

[illegible]

Donations Accepted Edition No. 356

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The commission will take up the motion for denial on June 4 at 9 am.

Read the rest of
Deny
Over on Page 11

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Scott Dam, which was completed in 1922, backs up water which forms Lake Pillsbury, which is a major source of water for the Potter

Read more of **Dam**
Over on Page 2

***Submitted by Mendocino
County Executive Office***

The newly launched www.mendocinocountybusiness.org website [announced May 21] contains the

Read the rest of
Launches
Over on Page 9



Above: Class of 2020's Valedictorian Jaeva Cash, left, smiles with Salutatorian Briana Evans just days before their unique graduation ceremony. Below: Cash's medals and cords frame her banner that will hang on the Main Street lampposts, along with banners for the other 2020 graduates during the month of June.

Another event will add to the tally of “untraditional” things taking place during 2020 and the coronavirus complications, but that’s not stopping Willits Unified School District staff and students from celebrating the hard work and achievements of the some 100 students of the Class of 2020.

The traditional walk across Maize Field will morph into a car caravan of sorts; students and a small number of family members will be able to come drive on the WHS track in their own vehicle, or even in a truck offered from Redwood Ford, at the “drive-through graduation” starting at 6:30 pm on June 5.

Students will be allowed to sit in the back of the truck bed to be seen around the track in their cap and gown. Everyone is to remain in their cards for the duration of the ceremony and not exit their vehicles.

Family and grads have to stay in their vehicles, but will have the opportunity to have their photo taken in front of the traditional "Class of 2020" lattice work by Willits High School senior photographer Maureen Moore.

Students will be announced as they come around the track and will park nose-to-tail around the perimeter of the football field. Once all cars are in, student's speeches that have been pre-recorded will be played aloud on the PA system, and Principal Michael Colvig will be in the center of the field with mic to speak to the gathered group of students and their families, and of course, instruct them to

Below: Willits High School's Amanda Maciel, left, Michael Colvig and Karen Thiel hold up a few of the vinyl banners featuring the graduates that are to be hung up soon on the Main Street lampposts.



Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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According to Public Information Officer Sarah Dukett, case number 22 involves a person living in the Ukiah area, who has been hospitalized. Case 23 is a person who lives in the northern region of the county. Case 24, which was confirmed at 6 pm on

Read the rest of
Cases
Over on Page 11

Joanne Moore
Reporter
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The month of May's Little Lake Fire District Board of Directors virtual meeting was mostly about money; there will be less of it. There was also a report on the amount of calls for emergency assistance; there are less of those, too. And there was an update on new firehouse construction.

Fire Chief Chris Wilkes presented the board with a preliminary budget—a budget missing three sources of revenue the department had been

Read the rest of
Reduced
Over on Page 11

Submitted by
Mendocino College

Mendocino College Interim Superintendent / President Eileen Cichocki announced May 21 that the college will hold classes in the fall "primarily" online. According to Cichocki, "This decision is made with the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and community in mind."

"This was a very difficult decision, but after speaking with faculty leadership, deans, the vice president of academic affairs, and

Read the rest of
College
Over on Page 4

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

COMMENCEMENT DAY WORD SEARCH

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

ACADEMIC	COURSE	GOWN	PROFESSOR
ADVANCEMENT	CREDITS	GRADES	RESIDENCY
ALUMNI	DEGREE	GRADUATE	SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM	DIPLOMA	GUESTS	SENIOR
CAMPUS	DRESS	HONORS	STAGE
CANDIDATE	EXAMS	MORTARBOARD	TASSEL
COLLEGE	FINAL	PERFORMANCE	TEACHER
COMMENCEMENT	FOLDER	PROCESSION	UNIVERSITY

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
				24		25				26				
27	28	29		30				31			32	33	34	
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
				49				50			51			
52	53	54			55					56		57	58	59
60					61			62			63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Common request
- Department in France
- Fungi cells
- Famed inventor
- Hillside
- Cold wind
- La ___ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- Resembling a doddering old woman
- Geological periods
- Assists
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Jewish spiritual leader
- English soccer club
- Body art
- No (Scottish)
- Clumsy person
- Swiss river
- Beitlited
- Luxury car
- Single sheet of glass in a window
- Monetary units
- Supervises flying
- Indian term of respect
- Breezed through
- The bill in a restaurant
- Flower cluster
- Moved quickly
- Shooters need to do it
- High schoolersO test

- Split pulses
- Hem's partner
- Breaking Bad actor ___ Paul
- Set ablaze
- Semitic Sun god
- Nervous system cells
- Tourist destination Buenos ___
- A way to bind
- Behave uncontrollably
- Feels concern
- Sportscaster Andrews
- Subway dwellers
- Astrological aspect
- You may take one

CLUES DOWN

- Swedish rock group
- Serbian
- Away from wind
- Actor Oliver
- Helps little firms
- Intricately decorative
- American state
- Type of tumor
- Midway between east and southeast
- On a line at right angles to a ship's length
- Fruit of the service tree
- Grouch
- Romanian city
- Units of loudness
- British Air Aces

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!

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

May 18 to May 24

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **153 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 18

8:09 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

8:22 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

8:55 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road and issued a warning.

9:56 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of School Street.

10:46 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

2:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of North Main Street.

6:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

9:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Holly Street.

May 19

1:02 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 21000 block of Locust Street.

8:29 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

11:00 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

12:21 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

1:11 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 500 block of East Hill Road.

1:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road.

4:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Railroad Avenue.

5:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

6:56 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:27 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.

10:33 pm: Officers initiated a robbery investigation in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

May 20

11:27 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of South Main Street.

1:25 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Wood Street.

1:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Barbara Lane.

6:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of Humboldt Street.

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

10:31 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

May 21

9:13 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of

South Main Street.

