

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 405

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Aldridge hired by school board as new WUSD superintendent

Joanne Moore
Reporter
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The Willits Unified School District's Board of Trustees held a special meeting on May 26.

Willits Unified's new superintendent, Joe Aldridge, was there.

There were discussions about a new K-3 reading initiative, a new approach to teaching English to English learners, and whether to set a policy with respect to how much money to budget for

Read the rest of
Aldridge
Over on Page 11

Library Advisory Board's 2021 annual report

The Mendocino County Library Advisory Board's 2021 Annual Report, titled "A Year Unlike Any Other," was presented to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors at their Monday, May 24 meeting.

Below is the annual report, minus some inspiring reports from the local Friends of the Library volunteer groups that Willits Weekly didn't have room to print. Supervisors did agree to form an ad hoc committee, with BOS Chair Dan Gjerde and Third District Supervisors John Haschak, to look into questions outlined by the LAB in their annual report.

Gjerde said he'd served on a similar ad hoc about

Read the rest of
Library
Over on Page 11

Countywide Drought Task Force virtual meeting set for June 10

Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office

On Thursday, June 10 at 4 pm, the Board of Supervisors Drought Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Supervisor John Haschak and Supervisor Glenn McGourty will host a virtual Countywide Drought Task Force Meeting. The supervisors will give an update on their current discussions with community partners and staff on drought-related issues. Members of the public will have an opportunity to hear a brief update and share

Read the rest of
Drought
Over on Page 2



Above, from left: Willits Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Kvasnicka gives a final situating to the day lily that is planted beside the Ron Moorhead memorial bench. The bench pays tribute to Ron Moorhead, the previous Chamber executive director who passed away earlier this year. Below: The bench sits atop the newly white-rocked yard outside of the Chamber of Commerce office.



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Remembering Ron

Memorial bench installed at Willits Chamber of Commerce office complex to honor late executive director

A new black bench sits atop a sea of white rock at the Willits Chamber of Commerce office complex on East Commercial Avenue to honor Ron Moorhead, who passed away on February 4 of this year.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
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"The Chamber wanted to honor the memory of Ron and the legacy he has had with the Chamber as well as Willits as a whole," said Lisa Kvasnicka, Willits Chamber of Commerce president.

"We felt the kindest tribute would be to place something permanent in his memory at the place he dedicated half his life: the Chamber."

Moorhead was the executive director of the Chamber for the past two years leading up to his death, but also served as the Chamber president for 18 years and originally joined

Read the rest of
Remembering
Over on Page 4



Above, left: Cathy Moorhead sits on the bench placed in memory of her late husband, Ron. Above, right: The bench features a center design with a cowboy boot and Ron's name. Below: The crew who gathered Monday afternoon to install the bench included, from left: Katrina Kesson, Chuck Persico, Jill Persico, Cathy Moorhead, John Kvasnicka, Lisa Kvasnicka, Gloria Westby, and Tim Westby.



Supes advance new pot ordinance 4-1

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At a special meeting Wednesday the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted to approve moving forward with the new cannabis cultivation ordinance, Chapter 22.18, meaning a final vote should come before the board later this month.

The supervisors left in place the controversial expansion to allow for up to 10% of parcel size for outdoor cultivation in certain zones, but added direction to staff to bring back another item to the board this summer to consider capping the cultivation size at 2 acres, and then possibly phase in larger size allowances in future years.

This decision came after the Mendocino County Planning Commission unanimously recommended putting a hard cap of 2 acres on any cultivation site, even for parcels larger than 20 acres.

The supervisors considered going with the planning commission's recommendation, but Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams led the charge to – at least for now – officially leave the maximum at 10% of parcel size (for parcels 10 acres

Read the rest of
Ordinance
Over on Page 11

Brooktrails OKs new Fire Rescue Squad rig

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Board of Directors meeting began with Board President Rick Williams asking if any of the directors had any items to report. Director Ralph Santos asked if General Manager Tamara Alaniz had found out any new information regarding the littering ordinance and available signage that would point up the fines meted out to those who dump large items, i.e. mattresses, pallets, junk, etc., along Sherwood Road.

Director Ed Horrick remarked that the Planning Department takes care of signage for the county. General Manager Alaniz said, "I will definitely place calls to both the Planning Department and the Department of Transportation to find out about the process to get signage to address this situation."

Director Tina Tyler O'Shea reported that WAC (Willits Area Cyclists) have set a workday, Sunday, June 6, beginning at 9 am,

Read the rest of
Rescue
Over on Page 2

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, June 3: Pork Stew, Cornbread, Green Salad

Friday, June 4: Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap, Pasta Salad

Monday, June 7: BBQ Rib Sandwich, Corn, Baked Bean

Tuesday, June 8: Chicken a la King w/Noodles, Veggie, Green Salad, Roll

Wednesday, June 9: Beef Stir Fry

Thursday, June 10: Ground Beef Nachos, Green Salad

Friday, June 11: Spicy Chicken Salad Sandwich, 3 Bean Salad

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

Summer Maker's Market on June 12

Hello! We are getting ready for the Summer Maker's Market! Join us June 12, 2021, for the Summer Maker's Market in Willits, 90 South Main Street, from 11 am to 4 pm

We look forward to connecting with our community in a safe, healthy, and joyful way. The Maker's Market is free for all!

Please come and check out an array of locally made offerings. Shop handmade local goods made by herbalists, local artists, and artisans. Get free information from local herbalists, tips for cultivating and using herbs. We will have a raffle and free giveaways for the kids to take home.

Physical distancing and mask-wearing will be required. A sanitation station will be on site.

Location Hosts: Pete Swanton and Steve Marston
The Mendocino County Herb Guild sponsors the event. See you there!

For further event details and other information, visit <http://www.mendocinoherbguild.com/>

— Mendocino County Herb Guild

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.

Willits Weekly

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

6th annual Kid's Art Camp

To the Editor:

Do you have or know a child who loves to be creative?

Have them join us at the Sixth Annual Kid's Art Camp! It is July 12 to 16, 9 am to 12:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

What could be better for a young artist than the opportunity to spend one whole week doing art? And after Art Camp is over, they will have new skills to use, and songs to sing all summer! The camp is for ages 6 to 14, and we will tailor the instruction to the age and skill level of the child.

I have been an art teacher for all ages, preschool through high school for over 40 years. I provide everything the children need, including all art supplies and a healthy snack with individually packaged snacks. Each child will also be given their own pan set of watercolors to use after camp is over. Everything your child makes is theirs to take home in a portfolio that they create. We will be upstairs in the Great Room with plenty of room for art and movement. All the social distancing protocols will be followed. Each day we will do two art projects

and have time for free drawing, outside giant bubble fun, movement, and silly songs. Careful instruction from myself and another art teacher will guide their way as they enter the world of art. We will explore chalk and oil pastels, acrylic paints, fabric dyeing, paper marbling, Waldorf watercolor, and more. We will study the Great Masters of Art like Monet and Van Gogh.

