

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Action needed on Mental Health services

To the Editor:
Mark Twain is credited with apologizing to a friend for sending a long letter because he didn't have time to write a short one. With that in mind, I would like to apologize to the reader for a long chronology of Measure B, because a short letter would not give justice to the genesis of what Mendocino County possesses.

In 2009, during the economic downturn, CEO Carmel Angelo and I had a public display of emotions where I showed dismay at her for suggesting that I lay off 25 deputy sheriffs to balance the budget. Such a far-fetched suggestion was beyond reasonable, and I clearly and publicly denounced such a recommendation.

After some board room bantering, the chair of the BOS recommended a 15 minute recess, and directed the CEO and I to privately discuss our differences. This turned into our "Monday Morning Meeting," every Monday at 8:30. This created a much better relationship between the CEO's Office and the Sheriff's Office. As we all know, communication makes better relationships.

I had worked for MCSO since 1985, prior to the demise of the psychiatric health facility (referred to as a PHF, or "Puff"), and I experienced the 1991 dismantling of the county PHF wherein the Mental Health Department tacitly transferred additional duties to law enforcement, after the State of California decided to "realign" mental health services.

History has shown that this realignment has increased law enforcement's role in emergency mental health crisis and has relieved the very agency which is trained for this, the Department of Behavioral Health. No additional funding was transferred to law enforcement, just the transfer of some basic duties which formerly were performed by the Department of f Mental Health (presently referred to as the Behavioral Health Division of Social Services).

In 2014, after eight years of frustration with the expectation that law enforcement deal with the day-to-day mental health crises throughout our county, I sat down with the CEO on a Monday morning and asked a simple question: " Why don't we have a PHF?". I saw this as a reasonable question, with the intent of removing law enforcement from the crisis driver's seat, and allow law

enforcement to return to enforcing laws.

The CEO's answer was short, poignant and direct: "Sheriff, we can't afford to build it, and we don't have the funds." That was a fair answer, and the answer which drove me to personally collect 3,000 signatures and have other supporters collect over 1,500 signatures to get Measures AG and AH on the ballot.

This county-wide measure failed by approximately 100 votes. The BOS put Measure B on the ballot for the next election, and I personally collected contributions and campaigned for the passage of Measure B. As you may remember, over 160 signs were put up throughout the county and a letter-writing campaign was started to our newspapers so we could pass "Measure B, for Better Mental Health."

I was joined by a small group of citizens who met weekly with one goal in mind: to improve the mental health of our county and get a PHF facility up and running. 83% of the voters agreed with us, and passed a small sales tax which will build a brick and mortar PHF and will forever add additional funds to the Department of Mental Health to improve Mental Health services.

The CEO's concern(s) of not having the necessary funds had been eliminated. A bright future was forecast for allowing our hospital emergency departments to have beds freed up, and a PHF was forthcoming.

Now for the reality. Almost four years later, we have no clear direction on building a PHF and the Behavioral Health Department continues to rely on law enforcement to handle the majority of mental health crises. As I said during the initial campaigns: "You wouldn't call a plumber when your house is on fire, so why do we call law enforcement when a mental health patient is having a crisis? We need to send a mental health professional." My words continue to ring true, and unfortunately, I will follow up with "I told you so" when a true crisis strikes.

Sheriff Matt Kendall and Ukiah Police Department Chief Justin Wyatt have implored the Measure B committee to fully institute a street response for mental health professionals, and they have both agreed to have a paid responder to join these professionals. Why hasn't the county hired the others? Why are law enforcement officers continuing to be asked (demanded) to respond to mental health crises?

Many times, there are no laws being violated yet the Behavioral Health Department has no professionals ready to respond, even during the work hours M-F,

8-5. This has to change. Unless the BOS wants to put the Behavioral Health Department under the tutelage of the Sheriff's Office (I'm not encouraging this), I don't see a vast improvement. Let's be clear, marijuana is NOT the No. 1 problem in our county – the lack of Mental Health services is our No. 1 problem. Please read that sentence again.

It is time that all five of our county supervisors put Mental Health services as the first item on every agenda they have. The more we discuss our problem, the closer we are to a solution. We can't ignore it, and then scream at law enforcement for merely doing someone else's job. While I am concerned about the cost of liability, my primary concern is the improved care of victims of mental illness. I write this as a brother of a mental health victim who chose to take his own life in 2005 (not in Mendocino County).

As I said at the beginning of this, I'm sorry for the length of this letter. It is time that we start seeing letters from citizens who are supportive of the Behavioral Health Department taking the reins of all behavior health crises in every corner of our county. Simply saying that a change is in the future is no longer believable. Action is what we need, and don't blame the Measure B committee for this failure. The BOS and the Behavioral Health Department can make a difference. Law enforcement will be there to help, but not to be the sacrificial cow when something goes wrong.

Retired Sheriff Tom Allman, member of Measure B Committee

Beautiful trees downtown

To the Editor:
Have you noticed what is happening downtown? I have been waiting for the recently new trees planted on Main Street to show their art work.

"I walked past them almost daily forgetting to notice. When they finally caught my eye with a wake-up call I was amazed.

Beauty in shimmering green and only improving each day. A big improvement for Willits.

Take a walk along Main Street, and take in this latest addition to awaken downtown. You will be amazed. If you are like me you have been passing them by without noticing.

And while you're downtown, stop by the local merchants that have been struggling, as we all have been, for the last year or so. Buy local and tell Amazon and other online sites goodbye, if and when possible.

Bob Wilkinson, Willits

New hours at Willits Library

Starting Tuesday, May 18, the Willits Branch Library moves to a new phase of reopening. The library will be open from Tuesday through Saturday. It will be closed on Monday.

New Hours: Tuesday, 11 am to 5 pm; Wednesday, 11 am to 5 pm; Thursday, 1 to 7 pm; Friday, 11 am to 5 pm; and Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm.

Curbside Pickup available by request during library open hours. Questions? Please call the library at 459-5908.

– Willits Library

The rest of Brooktrails

advocacy for water districts throughout California. It's a benefit for the district and staff to be exposed to outside agency experience and resources, including potential funding opportunities in water and wastewater, the staff report stated.

The board noted that General Manager Alaniz has participated with ACWA since 2008, and agreed that with a sound understanding regarding the position, she will be able to continue to make strides in building relationships within the region and representing Mendocino County interests with ACWA.

Following a brief discussion, the board was in resounding agreement regarding the nomination, so Director Ralph Santos made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-06, and Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea seconded the motion.

The board then discussed an updated Golf Course Operations Agreement with Marcus Newby, the contractor who serves as the operator of the Golf Course. The board adopted the current agreement for the Brooktrails Golf

Registration open for Kids Club Summer Camp

Sign-ups for Willits Kids Club Summer Camp started Monday, May 17. We will be available all week with applications from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Willits Kids Club, 1265 Blosser Lane.

