

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 352

Thursday, April 30, 2020

City Council refinances wastewater bonds

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
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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 to 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
Reporter
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At last week's meeting of the Measure B Mental Health 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.

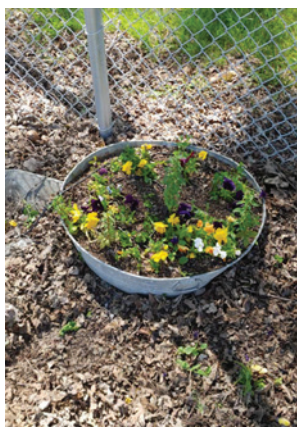
The motion also gave instructions to the Community Foundation to find a way to equitably distribute those funds to the community organizations that are currently providing mental health services to people in this county.

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 the motion, sheriff's representative on the committee, Tom Allman, said that giving money to 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



Photos by Marcy Barry

Above, from left: Flowers are planted and look colorful against the galvanized planters at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds. Danielle Barry helps mow down the grass in front of the office building at the rodeo grounds. Alexis England plants flowers along the fence line to keep things looking pretty at the grounds, Frontier Days or not.

Below: Samantha Arms, one of the two Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart contestants hoping there will be a contest this year, understands it's "safety first" regardless and poses here with her horse, Callie, who both don N-95 masks. Wearing a facial covering in public settings will be mandatory (for humans!) around the county starting May 1 at 12 pm, when the revised health order issued April 24 goes into effect.