New this year are generous scholarships offered by the Willits Center for the Arts. One of their goals is to make art available for everyone, and to make art a part of every child's life through classes, and hands-on instruction. It is simple to apply.

Sign up by June 19 and receive a discount per family. Space is limited – please sign up early! There is also discount for siblings from the same family.

Please email Ann to register and for more information. amaglinte1115@gmail.com; text or call: 707 354-1749. Thank you.

Ann Maglinte, Willits

FOWL seeks book donations for fall sale

To the Editor:

As restrictions have lessened, we are so happy that the Willits Library

Branch is once again able to welcome patrons in person! The Friends of the Willits Library (FOWL) Board would like to remind everyone that we are accepting book donations for the next book sale scheduled for October 21-24.

The Friends group is very excited to receive books in good condition in preparation for its big fundraising sale. The bin for donations is located behind the library; please note that we cannot accept encyclopedias, textbook and old reference books.

The Friends of the Willits Library has a mission to support our local branch in every way possible. Furniture, rugs, program supplies, books and more have been made possible by your generous support of fundraising efforts, membership and donations. If you are not a FOWL member already, we welcome you to join us, and we invite all members to consider serving on its board. The board works closely with the librarian and staff and would love more community participation in the support of our local library.

For more information, please contact any of us. You can leave a message for us on the Willits Library Facebook page or by phone at 459-5908.

FOWL Board: Melinda Clarke, Kimball Dodge, Olga O'Neill, Beth Rosen, and Barbara Telich



Above, from left: Bill Baxter, producer of the first Willits Car Show, stands in front of the mural at Little Lake NAPA Auto Parts. Jenn and Jack Drew of 101 Trailer and RV, who came up with the concept of the south Willits festival, invite people to vote for their favorite car. Ojeda Transport displays a variety of huge trucks.



Nor Crawl Fabricators took over the old Willits Tire building and got into the spirit of the Block Party with a jump house, dunk tank, and snow cones.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Slam Dunk Pizza owners Stephanie and Matt Duncan finally had a grand opening after operating for several months under strict COVID restrictions. At left: Brody Lamprich was in charge of the snow cone stand to raise money for Sober Grad. Below: April Lamprich is hoping someone will hit the target so she can get dunked and stay cool. At bottom: 101 Trailer and RV Supply showed jeeps as part of their car show.

Block Party

Willits businesses bring the fun to the south end of town for a Memorial Day weekend car show with ample entertainment

The merchants of the south end of Willits want the town to know that they are an integral part of the business community. There is more to the city than the downtown area. They are a thriving area of stores that offer automobile parts, tires, services, meals, groceries, games, garden and growing supplies, and a myriad of other goods and services which add greatly to the tax base of the area and help Willits survive financially.

In order to give Willits a chance to see the south end as a place to not only go to obtain materials or services, Jenn Drew of 101 Trailers and RV Supply came up with the idea to throw a Block Party. The idea was to have, in conjunction with several other businesses and the Willits Chamber of Commerce, an event that would bring people to their area to have a great time, meet the merchants, enjoy some fresh air, see well-restored vehicles, stroll parking lot sales, and participate in many games and adventures.

"I came up with the idea to have this block party," explained Drew. "We didn't get a grand opening when we took over the store in January. I wanted to be able to do that and also give the community back something that is free and fun to get out of the house and do, and keep it outdoors."

"I came up with the idea," she said, "and I went to Cathy at Little Lake Auto [NAPA] and Misty at Willits Power and they jumped on board. Car shows are happening in my parking lot, at NAPA, and Willits Power, and we have sales going on at the businesses throughout this end of town."

Slam Dunk is doing their grand opening today. Nor Crawl which is the old Willits Tire Center, jumped on board about two weeks ago. Sparetime is coming down to play some cornhole games.

"It's nice to have something going on in this end of town," Drew continued. "That was kind of the whole idea. This end of town is a huge tax-revenue provider for the city. I wanted to spotlight them. I hope this can become an every-year thing. Maybe we could move the car show down here for the weekend and make it a two-day weekend event. I want people to become aware of how many businesses we have at this end of town. We want to keep it free, fun and family-oriented."

"There is a strong sense of community amongst the south-end businesses," shared Drew. "We pretty much work together. That's the nice thing. We all get along and work together. If I don't have something, I can call and arrange to get it from someone else. We all take care of each other. We're one big happy family at this end of town."

The participating businesses, including 101 Trailer and RV Supply, Willits Power, NAPA Auto Parts, Les Schwab Tire Center, Nor Crawl Fabricators, Pederson Tractor, O'Reilly Auto Parts, and Slam Dunk Pizza, hosted with games, giveaways, car shows, and general comradery during the afternoon on Saturday. The car show moved to Recreation Grove Park the next day.

Slam Dunk Pizza had a grand opening, long delayed by

Read the rest of **Block Party** *Over on Page 10*



Little Lake NAPA Auto Parts has an interesting array of classic cars.



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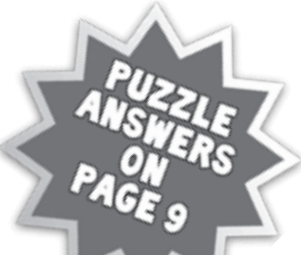
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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

Table with 9 rows and 9 columns for a Sudoku puzzle. Some cells contain numbers, others are empty.



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.

SUMMER DAZE WORD SEARCH

Word search grid containing letters for finding words related to summer.

Table with 4 columns and 4 rows of summer-themed words: BEACH, CAMPING, COASTAL, COOLING, FAN, HAMMOCK, HAZY, HOT, LAZY, OUTDOORS, RECREATION, SEASIDE, SHADY, SUMMER, SUNSHINE, SUNTAN, SWEATING, SWIMMING, SWIMSUIT, TEMPERATURE, TOWEL, TRAVEL, UMBRELLA, VACATION.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating where to place answers.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Partner to 'flows'
- 5. French industrial city
- 9. Diagrams
- 11. Diplomat
- 13. Hires
- 15. Hawaiian island
- 16. Set aflame
- 17. Very happy
- 19. Blue dye
- 21. Small terrier with short legs
- 22. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 23. Northern pike genus
- 25. Expression of annoyance
- 26. Female deer
- 27. Casella and Kellerman are two
- 29. Actor's lines to audience
- 31. Days (Spanish)
- 33. Close a person's eyes
- 34. Cloaked
- 36. Comedic actor Rogen
- 38. It's all around us
- 39. Neutralizes alkalis
- 41. Native people of New

- Mexico
- 43. No seats available
- 44. Famed 'Air Music' composer
- 46. Fit of irritation
- 48. Psychic phenomena
- 52. Knicks' first-rounder Toppin
- 53. Seed used in cooking
- 54. 'WandaVision' actress Hahn
- 56. Samples food
- 57. In a lucid way
- 58. Stair part
- 59. Adieus

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of moth
- 2. A Christian sacrament
- 3. It lends books to Bostonians (abbr.)
- 4. Turn away
- 5. Impersonal
- 6. Shortly
- 7. Indigenous Alaskans
- 8. Subtle difference of meaning
- 9. Sicilian city

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

May 24 to May 30

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 187 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 24

5:32 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

6:38 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

10:29 am: SANDERS, Rhonda Rennee (60) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue. She was arrested pursuant to 417 PC (Brandishing a Weapon).