Our program will run for four weeks beginning June 21 through July 16, from 7:30 am to 4 pm, with swimming from 1 to 3 pm. We will be serving a hot lunch every day.

The cost is \$100 per two-week session which is due with the application.

Please give us a call at 841-8012 if you have any questions.

– Willits Kids Club

Memorial Day 2021

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021, American Legion Post 174 of Willits will be conducting memorial ceremonies at:

- Willits Cemetery at 10 am.
- Little Lake Cemetery at 11 am.

Please join us as we pay tribute to our departed comrades in arms.

Note: Willits Cemetery is off the Fort Bragg Road (just over a mile west on Highway 20), and Little Lake Cemetery (on Cemetery Lane off East Hill Road).

– Submitted by Roger Ham, adjutant, American Legion Post 174



Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

The Willits Senior Center is continuing to provide drive-thru, walk-up and delivered meals, although the dining room is closed. Prices for drive-thru and walk-up To Go lunches will remain at \$5 through June 2021, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation and Sparetime Supply. Meals on Wheels delivered meals remain at \$5.50. Call 459-6826 for more info.

Drive-thru and walk-up To Go meals are available 12 to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. Pickup is outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Home Meal Delivery

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels delivered meals are \$5.50 per meal. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery; Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits.

Thursday, May 20: Beef Stroganoff, Veggie, Roll, Green Salad

Friday, May 21: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Corn Bread

Monday, May 24: Tamale Pie, Beans, Rice

Tuesday, May 25: Lemon Garlic Parmesan Shrimp Pasta, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, May 26: Asian Chicken Wrap, Cucumber Salad

Thursday, May 27: Shepard's Pie: beef, Veggie, Roll, Green Salad

Friday, May 28: Turkey w/ Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Veggie, Roll

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

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Course with Newby and two other individuals in October 2017. Due to changes in contractor business ownership and fiscal impacts from COVID-19, staff and the contractor have developed an updated agreement, and changes to the document filings for the business license and ownership have been revised and updated with Mendocino County.

There is a clause in the agreement that would have required the contractor to provide the district with 3 percent of its total revenue, not including golf shop concessions, beginning on July 1, 2021. Due to financial impacts to the contractor from COVID in 2020, district staff and the contractor proposed that the board extend that date by one year until July 1, 2022.

The current contract was set to expire on July 30, 2023; Brooktrails staff and the contractor proposed to extend the term of the updated contract out to 2026, establishing a five-year term for the updated contract.

Director Tony Orth made the motion to approve the revised contract, and Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea provided the second. Director Ed Horrick remarked, "Marcus Newby has done a marvelous job in managing our golf course, and playing the course is a very pleasant experience."

At right: Owner-proprietor of Gateway Games Tony Pearce shows some favorites. Below: A wide selection of Dungeons and Dragons characters can be found at the store. At bottom: A father shares a moment with his child perusing the many games and figurines. Far bottom, left: Gateway Games' soft opening brings in many different types of people and families. Far bottom, right: Well-stocked shelves provide almost any game a child or adult player might want.



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Raya and the Last Dragon'

By Dan Essman, columnist

The Story: Animated action adventure fantasy from Walt Disney Pictures. Once upon a time, the world of Kumandra was a place where humans and dragons lived in harmony and prosperity. Then some Evil Purple Clouds with unexplained (but certainly evil) motives turned ordinary folks and very pretty dragons into stone statues. Some people survive, but all the dragons are gone save for one. So, Princess Raya goes on a perilous quest to find "Ta Da!" the Last Dragon.

My Thoughts: Trust is not, as people often think, quid pro quo. Trusting is not bartering. Raya's father wants to teach his daughter that trust is a virtue like courage, like honesty. And also, that trust is the willingness to risk betrayal. In this well-written animated feature, young Princess Raya learns that sometimes her good will is misplaced, but that to live is to choose, and further, is to act without the guarantee of reward. I loved this flicker show. It made me feel tearful joy. Gosh.

Parents: My grandson Sam is 7. He loves this movie, and has seen it many many times. His enthusiasm for "Raya..." will be shared by most young ones. Trust and courage and the willingness to take risks are the moral lessons of "Raya and the Last Dragon."

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



Gateway Games

New Willits store offers wide selection of video and board games, figurines, cards and more

Tony Pearce is a gamer. He's been playing games, both analog and video for at least the last 30 years. And now he has a store, or more accurately two stores, one in Ukiah and his newest shop which opened last weekend in the Evergreen Shopping Center, at the site of the old Radio Shack between Siam Dunk Pizza and Subway.

Pearce's life-long passion for gaming and his education in business has instilled in him a desire to create a new chain of game shops under the banner of Gateway Games, a name he was gifted by Dan Church, now of Printing Plus. Those wanting to find the new store would be advised to ignore the large Gateway Games sign at the old location on Main Street and East San Francisco Avenue, as the sign may not have been taken down yet. Pearce has a whole new logo, a new look, new inventory, and an entirely new focus.

"We do everything the old Gateway did, board games, card games, D&D," explained Pearce. "We also do video games, electronic repair, cell phone repair. We're going to be very event-based once the COVID restrictions allow it: birthday parties, tournaments."

"I've been gaming all my life since I was a kid," Pearce continued. "I went to college for business management. I had a card shop fall into my lap and completely fell in love with the industry. I ended up selling that store for a video game store that I partnered in. Now we're building up a franchise. This is our second location. We have another one in Ukiah. We plan on opening a chain all under the same name. Dan gave me the name in October and



Read the rest of Games | Over on Page 11

The Rules: **LETTERS**
Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.
Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

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Service: 707 459-0596
willitspower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6369

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-NOYO (6696)
www.noyotheatre.com
Starts Friday, May 28: A Quiet Place, Part 2 and Cruella
Movie Times for May 21 thru May 27, 2021

THE BLUES BROTHERS (1980)
(PG13) 2 hrs 13 mins
Fri., May 21 thru Sun. May 23 7:15pm only
Thurs., May 27 5:00 & 8:00 pm

RAYA & THE LAST DRAGON
(PG) 1 hr 47 mins
Fri., May 21 4:30 & 7:15pm
Sat., May 22 7:15pm only
Sun, May 23 4:30 & 7:15pm
Thurs., May 27 4:30 & 7:15 pm

PRIVATE SCREENINGS ONLY MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAYS
Private Screening Rules
*You may bring your own movie on Blu-ray or DVD
*Console & internet gaming is possible
*You may screen any currently running Noyo movie
*Small theater 35 people max - big theater 100 people max
*No outside food or beverage allowed
*No advertising, promotion, or selling tickets to private shows
Call Lois to schedule @ 707-354-3295

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS
Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave. Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street P.O. Box 489, Willits 707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Modified Worship Service 10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended for now.
For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadann
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment: 459-2252
Sunday Mass inside: 9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits 707-272-0177
Church Services / Communion by Zoom at noon.
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brunneau

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
707-459-5714
Saturdays:
Meeting place at Adventist School, 22751 Bray Road
Bible Study - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
https://willitsca.adventistchurch.org
All are welcome!

