

Willits Weekly

Online & Print



EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 406

Thursday, June 10, 2021

Senior Center dining room reopens June 15

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Harrah Senior Center in Willits is reopening for inside dining on June 15, Director Richard Baker told Willits Weekly, with a grand re-opening of the whole facility planned for July 1.

"The first thing is our soft reopening on June 15. That'll be for dining only," Baker said. New hours for inside dining will be 11:45 am to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. "We're offering no other services in person at present. We're still doing outreach services and offering loans of medical

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

Fish & Wildlife info on pot busts

In response to inquiries from local media about law enforcement activity in Mendocino County, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Public Information Officer Janice Mackey issued the following statements about unpermitted cannabis eradication in Laytonville and Willits.

On June 4, wildlife officers with CDFW served a search warrant on the 5200 block of Hargus Road in Laytonville. Support was provided by a CDFW environmental scientist and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

The search warrant was part of an investigation into deer poaching and illegal cannabis cultivation.

Prior to serving the search warrant, a thorough records

Read the rest of **Busts**
Over on Page 4

MCSO: Domestic violence arrest

By Sergeant Mike Dygert for MCSO

On June 3 at approximately 9:54 pm, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a domestic violence incident at a residence located at the 3100 block of Ridgewood Road in Willits.

Deputies contacted an adult female, 26 of Willits, and Anthony Cape, 29, of Willits, in front of the residence. Deputies learned the adult female and Cape lived together romantically and were involved in an argument

Read the rest of **Arrest**
Over on Page 11



Photos by Maureen Jennison

Con'GRAD'ulations 2021

Above: Willits High School seniors spent the days leading up to Friday's graduation ceremony practicing for the upcoming event. Below, from left: Xander Jennison smiles as he walks across the stage. Jace Kroh holds his 2021 tassel as Conner Lech smiles from the bleachers. Ceder Lowham kicks up a foot for her practice pose on the stage. At bottom: Practice makes perfect!



THE PLAN: Willits High School Graduation for the Class of 2021 Start Time: 5 pm Friday, June 11 at Maize Field at WHS

Number of immediate family members who can attend: 6 – due to current covid conditions

All graduates are to provide the school with an accurate list of who will be attending. The attendee list information was collected Monday, June 7 and Tuesday, June 8 during senior check-out.

Check in:

All attendees are required to check in at the ticket booth located next to the concession stand at the south end of the football field. **If a guest is not on the attendee list, they will not be admitted to the graduation ceremony, per California Department of Public Health guidelines.**

Seating during ceremony:

Graduates will be seated in the stadium facing west, spaced 6 feet apart, and wearing masks.

Immediate family members will be seated in chairs that will be grouped together on the football field, facing east towards the graduation stage and stadium seating. Please feel free to bring your personal folding chairs.

All guests are required to wear masks while attending the graduation ceremony. Seating is on a first-come, first-seated basis. The gates will open at 4 pm.

All graduates are asked to be on site by 4:30 pm and to meet at the outdoor basketball area next to the gym.

Read the rest of **Graduation**
Over on Page 12



Willits High School proudly announces co-Valedictorians Claire Case-Brackett and Aleen Hernandez and Salutatorian Amy Andrade for graduating Class of 2021



Supes OK pot expansion 4-1

After months of hearing fierce opposition from many in the community on the matter, on June 2 the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved the new "Phase 3" cannabis cultivation ordinance with a 4 to 1 vote, including the controversial expansion of cultivation up to 10% of parcel size for those 10 acres or larger in Agricultural and some Rangeland zones.

The ordinance, titled "Chapter 22.18," is now set to almost certainly be officially adopted with a final vote later this month.

Citizens groups behind two separate referendums opposing all or part of the ordinance are now gearing up to send out volunteers once it passes to begin collecting enough signatures to qualify for a special election and let the voters of the county decide the matter.

While there is no official date scheduled yet for the final BOS vote on the ordinance, the supervisors and county staff have been working to get the ordinance passed before June 30 when the state is set to begin requiring local jurisdictions to conduct county-wide environmental impact reports, EIRs, for such ordinances. By some

Read the rest of **Expansion**
Over on Page 11

COVID surge may have stabilized

By H. Andrew Coren, MD

Every level of our nation has been hit hard with the number of cases and deaths from COVID-19. As of this June 8 report, the overall impact includes:

United States (328.2 million population) has had 33,371,667 cases, or 10.2% of the population, with 597,840 deaths, or .18% of the population.

California (39.5 million population) has had 3,690,868 cases, or 9.3% of the population, with 62,473 deaths, or .16% percent of the population.

Mendocino County (86,749 population) has had 4,239 cases, or 4.8% of the population, with 50 deaths, or .056% of the population.

Mendocino County's testing positivity rate is 4.5, consistent with the orange tier, and new positive cases are now 6.78 per day per 100,000 tests, consistent with the red tier. We continue to be held "in adjudication" in the yellow tier. Currently there are 45 people isolating in their homes in Mendocino County, while 46 are in quarantine.

There are currently six hospitalizations: in Ukiah

Read the rest of **Stabilized**
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Gleaners grants to farmers

To the Editor:

The Grateful Gleaners' plant sale was a wonderful event this year! As always, it was a joy to spend time in the sun surrounded by beautiful plants and the people who love them.

The Gleaners are excited to share the money we raised with local farmers and organizations. A limited number of grants are available for organic regenerative farms working to help strengthen food security in the Little Lake foodshed. Past grants have been used for purchase of specific tools, irrigation, fencing, and similar projects.

Interested farmers can email the Gleaners (gratefulgleanersofwillits@gmail.com) with a short description of the project that you are working on. Please apply before June 30, and grants will be awarded by the end of July.