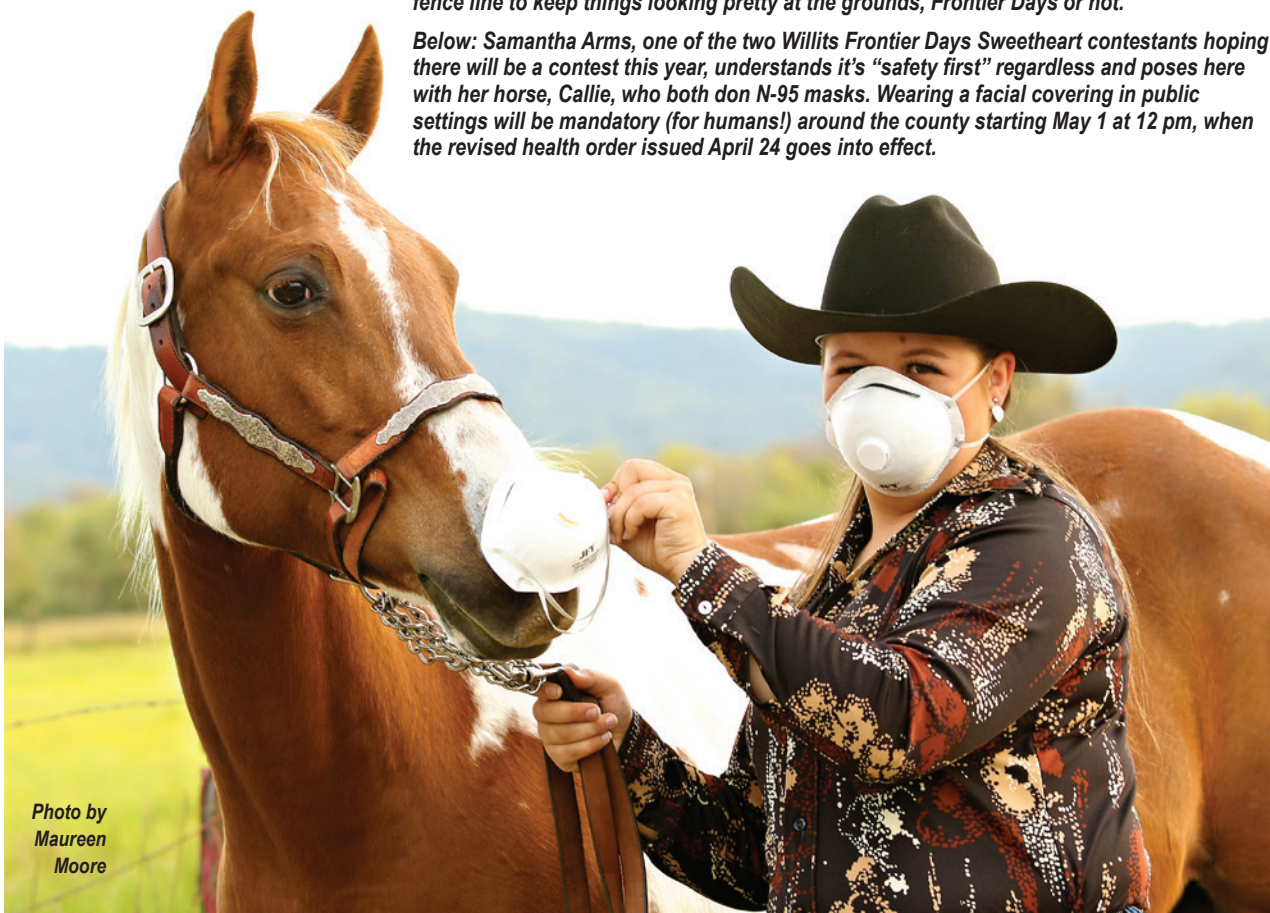


Photo by
Maureen
Moore

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

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



Photos by Marcy Barry



Seven COVID-19 cases in Round Valley

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Seven tests for the coronavirus have come back positive from residents of the Round Valley Indian Reservation, according to the Mendocino County Department of Public Health. The positive test results came over the past week, with three positive results having been 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
Reporter
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The board of 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 am

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 your 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:

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 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! Despite closing the physical doors of our business, we will

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 invite.

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

Jeff Brunner & Eryn Brunner, Our Yoga Center

A closer look at Waldorf

To the Editor:

Thank you for your article "Home Ed" in the April 16 edition. This is a challenging time for students, schools and parents. It's great to see how some are meeting the challenge.

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 curriculum, students do not use textbooks, instead they

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 about it.

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

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 financial impact COVID-19 has had on their business.

The purpose of this survey is to capture current, ongoing, and cumulative data on the total amount of economic loss for businesses in Mendocino County due to COVID-19.

Visit <https://mendocinocountysurvey.questionpro.com/> to learn more and to start the survey, which will take 15 to 20 minutes of your time to answer completely.

Participation in this County of Mendocino survey 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 situation changes.

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

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.

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.net.

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

Willits Weekly

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EST. 2013

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Above, from left: Tamara and Kashaya Adams bring their frozen hand-crafted pizzas to the Willits Farmers Market.

A cheese pizza bubbles with gooey goodness.

Kashaya Adams works the wood-fired pizza oven.

At left: A pepperoni pizza is pulled from the wood-fired oven.

Below: Last week's specialty pizza – made with pesto, asparagus, cream cheese, and caramelized onions.

At bottom: Roscoe, pizza's biggest fan, waits patiently.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Cheesy Comfort

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

Emandal's flavorful wood-fired pizzas 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

assorted treats. "Years ago, 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 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

online with a few brought down on spec.

"We will have four types of pizza each 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 lemon-parsley pesto with fresh asparagus, which we grew on the farm, a little bit of cream cheese, and caramelized onion."

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 to heat the frozen pizzas, basically 400 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 asparagus-infused 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 of rosemary.

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



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Sunday Services:
9:15 a.m. - Bible Class, adult & children
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

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803 Coast Street
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Grace Community Church

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

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

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707-459-3066
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& Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
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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
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Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
4th Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school.
22751 Bray Road, Willits

Willits United Methodist

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Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
459-2855

Facebook: www.facebook.com

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

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

Table with 9 columns and 9 rows for a Sudoku puzzle. Some cells contain numbers (7, 9, 4, 3, 2, 6, 8, 1, 2, 6, 7, 3, 6, 1, 7).



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

GET ORGANIZED WORD SEARCH

Word search grid containing letters for the title 'GET ORGANIZED WORD SEARCH'.

Table with 3 columns: ASSESSMENT, LEADERSHIP, PROFESSIONAL. Rows include Clutter, Data, Deadlines, Filing, Garbage, Groupings, Instruction, Listening, Management, Notes, Organized, Presentation, Prioritize, Problem Solving, Responsibility, Schedule, Shelves, Skills, Storage, Time, Training.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting positions for clues.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Curved symmetrical structure
5. One's partner in marriage
11. Male admirer
12. Spend in a period of dormancy
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

- 50. Monetary unit of Samoa
51. Makes clothing
53. Spielberg's alien
54. Agreeable to the taste
56. Injury treatment protocol
58. Cools your house
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
3. Roadside living quarters
4. Excessive self-confidence
5. Lapp
6. Bicycled
7. Entrance to a passage
8. Western U.S. state
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.)