11:03 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.

2:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

3:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

3:36 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

May 25

8:21 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

6:17 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

7:27 pm: SANCHEZ, Daniel (31) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 400 block of Mill Street. He was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance for sale and violation of probation.

9:57 pm: LUMIERE, Ericka Rachel (48) of Ukiah was contacted in the 400 block of Central Avenue. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 11377 H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine) 11364 H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

May 26

9:10 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

11:08 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1000 block of Locust Street.

11:47 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Wood Street.

2:06 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:26 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

May 27

12:34 am: WILLIAMS, Shannon Gerald (46) of Laytonville was contacted near the intersection of South Main Street and

The rest of Remembering

to support the Chamber's endeavors back in 1983.

The bench resembles that of the previous executive director of the chamber, Lynn Kennelly, who passed away in November of 2016. Kennelly's bench sits to the south of J.D. Redhouse in the little park built there to honor her.

Moorhead's bench was installed on Monday, May 31 and sits facing out towards the Willits "W" from the Chamber grounds. A day lily planted alongside by his wife, Cathy, even bloomed Wednesday morning, leading her to remark to Kvasnicka: "The lily bloomed this morning! He's happy!"

West Commercial Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order.

8:42 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 700 block of South Main Street.

10:56 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

11:57 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

2:22 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:27 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 24000 block of North Main Street.

10:09 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.

May 28

1:08 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Coast Street.

7:45 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:32 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of School Street.

6:44 pm: GRUBER, Julius Eugene (58) of Willits and NINNEMANN, Travis John (36) of Tucson, Arizona were contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. They were both arrested pursuant to 182 (A) (1) PC (Conspiracy to Commit a Crime), 11378 H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale), 11379 H&S (Sale or Transport of Methamphetamine), 11360 (A) (2) H&S (Sale or Transport of Marijuana), and on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana for sale.

May 29

8:52 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Alameda Avenue.

3:21 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

4:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Hazel Street.

8:37 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Monroe Street.

May 30

12:34 am: KELLY, Brett Blue (39) of Ukiah was contacted in the 400 block of West Mendocino Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

8:43 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of School Street.

9:03 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Pine Street.

10:38 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

The bench and the flower sit atop a fresh covering of crisp white rock, put in place by the Skunk Train. Additional landscaping and local tribute artwork are also planned to be placed soon.

Cathy wished to express her appreciation to those who helped donate to the bench's purchase including: Super 8 of Willits; Ukiah Rifle and Pistol Club; Moon Lady; Susie Holmes; Larry and Virginia Stranske; Donna Hart; Vickie Byers; Kacy Knudsen; Robin and David Beguin; Bill and Melody Harris; Pat and Lloyd Downing; Loose Caboose; Julie Orr; John and Lisa Kvasnicka; Willits Wild Bunch; Willits Chamber of Commerce; and Karen Stevenson.



At far left: At Willits Cemetery, Adjutant Roger Ham and Post Commander Fred Branson salute the dead who have given all. Above: Each veteran in the graveyard was gifted with a flag in appreciation of their service. At left: The Honor Guard gives three volleys from their rifles.

Never Forgotten

Deceased veterans honored by the American Legion Post 174 at local cemeteries on Memorial Day

The members of the American Legion Post 174 want to make sure those who have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives to protect the democracy and freedom that is enjoyed by the citizens of the United States are not forgotten.

They want these heroes to be honored and cherished as a national resource as the continuation of what makes America greater than the sum of its parts.

This country has vast natural resources, places of infinite beauty, and a form of government that generally functions well (with caveats). But what creates the sense of greatness are the people, people who are willing to do what must be done to protect family and all those who contribute in whatever way they are able.

Each Memorial Day, the members of the American Legion Post 174 have gathered here gathered at the two main local graveyards, the Willits Cemetery and the Little Lake Cemetery, to raise the flag over the graves of service men and women, whether they have died in service or not, as long as they have served their country.

Next year, according to current Post Commander Fred Branson, the ceremonies may be expanded to the Sherwood Cemetery by the Sherwood School where they have discovered the resting places of three more veterans. Although Memorial Day is designed for those who have died in uniform, the local post additionally takes the opportunity to honor all veterans who have passed away.

"Memorial Day is for those who have died in service, in uniform," explained Branson.

"Veterans Day is for anybody who has served. Armed Forces Day is for people who are currently in the service."

In addition to their flag-raising ceremony, complete with words honoring the dead, the Honor Guard rifle salute, and words of remembrance and prayers, the veterans, along with the local Boy Scout troop 42, place American flags on the graves of all the veterans they can identify, especially those in the armed-services section of the cemetery. This is done two days earlier on the Saturday prior to Memorial Day Monday. Later in the day, the post will return and gather the flags respectfully for use on Flag Day and other days of remembrance.

According to Roger Ham, past commander and current adjutant / chaplain of the post, they are continuing a tradition of distributing poppies as part of the Memorial Day week. "We started our poppy drive on the 14th. The 15th was Armed Forces Day as well as Law Enforcement Day," Ham stated.

"I think that's what we all should do at some point in our lives, be of service to our communities, to give back. The poppies started in 1918. During the battles in Europe, the fields became quite muddy and what came up in the fields in the spring were red poppies. There was a Canadian colonel who wrote a poem, 'In Flanders Fields.' 'In Flanders Fields the poppies grow between our crosses row on row that mark our place.'

"In 1920," continued Ham, "the American Legion recognized that red poppy as a universal flower of remembrance. The red symbolizes the blood left by soldiers on the soil in Europe. In 1924, it became the official

flower of remembrance. So now we distribute poppies prior to Memorial Day, to allow people to remember, to reflect and understand what this day is all about. It's more than just barbecues and beer. To me, it's important."

The ceremony began with Ham and Branson setting up the local post flags and attaching the American Flag to the pole. They first, as Branson explained to Cub Scout Jarett Nelson who assisted them, run the flag up to the top of the pole and then lower it to half-mast as a sign of respect. The flag must always be lifted to the top to begin.

After the "colors" were in place, Jeff Whitby, decked out resplendently in Scottish battalion kilt and gear, played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes. Then, another past commander, Robert Ireland, played a pre-recorded "Star Spangled Banner" on the boom box.