11:19 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Barbara Lane and issued a warning.

12:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of North Lenore Avenue.

12:43 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

12:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

1:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

6:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of School Street and Wood Street and issued a warning.

7:06 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:19 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Shell Lane and issued a warning.

May 22

12:18 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School Street and issued a warning.

9:01 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

3:24 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 23000 block of Sherwood Road.

5:19 pm: GARDNER III, James Albert (24) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of ammunition by a prohibited person and violation of parole.

8:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Shell Lane.

9:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

9:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

May 23

12:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

1:08 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:48 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West Commercial Street and issued a warning.

4:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

9:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

May 24

12:22 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School Street.

4:24 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

7:52 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:51 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

9:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

The rest of College | From Page 1

others, it became clear that it was best to make the decision as soon as possible to allow time for thoughtful planning for the fall schedule to take place."

Cichocki is using the phrase, "primarily online" because there will be some courses that must have some limited in-person activities. Any in-person activities will take place with appropriate safety precautions such as physical distance and sanitation measures, and will be held in small, stable groups. Having most classes online will allow the physical space for these few classes to meet for limited times in-person.

The college has already announced all summer classes will be held online and all student services continue to be offered

remotely. For a list of online resources currently available for students, please visit: www.mendocino.edu/resources-online.

Registration for both summer and fall are now open. The summer semester begins June 8, and fall semester begins August 17. More information can be found by visiting www.mendocino.edu and a full Summer 2020 class schedule can be found at www.mendocino.edu/sites/default/files/docs/schedule/summer_2020_schedule_final_04.27.20.pdf.

When the time comes, the staff and faculty at Mendocino College look forward to beginning a thoughtful and deliberate transition back to on-campus instruction and services.



At left: Members of a dance class practice at the Willits Center for the Arts.

At right, from top: Some of the early Willits Arts Council: back row, Larry Melious, Dan Taylor, Judi Berdis, Hugh Wiley, Sandy Metzler, Mark Rawitsch and Nancy McHone; front row, Linda MacDonald, Virginia Stranks and Mary Potter. Dale Dingman, who refurbished the WCA Great Room, was a strong supporter of the art center. The Willits Center for the Arts currently awaits reopening. The WCA building originally housed the Women's Improvement Club.



Artistic Vision

Looking back at the creation of the Willits Center for the Arts as it celebrates 20 years of exhibiting local art

"The art center belongs to the people of Willits," said Gary Martin, curator and recent board member of the Willits Center for the Arts. Although it is approaching its 20th year of providing a space for local art, events and classes that have greatly enhanced the aesthetic visions of the town of Willits, the WCA is now dormant due to the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
matthew@willitsweekly.com

There is nothing but beautiful spaces awaiting the chance to reopen with new creative endeavors, under rules which will protect both the staff and the public.

It is a building with a rich history, dating back to 1926, when it housed the Women's Improvement Club, an altruistic group of women organized to improve conditions in Willits. Together, they were responsible for placing water troughs on Main Street back when horses were still a mode of transportation, fundraising to build the Carnegie Library, planting and caring for trees on Main Street, and constructing a pavilion in City Park, among other projects. They were recognized as a force for change in the community.

Throughout the life of the building, it has been used as a jail, a senior center, and a place for teens to get together, before being renovated for use as the Willits Center for the Arts. Through the years, the building at 71 East Commercial fell into abandonment and disrepair. Eventually, it came into the hands of the city. In 1995 a group of artists formed a commission to renovate the building and create a center for art.

Although the members had varying visions of what the anatomy, purpose, and look of the place would be, they worked together, were granted a lease by the city, raised funds, and worked diligently to create a space where local art could be seen and celebrated, and a meeting place for the artistically inclined.

The Great Room upstairs was not yet in the plans. One of the commissioners, Judy Berdis, recalled: "We were the first art commissioners. Nancy McHone and Judy Hope developed the first physical plan for the gallery. The city let us use the building for a dollar a year. Judy Hope drew floor plans of the two floors, Xeroxed them, and gave us all copies, told us to go home and draw out what we wanted to see in the art center of our dreams, which was a fun exercise.

"We had to take down the chimney out front," Berdis continued. "The storage room on the side ... used to be the jail cells. We wanted to turn those into offices but Nancy McHone didn't want an office in the building, as she was tired of writing grants and dealing with bureaucracy. She wanted the building to just be space for artists without administrative business activity."

"I was the interim director of an arts council in Mendocino County," said Nancy McHone. "I was the head of several

groups that got funding through the Mendocino Arts Council. We decided we needed to do some meetings around the county about what the art needs were. We held a meeting at the county museum.

"It was brought up that we needed a community theater space," McHone continued. "There was a drive to move the theater from the Methodist Church to its current location at an old VW garage. We also wanted the visual artists to have a space. We assembled all the stats and put a report together. I found the building where the art center is now. It had been vacant for a long time."

McHone's original vision was to have a store in the front gallery where people could purchase art and curios, but it was decided to make both rooms into galleries.

The Willits Center for the Arts finally opened in 2000 and has been open ever since. Several different groups of personnel ran the commission with varying degrees of success. Much love and energy was put into the building. The WCA raised funds, although they were not able to sell artwork out of the gallery due to restrictions by the city.

At times they sold artwork in the parking lot or on the front steps to get around this. Energetic volunteers like the late Dale Dingman put in tremendous time and effort to keep the center going. He totally renovated the upstairs so that it could be used for meetings, dances and performances.

Unfortunately, the center went through some hard times and could hardly pay the bills. In order to save the center, a steering committee was formed in 2014, to explore separating the WCA from the city and for it to become a 501(c)3 non-profit. June Ruckman, Nancy Reed, Ann Maglente, Lynn Whiting, Barbara Willens, Sandy Strong and Jenny Jurgensen were in that original group and were responsible for a renaissance of the WCA.