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

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

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



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!

FUN NIGHT OUT WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| APPETIZERS | DINING | FRIENDS | PLAY |
| BABYSITTER | DOWNTOWN | GAME | POPCORN |
| BILL | DRINKS | GROUP | RESTAURANT |
| CHEERING | ENJOYMENT | HOSTESS | SPORTS |
| CITY | ENTERTAINMENT | LAUGHING | STADIUM |
| CLUB | EVENING | MEAL | TAXI |
| DANCING | FAMILY | MUSIC | THEATER |
| DATE | FESTIVE | MUSICAL | TICKETS |
| DESSERT | FORMAL | PARTY | TOURIST |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12		13			14
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30						31			
32							33	34	35
				38	39	40		41	42
				43				44	
				45	46				
47	48						50	51	52
55								57	
59								61	
62								64	

CLUES ACROSS

- Prevents harm to young
- 'Losing My Religion' rockers
- Partner to pan
- Cavalry unit
- Peyton's little brother
- Mexican dish
- Disseminates info to the public
- Set an animal on
- Canadian flyers
- Elongated mouths of anthropods
- I (German)
- Opposite of west
- Grows
- Measures how quickly a car moves
- One who has gained wealth
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Extensive landed property
- Male aristocrat
- For each
- More fidgety
- Very happy
- A place to store info
- Helps to heal

CLUES DOWN

- Scientist's high-resolution tool (abbr.)
- Type of school
- Formal close (music)
- Transmits high voltage
- A way to occupy a certain area
- His Airness
- Nocturnal rodents
- South American plants
- Homestead
- Bland or semiliquid food

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

May 7 to May 12

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 7

7:59 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Gregory Lane and South Main Street.

12:04 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

12:58 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

1:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

2:52 pm: BROWN, Dustin Ray (33) of Chico was contacted in the 100 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 459 PC (Burglary), 11377 H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine), and on felony charges of damage to power connecting lines.

2:59 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 700 block of South Main Street.

4:21 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

6:31 pm: AMADOR, Trinity Danae (21) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of East Hill Road and Haehl Creek Drive. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and violation of probation.

8:00 pm: CALIHUA, Paulino (31) of Yuba City was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol) and on misdemeanor charges of DUI with blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher.

8:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Wood Street and issued a warning.

May 8

3:16 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:38 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue.

12:47 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

1:07 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.

5:16 pm: ALVAREZ, Jack Steven (58) of Ukiah was contacted in the 300 block of Creekside Drive. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

5:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.

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

11:16 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of McKinley Street and West Valley Street.

11:23 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Baechtel Road and issued a warning.

May 9

9:11 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

May 10

9:10 am: COCHRAN, Nicholas Samuel (36) of Talmage was contacted near the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Holly Street. He was arrested pursuant to 529 (A) (3) PC (False Impersonation), on felony

The rest of **Fatal** From Page 1

For reasons still under investigation, Confer allowed his Pontiac to travel over the double yellow painted lines, which separated the northbound and southbound lanes, directly into the path of the motorcycle.

A head-on collision occurred, subsequently ejecting Berry and his BMW motorcycle over the side of the elevated bypass, where they came to rest below. The force of impact caused Confer's Pontiac to ignite and catch fire. Highway 101 was closed for approximately two hours for emergency services and scene investigation.

Berry succumbed to his injuries at the

charges of violation of probation, and on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence with priors, driving with a suspended or revoked license for DUI, unlawful operation of a vehicle, violation of probation and failure to appear.

12:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

12:42 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Redwood Avenue.

1:51 pm: LAWSON Jr., Zachary Alan (31) of Ukiah was contacted in the 400 block of McKinley Street. He was arrested pursuant to 14602.2 VC (Driving with a Suspended License Revoked for DUI), 11377 (A) H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine), on felony charges of a felon in possession of a firearm, violation of parole, and violation of parole to remain in custody, and on misdemeanor charges of unlawful operation of a vehicle and possession of a controlled substance.

5:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of a disturbance in the 700 block of Railroad Avenue.

5:27 pm: LOURASH, Caleb Thomas (28) of Willits was contacted in the 1000 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol).

7:33 pm: WHIPPLE III, Douglas Thayer (35) of Redwood Valley was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 422 PC (Criminal Threats), 12022.1 PC (Committing a Felony while on Bail), and 1203.2 PC (Violation of probation).

8:23 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

May 11

12:01 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

12:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

May 12

12:47 am: RUPE, Matthew Edwin (34) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of East Valley Street and Boscabelle Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 11360 H&S (Marijuana Sale or Transportation) and 1203.2 (Violation of Probation).

9:18 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:25 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

3:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

4:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

5:11 pm: BROWN, Dustin Ray (33) of Chico was contacted in the 200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 532 (A) PC (Theft by False Pretenses), 485 PC (Misappropriation of Lost Property), 11377 (A) H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine), 11364 (A) H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), and on felony charges of burglary and offenses committed while on bail, and on misdemeanor charges of theft.

6:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 200 block of Pine Street.

6:48 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 500 block of Raymond Lane.

scene. His name was released May 19, after notification to next of kin by the Mendocino County Coroner's Office.

Confer, who had minor injuries, was evaluated and placed under arrest for suspicion of driving while under the influence of a controlled substance. Confer was booked into the Mendocino County Jail on charges of felony DUI and vehicular manslaughter.

This incident remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Garberville Area.



At far left: Parents, kids and adult riders take advantage of the bike-repair clinic. At left: Sonja Bursal, program coordinator of Walk and Bike Mendocino, stands at the bicycle-repair kiosk. Below: Scott and Rosebud of the musical duo, Bug Guts, drop by. Photos by Mathew Caine



Bike Safely

Walk and Bike Mendocino holds bike-repair clinic, passes out free helmets at Willits City Park

"Biking gives me a feeling of freedom and fun, when you're not in your car and you can feel the wind on your face," mused Sonja Bursal, program coordinator of NCO's Walk and Bike Mendocino. "It really connects you with nature. It's amazing exercise. It lowers depression and anxiety. It boosts your endorphins. You feel good when you're biking. It's healthy and you can lose weight. I used to bike eight miles to work every day in Sacramento and I just felt happier with my life when I was biking."

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mcaine@willitsweekly.com

Bursal would like to see more people utilize their bicycles to get to and from work, to exercise, to enjoy with their friends. To this end, Walk and Bike Mendocino has been holding a series of community bike rides to teach people how to navigate the streets and cars safely, how to deal with traffic, and how to share the road.

Last Saturday, Bursal held a bike-repair clinic at the bike-repair station at Willits City Park, across from the city offices on East Commercial Street. The repair station, a project of Mendo Maidens, a group out of Ukiah that advocates for riding and works to get people out onto the roads, is a facility with a myriad of handy bike tools, a pump, and a stand upon which to mount a bike for repairs.