"Comrades, this day is sacred with the almost-visible presence of those who have gone before us," Branson read from a prepared text. "We honor the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of our country ..."

After completing this short explanation, Branson asked Ham to read a prayer for the souls of the heroic dead. Joe Yu then attached a wreath to the flag pole for all to see. When the presentations were done, Branson called for the Honor Guard to give the rifle salute. John Frankum, Curtis Deshield and Zach Ireland engaged in three volleys from their weapons as punctuation to the show of respect.

The veterans may no longer be amongst the living but if they were, they would probably enjoy the attention, appreciation and respect shown to them on this day.



From far left: Young Cub Scout Webelos Jarett Nelson salutes the veterans. This family honors their dead and takes part in the ceremonies. Jeff Whitby plays "Amazing Grace" in full costume, on the bagpipes. Photos by Mathew Caine

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Brandon Tehrani



Jeremy Tejada



Mandy Thurman



Valeria Velasco



Casssandra Villalobos



Ayla Walker



Micah Warner



Ryan Watson



Rhyann Whaley



Emily Williams



Kassandra Wood



Alejandro Zuniga

Willits Weekly is proud to once again be able to publish the 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

SHERWOOD SCHOOL 8th Grade Grads

Below: Back row, from left: Alexander Miya and Scout Smith. Middle row: Maybelline Lawson Michels and Nora Martin. Front row: Ely Bowles. Submitted images



WALDORE SCHOOL 8th Grade Grads

Congratulations to the Waldore School of Mendocino County's graduating 8th graders!

Back row, from left: Parker Prout, Indigo Senerchia, Jade Arbayo and Tiah Ross.

Front row, from left: Kaspar Gennert, Leo Moratti and Mrs. Kelly Austin.

Submitted images

WILLITS CHARTER SCHOOL 8th Grade Grads

Submitted images



Charlotte Atwood



Ricardo Comins



Ana Espinoza



Riley Faust



Kyler Hall Jimenez



Quincy Hawley



Ayla Hinman-Foss



Rhyann Holder



Jayden Jordan



Clarah Lacy



Cadence Lewis



Zahyr Lopez



Calvin Loupy



Caleb Luna



Griffin O'Rear



Soren Pinelli



Enzo Vaccaro



Mason Valente



Audreyann Young



Mariah Zaragoza



Above: Recreation Grove Park is a perfect summer setting for the annual Willits Chamber of Commerce Car and Bike Show. At right, above: Norm and Katrina Kessen pose with their 1946 Hudson two-door business coupe. At right: Rich and Luke check under the hood of a muscle car. They are at the car show because Rich is knowledgeable about cars from watching car shows and has helped his dad restore a 1956 panel car. At right, below: Peggy Bonds and her husband, Rickey, pose with Peggy's Thunderbird. Peggy, from Clearlake, said the car is considered "resto-mod" [restored modern]. "The only thing original on the car is the body," she said.



Above: Ray Oldham, left, and Tom Moore showcase Oldham's rare 1953 Ariel Square Four, which won Best of Show Bike. Photo submitted by Gloria Westby

Memorial Day Motors

Recreation Grove Park filled with motorized gems on Sunday for the Willits Chamber of Commerce Car and Bike Show

The 2021 Car and Bike Show was created in a mere five weeks after the COVID ban had been lifted around large gatherings. The Willits Chamber of Commerce, with help from the Shifters Car Club and the Willits Wild Bunch, quickly pulled the event together.

Owners registered their vehicles for the event that brought 68 cars and 13 motorcycles to the deep shade of the valley oaks in Recreation Grove Park on Sunday.

Vintage vehicles in different stages of restoration and use delighted the community at large with everything from a restored 1931 Ford Model A owned by Allyn Thompson from Ukiah, to old and unrestored Volkswagens.

New this year and a wonderful addition were the Sonoma County Corvettes. They were invited to participate by Willits Shifter member John Yde.

From talking with some of the vintage vehicle owners, one gets a sense of the passion and commitment some of them have. It was fun to hear different stories about how they acquired their gems.

One man told of getting his 1971 Ford Torino 18 years ago from neighbors who needed money to pay bills. He was a single dad and has been restoring the Torino now and then, when he can through the years.

Norm Kessen said he inherited the 1946 Hudson two-door business coupe from his father when he passed away in 2007. His dad rebuilt the motor, adding new parts. "There's not too much left on it that's original," he stated and added that he and his wife, Katrina (who also MC-ed

the event), like to take it out once and awhile to car shows.

Bill Baxter moved to Willits in 1978 and had a number of old vehicles he brought with him. He said he started the car shows in Willits 40 years ago with Chamber of Commerce Director David Forsyth.

"The very first year we were dragging cars out of barns with chains. Some cars had never been washed. For many years the car show was known as the Bob Hansen Car Show. When Bob died, they auctioned off about 115 of the cars he'd collected."

It was fun to see a restored 1954 Willits police car. Jim Montalvo, a member of the Shifters Car Club, explained how it came to be, "I bought the car many years ago and it was just a green four-door sedan. You can't make a hot rod out of that! You can either make a taxi cab or a police car."

"Then we found that Willits had a '54 police car," continued Montalvo, "so we tore the green car all apart, right down to the frame, and completely rebuilt the whole car. Twelve of us spent Wednesday nights over a period of about five years. We only worked on Wednesday nights." They continue to this day getting together on Wednesday nights for Boys Night Out.

This year the committee guessed there wouldn't be many entries and were pleasantly surprised by the turn out. They had decided to have only two awards: a Best of Show Car and Best of Show Bike awards. The Best of Show Car is

Read the rest of **Car Show** Over on Page 10

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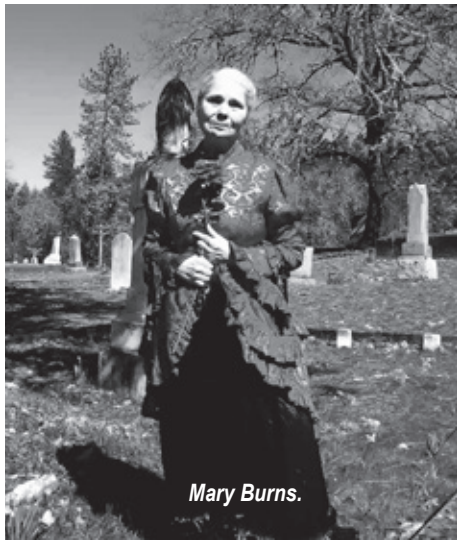
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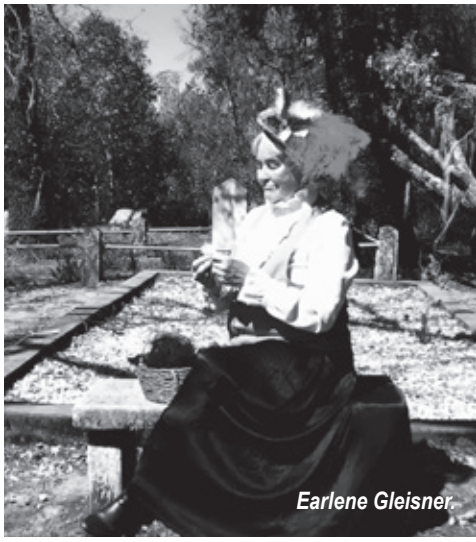
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Photos courtesy of Phaedra Swearingin



Mary Burns.