Emmy Good came on board and created a series of fundraisers which generated enough money to paint the building and other improvements, including adding to the general fund which had fallen to \$300. They convinced the Willits City Council to allow them to operate as a separate entity.

Since then, the WCA has flourished as a cultural center that enriches all of Willits. Martin was brought on in 2017 as curator. He has created a gallery that excellently showcases local talent as well as some artists from out of the immediate area.

In order to survive during the pandemic, the WCA is considering online sales and opening on a scaled-back basis when they are able. Due to the generosity of the people of Willits, they have been receiving donations that have been enabling them to pay the bills while they work on reopening – whenever that may be. Hopefully soon, as the shows are sorely missed as part of the Willits landscape. Eventually there will be a party to commemorate the 20th anniversary.



Above: The Gary Martin Gallery sits empty for the time being. At right: June Ruckman asks the Willits City Council to allow the WCA to become a non-profit.



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- Plan Drawing
- Design

Mary Mueller
Realtor & Property Management

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marymuellerrealestate@gmail.com
marymuellerrealestate.com



Willits is Senior Strong

The final group of 2020 Willits Unified School District Graduates!



Craig Stewart



Korvin Swinney



Mariano Tomas



Maira Trujillo



Lillian Turner



Patrick Turner



Jesus Vega



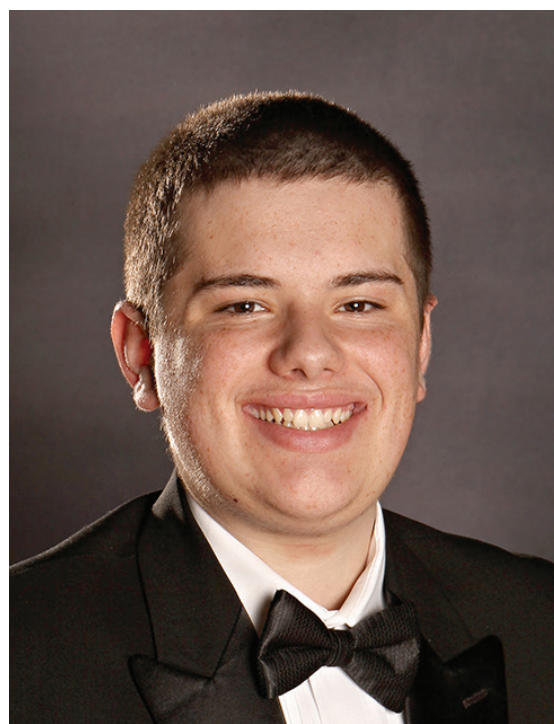
Tania Vessler



Emmanuel Villegas



Mercedes Villegas



Troy Walters



Emerald Waters



Jasmine Wear



Roman Wiegand



Grady Williams



Kayla Williams



Drake Wisdom



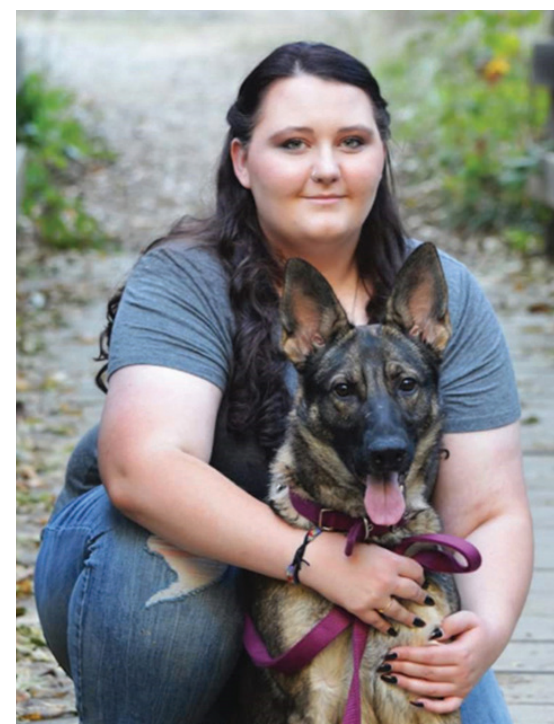
Rachel Woods



Sequoia Wright



Connor Wyant



Sierra Caine



Photos by Maureen Moore

At left and above: Roots of Motive Power board members gather – while socially distancing! – at the Roots yard to hold a meeting about how to operate within COVID guidelines. Below, left: New business on the agenda: Roots 2020 Festival. Below, right: Rain the dog looks for some attention. Below, from left: Virtual showcases might be a part of the 2020 festivities, similar to this clip of Roots President Troy James talking about one of the pieces of equipment at the yard. Rules and procedures were handed out and read over during the meeting. Rain found just the right person to give a good mid-meeting scratchin’.

Social Distance Steam-Up

Roots of Motive Power discusses plans for 2020 steam-up festivities amid coronavirus complications

Nine masked members of the Roots of Motive Power board gathered – 6 feet apart! – at the Roots yard during their monthly meeting to discuss the plans for how to hold a corona-compliant event for their September steam-up celebration.

After some chat about equipment updates, new COVID practices for Roots work days, and plans for the boiler, along with some dog petting, talk turned to how to hold an event while remaining within the health order guidelines.

Hoping things will clear up by September, the possibility of a regular event is possible,

but virtual plans, including a livestream of machinery, equipment spotlights, and bringing out different items all floated through the brainstorming session.

Without the public's presence, the Roots crew could be able to demonstrate some of the more tedious-to-operate and “dangerous” equipment, and broadcast it live, or record it for later and compile a Roots DVD or video.

Keep ears and eyes tuned as the weeks go on, but Roots wanted to assure the community that they will be making sure something happens, even if it might be a virtual year.