The Willits station is one of three provided by the Maidens. However, as of this date, it is the only one that is intact, the Ukiah station was stolen and the Fort Bragg station has had its tools taken. The Mendo Maidens are working on purchasing and securing locations for more of the stations.

The first participant at the clinic was young Ky Schwabs with a flashy green BMX bike that had a slow leak in the front tire. Bursal showed him how to remove the tire from the bike and get the tire off the rim so that the inner tube

could be accessed. Then, they pumped it up and had to listen for the leak, which was made more difficult due to the amount of traffic and fire engines using the road, but the small hole was found.

Bursal then showed Schwabs how to rough up the area around the hole, apply glue and a patch. Once the glue was set, the wheel was reassembled and placed back on the bike. Bursal also checked the alignment, wear on the brakes, proper seat adjustment. All of these minor bike repairs can be performed at the station with the tools provided. The facility has wrenches and screwdrivers and other tools which are secured by cables.

Bursal then worked with Schwabs' sister, Anya, to show her how to check her brakes. Several other participants came by to learn the art of bike repair, how to utilize the tools, proper alignment, etc. Bursal's organization, Walk and Bike Mendocino, also gives away helmets, which are required for riders under 18 years of age. Schwabs received a nice green one that went well with his flashy bike.

Two weeks prior, Bursal attempted to have a community bike ride, which unfortunately was not attended by any local riders. There will be more and they should be very beneficial to those who want to have a ride with others or to learn how to ride safely.

"We're here to teach the community how to bike safely, how to signal, how to move with the cars so we can all respect each other on the road, and to give the community confidence to bike on their own, to work or to school," explained Bursal.

Read the rest of **Clinic** Over on Page 9



At far left, top: Sonja Bursal, program coordinator of Walk and Bike Mendocino, consults with Anya Schwabs and her mom, Heather Milburn. At far left, bottom: Bursal works on her brakes with the tools provided at the bike-repair station. At left: Sonja Bursal helps Ky Schwabs replace his tire after the patching is done.



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Celebrating the Seniors

Willits Weekly is once again publishing senior photos from the Classes of 2021 of Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School, Willits Charter School and more, leading up to graduation in June. Congrats to all the graduates!

Photos by Maureen Jennison



Emilio Diaz



Aleen Hernandez



Anela Hernandez



Kelsi Hernandez



Brendan Hodge



Xander Jennison



Kylie Jergenson



Deveron Johnson



Nicholas Karkar



Paul Keough



George Koro



Jace Kroh



Teophil Labus



Jessica Lewis



Riley Lewis



Donald Loehr



Ceder Lowham



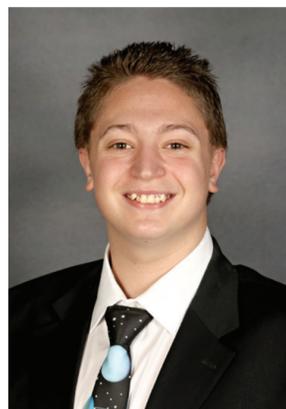
Jacob Loya



Joseph Loya



Anna Mahoney



Alexander Maxwell



McKenna McNelley



Isabella Mendoza



Genaro Meza

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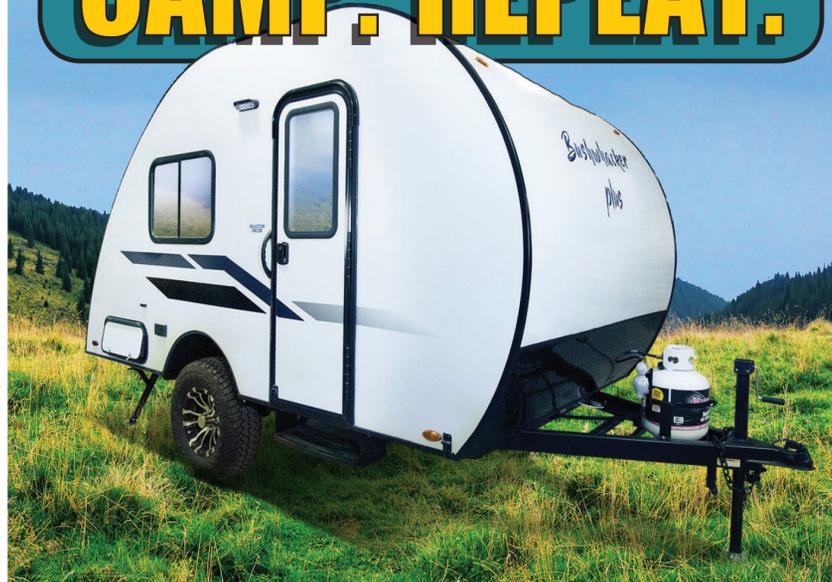
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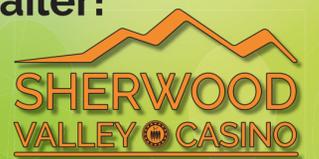
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At right, top: Some of the array of small crafts offered by Bree Legere of Bree Crafts. At right: Over 11 local craftspeople ply their wares at the Friday Night Live market.



Above: Debbie White and Jessica Espinoza have been vending their beautiful macramé creations each week.

At far left: Kathryn Brundage displays a tree of life in copper wire and beads. At left: Rhyann Whaley delights in the soft furry cuteness.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above, left: Kelly Viss of Barefoot Forest Homestead raises chickens and medicinal plants. Above, right: Willie Gauntt and Nancy Butler have an eclectic collection of handmade crafts and jams, including Baby Yodas.



At left: Isabelle and Rosemary Grieve of Belle's Custom Crochet display their creations. Below, left: Brilliantly colored tie-dye T-shirts from Phoebe Urakov. Below, right: Lucia Carrillo has just printed the weekly special at Super Taco as owner Maria Rosas looks on.



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Friday Night Live

Evergreen Shopping Center hosts weekly craft fair from 4 to 8 pm, featuring local artists

The last year in Willits has been one of isolation and uncertainty. People who were used to going out and enjoying one of the many outdoor community shopping and craft shows have not been able to freely congregate in public. Several of the shows that people look forward to for gifts, crafts, art, and simple browsing had been cancelled, leaving a void in "normal" activities and gatherings that Willitsians look forward to each year.

Now that Mendocino County has been moved up to the yellow tier and restrictions in general have been eased, people are beginning to be able to gather in a safe and sane manner with little fear of infection.

Thanks to the more liberal restrictions, the weekly Friday Night Live craft fair has begun to emerge and has been growing in size and vendors over the last couple of weeks. The craft show, at the Evergreen Shopping Center on the south end of town, began a couple years ago but took the last year off due to the COVID pandemic. The weekly fair began as a collaboration between Rollin' Dough and Super Tacos, who shared the southwest corner of the shopping center until the Rollin' Dough bakery relocated to Fort Bragg. Super Tacos, owned by Maria Rosas, offers \$5 specials during the fair. This week the special was a taco with rice and beans. Wine-based margaritas are also available.