Earlene Gleisner.

'Spoon River Anthology' online at WCT

"Spoon River Anthology," written by Edgar Lee Masters in 1914 and directed and produced by Phaedra Swearingin in 2021, is available for streaming at the Willits Community Theatre's web-site: www.wctperformingartscenter.org/spoon-river.

As originally published, "Spoon River Anthology" is a collection of 212 free verse poems, each an autobiographical epitaph of a dead citizen, delivered by the dead themselves. The show con-structs a picture of life in their town that is shorn of façades.

Swearingin has selected and filmed 25 poems, spoken and acted by 15 of our community's more accomplished actors: Aris Vellis, August Kaster, Bruce Andich, Earlene Gleisner, Garrett Moore, Henry Shebitz, Jeff Shipp, Jennifer Dulan, Kathy Vellis, Kevin H C Moore, Liz Delleit, Mary Burns, Mike A'Dair, Miranda Swearingin, and Virginia Ryan Hanley.

– Submitted by Willits Community Theatre

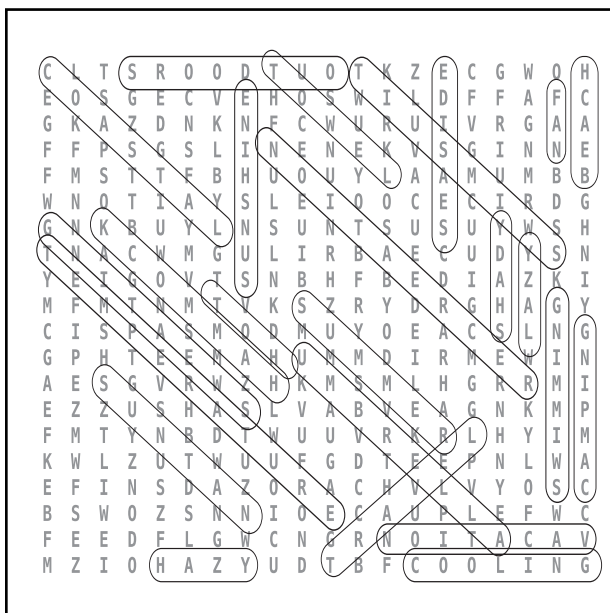


Kevin H C Moore.

MENDOCINO COUNTY
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Substance Abuse Counselor I/II
Vocational Assistant

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

WW323

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2021-F0259

The following persons are doing business as Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owners: Jason M. Logan and Alicia L. Logan, 451 East Hill Road, Willits, CA 95490

This business is conducted by a married couple.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on October 1, 2020.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 6, 2021.

/s/ Jason M. Logan

Publication dates: May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2021

WW326

**CITY OF WILLITS
SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-21**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 26, 2021 at a regular, noticed meeting the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2021-01: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLITS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 15.02 OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISHING A DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF THE LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Ordinance No. 2021-01, Chapter 15.02 of the City of Willits Municipal Code, establishing a development impact fee program on behalf of the Little Lake Fire Protection District ("District"). The Ordinance also sets forth the District's requirements for annual administration of the development impact fee program.

A certified copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 2021-01 is posted and may be read at the City Clerk's office, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, CA.

The foregoing ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting, held on the 26th day of May 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Gonzalez, Kanne, Stranske, Rodriguez, and Strong.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.

This summary of the adopted ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code Section 36933.

s/ Cathy Moorhead
Deputy City Manager / City Clerk
Publication Date: June 3, 2021

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Estate Sale
Estate Sale on June 5th, Saturday only, from 8 am to 5 pm, at 1507 Acacia Place in Brooktrails.

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.

Help Wanted
Outreach Worker, Assist Seniors in Obtaining Services. This is an entry level, earn as you learn position. Send resume to wsidirector@willitscenter.com. Or pick up job application at 1501 Baechtel Rd. (Senior Center). Or call Richard Baker @ 459-6826 to inquire about this position.

Help Wanted
Senior Center Thrift Store is hiring a Cashier/merchandise processor and stocker. Send resume to wsidirector@willitscenter.com or pick up application at 1501 Baechtel Rd. Please include 3 references

The Fruit Group
Apricots \$34 a lug, early nectaries & peaches \$33 a lug. Thurs. morns. June 10, 19, 24. Call Brenda 459-9335 or thefruitgroup95490@yahoo.com

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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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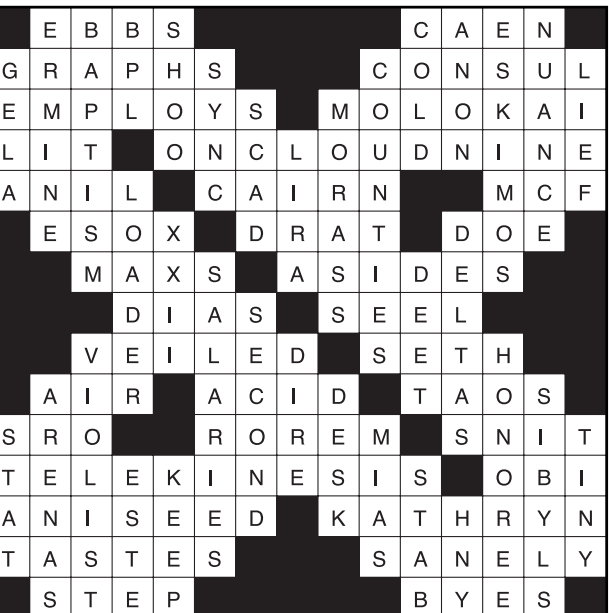
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the pandemic restrictions, some still in place but recently able to have people sit inside at a limited capacity. The owners, Matt and Stephanie Duncan, whose other restaurant in Ukiah has been a mainstay for the past seven years, offered discounts and a prize wheel.

Nor Crawl Fabricators, who recently moved from a building behind Willits Tires to occupy the main building, arranged for a huge bounce house and slide for the kids in the shape of an off-road vehicle. They also sold snow cones, for which the proceeds would go to Sober Grad, as the owners, Chris and April Lamprich, have a soon-to-graduate senior. The centerpiece of their celebration was a dunk tank occupied by April Lamprich herself, who seemed to be enjoying the cool water on this warm afternoon. She



Photos by Mathew Caine



didn't even mind when the littles cheated and walked up to the target and hit it with their hands.