– Maureen Moore



“We’re all made for more”

Now there are more ways to take control of your health without leaving home.

Meet your doctor – or any doctor – with a virtual visit. Manage your family’s entire health needs through your personal online health hub. It’s all quick, easy and secure, from the healthcare professionals you already trust. We offer more ways to manage your health, so you can enjoy more convenience and more connection.

To learn more about managing your health virtually, visit AdventistHealth.org/CareAnywhere. To schedule an appointment, call 833-AH-Wellness (833-249-3556)



LEGAL NOTICES

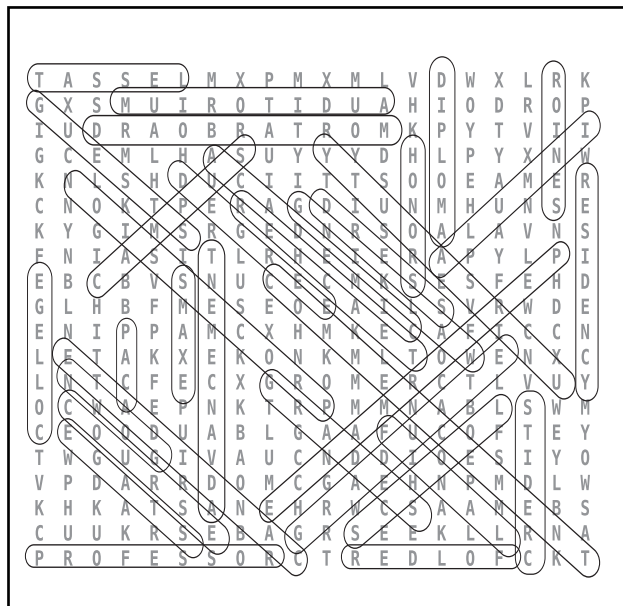
WW268
Fictitious Business Name Statement
 2020-F00253
 The following person is doing business as Sage Healing, 10 Brookside Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
 Registered owner: Cassie Lynn Mansfield, 10 Brookside Drive, Willits, CA 95490.
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.
 Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 4, 2020.
 /s/ Cassie Mansfield
 Publication dates: 05/21, 05/28, 06/04, 06/11/2020

Willits Weekly can run your legal notices! Email us for cost and details: willitsweekly@gmail.com

WW269
CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS
 PROJECT NO. 2020-01
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for: The work shown on the project plans entitled: **CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLANS** for: **2020 Slurry Seal & Pavement Preservation Project - Project No. 2020-01** This project includes slurry sealing, striping, crack sealing, and traffic control for various streets within the City of Willits for an amount not to exceed \$210,000.
 IN
 City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California &
 The work described in specifications books entitled: CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET CITY OF WILLITS - AWARD PACKET for: **2020 Slurry Seal & Pavement Preservation Project - Project No. 2020-01** IN
 City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California **will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2 p.m., June 17, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers, of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.**
 CITY OF WILLITS: s/Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk
 DATED: 05/20/20
 Publication Date: May 21, 2020

WW270
WUSD Notice Inviting Proposals
 The Willits Unified School District is inviting proposals for food and supplies for the 2020-21 school year. You may obtain information by contacting the Director of Food Services, Willits Unified School District at 707-459-7700 ext. 1554, christywisdom@willitsunified.com. Proposals are requested to be received by July 15, 2020.
 Publication Dates: Thursday, May 28 and Thursday, June 4, 2020.

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The rest of Graduates From Page 1

In addition to this year’s parade, the Class of 2020 will also have a presence on Main Street with the collage of senior portraits filling the windows at J.D. Redhouse, photos of Willits Charter School graduates in the window at The Book Juggler, and with the large lamppost banners soon to make their appearance.

Each vinyl banner features the grad’s official senior portrait, and “Class of 2020” and will grace the lampposts, just like the decorations at Christmas or the Fourth of July do.

“Willits High School is delighted that with the partnership of community members such as Carrie Clevinger, Willits Power, Summit Signal and the generous donations of many other parents and community members, the Main Street Banner project will be a reality for the class of 2020,” said Amanda Maciel, Willits High School’s principal’s secretary and registrar.

“Banners should start going up in the next few days,” she continued. “The project cost \$14,000, and a good portion of these funds have been community-raised. The high school is still accepting donations to help cover the remainder of the cost if any community members would like to contribute. We would also like to thank Caltrans and the City of Willits for their support of this project. Congratulations to the Class of 2020!”

The rest of Launches From Page 1

information and resources for businesses eligible to open in Stage 2 to develop their own Business Reopening Plan, which is a County of Mendocino requirement for reopening.

Business owners will use the Safe Operations Business Protocol checklist to guide the development and implementation of their health and safety protocols and procedures for their workplace. They will also refer to the Business Reopening Plan worksheets that are specific to different business sectors, such as manufacturing, retail, childcare, construction and more.

Currently, only those businesses that can open in Stage 2 have Business Reopening Plan worksheets available. As more sectors are permitted to open, the site will be updated with additional industry-specific plans.

Once business owners have created their Business Reopening Plan, they must self-certify compliance directly on the website. Mendocino County requires each business to submit their business license number, business information, and complete a compliance questionnaire.

Upon completion, businesses will download a Safe Mendocino certificate for posting in the business workplace. Businesses are also required to post their health and safety protocols in their place of business.

Supervisor Dan Gjerde emphasized the importance of building consumer confidence as the county reopens for business, “Participating in this self-certification process will also have the added benefit of making consumers feel confident that businesses are safe, otherwise they won’t engage in commerce.”

The website is a result of the ongoing work of the county’s Covid-19 Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Supervisor Gjerde, Supervisor Ted Williams, and West Business Development Center CEO Mary Anne Petrillo, further cementing the continuation of a successful public sector/private business roundtables.