The plant sale's success is thanks to the generous patronage of community members, and to the many volunteers and plant donors. The Grateful Gleaners are especially appreciative of contributions from Tam & Kashaya Adams, Ellen Bartholomew, Jennifer Burke, Buttercup Farm, Dianne Carter, Candice Clayton, Maggie Graham, Robin Goldner, Karen Gridley, Katie Jeane, Richard Tootreese Jeske, Randy MacDonald, Verne Morninglight, Marisela de Santa Ana, Barbara Sicard, Wally Stahle, Sparetime Supply, Nan Trichler, Ann VanderHorck, Phoenix VanHardenbroek, Barbara Willens, Don Willis, and Tom Woodhouse. Thank you all!

The Grateful Gleaners, Willits

Driest ever

To the Editor:

I have weed-wacked through the month of May. By mid-month, with continuous wind all month, the grass weeds were so dry they crumbled to dust. This continuous daily wind all through May has given our community the driest environment I have ever seen here.

I would like to express thanks and prayers to everyone in our community and neighboring communities who prepare and engage in unceasing help to get us through fire season and all emergencies which come along throughout the year. Many responders are volunteers.

I would like to also thank Caltrans, whose job keeping the roads safe and open never ends. We and our neighboring communities are now able to get a faster emergency response time with the advent of the Willits bypass. Emergency convoys of trucks, dozers and endless equipment are able to move faster to their destinations.

Please get a second viaduct up as soon as possible to again increase the response time and safety of responders having this clear and direct road to emergencies. Thank you.

David Pollin, Willits

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

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 9, Number 406
3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

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THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

June 2021 update

New cannabis ordinance

By Supervisor John Haschak

The new cannabis ordinance with expansion is going forward. The cultivation of 10% of rangeland and ag lands was approved 4 to 1 with direction given to staff to bring back language later in the summer to limit it to 2 acres for the near future.

There are some good things in this new ordinance, such as no water hauling, some restrictions on hoop houses, prohibition of generators as primary power sources, but the overall impact of large expansion was the prime reason I voted no.

Mendocino County needs to show that it can handle the current cohort of people in the permitting process, properly enforce the rules that we have already, and have a robust law enforcement response to the proliferation of illegal grows in our county. People are rightly concerned about water, environment and community, and their voices were loud and clear.

It has been a pleasure to give out my scholarships to graduating seniors from the Third District. Over the last three years, I have given out \$27,000 in scholarships. That feels good! This year, there are three new, amazing recipients from Willits, Laytonville and Round Valley.

Julissa Perez of Willits High School is going to Sacramento State with the goal of becoming a clinical psychologist. She envisions assisting her community with public service work.

Round Valley's Jade Johns will be going to the College of the Redwoods and majoring in Psychology. She wants to be a substance abuse counselor with the goal of helping people with drug and alcohol abuse problems.

Mateia Taylor from Laytonville High School will pursue teaching special education students. She will attend Hawaii Pacific University and study Psychology. Mateia is the first in her family to go to college and has been very much involved in community activities.

Best wishes to all these graduates, and I look forward to great contributions to our communities in the future.

Supervisor McGourty and I are the ad hoc committee for drought response. We are hosting a Countywide Drought Task Force Zoom webinar on June 10 at 4 pm. We will discuss the formation of a county water agency, voluntary water reductions, and other efforts to help us deal with this historic drought. The address is too long to put here but it will be on Mendocino County's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Best wishes and stay well.

Willits Garden Club meets June 15

The Willits Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, June 15 at the Willits Harrah Senior Center, located at 1501 Baechtel Road. Meeting begins at 1 pm, outdoors on the patio, on the far side of the dining room. The Senior Center requires either proof of full vaccination, or proof of negative COVID test within the past 72 hours, for entrance. Bring your COVID proof with you! The public is always welcome to Garden Club meetings.

The Senior Center serves a great lunch every weekday, including coffee and dessert, for a very reasonable price. During the COVID-19 restrictions, lunch has been a to-go operation, but June 15 it is expected to begin service in the dining room. New hours for indoor dining will be: 11:45 am to 1 pm, and to go lunch will be available from 12 to 12:30 pm.

A printed menu for June is available online at www.willitsgardenclub.org. The menu for June 15 is Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole, with veggie, roll and salad.

The Willits Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of each month, from 1 to 2:30 pm. For more information visit our website, www.willitsgardenclub.org, and "like" Willits Garden Club on Facebook, or call Fran at 459-8733.

— Submitted by Willits Garden Club

Blackberry Festival seeks new logo

The 39th annual Round Valley Blackberry Festival is planned for the weekend of August 21 and 22 this summer (*subject to current public health orders). The festival features arts and craft booths, blackberry delicacies, Mendocino County wine tasting, a climbing wall, children's games, and live music throughout both days. Admission is free!

Organizers are seeking a new T-shirt logo, and will award a \$200 prize to the winning submissions. Deadline is June 20: please email to roundvalleyblackberryfestival@gmail.com or mail to Round Valley Blackberry Festival, PO Box 459, Covelo, CA 95428

Visit <http://www.roundvalleyblackberryfestival.com/> for more information about the festival.

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 their recommendations with the ad hoc committee. Members of Executive Office and Transportation staff will also attend.

To join via Zoom, click the link: <https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/89729587112?pwd=ZVh2Skx3RCs4c2VxSU82ZDhtcEFUOT09>

To join via phone, dial: 1-669-900-9128 and enter the webinar ID: 897 2958 7112; Passcode: 665233

The webinar will also be streaming live on the County's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/mendocinocountyvideo>) and the County's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/>).

For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Executive Office at 707-463-4441 or ceo@mendocinocounty.org

Willits Senior Center Indoor Lunch

The indoor dining room will reopen June 15 for fully vaccinated diners, at least two weeks after their final shot, or those with proof of a COVID-19 test in the last 72 hours. New hours: from 11:45 am to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. Indoor meals still \$5 through June. Please bring vaccination card or proof of a COVID test in the last 72 hours.

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

The Willits Senior Center will continue to provide drive-thru and walk-up meals, from 12 to 12:30 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, even after the dining room reopens. Prices for drive-thru and walk-up to go lunches will remain at \$5 through June, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation and Sparetime Supply (thanks to Mike Griggs, Sr. and Andrew Hosford).