The south end of Willits is more than a place to drive through or to pick up necessities. It is a thriving business-oriented community that is an integral part of the town. "It's just nice to get out," said Josh Potter, "especially with having to live under all the COVID restrictions. We're starting to open up a bit more. You get to see people again – friends, family. That's what it's all about.

"Willits is a great place for people supporting each other," added Potter. "COVID has hit the small businesses hard. This says, 'we're not giving up.' Hope never dies. People don't think about the south end of town. They just drive right through. Maybe people will start realizing how much there is down here. There are so many different areas that make up this town."



At left: Iriana Fagan gives away favors, hats, Frisbees, and other keepsakes for O'Reilly Auto Parts. Above: Claire Case-Brackett, Sweetheart for the 2021 rodeo, attends to sell tickets to the attendees.

Outgoing Maggie

Maggie is a social butterfly – so much so that she wants to explore her neighborhood and meet everyone. Secure fencing and a family who is home a lot will be important for this cutie. Maggie would thrive in a family with folks who enjoy taking their dogs out and about with them – she would be very happy with that arrangement! Maggie enjoys car rides and does well with dog-social dogs. Her previous guardian describes her as an athletic, sweet-natured, intelligent dog. Plus, she is housetrained. Mags is a 4-year-old hound mix, weighs 40 pounds, and is spayed. She is ready to sniff her way out of the shelter and into your heart.

For more about Maggie 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.

Joyful Casey Jones

Who is that umpa lumpa of love you ask? Oh, that is our buddy, Casey Jones! This boy is back looking for love again at no fault of his own. He first came to us in August of 2020 after his owner had passed away. He was adopted shortly after but it did not work out. That is okay,



Outgoing Maggie



Joyful Casey Jones

we are always here for our furry little friends. Casey Jones is one happy guy, even with all his hard times lately. He always has his tail wagging. He enjoys his doggie friends, scratches, and good grooming. He has become a crowd favorite with our volunteers, and with that face, can you blame them? Casey Jones is 5 years old, current on vaccines, neutered, and about 90 pounds of love and kisses.

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 catteam@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.

the 1938 Chevy Humpback Sedan owned by Jim Owen in Redwood Valley. Best of Show Bike is the rare 1953 Ariel Square Four owned by Ray Oldham from Eureka.

Oldham's best friend, Tom Moore, told the story of how Oldham acquired his prize winner: "In his younger days Ray had bought two Ariels but he was unable to find parts or info on them, so he was unable to get them running. He sold them, but he always wanted another one. Two and a half years ago he told me, and so with help from a friend of mine, we searched the country via the internet and found this beautiful Ariel in Scotts Valley, California. We started showing it so others could enjoy the bike as much as we have."

Congratulations to the winners! Awards were sponsored by METALx.

It was well worth taking the time to talk with these bike and car owners. They have a wealth of experiences and are full of fascinating information, humorous or harrowing experiences, and tidbits of history. It was a great way to spend some family time on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

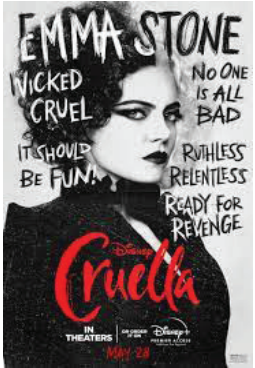
'Cruella'

The Story: Disney live action origin story of Dalmatian-addicted Cruella de Vil, a revenge comedy bio-pic with cute doggies and dubious characters. Cruella (Emma Stone) is an orphan pickpocket, but she dreams of being a dress designer. She works/causes various kinds of trouble at a high-end fashion studio run with an iron fist by the ultra-narcissistic Baroness (Emma Thompson). Cruella and the Baroness are opposites, one poor and young and on the street, the other owns a castle and everyone in it. But they do have certain quite distinct qualities in common. They are natural-born rivals, and their punch/counterpunch battle makes for funny colorful one-upmanship fashion gags.

My Thoughts: There is a dump truck load of intertwining story elements all piled atop each other. Will Cruella find out the truth about what happened with her mother? Will she succeed as a dress designer to become more than a fashionista wanna-be? Will she become a ruthless, self-centered ego-monster? As the flick ended, it's hard to say. But one thing is made clear: It's Emma Stone on the big screen, and she is strikingly beautiful in down-scale working girl rags or couture ensembles.

Parents: The movie is not "101 Dalmatians." I'm not sure what age-group this flick was designed for, probably ages 10 and older. Adults will enjoy it. The characters evolve, and the story-line is complex, perhaps too complex for tiny ones. And big warning, it has Disney Bambi Syndrome. Spoiler: Cruella's mother dies suddenly at the beginning. The loss of a Momma can shock and frighten little children ... a lot.

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



"economic uncertainties."

There was lots of information about extra funding coming the district's way to reopen and restore that which COVID closed and compromised.

And there was a long list of building projects in progress, completed, or contemplated.

Board president Alex Bowlds introduced Willits Unified's new superintendent Aldridge, saying that "some of you may recognize Joe because he was employed by the district back in 2013."

His employment in Mendocino County stretched over four years, 1.5 of them as elementary principal in Round Valley Unified and 2.5 in Willits Unified as tech director and alternative school principal – Sanhedrin, Community Day, Independent Study, and Sherwood, according to his LinkedIn page.

Aldridge was brief, but enthusiastic, as he introduced himself.

"I'm very excited. My family's very excited to come here to serve our community," he said. "Over the last eight years, I spent four years in Lakeport as director of student services, and I've spent the last four years as superintendent down in Tuolumne County, not too far from Yosemite."

"I'm just so excited to bring that learning back and just to be a part of the district," he continued. "And I'm excited by the discussions we've had tonight just to be able to be part of the team implementing that and to be part of the team moving forward."

The "discussions" Aldridge was referring to related to the two new district programs – a K-3 reading initiative and an English learners program.

They're both works in progress and major undertakings, so timing for implementation is uncertain.

"You do need to decide a priority," said outgoing superintendent Mark Westerburg. "Are we going to jump out of the gate with EL [English learners] ... or are we going to try and do it with the K-5 reading?"

"You can try and do both," he continued. "But you're talking about a lot of staff in a short period of time, and if they come from your existing staff, then you have that inculturation of new people that has to happen."

"There has to be a systematic understanding of which one we are going to target first," he said. "It doesn't mean the other one stops; it just means the other one might start in January."

The elementary reading initiative was "something we started a couple of months ago," said Bowlds. "The idea was to try and find what resources ... we need to put in place to make sure the vast majority of our kids, K-3 or K-5, are at grade level as they move through."

A lot of people are working to make it happen, including, and taking a leading role, elementary school principals, Kathleen Crossman (Brookside) and Nancy Runberg (Blosser). Also involved, "a host of retired teachers ... and a growing number of teachers and administrators as well as board members," said Bowlds.