In addition to reaching out to industry leaders, the COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee sought input from the county’s Chambers of Commerce and city officials. The site is designed for both English and Spanish speakers.

Supervisor Williams emphasized the importance of compliance and acknowledged the challenges, saying: “The reopening situation is a moving target with new directives coming daily from the state. This site will streamline the process both for businesses and the county as we navigate how to reopen safely. We need to continue the work of the public health officer as we gradually reopen the county.”

Mendocino County also requests that business owners complete the business impact survey, which will provide information on the total dollar amount of economic impact of the pandemic crisis. The survey can be accessed at <https://mendocinocountysurvey.questionpro.com/>

The County of Mendocino encourages all small businesses in the county to visit their “Business Resources for COVID-19” website at www.mendocinocounty.org/business/business-resource-for-covid-19.

For business-related support with loans, employee relations and digital commerce, contact West Business Development Center at www.westcenter.org.

For more on COVID-19: www.mendocinocounty.org or contact the Call Center: 707-234-6052 or email callcenter@mendocinocounty.org, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

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CLASSIFIEDS

\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

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.

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.oakrivine.net/tlp>

Seriously Seeking

Granny quarters or small studio near or in Willits. Wishing to focus on art work, design and creative writing. Am a retired widow. Christian woman, loathe alcohol and shudder at drugs totally. Organic, love gardening, no pets. Can pay a fair sum, or garden in part: 707-459-4975.

Stay Safe

I’ll be back to help you with your Alterations and Sewing Needs when it is safe to do so. Barbara the Seamstress

Help Wanted

Sherwood Firewise now hiring! Program Coordinator. Assist with annual program goals, prepares reports and outreach. Need excellent written, verbal, communication, and organizational skills. Requires proficient use of common software programs. \$30/hour, 20 hour/week, 6 month duration. Contact info@sherwoodfirewise.org for job description and application.

New Mini Storage Units in Willits

Reserve yours today! **707-459-4599** or 707-259-0159

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

Need WUSD Senior Class of 2020 photo prints??

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.

Willits Food Bank open

Willits Community Services & Food Bank is still distributing 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. “For those with room to plant surplus organic greens, carrots, squash, melons, beans, peas and more to share with the food bank, thank you!” Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.



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Western rattlesnakes are found in a variety of habitats throughout California including – maybe – your woodpile or your garden.

Photo courtesy of CDFW

Tips for steering clear of rattlesnakes as the weather warms up

Submitted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife

As shelter-in-place rules are relaxed around the state of California, hikers are undoubtedly anxious to take advantage of the opportunity to visit their favorite hills, mountains, paths and trails. It's important to remember that snakes are enjoying the fine weather this time of year as well.

With the coming of summer, snakes of many species are through hunkering down, making human encounters with these elusive creatures more likely. Although most native snakes are harmless, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife recommends giving the venomous rattlesnake plenty of space and knowing what to do in the rare event of a bite.

Early mornings and late afternoons are prime times for when snakes come out – they avoid the midday heat. In general, snakes are not aggressive. When people are bit, it's most often because the animal was surprised.

The most basic but important tip to remember: If you're outdoors, make sure to stay on trails, as you'll be in a better position to see (and avoid) a snake if it's on the path or crossing in front of you.

Rattlesnakes are widespread in

California and are found in a variety of habitats throughout the state, from coastal to desert. They may also turn up around homes and yards in brushy areas and under wood piles. Rattlesnakes will likely retreat if given room and are not provoked or threatened. Most bites occur when a rattlesnake is handled or accidentally brushed against by someone walking or climbing.

On occasion, rattlesnake bites have caused severe injury – even death. However, the potential of encountering a rattlesnake should not deter anyone from venturing outdoors. The California Poison Control System notes that the chances of being bitten are small compared to the risk of other environmental injuries. Most bites occur between the months of April and October when snakes and humans are most active outdoors.

CDFW provides tips for safely living in snake country on its website, at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/. Rattlesnakes, as well as tips for keeping snakes out of your yard and what to do (and not do) in the event of a snake bite.

Additional resources can be found on the "Living with Rattlesnakes" page at www.CaliforniaHerps.com.

Young Ellie

Meet our stunning girl Ellie. Ellie is a year-old tortie. She came to us in August of 2019 after she was found wandering alone. Ellie is a quiet lady who would love a easygoing home. She is just a little shy but absolutely loves attention. She is just a kid but has spent most of her life in the shelter. Can you give her a chance at being in her forever home? If so, we would love to talk with you!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County 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. Call 707-485-0123 for information or any questions. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.



The rest of Cases | From Page 1

Wednesday, involves another person living in the Ukiah Valley. The 25th case involves a person who lives on the north coast.

Dukett declined to be more specific about exactly where the people who contracted the disease are currently living. Dukett said contact tracing for cases 22 and 23 was happening on Wednesday. "When the results of the contact tracing are in, hopefully the county will be able to announce where they got the disease," Dukett said.

On May 15, Mendocino County announced that it had confirmed 15 cases of COVID-19. With the tally now up to 25, that means that over the past 12 days, the number of cases in this county has increased by 66 percent.

The four most recent cases follow the confirmation of a total of seven cases attributed to Mendocino County that all stem from religious services held at the Assembly of God Church in Redwood Valley on Mothers' Day, Sunday May 10.

On May 24, Mendocino County Interim Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan, MD, announced that 337 people were tested in Redwood Valley on Tuesday, May 19, to gauge the health of the community in the wake of the May 10 religious service.

Test results from the May 19 testing confirmed that six more people had contracted the disease, which brought the total of people then known to have gotten the disease from that religious service, or from those who attended that religious service, to nine, including seven people from Mendocino County and two people from Lake County.