"It's getting bigger and bigger each week. We're getting more and more vendors," stated Debbie White, who sells intricately crafted macramé plant hangers with Jessica Espinoza. "We've been doing these macramés for about a year now, since COVID," White added. "We did them for ourselves and just started vending them today." Espinoza additionally is offering walking sticks made from the downed trees on her property, left over from the January snow storm.

Firewise Safety Tip of the Week

Brought to you by Sherwood Firewise Communities
www.sherwoodfirewise.org / info@sherwoodfirewise.org

Tip #3 E2ZB Firewise

Clear Home Ignition Zone.
Clean gutters, rake leaves, remove flammables within 5 feet of structures

https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4996/readyssetgo_plan.pdf

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The rest of Friday | From Page 8

Phoebe Urakov is another tie-dyer with brilliantly colored designs. "I've been selling tie-dye for about a year and a half," said Urakov. "Been making tie-dye for about 10 years, mostly for family. My friends and about a lot of tie-dye!" She also sells bags and purses to round out her inventory.

One of the more fun booths is a collaboration between Kathryn Brundage and her daughter, Stephany. Kathryn creates objects of art out of wire and beads while Stephany has all things rabbit-related. The younger Brundage has been raising and selling rabbits and rabbit products for several years and almost always has a few baby rabbits with her. In addition to showing some extremely cute two-week-old bunnies, she sells rabbit-created art.

"I put paint on canvases. I let the rabbits choose the paint from which bottles of paint they knock over on the table. We put paint on there to make different designs, then stick the whole canvas inside a plastic bag, then let the bunnies lay and run, on top of it to make the patterns. We get some really cool patterns from the way it peels off from the plastic bags. They come out with really neat effects. On some of them we got little sayings on them, if I were to put words in the rabbits' mouths, it is what they would say."

Bree Legere has been creating small crafts for several years, key chains and other useful or artistic items. Alicia and Rory, who are regulars at the fair, make jewelry and crafted walking sticks.

And there is sometimes spontaneous entertainment. Julie Bailey brought her Egyptian doumbek drum on May 7. Sometimes Kelly Viss will delight the shoppers with a fire dance.

Friday Night Live can be experienced every Friday from 4 to 8 pm at the Evergreen Shopping Center. All current COVID precautions are in effect.

The rest of Clinic | From Page 5

transportation so people don't have to rely on their cars so much," she said. "It also builds community. Our past community bike rides became like this group of people that come out and really enjoy biking. People feel more supported and confident when they have a group with them."

The Mendocino County Museum is celebrating Bike Month with a "Ride to the Museum Day," on Saturday, May 22. Those biking to the museum will receive a special badge. Beginning in June, the museum will feature a Bike / Walk to the Museum Day on the fourth Saturday of each month. For more information on the museum, visit www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum, or call 459-2736.

For more information on Walk and Bike Mendocino, visit www.ncoinc.org/programs/walk-bike-mendocino, email walkandbike@ncoinc.org, or call 707-467-3220.

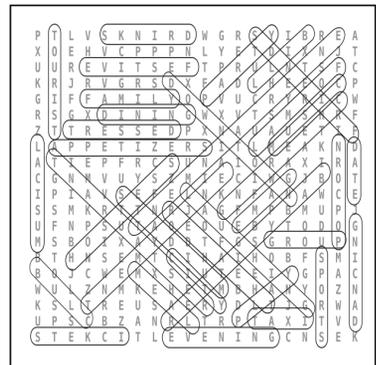
The rest of Sweetheart | From Page 1

preferring to, can pay by card over the phone for tickets, too.

"I'm looking forward to honoring our Willits Frontier Days tradition this year, all while respecting others and staying safe this 4th of July!" said Case-Brackett.

See schedule and prices below, and for more information, check out www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

2021 SCHEDULE			
Friday, June 18th			
6pm	Hometown Celebration	Downtown Willits	
Saturday, June 19th			
	Sweetheart Judging	TBD	
Sunday, June 20th			
8pm	Horse Show	Jack Tharp Arena	
	Sweetheart Judging	Jack Tharp Arena	
	National Anthem	Rodeo Grounds	
Friday, June 25th			
6pm	Carnival	Next to Rodeo Grounds	\$10/\$20
	Truck Pulls	Jack Tharp Arena	
	Street Dance	Rodeo Grounds	
Friday, July 2nd			
6pm	Junior Rodeo	Jack Tharp Arena	\$15
Saturday, July 3rd			
7am	Lion's Cowboy Bfast	Rec Grove	\$10/\$20
7pm	CCPRA Rodeo	Jack Tharp Arena	\$10/\$20
	Western Dance	Rodeo Grounds	
Sunday, July 4th			
8am	Horseshoe Contest	Rec Grove	
11am	Parade	Main Street	
12pm	Beef BBQ	Rec Grove	\$15/\$25
	Country Music Rodeola	Rec Grove	
4pm	CCPRA Rodeo	Jack Tharp Arena	\$10/\$20



LEGAL NOTICES

Willits Weekly can run your legal notices including fictitious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and more. Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com

WW321
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2021-F0257
The following person is doing business as Summer Breeze Ranch, 24225 Reynolds Highway, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Ana Cox, 24225 Reynolds Highway, Willits, CA 95490
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 20, 1983.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 6, 2021.
/s/ Ana Cox
Publication dates: May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 2021



Current Job Openings:

- Account Specialist II
- Administrative Assistant
- Chief Planner – Fort Bragg
- Corrections Deputy
- Deputy County Counsel III/III/IV
- Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
- Disaster Recovery Field Operations Coordinator
- Public Health Nurse
- Registered Nurse
- Senior Public Health Nurse
- Staff Assistant III
- Supervising Public Health Nurse

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources
EOE

WW322
CITY OF WILLITS SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Willits will consider for adoption the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLITS TO ESTABLISH A DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF THE LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

If adopted, the Ordinance would establish a development impact fee program on behalf of the Little Lake Fire Protection District ("District"). The Ordinance would also set forth the District's requirements for annual administration of the development impact fee program.

The Willits City Council shall convene at a duly noticed Council meeting on May 26, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., via teleconference/video conference to consider, among other things, adoption of the aforementioned proposed Ordinance.

This summary of the proposed Ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code Section 36933. The full text of the proposed Ordinance shall be available in the office of the Willits City Clerk, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, CA, for at least five (5) days prior to the City Council meeting on May 26, 2021.

/s/ Cathy Moorhead
Deputy City Manager / City Clerk
Posted: May 20, 2021
Publication Date: May 20, 2021

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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.

Moving Sale
Saturday, May 22, 2021, 9:30 am to 3 pm. Furniture, kayaks, scuba gear and household items. 3201 Primrose Drive, Willits, CA.