But there's room for more.

The request has gone out district-wide for anyone and everyone that feels they can make a contribution to this process to please get involved," said Bowlds. "We are reaching out to you to get involved.... We are genuinely interested in making an impact here, and hopefully it'll pay dividends for years to come."

The district's other new endeavor, the English learner program, is similarly under construction.

deavor, the English learner program, is similarly under construction.

"We are starting it from scratch, and building it back correctly," said Westerburg.

Baechtel Grove principal Maria De Los Munguia described the approach being taken in developing the new program, and assured the board that "we will have something in place" when school starts this fall.

"They're multilingual learners," she said. "You're ... using their native language to support their learning of English."

"A big emphasis is the validation of both the culture and the native language ... building in ... the celebrations of their culture ... using their native language to support their learning of English," she said. "Another part is to make sure we have integrated ... English language development into every subject."

Trustee Jeanne King wondered "over the long run, how are we going to fund this?"

Westerburg had the answer, if "over the long run" is defined as the next three years.

Because that's how long additional federal and state funding related to ameliorating the effects the pandemic has had on education will be coming to the district – money to pay for schools to safely reopen and stay open and to mitigate the setbacks in learning from over a year out of the classroom.

Specifically, those funds are an ELO (Expanded Learning Opportunity) grant from the state and ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) funds from the federal government.

"These are targeted funds ... that are going to go to very specific things that have to do with learning gap loss, trying to solve some of those issues," said Westerburg. "These are not spend them however you think makes the most sense."

To qualify for ELO funding, the district had to have an approved plan for a "learning recovery program" in place by June 1.

Westerburg presented the plan. The board approved it.

"This gives you a road map.... It's not locked in stone," said Westerburg. "This is based on where we're at now, what's our best guess of how to do this. There's no dollar figure here that's locked in."

"If somebody has a better idea that comes to the surface, you adjust the plan," he said. "But we have to have a plan that shows the feds 'thank you for the funds. We understand your rules. These are the things that will help Willits Unified address the learning gap.'"

"This is one year. You get your ESSER one and your ESSER two monies the following years."

Some highlights of the road map included K-8 summer school, transport "to make sure they get to summer school ... software, instructional material, and testing ... to address learning gaps, and summer school for Sanhedrin and the high school.

Community organizations are also included in the funding plan.

There's "\$45,000 for a Nuestra Alianza summer math program for 100 kids, and Mendocino Youth Project will probably be providing services for families and kids in crisis.

"Food service is going to continue to be on their seamless summer program where they hand out meals to any kid," said Westerburg. "You don't even have to be our student, you just have to be here and under 18."

He assured the board that there would "be enough money over the next three years, about a million and one [each year], to sustain those

four or five years ago, when "similar questions came up" about the county library budget. "Speaking with the auditor and CEO's office and library staff about the budget, I think we could easily resolve any questions, ask any questions, and if changes are needed, we'll make them," he said.

– Jennifer Poole

'A Year Unlike Any Other'

by Lynn Zimmermann, chair, LAB

Introduction

Like everything else in our experience during the last 15 months, library operations have been framed by the impact of public health restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been almost two years since a Library Advisory Board Annual Report was presented to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The last in-person meeting of the Mendocino County Library Advisory Board, aka the LAB, took place in January 2020.

At that time, the calendar for the six yearly meetings was approved as per custom. The LAB met on the first three of these dates in March, May and July on Zoom in an "information only" format – no actions were taken nor were minutes recorded. Then, in September 2020, formal meetings resumed with the agenda posted 72 hours in advance, and public access made available to the Zoom meetings.

The library advisory board welcomed Library Director Deborah Fader Samson, on January 25, 2021. LAB welcomed Larry Riddle as the Pt. Arena City Representative in January 2020. The District 1 LAB seat has been open since January, 2021.

On March 17, 2020, all library branches closed their doors in accordance with pandemic-related public health guidelines. During this period, services to patrons continued in the form of online requests and programs, to-go activity kits, and curbside pickups. Notice of these services was regularly posted on social media.

Library employees served in pandemic-related tasks and positions as re-directed by the County of Mendocino, under the provision that they support county-wide emergencies. We ask for reimbursement of \$157,580 to the library budget for their hours of service in this capacity, from FEMA and the general fund.

On March 29, 2021, the libraries began opening to the public, two afternoons a week at 25% capacity for short grab-and-go visits. On April 22, the library branches began operating five afternoons a week at 50% capacity for up to 45 minutes. And on May 18, libraries plan to open five days a week, six

hours a day, at 100% capacity for up to one hour visits with some outdoor programming. The libraries will continue to require masks and social distancing. Data shows that patronage, county-wide, is trending up towards pre-pandemic levels.

Budget

The Mendocino County Library system would look very different today had it not been for the passage of Measure A in 2011, with an overwhelming 73% of the vote. Funding from Measure A has meant that all branches and the book-mobile remain open; a materials budget exists; libraries are well-staffed; and children's librarians have returned!

Today, a decade later, the current operating budget shows that reserves, that peaked in 2017, have declined dramatically since then.

The allocation for collections has declined in the last two years as well.

and larger).

Eventually all the supervisors were swayed to vote for that except Third District Supervisor John Haschak, who was the only one to vote against that motion and the vote for approval of the ordinance.

One frequent point of discussion was the requirement that the county would have to do a full environmental impact report, or EIR, if they didn't finish the new ordinance by June 30. This could potentially cost the county hundreds of thousands of dollars and take multiple years.

County Counsel Christian Curtis said that having the cap of 2 acres and trying to increase it later could potentially make it more costly and time-consuming

Contributing factors appear to be routine and deferred maintenance costs and A-87 costs. The A-87 charges have increased significantly from year to year. As we consider this, the question arises: are A-87 capital improvement and depreciation costs being incorrectly charged to the library budget?

To address these concerns, we advise the board of supervisors to recommend the formation of an ad hoc committee, composed of members of the board of supervisors, the library advisory board and county staff.

Historically, the county has had no mechanism in the library budget for capital improvements. Recognizing this, the Mendocino County Library Strategic Plan was developed by the library advisory board and presented to, and approved by, the board of supervisors at their last joint meeting in 2019. The three goals of the plan are:

- Develop a capital improvement fund dedicated to the long-term capital improvement of all the library facilities in Mendocino County.
- Develop a long-term plan for the improvement or replacement of the Ukiah Library.
- Develop long-range plans for all branches and future branches
- Renew Measure A 2022

As citizens as well as library advisory board members, we are moving forward with a community-driven initiative to renew and extend Measure A in perpetuity by an additional 1/8 of one cent, for a total of 1/4 of one cent, in November, 2022. If adopted, the revised Measure A will dedicate 80% of the new revenue, or 40% of total revenue, to capital improvement expenses.

