehealth is covered under Part B. President Trump is allowing healthcare providers to reduce or waive the usual

Part B coinsurance and deductible for these services. if they choose. Doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists. licensed clinical social workers, and other clinicians

are all eligible to provide telehealth services. Medicare also pays for phone calls with your doctor. You can even get telehealth from a doctor with whom you don't have an established relationship.

So please, if you're a senior, follow the federal recommendations - "30 days to slow the spread." As President Trump has recommended, stay at home and away from other people for the next few weeks. This is especially important for older people with a serious health condition - such as heart or lung problems or a weakened immune system - that puts them at higher risk for the virus.

Medicare is offering these new telehealth options during the pandemic so you can get the care you need, and the peace of mind that comes with it, from the comfort of your own home.

For more information on Medicare coverage of telehealth, please go to: www.cms.gov/newsroom/ press-releases/president-trump-expands-telehealthbenefits-medicare-beneficiaries-during-covid-19-

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services actions in response to COVID-19 are part of the ongoing White House Coronavirus Task Force efforts Visit www.coronavirus.gov to learn more.

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

# Mendocino Cannabis Alliance partners with Origins Council to create value for legacy cannabis-producing regions

## Submitted by Mendocino Cannabis Alliance

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance is excited to announce that we have become a regional partner of Origins Council, a California cannabis education, research and advocacy organization. Origins Council is dedicated to supporting the legacy cannabisproducing regions of California through sustainable rural economic development ENDOCINO initiatives, research-based policy

advocacy, and the development of geographic-indication systems (County of Origin and Appellation of Origin) designed to ignite the growth of the craft-cannabis market and regional agritourism.

The Regional Partners of Origins Council are: Nevada County Cannabis Alliance, Big Sur Farmers Association, Sonoma County Growers Alliance, Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, Humboldt County Growers Alliance, and Trinity County Agricultural Alliance. Collectively these organizations constitute the Regional Council which governs the policy work of Origins Council. The Regional Council exchanges information and shares resources and driven cannabis research initiatives.

We are grateful to MCA member That Good Good Farm for supporting our partnership with Origins Council as our 2020 Annual Regional Sponsor. For more information about Origins Council, please visit: www.originscouncil.org.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture released the proposed regulations for the California Cannabis Appellations Program on February 21, 2020. This marked the start of a 45-day public comment period. In response to the COVID-19 emergency declaration, CDFA is extending the

public comment period to May 6, 2020 and has rescheduled the public hearing to Wednesday, May 6, 2020, from 1 pm to 3 pm. The hearing will be accessible online only.

The proposed regulations and the link to register for the public hearing can be found on the CalCannabis Cannabis Appellations Program web page: www.cdfa.ca.gov/

calcannabis/appellations.

MCA is working with Origins Council to analyze the proposed regulations and prepare comments. You are invited to submit comments to MCA regarding the proposed regulations by emailing us at info@mendocannabis.com. Please join MCA to discuss the appellation

regulations on our public policy calls through the remainder of the public comment period. The next public policy call will be April 30 at 7 pm on the MCA Conference call-in line, 605-472-5739, access 293416#

Comments on the proposed regulations may be submitted until Wednesday, May 6, 2020, via email to the CDFA: CalCannabis Appellations@cdfa.ca.gov. or by mail to: California Department of Food and Agriculture, Attention: Kristi Armstrong, CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing, Proposed Appellations Regulations, P.O. Box 942871, Sacramento, CA

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Patrick Sellers at 707-234-5568 or email admin@mendocannabis.com

The Mendocino Cannabis Alliance serves and promotes Mendocino County's world-renowned cannabis cultivators and businesses through sustainable economic development, education, and public policy initiatives.

### The rest of From Page 12 Emergency

orders and the overall effort to not overwhelm the health care system, hospitals are seeing huge drops in patients scared to come in or heeding the call to stay home and thinking they are doing their part to help the hospitals by staying away.

"I think the tragedy here would be, if we have people who are in pain and suffering at home with a critical illness and end up seeking care too late," explains Amy Buckingham, RN, emergency services director.

She said the hospital has seen a significant decline in emergency room visits, dropping more than 50 percent compared to what they normally see. "It's understandable. People are being considerate, and they don't want to burden the hospital if they don't have to. And we are grateful to them for thinking of us. But we also want them to know that we're here for them if they need us," she adds.

Others are just afraid of coming

in thinking they can get the virus by going to the hospital. But Buckingham explains that the hospital has taken steps to keep everyone safe, including not allowing visitors, screening all staff and patients coming in through the door and doing more cleaning and disinfecting to prevent the spread of

All patients and staff are also given masks to help prevent anyone with a COVID-19 infection but no symptoms from spreading the virus. Patients coming in who think they have symptoms of COVID-19 are also asked to call ahead, to allow hospital staff to prepare and do car-side screening if necessary, to protect staff and other patients.