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 10: Ground Beef Nachos, Green Salad

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

Monday, June 14: Philly Cheesesteak, Mashed Potato Puffs

Tuesday, June 15: Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole, Veggie, Roll, Green Salad

Wednesday, June 16: Carnitas Burrito w/Rice, Beans, wet with Green Sauce

Thursday, June 17: Pasta Carbonara, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, June 18: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

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



'Redwood Roots'

Train rides, steam-powered machines, and big trucks at Redwood Region Logging Conference hosted by Roots of Motive Power

Logging is an integral part of the history of Mendocino County. Since the mid-1800s, when trees were cut by hand and hauled off by horse and oxen teams, the multitude of stately old-growth trees have brought hearty workmen to the area to make their living from the vast forests of coastal hills in Northern California.

Around the 1880s, the innovated steam donkeys helped streamline the workload by making it possible to move greater amounts of materials in less time and the advent of the railroads made hauling the trees to the mills easier and more efficient. Later, in the 1930s, huge trucks were employed in moving the trees to mill and market, along with gas and diesel machinery, replacing much of the steam-driven technology.

Much of this history of logging, steam and diesel were in evidence last Saturday as Willits' own Roots of Motive Power hosted the Redwood Region Logging Conference, an annual event which traditionally has been staged at either the Ukiah or Eureka Fairgrounds where most of the 18 board members reside. The theme this year was "Redwood Roots, Redwood Communities, Redwood People."

"We put on the annual logging conference, alternating between Eureka and Ukiah," Katherine Ziemer, executive director of the RRLC explained. "Last year, because of COVID, we didn't have a conference. We were going to have the conference one week later than when everything closed down. We had everything ready to go. We had everything hired, rented and reserved, and we had to cancel everything. We tried again this last March and we just couldn't get the permit because of the restrictions still in place. We extended our time to June 5.

"We're still under a number of COVID restrictions," she added. "This is all outdoors."

The Redwood Regional Logging Conference has been in operation for 85 years. "We have never run out of exciting, motivated people for the board," continued Ziemer. "Many

of them are second-generation. People want to be on the board because they know how much good we do for vocations, for the timber industry, for public relations, education for the loggers, fire safety for everyone, and a variety of things that affect the natural resources.

"We promote the ecology, clean water, clean air, population of fish in the streams – we have biologists on our board for fish restoration," she said. "We have loggers, foresters, public-relations people. We have a variety of people who want to promote our natural resources industry."

In addition to promoting their industry and the ecology, the conference provides \$15,000 in scholarships to high school and college students as well as other educational activities.

For Roots of Motive Power, having the conference on their grounds was an extremely welcome opportunity to "steam up" and run some of their antique steam-driven equipment to exhibit to the public. With the easing of some of the COVID restrictions, families were once again able to ride the old Port of Olympia II along the trail in the yard, enjoying the open-air cars, taking photos, putting their hands over their ears to protect them from the shrill train whistles as they watched the plumes of steam rise from the mighty engine.

As they circled Roots, they could see the tons of ancient steam behemoths, vehicles and other pieces of equipment from the days of steam-driven industry, some working, some being worked on, and some incomplete, but all extremely fascinating windows into the history of Mendocino County.

A steam donkey, used to drag lumber up a hill to a place it could be carted to the mill, was in operation. A WAS Straddle Buggy and a Big Wheels pulled by an antique tractor moved around the grounds. Two old circa 1925 MAC AB and AC flatbed trucks were parked by the station for the kids to play on and "drive." And, of course, the Kelly

Read the rest of **Conference** | Over on Page 9



At left: Families are wowed, seeing the logging trucks up close at the Redwood Region Logging Conference on Saturday. Above: Young Marvin dreamed of driving his own truck – this one is the MAC AB-25 flatbed. Below: Mac AB and AC models, circa 1925, are available for kids to make believe they can drive. At bottom: Roots of Motive Power board member Alexis England is excited to be holding the conference at Roots.



At top: Riders had a great time on the open-air cars, waving to passersby. Above: Some of the huge trucks are on display for kids to marvel at. Below: Two attendees try to figure out this piece of machinery in the Roots yard.

Far left: The WAS Straddle Buggy, which was used to move logs around a lumber yard, is on display at the Logging Conference.

At left: Mark Colp of Wooden Creations carves a logging truck to use as the back of a bench.



Photos by Mathew Caine



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Starts Thursday, June 17:
HITMAN'S WIFE'S BODYGUARD

Movie Times for June 11 thru June 17, 2021

IN THE HEIGHTS

(PG13)
2 hrs 23 mins
Fri., June 11 thru Sun, June 13
4:30 & 7:30pm
Thurs., June 17 4:30 & 7:30pm

A QUIET PLACE, PART 2

(PG13)
1 hr 37 mins
Fri., June 11 thru Sun., June 13
5:30 & 8:00pm

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Private Screening Rules

- *You may bring your own movie on Blu-ray or DVD
- *Console & internet gaming is possible
- *You may screen any currently running Noyo movie
- *Small theater 35 people max - big theater 100 people max
- *No outside food or beverage allowed
- *No advertising, promotion, or selling tickets to private shows

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JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

7			5			9		
	4				6		8	3
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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!