As pandemic-related restrictions allow, we plan to hold meetings in every community in the county to roll out the proposal to renew Measure A in 2022; to raise public awareness, and to gain support. We will encourage citizens to join with us to gather signatures to put the initiative on the ballot in November 2022, and then work together with us to pass the measure with the same success that Measure A achieved in 2011.

In conclusion

All branches of the Mendocino County Library System served as an anchor in their communities during the year of library closures. During this period, library staff provided innovative programs and services to patrons, and emergency services to citizens, as re-directed by the county.

During this period of time, the library advisory board and the Renew Measure A 2022 Planning Committee continued to meet on Zoom. The Friends and Working Groups of the Library met on Zoom, as members were able, and planned for programs for patrons and ambitious capital improvements for facilities, for the time when the libraries would re-open.

The library budget shows a significant decrease in reserves. Allocations for library collections have also decreased in recent years. At the same time, A-87 charges to the library budget have increased significantly. To address these concerns, we advise the board of supervisors to recommend the formation of an ad hoc committee, composed of members of the board of supervisors, the LAB, and county staff.

As both citizens and library advisory board members, we are planning for a community-driven effort to renew Measure A in 2022. If adopted, the revised Measure A will dedicate 80% of the new revenue, or 40% of total revenue, to capital improvement expenses.

On behalf of the library advisory board, I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work of the library staff in extraordinary times, and the impressive volunteer efforts throughout Mendocino County, to build, maintain, and enhance free public libraries in their communities.

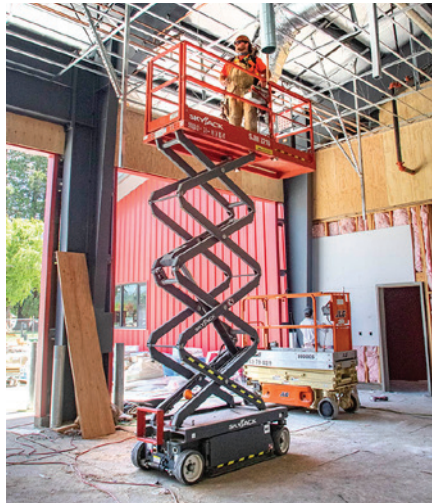
for the county in the future. That was the other option the board seriously considered near the end of the meeting around 4 pm, before making their decision.

Most of the other changes approved Wednesday involved finetuning of the language of the ordinance, though the supervisors also directed staff to bring back information on other ways to more strictly regulate certain cannabis cultivation through amendments to the ordinance in the future.

These suggestions included more severely restricting the construction of new hoop houses, banning water truck deliveries except in cases of "emergency," and looking into ways of restricting people and organizations from "stacking permits."



At top, left: This space on the Commercial Street side of the firehouse will have an electric sign board to inform Willits citizens. At top, right: Fire Chief Chris Wilkes inspects the kitchen / day-room area. Above: The exterior of the firehouse is almost complete, showing a welcome face on Commercial Street.



Above, left: Superintendent Marty checks out the structure in the bays.
Above, right: Crew member Nester levels the room through use of a laser-projection device.
At left: Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes shows where the nickel-plated brass fire bell will be placed.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Finishing Touches

Little Lake Firehouse nears completion as the interior takes shape and utilities are installed

“We’re looking at mid to late August for occupancy,” mused Little Lake Fire District Chief Chris Wilkes as a crew of workmen was busy putting finishing touches on many of the rooms inside the new firehouse. Painting, tiling, electrical, and other utilities were being worked on as Willits Weekly got its final tour of the construction prior to the completion.

Wilkes stood in the room that was to be his office, mentally measuring the space, seeing which way his desk should face and getting a feel for how it would be to be back in operation in a building that will be state of the art, convenient, utile, and aesthetically pleasing, a focal point in a hoped-for renaissance of the area.

“It’s funny how the progression of things happen,” continued Wilkes. “It’s exciting to get a new firehouse. We love it. But after the amount of time it’s taken, I just want to get back to having engines on both sides of town so we can be under normal response.

“We’re going to leave five engines at our other facility on Baechtel Road. All of our antique engines are out there. We have 10 engines plus a couple we have in storage, including a water tender and a ladder truck and our antique vehicles.

“Some of our engines are sitting outside right now,” he explained, “our wildland engine and the type three. They’re under cover but outside. Ultimately, these are expensive pieces of machinery and you have to keep them inside to ensure longevity. John Thomen, deputy chief and maintenance supervisor, keeps his machines completely squared away and he doesn’t like anything to be outside.

“Our ladder truck is nearly 32 years old,” said Wilkes. “It still works perfectly. In fact, John gets comments when they do the ladder testing. That’s the nicest of that vintage ladder truck they deal with because John takes pride in his equipment and takes care of them. That’s why we can keep things for 30 years. The fire trucks that sit around are hard to take care of. They have a lot of functions. They’re hard to work on.”

The close to \$9,000,000 price tag was high but in the long run, the building will provide greater fire and emergency access and security, and may save money by mitigating the loss of property and lives. Additionally, the building being built to various codes and restrictions will allow the fire department to grow. Hopefully, in the future, it will be able to

accommodate either a more robust full-time staff or with the four dorm rooms and kitchen facilities, allow for visiting fire crews to take advantage of the ability to be in residence for whatever time they might need to be in the area for specific tasks.

Wilkes considers the building as belonging to the people of Willits and will consider usage by various groups of the training room, which is well equipped with three screens and various other pieces of equipment, for meetings or other functions. He would like to see the facility be utilized as much as possible by the people of Willits.

The front of the building will have an electronic signboard designed to inform the citizens of current fire conditions, emergency information, or even social events that would be of interest to those passing by. Little Lake Fire District number 54 is designed to be a full-service facility to protect and enrich the lives of the residents, who are financing the building through a bond issue.

“We can put any kind of needed information here,” said Wilkes. “Burn-day status, Little League tryout schedules, service organization function. It’ll be a way to put some things out to the community. The big thing is that during a disaster, the billboard will tell people where they should go or give them any other kind of information they might need.”

The massive engine bays in the back section of the building will be heated through the floor to ensure that the area remains warm even when the huge doors are open.

The traditional fire bell, made of brass and plated in nickel, is getting a place of honor next to the building where it can be seen by all who pass by. However, it will not be functional, and there will be no noon bell to alert the citizens. There will be a generator, capable of powering the entire facility in the case of one of the valley’s all-too-frequent power outages, in order to maintain the emergency-response capability of the crew.

The bright red people’s firehouse is a welcome sight in Willits. It declares the will of the citizens to value their town, their property, and their lives. On September 11, soon after the completion of the building, a celebration / fundraiser is going to be held, under the direction of the Willits Rotary and in conjunction with many of the other local service organizations. The family-friendly event will raise funds in order to better equip the firehouse and crew with furniture and other needed equipment. Residents would do well to mark their calendars.

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