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/tip"

Fruit Group Coordinators
Willits: Brenda 459-9335
Ukiah, Redwood & Potter Valley: Deanna 391-7736
Lakeport: Linda 279-8840
Laytonville: Heather 984-9430
Fort Bragg: Karen 937-4664
Covelo: Tom 354-0788
Brooktrails: Vicky 354-1453

Willits Food Bank Open
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. 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. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

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OBITUARY |

Jan Pedrotti

Jan Mary Pedrotti, 72, of Willits, passed away on April 3, 2021, at her home after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Her family was at her side during her last days.



Jan was born in Bellingham, Washington on October 30, 1948, to Willard (Jean) and Margery Stradley. The family moved to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1955, then to Eugene, Oregon in 1957, and then in 1958 to Arcata, California. Jan graduated from

Arcata High School in 1966. She attended and graduated from Northern Colorado University in 1970 with degrees in dance and history. She went on to get her teaching credentials, and started her career teaching after moving to Willits, California in 1978.

Jan first met her future husband, Carl, in the Arcata school system and they were married on June 13, 1970. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in June 2020.

Jan worked for the Willits Unified School District touching the lives of most of the kids K-8 until her retirement in 2010. Jan also taught classes for the Mendocino County Junior College, teaching aerobics to the local community in the evenings, and she taught low-impact exercise classes for seniors and patients at Northbrook Health Care Center. After her retirement she volunteered as a member of the Howard Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Jan is survived by her husband, Carl, son Christopher and his wife, Karla, son Patrick and his wife, Kimberley, three grandchildren, Hayden 12, Tyler 10, and Anna 5, brother Jay Stradley and wife, Janet, of Arcata, and niece Sara Stradley, also of Arcata.

Jan was preceded in death by her Mom, Margery, in 2004, and her Dad, Jean, in 2020.

Jan didn't want a large memorial service and in keeping with her wishes, a funeral Mass will be held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Willits for the immediate family. We miss her so much and she will remain a big part of our lives.



Above: The Willits Otters Swim Club: Mia Chavez, Olivia McCarthy, Serenity McCarthy, Emelia Owsiany, Leah Blakely, Nikolai Ritchley, Aedan Lockwood-Chenelle, Rowdy King, Macy Davidson, Ahanu Casey, Logan Divine, Graham Olsen, Archer Casey, Kingston Casey, Sophie Chavez, Annalee Gonzalez, Alexa Williams, Timothy Southwick, Claire McIvor, Gracie McIvor

Willits Otters Swim Club back into competition

Submitted by the Willits Otters

The Willits Otters Swim Club, after being sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic for over a year, competed in a tri-meet with the Mendocino Sea Dragons and the Ukiah Dolphins on Saturday, May 15. The Ukiah Dolphins hosted the meet with all the precautionary COVID-19 guidelines in place.

The Willits coaches were very pleased with the performance of the Otters, as for many of them this was their very first taste of competition.

Those swimmers representing Willits were: Macy Davidson, Gracie McIvor, Sophie Chavez, Claire McIvor, Emelia Owsiany, Mia Chavez, Alexa Williams, Eva Semisch, Leah Blakely, Olivia McCarthy, Serenity McCartney, Annalee Gonzalez, Graham Olson, Kingston Casey, Archer Casey, Aedan Lockwood-Chenelle, Nikolai Ritchley, Timothy Southwick, Logan Devine, and Ahanu Casey.

Every Otter that had competed in previous meets improved their time. Alexa Williams, Mia Chavez, and Nikolai Ritchley improved their time by more than 20 seconds in one or more events. Those swimmers achieving marks in the National Age Group Motivational Times were Sophie Chavez with three BB times, Mia Chavez with two BB times, Alexa Williams with three BB times and one B time, Eva Semisch with a B time, Leah Blakely with two B times, Aedan Lockwood-Chenelle with a BB time, Nikolai Ritchley with a BB time and a B time, and Ahanu Casey with a BB time and a B time. Way to go Otters!

The Willits Otters Swim Club continues to accept new members throughout the year. For information regarding joining the team, please contact Coach Robert Chavez at 559-417-4157 or Coach Arora Chavez at 559-341-4485.

Willits Weekly
We're online and in print

The rest of Candidate | From Page 1

president Alex Bowlds.

No decision came out of that closed session, and the board went back into closed session at the close of the public meeting to continue deliberation. No decision resulted from that session either, and another closed session was held on Monday, May 17 ... after which a decision was made.

"We have extended an offer that has yet to be accepted," Westerburg wrote when contacted after the final meeting. "We will not disclose the name until that offer has been accepted. If the offer is accepted, we will make a public announcement at the May 26 board meeting."

California School Employees Association president Dan Green gave the outgoing superintendent high marks for a job well done.

"I'd like to thank Mark," he said. "It's like, man, there's some big shoes to fill because, I tell you what, he's leaving the place way better than when he got here, and that's a good sign, and he got good personnel in place."

Fixing, repairing and upgrading projects at almost all district buildings is one way that Westerburg is clearly leaving the "place way better," and he gave the board an update on current works in progress.

"In regards to construction and bond projects, we have a list of 20 things on my board that are either in the process or in the hamper or done already," he said.

"The high school parking lot will be the next one. We get started on Thursday. The roof at Blosser is about 80 percent done. As soon as they finish there, they're off to Baechtel, Brookside, and the high school to do the roofs.... By the end of July, all of the roofs of our buildings will be done.

"The heating and cooling is going to get resolved in every place that we have," he continued. "We've been able to use the COVID funding ... because it clearly says in there to improve ventilation in rooms. We have lots of old windows that don't open. We have really old expensive gas packs and electrical units that heat and cool classrooms that need to get bumped up to newer standards.... We have those on order.

"Our maintenance people are doing the bulk of all these projects," he said. "We're not sending it out to everybody to do stuff for us."

While COVID may have had a positive effect on money coming in, it has not had anything close to a positive effect on any other aspect of education.

Even now, with schools reopening, its effect is decidedly disruptive, and a dispute has emerged between WTA and superintendent Westerburg over class size.

The particulars were presented to the board by WTA president Tessa Ford.

"We surveyed our members, and here are some key points," she said. "We met and negotiated an MOU [memorandum of understanding] for the transition to in-person learning with our focus on the student and their families ... and lower class sizes so that we could keep our students safe and our classrooms open.

"The MOU was negotiated with the understanding that independent study students would remain independent study students for the remainder of the year," she continued.

"Mr. Westerburg said this at a school board meeting. He said it in our bargaining meetings. And we were told that teachers were hired specifically to teach the independent study students, and they had to remain in independent study because a commitment had been made for that teacher.

"Instead, what we got was immediate change violating the agreement, packing students into classrooms, disrupting stable groups and the thriving educational environments that they're trying to build.

"As of today, there are 22 school days remaining in the school year," she concluded. "WTA members, by and large, don't think making more changes at this point is fair or wise."

Westerburg prefaced his response saying, "unlike my WTA colleagues, I'm not going to debate our dispute at a board meeting, but simply say I don't buy the vast majority of the statements."