The increase in cases here is still under a permissible level of increase, relative to allowing the county to proceed further along the road to reopening. According to guidelines from the California Department of Public Health, if counties have had fewer than 25 new cases per 100,000 residents over the past 14 days, or if fewer than 8 percent of COVID-19 tests show positive results in the past seven days, the county may proceed along the path of reopening.

Currently the county is in Stage 2.5 of reopening. Governor Gavin Newsom on Tuesday, May 26 announced that 47 of 58 counties in the state could now allow hair salons and barbershops to reopen, with restrictions, on a county-by-county basis.

Dukett told Willits Weekly Wednesday morning that Doohan was once again revising the county's shelter-in-place order to reflect the new latitude allowed by the governor. Dukett said that the seventh revised health order would most likely be published on Thursday.

When asked if that meant that the county was in Stage 3, Dukett said it didn't. "Where we are is sort of in between Stage 2.5 and Stage 3," Dukett said. "Officially we are still in 2.5. But it looks like we're moving toward Stage 3, sort of incrementally," she said.

According to the data dashboard published on the county's website, which was updated at 6:30 pm Wednesday evening, the county has had a total of 25 cases; 12 are recovered and 10 are currently in isolation. Three people are hospitalized. There have been 4,056 tests.

Of those tests, 1,351 have been facilitated by the county's Department of Public Health, 1,342 has been processed by commercial labs. and 1,363 have been

facilitated and processed by the University of California at San Francisco.

According to Dukett, as of 7 pm on Tuesday night, the Optum-Serve mobile lab at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds had performed 315 tests since it opened on Friday May 22.

Sixth revised shelter-in-place order

With the successful posting on May 20 of the county's "attestation for county variance," Mendocino County has been allowed to proceed to Stage 2.5 of California's Resilience Roadmap. Last Thursday, Dr. Doohan released a sixth revised shelter-in-place health order, taking effect on May 24, which allowed additional business activities to resume locally, including in-store shopping, limited dine-in restaurants, and preventive dental care.

The order imposes some serious restrictions upon both in-store retail and dining in restaurants.

According to a document called "summary of changes" to the Stage 2.5 health officer order, "The Stage 2.5 Order requires all businesses, as a condition of re-opening, to file the local self-certification form, developed by the County of Mendocino in collaboration with West Business Development Center, found at www.mendocinocountybusiness.org.

Businesses that were authorized to re-open under health officer orders issued prior to May 21, will have seven days to complete the same self-certification."

The summary of changes goes on to state that retail businesses must follow the statewide guidance for retail found online at <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-retail.pdf>. "Retailers and malls must closely follow their industry statewide guidance for specifics in all areas, and retailers should still continue to facilitate curbside pick-up and delivery," the summary of changes states.

The new shelter-in-place order also sets a high bar for restaurant dining. Restaurants must follow state guidelines found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-dine-in-restaurants.pdf> which includes "requirements for a worksite-supplies COVID-19 prevention plan, comprehensive risk assessment of all work areas, employee training, individual control measures and screening, cleaning and disinfection protocols, and social distancing guidelines."

The county document goes on to elaborate further conditions applicable to restaurants. "All dine-in restaurants should continue to encourage take-out and delivery service whenever possible. Dine-in establishments must also display clearly visible rules for customers and personnel at the entrance that are to be a condition of entry. Additionally, all guests and visitors must be screened for symptoms upon arrival, asked to use hand sanitizer, and should bring and wear a facial covering when not eating or drinking. As clarified by the state, the expansion of limited dine-in restaurants is not intended for concert or entertainment venues."

The allowance of eating in restaurants does not extend to "brewpubs, craft distilleries, breweries, bars, pubs, and wineries, unless they are offering sit-down, dine-in meals and limited alcohol (for on-site consumption) to be sold in the same transaction as a meal. However, sealed alcoholic beverages may continue to be sold as part of retail transactions."

The rest of Reduced | From Page 1

counting on prior to the pandemic: a share of Proposition 172 sales tax proceeds, a share of the proceeds from the last election's successful county Measure D transient occupancy tax, and a share of amounts collected via the City of Willits' cannabis excise tax, Measure I, approved by the voters in November 2018.

Proposition 172 is the 1993 voter-approved state measure that created a permanent one-half cent sales tax to be used for public safety purposes, which county fire districts "fought hard to get a piece of" and have been sharing in for the last four years, according to Wilkes.

"I'm almost positive we won't see any of that money," he said. "Everybody's down on tax dollars."

And the department is "still working with the city on the excise tax," he continued. "But everyone is in a pinch because of the pandemic so we might not see any money."

And, with "nobody able to camp" in private campgrounds or RV parks due to pandemic restrictions, there may be no, or very little, Measure D money to distribute to county fire agencies as originally intended by the measure.

"So we're taking a very conservative approach to our budget this year to stay in the black," said Wilkes. "The final budget is in September; it can change if we get money."

There is some new funding which may be forthcoming though ... from new impact fees.

These are fees assessed as a condition for approval of any new development project located in the area served by the fire district.

Because all new development represents an increase in the district's responsibilities, the money assessed is used to maintain the department's level of service prior to the development.

The authority to impose impact fees and the amounts assessed ultimately must be codified in a county ordinance.

Apologies of the amount that will be charged for different kinds of development projects, the board was presented with a preliminary report – a "nexus study."

The final "nexus study" report will be ready in June, and "at the June meeting we will start the public hearing process," said Wilkes. "That won't be completed until the July meeting, and then 30 days after that [the ordinance] will go into effect."

Another, perhaps smaller, but very appreciated source of income comes from donations, and Wilkes expressed thanks for two recent ones the district received.

The Howard Foundation and Medstar donated funds to help buy supplies for "rescue 5431," a once-ambulance donated to the district by Medstar, which is used for a variety of purposes, and the Little Lake Grange Women's Activity League and Jim and Terri Robertson made donations, which will be used to purchase safety equipment.