- 22. Cigarettes (slang)
23. A doctrine
27. Constrictor snakes
29. Atomic #73
30. Baseball stat
31. Female sibling
32. A soft gray metal (abbr.)
33. Southern constellation
34. Belgian city
35. Go in again
36. In a different, more positive way
37. A place for sleeping
38. Blood type
40. Syrian news agency (abbr.)
41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
42. Millinery
44. Populous Israeli city — Aviv
45. Widen
46. Magical potion
47. Acknowledging
48. Private romantic rendezvous
50. Cavalry sword
51. Terabyte
52. Artificial intelligence
54. Bullfighting maneuver
55. Breezed through
57. Santa says it three times
61. ___ and behold
62. 36 inches (abbr.)

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

April 20 to April 26

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly
The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 122 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

April 20
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 Street.
3:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 600 block of East Commercial Street.
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 suspicious activity near the intersection 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.

April 21

12:11 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of Central Street and South Street.
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 Street.
2:33 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.
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 Street.
6:55 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.
8:07 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 Street.
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 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 in Willits.
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 back.
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 process.
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.



Shifting Gears
Natural Pigments manufacturers is now providing hand sanitizer and masks to hospital local employees and the community

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 distributors is their expertise and focus on organic, raw pigment and other natural materials for artists to grind and create their own paints — an ancient practice performed by artists for centuries. Premade paints from their pigments are also manufactured and available through their business.

How did this art materials business easily segue into providing hand sanitizer?
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 line. Safe distancing practices were in place.

It turns out that having large quantities of alcohol at the plant and formulating different sanitizers or products is part of the company's manufacturing process and protocols. According to O'Hanlon, "We make various formulations here and because we work with some water-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."

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 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 ensure they were all protected."

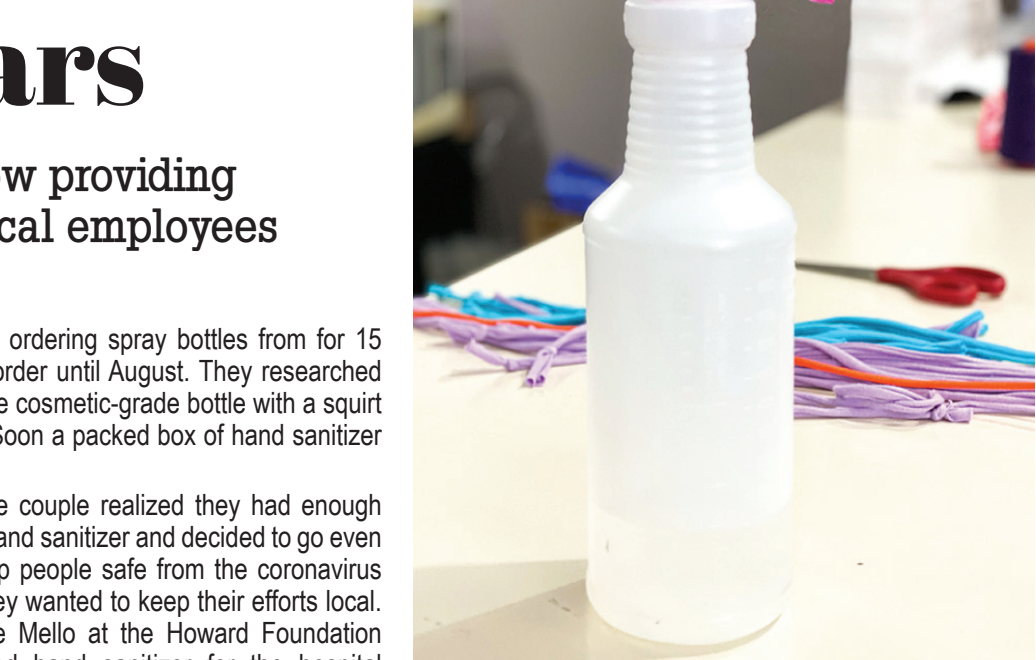
The hand sanitizer they make is different than the hard-surface formulation because they add glycerin — a humectant used to reduce the loss of moisture. O'Hanlon's formulation is one recommended by the World Health Organization. The company is freely providing their employees and families with the product.