SUMMER FUN WORD SEARCH

B	U	C	R	A	C	S	E	S	T	G	N	B	H	B	E	K	M	M	R			
Z	C	B	O	D	H	E	P	R	A	R	A	C	E	T	S	R	A	C	K	S	E	F
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AMUSEMENT	CIRCUS	MIDWAY	SALES
ARCADE	CORNDOG	MINI-GOLF	SEASIDE
AUCTION	COTTON CANDY	MUSIC	SPARKLERS
BALLOONS	FERRIS	PARADE	SUMMER
BAND	FESTIVAL	PARTY	SURFING
BARBECUE	FIREWORKS	PIES	SWIMMING
BAZAAR	GAMES	RACES	TICKETS
BOARDWALK	GO-CART	RACETRACK	TOURIST
CARNIVAL	MARINA	RIDES	WHEEL

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58										59		

CLUES ACROSS

- Most courageous
- Insurance giant
- Small trace left behind
- In a way, signals
- The same letter or sound at the beginning
- The Great Lakes State
- Engage in a contest
- Drinks served to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- Manpower
- Undivided
- Strong, magnetic metal
- People of Tanzania
- Sorts
- Cop car accessory
- Trade
- Sullen and ill-tempered
- Distinctive practices
- Motor vehicles
- Electrodes
- Polish river
- Human feet
- Make very hot
- Toppin and Kenobi are two
- Blackbird

CLUES DOWN

- Expressions of approval
- Replace the interior of
- Not awake
- Roman numeral 7
- Sun up in New York
- Institute legal proceedings against
- Bugs homeowners don't want
- Maltese-Italian composer
- Very long period of time
- Touchdown
- Agents of downfall
- Complacently or inanely foolish

- Argentina capital Buenos ___
- County in New Mexico
- An electrically charged atom
- New Zealand conifer
- Type of brandy
- Comments to the audience
- Tears down
- Gifts for the poor
- More painful
- Good friend
- Lying in the same plane
- Line in a polygon
- Clouds of gas and dust
- Norse god
- Health care pro
- Close tightly
- One's holdings
- Became less intense
- Wilco frontman
- Woman (French)
- Expresses delight
- TV channel (abbr.)
- Beverage
- Unit of work or energy
- Cleaning accessory
- Dorm worker

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

May 31 to June 6

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **160 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 31

6:56 am: WHITE, Ariana Laurissa (30) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. She was arrested pursuant to 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

8:47 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

10:05 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

June 1

8:15 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 of North Main Street.

12:36 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

June 2

5:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of North Lenore Street.

8:44 pm: **MOLINA, Daniel Emilio** (29) of Vallejo was contacted in the 400 block of Coast Street. He was arrested on felony charges of burglary.

June 3

12:05 am: **HENDERSON, Skylar Ty** (22) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order), 148 (A) PC (Resisting Arrest), 11364 H&S (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).

7:30 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:52 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of Madden Lane.

1:49 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

The rest of Busts

From Page 1

check was conducted on the property to determine what steps may have been taken to secure a state license. In this case, no state license or county permit to cultivate commercial cannabis was obtained.

The site was located on unnamed tributaries to Rattlesnake Creek and Tenmile Creek – both of which feed into the South Fork Eel River watershed.

CDWF has documented many species of concern in the area, including steelhead, Chinook salmon and the Foothill Yellow Legged Frog.

Environmental violations and impacts observed on the site included:

- Two on-stream dams, which impounded the natural stream flow.
 - Several unpermitted, undersized, and inappropriately installed stream crossing culverts on roads used to access cannabis cultivation sites.
 - Delivery of sediment, which is deleterious to aquatic life, from unpermitted stream crossing culverts.
- Over 2,700 illegal cannabis plants were eradicated, and 24 pounds of processed cannabis and 187 pounds of shake were destroyed.
- Additionally, evidence of potential wildlife poaching activity was discovered and seized, along with ammunition and high-capacity magazines, while serving the search warrant.

A formal complaint will be filed with the Mendocino County District Attorney's office. No other information is available at this time.

2:51 pm: Officer initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

6:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

11:43 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Holly Street.

June 4

2:37 pm: **ALVAREZ, Jack Steven** (58) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

6:47 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Street.

11:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

June 5

12:02 am: **RAY, Elizabeth Grace** (38) of Ukiah was contacted in the 300 block of North Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher.

12:43 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Trembley Court.

7:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject near the intersection of East Valley Street and Railroad Avenue.

9:26 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue.

June 6

6:23 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted person in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:42 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Manor Way.

6:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

9:31 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

4,100+ plants on Buckhorn Road

CDWF PIO Mackey also issued the following statement about activity on Buckhorn Road last month:

On May 11, wildlife officers with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife served a search warrant on the 1400 block of Buckhorn Road in Willits. Support was provided by a CDWF environmental scientist, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Mendocino County Code Enforcement.

Prior to serving the search warrant, a thorough records check was conducted on the property to determine what steps may have been taken to secure a state license. In this case, no state license to cultivate commercial cannabis had been issued. An application to cultivate cannabis at the property had been previously denied by the County of Mendocino.

Environmental violations and impacts observed at the property included:

- A manmade dam that was impounding the natural stream flow
- An illegal water diversion that was used to irrigate cannabis plants
- Sediment placed where it can pass into waters of the state
- Unpermitted stream crossings
- Cultivation areas with deleterious materials located near waters of the state

Over 4,100 illegal cannabis plants were eradicated, and over 75 pounds of processed cannabis were destroyed.

A formal complaint will be filed with the Mendocino County District Attorney's office. No other information is available at this time.



Above, from left: The volunteers meet at the Thimbleberry trailhead to receive instructions. Everybody helps clear the limbs and trunks off the trail. Part of Gooseberry Trail that has already been cleared – this is how the trails should look.

At left: Mike Mondo, who previously worked for CalFire, skillfully handles his chainsaw on a tree trunk that was blocking the trail.

Below: There is a lot of work to be done on Thimbleberry Trail.



Trail Cleanup

January snowstorm made a mess of Thimbleberry Trail – Willits Area Cyclists and volunteers begin the long process of cleaning it up

"Unofficially, I've been doing the trail maintenance for four years or so," stated Adam Sherf of the Willits Area Cyclists. "Officially, this is our first Trail Day since we officially adopted the trail system for maintenance. There's a huge amount of work to do by several people, not just me."

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

"I'm on the Brooktrails Greenbelt Committee," he continued. "I went to Brooktrails the week after the snowstorm in January when all the trees fell down. I told them there was a big problem on the trails and that we needed to clean them up. Crystal Bowles and I hiked around and kind of inventoried the downed trees on the trail system. There was something like 250 trees that had to be removed from the trails."