All hospital staff wear protective equipment, especially those working with suspected coronavirus patients, Buckingham said. The hospital staff is cleaning and disinfecting thoroughly, including a routine cleaning of all surfaces every few got you."

hours, and cleaning and disinfecting chairs between patients. All rooms are cleaned thoroughly and carefully between patients to prevent the spread of any virus.

Both Begley and Buckingham emphasize that anyone experiencing emergency symptoms should call 911 or come into the emergency department. "We need patients to come in if

they are sick, especially unexplained symptoms such as chest pain, slurred speech, facial drooping, confusion, high fever, abdominal pain, or any worrisome symptoms that someone may be experiencing." Begley adds.

Redwood Medical Clinic also now offers virtual visits to provide care to patients in their homes.

overwhelmed, Buckingham said. "Don't stay home in pain. You should never put off seeking medical care. We're here for you, we

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# Food resources in Willits

### Willits Senior Center

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

### **WCS Food Bank**

Willits Community Services is busy serving families and individuals in need of food and other incidental items and services, with all precautions and sanitizing efforts. Director Ruthanne Volz says the need is up about 25 percent. The back door area is open for food distributing on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. The front office is closed to the public for now, but can be reached at 459-3330 (please leave a message if necessary). Garden produce, donations and volunteers welcome, as well as paper products and anti-bacterial wipes. To donate, mail checks to WCS, 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490.

### Willits Daily Bread

Willits Daily Bread offers a meal to anyone who is hungry Monday through Thursday, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in front of the Fellowship Hall at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street at Main Street. "What we need is snack foods, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, canned anything, meat and cheese for sandwiches, any clothing, blankets, socks," said Cindy Savage, director of Willits Daily Bread. "We are seeing new faces, and with people out of work there will be more hungry in our community. Questions: call Savage at 707-367-5669.

# Saturday Brown Bag Lunch

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

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

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Above, left: Driver Michael McEnnerney gets ready to make his deliveries to those seniors who depend on the Meals On Wheels Program, which delivers lunch Monday through Friday every week. Above, right: Linda Gnader, a 27-year veteran of the Willits Senior Center and back-up cook, left, and Nancy Middleton, head cook, do an amazing job and are valued employees, says Director Richard Baker. In this photo, the kitchen crew shows off a lasagna, garlic bread and green bean lunch.

# Rotary Fund Drive raises close to \$5,000 so far

The Willits Rotary Club's online Community Fund Drive has raised \$4,825 towards its \$6,000 goal to support three food distribution groups in Willits: Willits Daily Bread, Willits Senior Center, and Willits Community Services and Food Bank.

All three have experienced an increase in their needs as people are not able to work and many cannot buy

"Willits Rotary Club continues to be amazed by the generosity of the community, and beyond," said Rotary President Jenny Senter. "We continue to see donations come in and are hopeful we can make it to \$10,000!"

The Community Fund Drive GoFundMe can be found at: https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/ willits-rotary-community-fund-drive. A check may also be made out and mailed to: Willits Rotary, PO Box 787, Willits, CA 95490.

- Jennifer Poole

# How to apply for food benefits

Submitted by Mendocino County Health & Human Services

Due to the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order, Employment and Family Assistance Services offices in Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg are currently closed to the public. Staff is onsite to provide assistance by phone including processing of applications and ongoing benefit issuance.

Options available to apply for and maintain benefits

C4Yourself.com - allows applicants to apply for benefits including CalWORKs cash aid, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal services. Current recipients can also access their cases with services that include uploading documents, printing forms, checking benefit status, and

GetCalFresh.org – accepts applications for CalFresh, formerly known as food stamps

CoveredCA.com - accepts applications for health care services

Contact our office: To receive assistance or request an application packet by mail, staff is available by phone Monday through Thursday, 7 am to 5 pm, and Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Call 707-463-7700 or toll-free 877-327-1711.

Paperwork can be submitted at myverifications@ mendocinocounty.org. Replacement EBT cards are currently only available by mail by calling 877-328-9677.

# 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 30: Turkey a la King

Friday, May 1: Steamed Pollock

Monday, May 4: Chicken Cacciatore

Tuesday, May 5: Pork Burritos w/Green Sauce

Wednesday, May 6: Beef Stroganoff

Thursday, May 7: Baked Ziti

Friday, May 8: Chicken Casserole

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



# Mother's Day photo call

# for Willits Weekly's annual collage

Mother's Day is just around the corner to include a caption naming the people in (Sunday, May 10!!), and Willits Weekly is ready to honor moms in the community with our annual photo collage feature.

This is something we do FOR FREE for the community, and everyone is encouraged to participate!

All you have to do is email a copy of a current or vintage photo of your mom to willitsweekly@gmail.com. If you only have a print photo, you can bring it to Ace Copy and Shipping, where they can scan and send it to us easily. Make sure

the photograph, from left to right, and any message.

We need to have all images in by end of day Monday, May 4.

The photo collage will appear in the next edition of Willits Weekly, Thursday, May 7.

Questions? Call 972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com. We will try and print as many as we can, so get yours in early and get included with this fun way to honor all our mothers!