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



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 known internationally.



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.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Advertisements for C Browns Corner, John Ford Ranch, Do it Best Willits Power & Hardware, and Farmers Insurance Agency.

Watch for more graduate photos over the coming weeks in Willits Weekly!

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



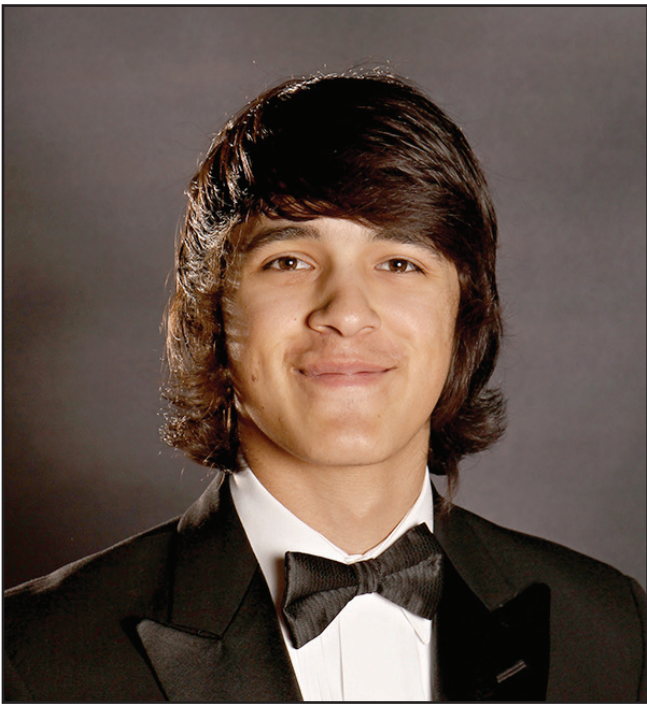
Austin Andrade



Jacob Arms



Jimi Beshura



Beau Betts



Lucas Branscomb



McKenna Buckingham



Jessica Buzzard



Patricia Carrillo



Pablo Avalos



Tyler Bailey



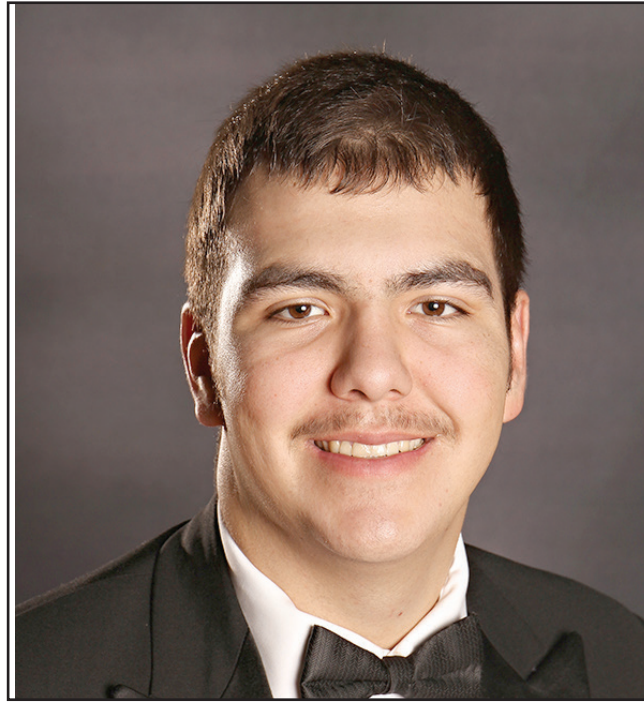
Dominic Bertolino



Star Brightman



Jessica Brown



KC Brown



Jaeva Cash



Natalie Castro



Eric Colvard



Alton Cooke



Spencer Copperfield



Hanna Corey

— APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE BY PHONE —
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photography by maureen moore

Showing love
to all the
SENIORS &
Class of 2020

So proud to have photographed all of you this year!

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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 end-of-senior-year experience.

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 possible for lazy days on the river.

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 them and their achievements?

Well, things are underway.

While Pinterest has always provided an idea stream for people with plenty of time on their hands, the usual hustle and bustle

of life prevents many of those pinned ideas to manifest. However, during the shelter in place orders many are under, all of a sudden, time is now available.

One of the biggest hopes is to have each of the 103 seniors to be graduates this year 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 and the Fourth of July.