Decreased funding is not the only pandemic-related decrease the department is experiencing.

"Most of our call volume is vehicle accidents," said Wilkes. And with nobody driving, our call volume was almost cut in half in April."

This quantifiable decrease in vehicle accident calls may be more than matched, however, by an unquantifiable increase in potential for harm when going to medical calls.

When those calls come in, dispatch asks screening questions: "Do you have a temperature, cough, etc.?"

"If [an answer] is positive, it's a possibility they have COVID," said Wilkes. "So they tell us, and then we have to acknowledge [to dispatch] that we could possibly be going to someone who is positive for COVID."

Finally, it's finally really close to out with the old and in with the new.

The old firehouse has been demolished, and the new one is on the way.

When it will get here is ... "No matter how hard we try, it's tough to give a timeline," said Wilkes. "Every time we give a line, it gets blown out. Nothing's on time with this project."

Still, the plans are completed and being reviewed by the city, and "we're hoping to get a bid package out in a couple of weeks," he said.

The rest of Deny | From Page 1

apparently do not want the cell tower in their neighborhood. Commissioner Madelin Holtkamp spoke to that effect when she stated, early on in the discussion on whether or not to approve the permit, "I have a lot of trouble with the people who are supposed to be served by this, not wanting it."

Holtkamp's concern seems to be borne out by the numbers. Prior to the item being taken up by the commission, it received a significant amount of public comment. By May 11, the public had sent 72 letters or emails to the planning commission, expressing an opinion on the cell tower. Willits Weekly read through them and found that, at a minimum, 44 people wrote in opposition to the project and six people wrote in support of it. In those first 72 letters, numerous letters were written urging the commission to reschedule the meeting, and several writers wrote more than one letter.

A recent look at the file indicates that people are continuing to write about the cell tower. As of May 25, 135 letters or emails on the item had been received by the planning commission.

Third District Commissioner Alison Pernell told planning commission staff that, in her mind, the biggest factor in shaping her opinion toward the project was lack of support by the public. She noted that of the 133 letters from the public that the commission had received by the morning of May 21, only 15 expressed support for the project.

In addition, both sides circulated petitions to back up their opinion on the matter. Those in support collected 34 signatures in a petition that was submitted to the commission on March 29. Whoever circulated the petition did not sign a letter of submittal; however, the first signature on the petition was that of Kent Standley.

On April 3, Cynthia Raiser Jeavons submitted a petition of people opposed to the cell tower, containing 151 signatures. On May 21, during the public hearing, six people called in to comment. All were opposed to the project.

Other reasons for denial mentioned by commission members included the belief that the cell tower would present a negative visual and aesthetic impact to the neighborhood, that construction of the tower could have a negative impact on local utilities, especially on the Pine Mountain water system, that the location of the tower was bad, and that the proposed land use violates the county code in two ways.

Third District Commissioner Pernell stated that she believed that putting a 143-foot cell tower on the proposed site could legally be denied according to two provisions found under Section 20.196.020 of the county code. They were sections (c) and (d).

Section (c) states: "That such use will not, under the circumstances of that particular case, constitute a nuisance or be detrimental to the health, safety,

peace, morals, comfort or general welfare of persons residing or working in or passing through the neighborhood of such proposed use, or be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the county; provided, that if any proposed building or use is necessary for the public health, safety or general welfare, the finding shall be to that effect."

Section (d) reads: "That such use preserves the integrity of the zoning district."

Pernell had earlier stated that she believed construction and operation of the cell tower would be counter to the covenants, conditions and restrictions of the Pine Mountain Estates subdivision.

Although six planning commissioners voted to draft a resolution of denial, timber industry representative Randy Jacobszoon said his primary gripe against the tower was that he believed it had a bad aesthetic impact. He said that he would support the project if AT&T would agree to put faux branches on it to make it look more like a tree.

AT&T said they could not do that, because they are under regulations that they have to have a setback to the nearest building of five times the height of the structure. As it stands now, the 143-foot tower yields a setback of 715 feet, which is just under the distance to the nearest dwelling.

Epic Wireless representative Jared Kearsley told the commission that standard operating procedure for adding faux branches would increase the height of the tower by some 10 feet, which would increase the setback by 50 feet, which would put the then-153-foot tower too close to the nearest building.

Fourth District Planning Commissioner Scott Perkins expressed that he was conflicted about his vote. "Last year, Mendocino County and the Economic Development and Finance Corporation held an economic summit, in Willits, and people from all over the county came, and one of the top concerns was broadband capability and safe cell phone access to rural parts of the county," Perkins said.

"And, like I said, I'm swayed by the quantity of letters from the local community opposed to this, but, at the same time, I know this has been a priority from the board of supervisors and many folks in the county, to expand cell phone coverage and broadband service."

The plan for the 143-foot-tall cell phone tower on Manzanita Drive on Pine Mountain is to serve about 400 parcels located within 5.5 square miles on Pine Mountain. The project is part of AT&T's Connect America program.

In March 2018, AT&T representative Rheunette Alums said that the company planned to construct 18 cell towers in Mendocino County by the end of 2020.

The rest of Dam | From Page 2

that question.

Pauli was also asked whether overall project costs included a purchase price for the project itself. PG&E is the current owner of the Potter Valley Project. Pauli said, "Negotiations with PG&E are going to be very sensitive."

According to Pauli, the feasibility study does not constitute a commitment. "The Proposed Project Plan filed with FERC on May 13th is not a commitment," Pauli said. "The Final License Application, which is currently due to FERC in April 2022 will outline the final Project Plan. Once filed with and accepted by FERC the Final Project Plan will become a commitment."