"We printed up a map," said Sherf, "and asked Brooktrails what could be done. Could we have CCC [California Conservation Corps] groups come in or the Parlin Fork prisoners, the fire department, volunteer work parties. They said they didn't want people running around with chain saws. They didn't have the funds to pay an actual crew."

Sherf spends a lot of his time on the foot and bike paths of Brooktrails and feels a responsibility for their upkeep and maintenance. His organization is dedicated to providing a safe system of bikeable trails for the people to use. In operation since 2015, Willits Area Cyclists have built, maintained and mapped trails for cycling enthusiasts, trails which can also be utilized by people who would rather walk and enjoy nature at a slower pace.

Sunday morning, 13 volunteers and one enthusiastic and energetic dog, Abu, assembled at the Thimbleberry trailhead to sign releases, hear about safely working together, and receive their assignments. They split into two groups, one to continue up Thimbleberry, and the other to proceed up Gooseberry Trail, to locate, break down, and remove the myriad of trees and limbs that made passage virtually impossible for those on bikes and difficult for those on foot.

Volunteer Chandler Seward, a trainer at Family Tree Service, apprised the group of the need to respect the power of the tools and limbs, and the need for caution and teamwork. There were professionals among the volunteers, such as Mike Mondo, who had previously worked with CalFire. The rest of the work party was happy to listen to the suggestions and warnings as all wanted to be safely engaged in the coming task.

"I've walked the trail with my family," said Seward. "There's a lot of stuff, a lot of stored energy. People get injured from all sizes of limbs, by hitting them with enough force. I know."

"I use communication like crazy," continued Seward. "If I'm going to buck or limb, I'm going to holler out. I've almost killed people before when I did not pay attention. The pieces are unpredictable when you cut them. They can go many directions. Watch out. Be our brother's and sister's keepers. It's the little things that always bite us in the butt."

Sherf then divided them into the two groups and they proceeded up the trail. It did not take long to see the devastation left behind by the snowstorm of January 26. Trees and limbs crisscrossed the trail in seemingly a never-ending web of debris.

Those veering off up the Gooseberry Trail had a long hike up to near the top to find the area where clearing was required. The several participants who carried chain saws, both gas and electric, went first to break the trunks down into moveable pieces after stripping the limbs. The remainder of the workers cleared the logs and limbs off the trail.

"We're not hauling any of the limbs or trunks out or doing any chipping," explained Sherf. "We are just clearing the trails for recreational use. It would be a tremendous amount of work with specialized equipment to haul the slash, brush, or any fuel loads."

Hopefully, one of the fire protection agencies will be able to obtain the funds to complete the fire mitigation and stream clearing prior to the fire season coming into full force. However, there are many acres that need to be cleared from the storm and it seems unlikely that any of the groups will be able to do more than helping to alleviate the fire fuel from around homes.

"We had to get insurance, sign some MOUs [memorandums of understanding], we are now the official trail stewards of Brooktrails," said Sherf. It is good to know that there are people and organizations in the area that care enough to put in the work necessary to provide a healthy and safe recreational outlet for the local residents.

"I'm here because I care. I care about the community," explained Seward. "I care about every single person that's a part of that community. I have three children that love to play outside, so I love the outside too. My kids are 3, 5 and 7, primo ages to just get lost in their minds out in the forest. Just understanding the dangers associated with trees and vegetation, I kind of felt that my obligation and duty was to get out here."

For those who may wish to participate and volunteer in future work days, please go to the Willits Area Cyclists Facebook page for more information on upcoming projects, www.facebook.com/wactrails or their website: https://wactrails.wixsite.com/ride.

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Library Summer Reading Program 2021

Submitted by the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

Mendocino County Library is delighted to announce the beginning of our Summer Reading Program! This year's theme, "Reading Colors Your World," is an exploration of humanity, nature, culture, and science with an emphasis on using reading to expand your world through the lens of kindness, growth, and community.

The 2021 Summer Reading Program is open to all ages: children, teens, and adults, and begins on Friday, June 11. Please stop by your local library branch and pick up your reading log. Online pre-registration is open now for individuals and families using the Beanstack website or app. To find out more about how Beanstack works please visit mendolibrary.org or call your local library branch for help.

Participants who reach the reading goal of



7 hours for children, or 15 hours for teens and adults will receive a prize while supplies last. This year we have a community reading goal of 100,000 minutes! Mendocino County Library branches will host various events and programs to celebrate Summer Reading either online or in person – conditions permitting. Please visit your local branch for a list of events and programs, or check out our website for further information. www.mendolibrary.org.

The purpose of the Summer Reading Program is to encourage literacy and prevent learning loss during the summer. Through programs and reading challenges, Mendocino County Library wants to encourage reading and promote literacy for all ages. For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency at 234-2873.

At right, from top: Sorghum is a relative of corn, but needs less water and little fertility. It is gluten-free and grinds easily into flour. Growing flowers is a good idea no matter what else you want from your garden. This is Lemon Gem Marigold providing pest control for tomatoes. Jericho Romaine is a great choice for lettuce in summer. Fercita amaranth is a gluten-free grain bred right here in Willits by gardener Ellen Bartholomew. It is a perfect choice for growing your own cereal. These Calypso beans are easy to grow and really live up to their other names, Orca, or Yin-Yang beans. Planted now, they will be dry and ready to store in late summer.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier



COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

June: It's not too late to plant

This topsy-turvy year is still giving us surprises: This week has been so cold that I put some of my tomato starts back into the greenhouse. And no, it's not too late to plant!

June is the perfect time for direct-sown crops like beans, corn, melons, squash, sunflowers, cucumbers, and okra. It is also planting time for gluten-free summer grains like amaranth, sorghum, flour corn, and popcorn. (And if this cool weather keeps up, you might be really glad for an extra row of cabbages, lettuces, peas, or broccoli, too.)