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 project.

One of the largest expenses to making this happen is not only purchasing the custom-printed banners for all students, but also the metal brackets to support them, which are

different than those used for the other holiday hangings.

Permits, approval and manpower from Caltrans and the City of Willits is also needed, and is another large hurdle to overcome to 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 ceremony.

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.

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 info.

— 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.

shelter-in-Place Shop Local to WIN!

LOCAL LOVE! STAND UP TO COVID-19!

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

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

THAT'S RIGHT! THREE WINNERS WILL GET \$300 TO SPEND AT ONE OF THESE AMAZING LOCAL BUSINESSES: **MARIPOSA MARKET • J.D. REDHOUSE SPARETIME GARDEN SUPPLY**

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

- 1. PURCHASE AS MANY GIFT CERTIFICATES / CARDS OF \$20 OR MORE FROM ANY LOCAL BUSINESS OF YOUR CHOICE IN WILLITS, LAYTONVILLE OR COVELO...**
- 2. E-MAIL PHOTOS OF YOUR GIFT CARDS / CERTIFICATES TO: karperharnes@sbcglobal.net, BETWEEN 4/5/20 - 5/5/20... (EACH \$20 SPENT = ONE ENTRY)**
Winners announced when all entries are received
FOR MORE INFO CALL OR TEXT: (707) 671-3603



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 30TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Photos by Mathew Caine

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 willing to contribute.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@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 responses.

"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 Noyo 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: raymondnocalproperties@gmail.com.

We Are Fundraising With See's Candy

1 Lb. Boxes of Chocolates \$22.50 **Peanut Brittle Lollipops** **See's Chocolate Eggs \$6.00**

Just call to place your order and honk when you arrive at the Senior Center. We will bring it to your car.

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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.

• Taxiway A1 Construction

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 will be placed.

• 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 than 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

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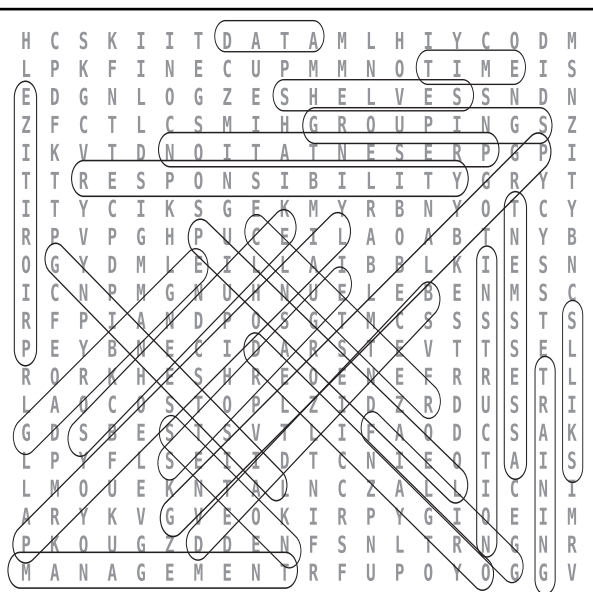
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459-2775
104 W. Mendocino, Willits
I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.



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



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

CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

Brookside Elementary Kindergarten Registration

Brookside Elementary kindergarten / TK registration has been cancelled for safety reasons. There will not be an assessment day this year. Please do the online registration for the 2021 school year. Go to willitsunified.com and click on the kindergarten registration link. It is very important to get this done as soon as possible. Kindergarten is for kids turning 5 by September 1, 2020. Transitional kindergarten is for kids turning 5 between September 2, 2020 and December 2, 2020. If your student is currently enrolled in our TK program you do not need to enroll him/her. He/she will automatically roll over to the next school year just like all of our other grades. Please share this with any parents of incoming kids you know. I can be reached by email at ericabuzzard@willitsunified.com with any questions.

Mendocino Counts!

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

Sewing Cloth

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

WUSD Senior Class of 2020 photo prints still available

Did you realize you need more copies of your senior's formal graduation photo? No problem, we can still order and print copies now! Info: 972-7047.

For Rent

Clean & Quiet, Large 2 Bdrm. 1 Bath, close to downtown area, Garbage & Water paid. Laundry room on site. N/P N/S. \$950.00 per mo. plus Security Deposit. Armo: 707-459-9601

Freezer Empty? We can help!