"There is ... an ed[ucation] code that says that students may not be

forced to be independent study," he continued. "There is also a contractual MOU we did over health and safety. Those were not concerns. And on top of that we did not establish class sizes in the MOU. We established cohort sizes because of COVID, not class sizes. Class sizes are in the collective bargaining."

For Westerburg, the crux of the issue is the "20 kids" currently in independent study who need to be "back in school."

"Thirteen of those 20 kids are Hispanic and are on independent study for family reasons and issues where our distance learning wasn't even an option, wasn't working," he said.

"We must accommodate these kids. So I will be doing whatever I need to to accommodate them, and that's all I really need to say about it."

Reached for comment on Tuesday, May 18, Ford wrote that "the class size issue remains unresolved at this point."

Another large group of kids, all K-5 students, have also recently been singled out for a board-initiated effort aimed at making sure they "all ... are reading at grade level."

Board president Bowlds, who instigated the effort a few months ago, had good news to report on its progress.

"Nancy Runberg [Blosser Lane principal] and Kathleen Crossman [Brookside principal] and a host of their teachers as well as others throughout the district have been working literally as many as four meetings a week the last several weeks ... working on what resources might be needed," he said.

"We have a preliminary draft of those resources, and now we'll be working within a very short time trying to determine just exactly how much of that we can afford to put in place and evaluating that proposal and determining what our next steps are."

Just as proficiency in reading is critical when students leave elementary school, having CTE skills is critical for many Willits students when they leave high school.

President Bowlds broached this subject as well, asking the board to support proposed state legislation (AB 839), which would increase funding for CTE education.

"AB 839 is looking to increase [funding] ... to a minimum \$300 million a year and have it specific to CTE funding," he said. "I think it would be wise for us to draft a letter to our legislators supporting AB 839."

Westerburg agreed, emphasizing how important CTE was for Willits students.

"When we had our last normal graduation, 68 percent of the students who walked at graduation were CTE endorsed," he said. "We have a very robust CTE program, and it's even growing, with plasma cutters coming in.

"Sanhedrin is designed around it... This is a big part of what we do," he continued. "We're still one of the high schools that have metal shop, wood shop, and ag farms, and all kinds of stuff that give kids real practical hands-on jobs.

"We're not one of the suburban schools where our goal is to get everybody off to a four-year school," he concluded. "That's not who we are, and our kids need this type of funding."

The board agreed to send a letter to state legislators in support of the legislation.

Almost last but not least, there were tributes to some retiring employees and also recognition to some soon-to-be-graduating scholarship recipients.

Thank-yous and farewells on retirement went to director of human resources Laura Sleeper, Baechtel Grove custodian Linda Bailey, Sherwood School teacher Laurie Burghardt, and high school computer tech instructor Suzanne Kidwell.

And high school students Micah Stamps, Jada Smith, Martin Coughlin, and Claire Moyle, all dependents of WTA members, were each awarded \$500 scholarships from WTA.

Finally, something everyone will agree they want.

"I've told all the principals to prepare for a normal school year next year; where we go from eight to three, we actually have a real lunch on campus, and the whole nine yards," said Westerburg. "Unless your data goes south...."

The rest of COVID | From Page 1

ditional cases. On Monday, May 17, Public Health reported: "Since last Friday, 19 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Mendocino County."

The Tuesday, May 18 daily update from Public Health added an additional 10 new cases, for a total of 4,137 cases reported here since the beginning of the pandemic, with 63 residents currently in isolation, 2 currently in the hospital from COVID, and 3 cases currently in an intensive care unit. Total deaths in Mendocino County attributed to COVID remain at 49.

The May 18 report shows Mendocino County's "Daily Positive Case" rate (a seven-day average, with a seven-day lag in reporting) at 5.17 - in red tier territory.

The Friday, May 14 report showed a daily positive case rate of 3.88 - in orange tier territory. But the May 13 report showed a daily positive case rate of 5.17, and both the May 12 and May 11 reports showed a rate of 5.82 - all three numbers in the red tier. The May 10 update reported 11 new COVID cases, with a case rate of 6.56 (red tier level).

Mendocino County remains in the yellow or "minimal" tier as of new tier updates from the state of California posted May 18, but those new updates are based on county data from the week ending May 8. Governor Gavin Newsom is set to announce new state COVID guidelines on June 15, that will reportedly further open up the economy.

Dr. Coren's comments on Tuesday came during a video meeting between Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo, Coren, and Deputy Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan, MD.

"Yeah, the numbers have been going up in the last couple of weeks," Coren said, "and I'm concerned because we were among the first counties to proceed to the yellow, least-restrictive tier, and I think people - just because they feel that when they've been vaccinated, they don't have to worry about it anymore, when our county is in the yellow tier, they don't have to worry about it anymore, and that's the farthest from the truth. This is a growing, changing pandemic, and we have to keep our guard up until we've really gotten it stamped out, and we're not there yet."

On Friday, Dr. Coren said: "In summary, while we are in the yellow tier, we have been seeing a worrisome rise in cases, hospitalizations and intensive care unit cases. We're seeing more variants that spread faster and are more virulent...."

He said he wasn't sure whether to call this boost in COVID numbers still get or transmit COVID, "our experience here" is that those

have to treat it like a surge. Again, masking and vaccinations are the weapons we have at this point to fight this."

On Tuesday, Dr. Coren added: "So while we are opening our economy, we must be vigilant.... Graduations are on the horizon, Memorial Day, July 4, all the sporting events and travel that could happen over the summer could be super-spreader events...."

"I want to remind you that we are living in two worlds," Coren continued. "Those who are vaccinated can safely gather more, they can go to large events, and travel with confidence. Those who are choosing to remain unvaccinated continue to have a risk of infection and also transmission to their loved ones and their friends. They must isolate if they're infected, some will be in hospitals in ICU, some may die. Others may suffer long-term effects that are just beginning to be seen at this point. And of course if they come into contact with people who have COVID, they will have to quarantine whereas the people who are vaccinated no longer have to do that...."

Coren added: "If you choose not to vaccinate, be very careful to mask, unless you're alone, outdoors with plenty of space, keep your distance from non-household members, continue your hand-washing, avoid travel, avoid crowds, avoid indoor dining, gyms, and big events. Vaccination is like liberation at this point - you can get out and do the things that are more normal for you when you become vaccinated."

Dr. Coren gave some statistics at the Friday press briefing about vaccinations in Mendocino County. Not including separate data regarding vaccines administered locally by the federal government's Indian Health Service, the Veterans Administration, or retail pharmacies, as of May 13, 74,485 vaccines have been administered in Mendocino County. A total of 58 percent of Mendocino County residents are at least partially vaccinated, compared to 62 percent statewide.