Even with cooler weather than usual, June is the month of fastest growth for most plants. The longest days of the year mean more energy from the sun to power photosynthesis and growth. Most plants are in the vegetative phase of their life cycle, when they are stretching stems and multiplying leaves, doubling in size every week or two. Moderate warmth is optimum for growth; cooler climates produce larger plants. Higher heat is more helpful when plants are ripening their fruit – whether it's a tomato, a pepper, a squash, or an apple.

Unfortunately, the long days of June power explosive growth with weeds too. This is the critical time for eliminating them, before they make seeds that will be an even bigger problem next year. Most weeds are deeper-rooted and more efficient at finding water than vegetables are, so if there is competition for water, the weeds will win.

This is a good time to address that

old saying about a weed being just an unwanted plant, or one in the wrong place. Nope. Very few plants behave like true weeds; you won't see corn or zinnias or even California poppies – no matter how unwanted – taking over your garden the way weeds do. A weed is a plant that fills a specific niche (areas disturbed by humans) with a specific kind of behavior (fast growth and lots of seeds that can lie dormant in the soil for years).

It's not just your imagination; weeds really are super-plants. Many of our common weeds are tetraploids – mutant plants with extra chromosomes that make them bigger, faster, deeper-rooted, and more aggressive than normal. Certainly more aggressive than our vegetables, which have lost many of their natural defenses in order to be more succulent, more sweet, more tender, and more easily harvested for our tables. If cultivated plants are like our pets, weeds are coyotes. With that in mind, I just treated myself to a good sharp precision hoe. Skimming a sharp hoe across the beds to cut off tiny weeds takes just a few minutes, and this year I plan to do it often.

Then, I plan to put down a lot of mulch to keep them from coming back. Straw is a classic standby for mulching – readily available, cheap, easy to handle, and quickly breaking down into nutrients for next year. You don't need to get your straw from a bale, either. If you're cutting grass and weeds on your property, the easiest, cheapest, and safest thing to do with it is

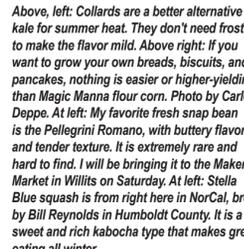
it as mulch. (Don't pile it up and leave it – the center of a big pile can get so hot it catches fire. Spread in a thin layer, it's safe.)

Another problem-solving mulch is ramial chips. I'll write about them in more detail in another column, but here's the gist: The branches of hardwood trees and shrubs (less than 3 inch diameter) have more nutrients than wood from the trunk. When chipped, this branch wood (called "ramial") makes a good, soil-building mulch.

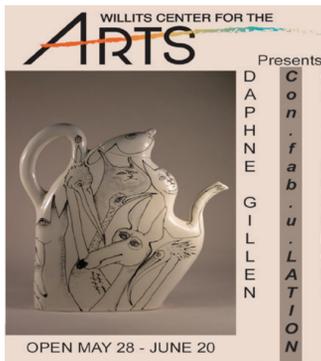
All over the county, downed trees, dying shrubs, and too-dense saplings are presenting a fire danger. Turned into chips and spread under garden plants (CalFire suggests a layer less than 4 inches thick) the problem can become a solution, keeping moisture in the soil and plants better hydrated, besides smothering weeds. When you can turn a problem into a solution, you're doing something right.

Note: I'll be at the Maker's Market in Willits this Saturday at the old Rexall lot. Come and talk gardening at my Quail Seeds booth from 11 to 4. It should be a fun event.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in Alaska and California and taught gardening in schools, as well as living in a remote cabin and commercial fishing. She wrote the *Bountiful Gardens* catalog from 2009 to 2017, and is now the proprietor of Quail Seeds, www.quailseeds.com.



Above, left: Collards are a better alternative to kale for summer heat. They don't need frost to make the flavor mild. Above right: If you want to grow your own breads, biscuits, and pancakes, nothing is easier or higher-yielding than Magic Manna flour corn. Photo by Carlo Deppe. At left: My favorite fresh snap bean is the Pellegrini Romano, with buttery flavor and tender texture. It is extremely rare and hard to find. I will be bringing it to the Makers' Market in Willits on Saturday. At left: Stella Blue squash is from right here in NorCal, bred by Bill Reynolds in Humboldt County. It is a sweet and rich kabocha type that makes great eating all winter.



Special closing reception for 'Confabulations' at WCA

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts presents Gail Rushmore and Daphne Alexander in "Confabulations," a mix of made-up memories with a special closing reception on Friday, June 18, from 6 to 9 pm by popular demand at the center at 71 East Commercial Street (next to the Noyo Theatre).

The team has been waiting two years to present their work at the WCA. Last year's show was cancelled because of the virus.

Daphne Alexander has been a supporter of the WCA for years, donating to auctions and placing work in group shows. From Redwood Valley, she lives with her husband, Brian, on an art-filled world with sculpture, ceramics, and mosaics created by them both. She will be featuring her humorous ceramics of dogs, rams, and demons.

Gail Rushmore from Ukiah will display her portrait paintings of women along with ceramics and sculpture. Gail tells us, "In my best artistic moments, I am unbound by media and my joy is in the creative process, exploring different ways to tell a story. Being multi-faceted, a true Gemini, I am semi-scattered yet able to focus. I love the spontaneity of paper and paint, the thought and planning process involved in mixed media assemblage, and the challenges of working in clay."



Maureen Jennison of Mphotographress, and co-founder of Willits Weekly.

Soroptimist Third Tuesday Speaker Series

Soroptimist International of Willits invites you to Zoom with us for our Third Tuesday Speaker Series. This month, Tuesday, June 15, at noon, features speaker Maureen (Moore) Jennison, of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly.