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

Willits Food Bank open

Willits Community Willits Food Bank is still distributing food, with many safety precautions, to those in need. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Call 459-3333 to arrange needed donations of hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes, garden greens and other veggies, paper products. Donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.



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/human-resources

EOE

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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 quiet 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?



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 for information. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.

TO-GO ORDERS!

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MAY 5, 2020!

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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 cause complications and can be catastrophic, explains Begley. "For example, if they come in for stroke, the treatment that we use is very time-sensitive 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 seeing across the nation. With shelter-in-place

Read the rest of **Emergency** Over on Page 13



Emergency rooms at Adventist Health, like the one seen here, have had a significant drop in use lately, due to concerns around COVID-19, but Adventist Health wants people who have health concerns to feel comfortable making a trip to the ER.

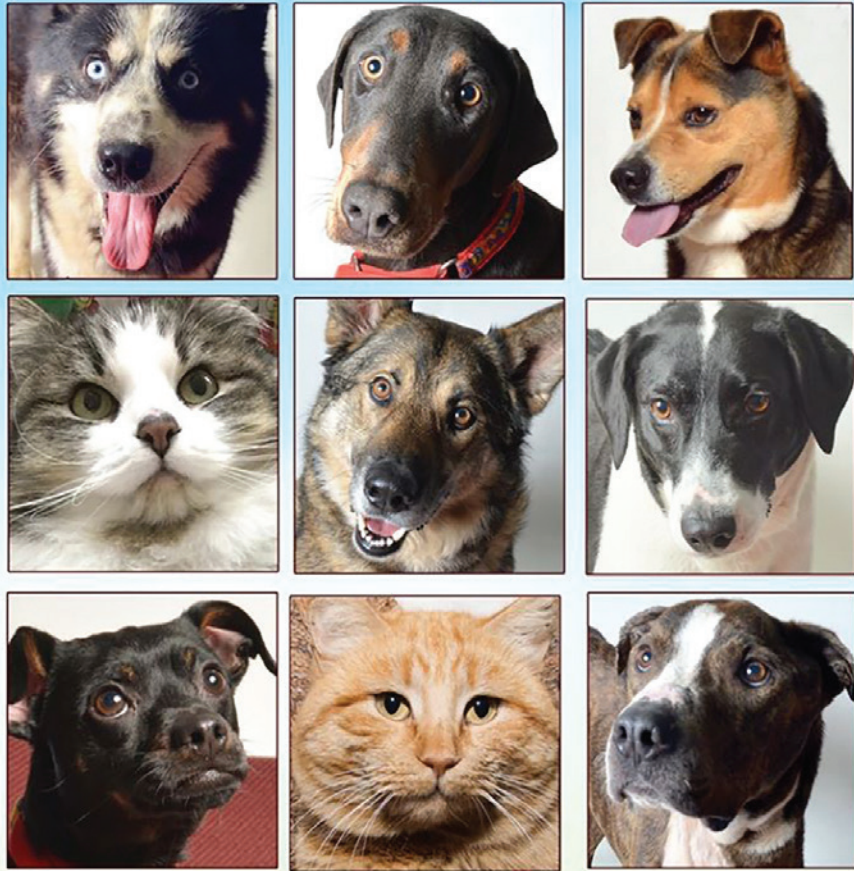
Ukiah Animal Shelter update

While 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 Facebook.

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

— Mendocino County Animal Care Services

Mendocino County Animal Care



mendoanimalshelter.com

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 situation.

"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 need."

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 said.

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 for six years.

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 non-profit, 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 during 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**

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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.com, 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-8oz.html



MCHC Health Centers' new CEO Scott McFarland.

COLUMN | Medicare Notes

Telehealth: Getting medical care in your home

By Seema Verma, administrator, U.S. Centers for 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 services.

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 end-stage renal disease care.

So I encourage Medicare beneficiaries to take

advantage of these great new services. Contact your doctor or health plan about available telehealth options.

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-telehealth-benefits-medicare-beneficiaries-during-covid-19-outbreak

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 cannabis-producing regions of California through sustainable rural economic development 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 collaborates with Origins Council on community-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.cdffa.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@cdffa.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 94271.

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 **Emergency**

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orders and the overall effort to not overwhelm the health care system, hospitals are seeing huge drops in patients scared to come in or heading 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 the virus.

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

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.

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

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