In Mendocino County, 45 percent of residents over 16 years old are fully vaccinated. In terms of age groups, 30 percent of residents age 16 to 17 are at least partially vaccinated; 48 percent of those age 18 to 49 are at least partially vaccinated; 71.4 percent of those age 50 to 64 are at least partially vaccinated; and 72.7 percent of those over 65 years old are at least partially vaccinated.

Both public health officers and CEO Angelo on Tuesday urged community members to continue getting COVID tests, even if they've been vaccinated, to keep wearing masks, and to continue social distancing and hand washing. Dr. Coren stated that while those who've been vaccinated can still get or transmit COVID, "our experience here" is that those

Pearce says his "best-selling electronic system is probably the Nintendo Switch. It's probably the most diverse thing we have. It works as a hand-held so you can play it like an old Game Boy, but with a bigger screen. You can hook it up to your TV and play it like any other console. It has a lot of multi-player games. It focuses a lot on party games and family games. They also have some single-player games like Legend of Zelda which is super popular."

Realizing his responsibilities to the people who support his enterprise, Pearce stated, "I'm getting some TVs to mount that will run game trailers and advertising. Hopefully, we'll be able to put some advertising from local stores up to try and help build the community up. Once the schools are back up completely, we're going to start sponsoring some events for them. We'll try and sponsor some clubs. We're very big on giving back to the community, especially kids. Kids are our future. That's a huge part of who we are and what we do." Gateway Games is looking to become an integral and productive part of the Willits community.

Gateway Games is open seven days a week, 11 am to 6 pm. It is located at 1706 South Main Street in the Evergreen Shopping Center. For more information, call 707-680-0266, email willits@gateway-games.com, or visit www.facebook.com/gatewaygameswillits.

with vaccinations don't end up in the hospital, and don't get as sick.

To watch these information-packed COVID videos, visit the "Mendocino County Video" channel on https://www.youtube.com/ and click the "Videos" tab. Friday's press briefing is titled "COVID-19 Update - May 14, 2021" and Tuesday's video is titled: "A Conversation with the County Public Health Officers and CEO."

Call the county Call Center at 707-472-2759 with any COVID questions, including about where to get tested or vaccinated. One upcoming COVID testing clinic is set for Friday, May 21, from 2 to 5 pm, at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Register online at https://hi.care/covidtesting or call 888-634-1123.

Mendocino County Public Health is hosting a first-dose Pfizer vaccination clinic in collaboration with Willits High School on Tuesday, May 25, between 9 am and 3 pm, at the WHS gym, 299 North Main Street. This clinic will be open to anyone over the age of 12. Pick up consent forms at the Baechtel Grove office, 1150 Magnolia Street, or call them at 459-2417 to request a mailed form.

The rest of Games | From Page 3

nowadays focuses on a sense of community and that's one of the things that draws me most to it."

Aside from the vast selection of games, Gateway Games also offers a selection of plush toys, action figures, Funko Pops, graphic novels, and more. "We have controllers, cords from Atari, the Switch, and everything in between. If you need cords or controllers for any console, we can take care of you. We also buy stuff so people can bring us their old video games, consoles, trading cards. We either pay cash or store credit. It's like Gamestop but we pay a lot more, at least 20 percent more," said Pearce.

Pearce says his "best-selling electronic system is probably the Nintendo Switch. It's probably the most diverse thing we have. It works as a hand-held so you can play it like an old Game Boy, but with a bigger screen. You can hook it up to your TV and play it like any other console. It has a lot of multi-player games. It focuses a lot on party games and family games. They also have some single-player games like Legend of Zelda which is super popular."

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Money for Memories

Willits High School class of '60 through '62 presents check to Noyo Theatre in order to help preserve beloved landmark

"In the 1950s I used to get 25 cents a week," John Yde mused. "I'd come to Noyo Theatre, pay 20 cents to get in. I'd meet a girl here. She'd pay her own 20 cents for a ticket. I'd buy the popcorn [for 5 cents] and we'd sit there and talk, watch the movie, and eat popcorn."

It was these kinds of memories that incentivized members of the Willits High School classes of 1960 through 1962 to get together to raise what funds they could muster to aid Jeff and Lois Hoover, owners of the Noyo Theatre, in their quest to keep the doors open to the beloved Willits landmark. Memories are sometimes worth more than money.

"If the Noyo Theatre disappears, we've lost our bowling alley, our canteen place, we would have lost every small thing we had in 1960," Yde continued. "We donated so hopefully the people will stay here and keep this open."

Kathleen Lewis, class of '62, one of the organizers of the effort, presented

the Hoovers with a group of checks, the total amount of which came to \$4,210 (now up to \$4,800 with more to come), an amount that brought tears to Lois Hoover's eyes as she was overcome with the generosity of the people of Willits, either through this donation or their GoFundMe or just people who have contributed on their own. Jeff Hoover treated the group of six alumni, including John Yde, Marnye Sylvander, Warren and Kathleen Lewis, Chuck Persico and George Dudley to slides depicting the Noyo Theatre of old and a series of newsreels from 1940.

The Hoovers still need to replace their third projector. For those wishing to contribute, visit www.gofundme.com/save-the-noyo-theatre.

The Noyo Theatre is located at 57 East Commercial Street. For information and show times, visit <http://noyothatre.com> or call 459-NOYO (6696).

"If a small town doesn't have a high school and a theater, they are just a wide spot in the road," said Ron Stamps, a wise friend of the alumni.



At left: Jeff Hoover, owner of the Noyo Theatre, talks about the history of the facility with Warren Lewis and George Dudley. Below: Kathleen and Lois Hoover, Jeff Hoover, George Dudley, John Yde, Lois Hoover, Chuck Persico and Marnye Sylvander pose in the lobby. At bottom, left: Jeff Hoover's presentation includes theater cards for several Willits businesses including the Willits Weekly. At bottom, right: Willits High School graduates John Yde and Marnye Sylvander speak with Noyo owner Jeff Hoover.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Precious Pearl

Although Pearl was a stray, we can tell she's had puppies. Those days are over, and from here on out, Pearl gets to focus on herself! When she came to the shelter, Pearl was covered with tick bites – maybe she'd been out on her own for a while. She has great indoor manners, and a home where she is welcome inside with her new family is a must! Pearl is



very social with people and enjoys their company, but is unsure of other dogs. She's OK in a room with another dog, but does not want a dog in her personal bubble. Pearl tested positive for heartworm, which we are treating. She will need 30 days of strict, limited activity following treatment. Good-looking Pearl is a Lab mix, 5 years old, and a svelte 58 pounds.

For more about Pearl or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

Udo Extravaganza

Udo Extravaganza has made his arrival! This handsome outlaw will steal your heart with just one look with these beautiful eyes of his. Having working-dog genes, Udo Extravaganza will require an active forever home. This fella is dog social and enjoys a good play group. He is only 10 months old and ready to start his forever life with you today! You may apply to meet Udo Extravaganza today at www.mendohumanesociety.com.



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is 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. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email cattteam@hsmc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsmc.org. Visit www.petfinder.com or the "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.

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