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

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

Home Meal Delivery

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

Thursday, May 28: Beef Enchiladas

Friday, May 29: Turkey Dinner

Monday, June 1: Turkey & Dumplings

Tuesday, June 2: Cheeseburgers

Wednesday, June 3: Eggs Benedict

Thursday, June 4: Ground Beef Tacos

Friday, June 5: Chicken Parmesan

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



Plants Aplenty

Shoppers fill wagons full of vegetable starts, grape vines, flowers, and more at the Grateful Gleaners’ annual sale

The Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale is an annual community fundraiser. “The Gleaners’ mission is to benefit a wide swath of the community. It also brings people together at the beginning of the season,” stated Prana Roberts, one of the sale organizers.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

By 9:45 Sunday morning, there was a line of people on South Humboldt Street waiting to enter the sale, located on cool and shaded Tuttle Lane properties. As one entered there was a sanitizing station, which included masks and an attendant squirting people’s hands with sanitizer before they entered the sale. By 11 am the Tri Counties Bank parking lot was full of cars.

Grateful Gleaners gardeners provided most of the plants for their sale. Community members also dropped off donations during the day, adding to the variety and volume of plants for sale. Tam Adams from Emandal- A Farm on a River made a large donation again this year. They grew too many starts for their own farm and dug up desirable plants from overgrown peony, horseradish, raspberry and blackberry patches to donate to the popular community event.

Some people grow plants specifically for the annual sale, like one of Grateful Gleaners’ founders, Karen Gridley. According to Gridley’s husband, Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, “Karen does at least 400 plants at our garden [for this sale]. There’s a special area of the garden we fence off from the deer and it’s one of the precious garden spots on our place.”

Because of all the community efforts, folks found healthy vegetable, fruit, vine, flower and medicinal herb plants for their gardens. For some who come to the Gleaners’ plant sale, this could be the place to acquire a certain variety of plant. Others attend with long lists or browse and buy a wagonful and more.

COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders have changed how some people garden. Pat Wilson lives on Redwood Avenue in Willits and came to the sale with her friend, Kathy Uppinghouse. Wilson said, “I spend more time in my yard now. All of my neighbors do, too. There are beautiful yards as you go up and down [Redwood Avenue].”

For Gary Martin and his partner, Lou Celaya, it was their first time at the sale. “We saw the ad in the Willits Weekly about it. Because of sheltering-in-place, gardening is all we’re doing. There’s not much else to do,” said Martin who teaches at the college and is the curator at the Willits Center for the Arts, both closed due to shelter-in-place orders.

The Mendocino County Herb Guild is unable to have their Calendula Festival and plant sale live this year, so they joined the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale. The herbalists provided a wealth of information about medicinal plants. Guild member Claudia Wenning said their mission Sunday was to make people aware of how important it is to grow

and use herbs, and that there are many healing herbs that thrive in Mendocino County.

Two women from the Guild were there selling medicinal plants and answering questions. Tina Tedeschi is an herbalist from Potter Valley who brought 160 medicinal plants for all types of ailments. She makes tinctures, teas, herbal oils and poultices, and sells them at the Ukiah Farmers Market. “And there are people [from the Guild] selling at the Willits Farmers Market as well,” she said.

Alongside Tedeschi, was Leslie King. She’s studied ayurvedic herbs, an ancient East Indian medicine. “I guide people towards wellness using the philosophies of ayurvedic medicine. I love to grow the plants, make medicine out of them, and then distribute them to people who need them,” she told.

Richard Jeske and his wife, Jacqueline Morninglight, had a beautiful and extensive collection of tried and true table grapes and goji berry bushes for sale at discounted prices. This was their first time at the sale.

For the second year, Jamie Chavalier from Quail Seeds and Luke Allen, with his son, Bayowyn, from Sundial Seed Company returned with their locally sourced flower, vegetable, and cover crop seed offerings.

All five vendors added spice, variety and knowledge to the Gleaners’ plant sale. Each vendor kept their own earnings from their sales.

The Gleaners’ plant sale has been in place for about eight years, according to a consensus of six members. It was also agreed that the Grateful Gleaners was established maybe 15 years ago. Since that time, it has functioned as a group of volunteers who donate gleaned fruits and vegetables from people’s gardens and orchards to the food bank, senior center, after-school programs, and other food-related nonprofits.

The event, advertised for people to plant a modern victory garden, similar to those planted during the first and second world wars, was a huge success. There were well over 1,000 Grateful Gleaner plants. “Especially if you count all the small pots,” Roberts informed, and added, “I’d say we sold about 85 percent of them.”

Gleaner member Carol Cox reported the Gleaners’ part of the sale brought in \$2,378, a whopping \$1,000 more than last year! The lion’s share of the proceeds will go to young farmers in need of particular tools or infrastructure like irrigation, vegetable washing stations, or storage sheds to keep produce cool.

The Grateful Gleaners community has far-reaching roots into the greater Willits community. They provide a wide variety of affordable plants for gardeners. There are inspired and knowledgeable gardeners and vendors who freely give information. They donate money to farmers in need and food to people through nonprofit organizations.

Call the Gleaners at 707-367-7391 for more information and to join.



At top, from left: Richard Jeske and his wife, Jacqueline Morninglight, sell about 20 different table grape varieties that passed the taste and vitality tests at their East Hill Road nursery. Donna d’Terra, an herbalist and a founding member of the Mendocino County Herb Guild, helps out at the event. Third District Supervisor John Haschak picks up some tomato starts; he and his wife, Janice, have expanded their garden this year and are planting more tomatoes “to freeze and can.” Above: Haley Portell fills a box with thriving plants at the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale on Sunday. Below: A steadily moving line of people wait to go into the Gleaners Plant Sale on Sunday. At bottom: Visitors to the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale look through plant starts in a large field on Tuttle Lane, which was freshly mowed thanks to members of the Tuttle Lane community.



Photos by
Ree Slocum

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