This is a FREE event and everyone, everywhere, is welcome! RSVP to: SiWillits@Soroptimist.net for the Zoom Link

Maureen (Moore) Jennison started her photography business in 2012. Originally just a hobby, she thought it would be a fun play on words to call herself a "photographress" ... as in waiter/waitress, photographer/photographress. But as the business grew and marketing continued, now she's in too deep to change it to a more pronounceable, spellable name. But the work stands for itself, thankfully.

Over the last almost 10 years, Maureen has photographed

hundreds of families, people and events and continues to enjoy her work. Maureen works with many local schools to photograph students every year, she does many photography jobs with the Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma county hospitals, and continues producing visually striking images (and doing the layout for) for Willits Weekly, the newspaper she co-founded in 2013. Maureen enjoys many other graphic projects including building the Soroptimist International of Willits Telephone Directory as well as the Willits Frontier Days annual program as well as other projects for businesses and organizations around town.

Maureen recently married Matthew Jennison and the two are expecting their first child in late July. #Soroptimist100 #SoroptimistsDreamBig

– Soroptimist International of Willits

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'A Quiet Place 2'

The Story: Prequel and sequel to 2018's human-flesh-eating-aliens-from-outer-space horror thriller, "A Quiet Place." In that smash hit first flick, a family manages to survive without making any noise. And now, that family, and everyone else in the world, is still under constant deadly threat. This flick chronicles the family members' mostly mute, tip-toeing efforts to find a safe place beyond the reach of the toothy aliens. Scary. Very scary.

My Thoughts: Some monsters need killing. Gross needle-teethed flesh eaters. Yeah. Kill 'em. Tormentors of deaf folks. Yeah. Kill them too. Paralyzing fright? Man up! Learn to overcome fear, or die by it. That's called character arc in movie script lingo. John Krasinski directed and co-wrote, and his wife, Emily Blunt starred, and was, as usual, stunning. What a great script. And what a clever, suspenseful, grisly movie. Rotten Tomatoes agrees with me (though they never called) and gives this horror/thriller 5 stars and a 91% positive rating. I'll make it 6 stars. And for all you true film geeks: William Friedkin, director of "The Exorcist" called "A Quiet Place 2" a horror classic. Can't beat that.

Parents: Clearly not for children. Much too scary and suspenseful. Tell them no, even if they whine. But feel free to terrify the teens: ages 12 and up seems appropriate.

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



OBITUARY |

Warren Sawyers

Warren Harvey Sawyers, age 80, went to be with the Lord on April 17, 2021 with his family and friends by his side at his home in Willits.

Warren was born in Willits and was the great-great-grandson of one of the original settlers of the Willits Valley. He is preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Klooz Sawyers, and his parents Harvey and Muriel Sawyers.

He is survived by his three daughters: Stephanie, married to Glenn Negri and daughter Emily; Rebecca, married to Walter Kirkland; and Christine, married to Steve Nourian and daughter Britney (married to Jamison) Plaskett and sons Elijah and Joshua.

He is also survived by his sister Vernlyn Farnsworth and sister-in-law Sue Sawyers.

Even though Warren was overcome by brain cancer in his final resting days he still had a sense of humor, kindness and an "I have a solution to fix it" attitude.

Private family graveyard services will be held at Little Lake Cemetery. An open house and visitation with the family will follow on Saturday, June 12, 2021, from 1 to 6 pm on the porch overlooking Warren's favorite view of the pond at 1400 East Hill Road.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to an organization that Warren cherished.

As a builder himself, he treasured this organization because they build homes so orphans can be adopted by Christian families in their own countries. Go to: hopehouseinternational.org or send to HopeHouse International, P.O. Box 807, Ooltewah, TN 37363

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Above: Big Chief is located off of Highway 101 in Laytonville. At right: Tom and Paulette Evans from Modesto are on their way to Oregon and stop at Big Chief for lunch. Below, left: The Cast Iron Vegan Burger is a mouth-watering spiced "beyond meat" burger with all the condiments; they also have fries and side salads to go with the burgers and other entrees. Below, right: The Chief's attractive outdoor patio is inviting.



Photos by Ree Slocum



At left: The Seamans Family from Sonoma County stops at the Chief frequently on their way through Laytonville. At left, below: Chief owner Matt Paradis commutes from Fort Bragg twice a week to help out at the Chief, doing everything from washing dishes to clearing tables.



'Pop-up Experiment'

Big Chief Drive-In in Laytonville gets a new kitchen and name

One of Laytonville's favorite restaurants, the Big Chief, closed during the pandemic. Owners Matt Paradis and Troy Terrill were between a rock and a hard place making the decision. Before closing they knew they'd revisit the idea of opening their doors again when things loosened up enough to make it possible.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Ronnie and Jessica New had been visiting Paradis, Terrill, and other Laytonville friends for years. The News are chefs who've

worked in New York and recently, San Francisco. "A lot of my good friends live up here, so I've been coming up and hanging out," he told. "I've been chef-ing in the Bay Area and 2020 threw us a big curve ball. Both my wife and I got laid off from our jobs, so we came up here to figure things out."

Almost immediately Paradis, Terrill, and the News found this to be a perfect opportunity. "My wife and I were in limbo. Troy and Matt were in limbo. It seemed like a good fit, temporarily. Here was an opportunity to shortly rebrand the Chief and Draft Punk and do our own thing. So, it's a pop-up experiment," New explained. For all intents and purposes, the new business venture is called "The New Kitchen and Draft Punk" which often gets a chuckle.

Of course, there are some changes. They're open Mondays through Fridays from noon to 6 pm and will continue only serving food and drinks in their comfortable, tree-shaded and attractive outside patio.

News Kitchen's menu has some echoes from the Chief's menu, like burgers, salads, and daily specials. Now there are Corn Pups, Bacon Wrapped Dates, different dips, and varieties of wings. The special Monday was Apricot Glazed Sparenibs with potato salad. And there's a kid's menu, too.

Like the Big Chief owners, the News are also committed

to using Tim Hurt's Covelo grass-fed beef, local fish from the coast, and produce from local farmers as well as the Food Hub.

Draft Punk, the name of bar inside the old Big Chief, is known for its regional micro-brewery beers, kombucha, and other specialty drinks. "Ronnie has pretty much given us the opportunity to focus on Draft Punk while he runs the kitchen," explained Terrill. "So, I'm really putting an effort into keeping Draft Punk what it was even though everything else is kind of different."

"Our window of time selling beers and drinks has narrowed. That's giving me the opportunity to use that time with just building the specialty stuff," Terrill said. He's in contact with the various breweries and other drink purveyors and keeps an eye on their lists of what's new.

"Ronnie, the New Kitchen, and Draft Punk are committed to running this thing out to the end of summer," said Paradis who fills in doing this and that on Mondays and Fridays.

"We will continue serving outside until October. After that, it's a pop-up experiment with October 1st the end of the run. Then we'll see what happens next," New said.

In the meantime, it's a beautiful place in Laytonville to kick back, enjoy great food and well-curated drinks on a shaded patio with friends.

For more information and special events, visit their Facebook page: "The New Kitchen and Draft Punk," or call 707-984-6770.

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The rest of Conference | From Page 3

Springfield steam roller was in operation to thrill and intrigue the young ones.

"We are super excited to have the public be able to enjoy these," said Alexis England, Roots board member. "We've done a few events through the pandemic. It's been heartbreaking not to be able to have people in to enjoy them with us. We're excited that things are beginning to reopen and we can share the rides that kids love."

In accordance with state and county restrictions, the RRLC provided a sign-in table where attendees who wanted could obtain masks and sanitizer and fill in their information in case they needed to be contacted regarding any unlikely outbreaks occurring at the event.

Across Commercial Street, the field was filled with modern logging and transportation equipment provided by Pederson Tractors, 101 Trailers and RV Supply, and various trucking companies. Huge log haulers were there for the families to approach and marvel at, as well as a couple of antique logging trucks perched on flatbed trucks.

The Redwood Region Logging Conference also put on a dinner for 200 of their members outdoors behind the museum, later in the day. "We are so appreciative for the people in Willits who have reached out," exclaimed Ziemer. "Roots of Motive Power have partnered with us and are having their open house today. We love them. They have been so good. They let us just have the run of the place to have our event."

The rest of Dining | From Page 1

equipment by phone."

"In order to come to the senior center," Baker said, "anybody entering the facility must be fully vaccinated," with two weeks having elapsed since the final shot, or they must show a negative COVID-19 test taken within the last 72 hours.

"We don't want to discriminate," Baker said, "but we are going to have a safe environment at the Senior Center, so people won't have to wear masks. We're being abundantly cautious, because we have such a vulnerable population."

"We're going to have a sense of normalcy at the Senior Center - we're really looking forward to that."

Willits Senior Center will still be offering drive-up and walk-up to go lunches from 12 to 12:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and Meals on Wheels will be delivered as usual.

Baker said local senior centers participated in a Zoom conference about reopening strategies, that also included Dr. Andy Coren, public health officer for Mendocino County. "I flew my idea by Dr. Coren about allowing the fully vaccinated and those with COVID testing, and he said 'That sounds great.' It's reassuring knowing the health care professionals agreed with our strategy."

The Senior Center has taken advantage of being shut down to in-person visits by remodeling, refurbishing and - next week - having Wake Mechanical Services install five brand-new HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems. "The old ones were over 30 years old," Baker said. "The ones going in are much more energy-efficient."

The old carpets have been ripped out, replaced by vinyl flooring, which can be easily sanitized. "We've wiped down all the walls, we've painted, we have new lobby furniture - we got rid of all our porous furniture," Baker said.

"I think we're going to get a lot of wow!s when people walk in the front door - everything is fresh and smells good."

The new HVAC equipment and many other projects were funded by a grant from a very generous anonymous donor. The grant "has been a godsend," Baker said. "Words cannot accurately express how much their financial support means to the senior centers."

One very important part of the Willits Senior Center moving forward is to reassemble the volunteer team - especially to help serve in the dining room. "We would like to have volunteers who have been vaccinated come and work in our dining room," said Volunteer Coordinator Deb Holcomb. Dining room volunteers are welcome anytime Monday through Friday, 11:30 am to 1 pm. Call Holcomb at 459-6826 for more info.

"It's been an extremely challenging year with trying to meet as many of the demands and calls for services, that we can," Director Baker said, "with no volunteers, limited staff - it's been very challenging. But our philosophy, my philosophy as director, when somebody has a need, it's not 'if,' it's 'how' - how can we meet this need."

Although 30 percent of the Senior Center's "workforce" is volunteers - many of them over 65 - the center is also looking for some paid help.

"We're still looking for an outreach worker," Baker said, "and also looking for a Thrift Store merchandise stocker. To inquire about those positions, email wsidirector@willitscenter.com or call Baker at 459-6826, or come by to get an application. "Be a part of an organization that really makes a positive difference in many people's lives," he said. "It's a very, very rewarding place to work."

Our board, our staff, and our volunteers are all fully vaccinated," Baker added. "Volunteers are required to be vaccinated. Everybody will be vaccinated - we're practicing what we preach."

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

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

LEGALS

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

WW324
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2021-F0279
The following person is doing business as Hatake Farm Kitchen, 50 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Ryo Muto, 204 South Hortense Street, Apt. B, Ukiah CA 95482.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 12, 2021.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 12, 2021.
/s/ Ryo Muto
Publication dates: June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Current Job Openings:
Chief Planner - Fort Bragg
Community Health Worker II - Part-time
Corrections Deputy
Deputy County Counsel II/III/IV
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
Disaster Recovery Field Operations Coordinator
Program Administrator
Senior Program Manager - Nursing
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Help Wanted
Surveillance Observer, Security Officer, Cook/Cashier, Slot Technician, Cage/Vault Cashier, Housekeeping. Full-time, various shifts, weekends, Salary: DOE, with benefits, gaming experience preferred, but not necessary. Applications can be found at www.svrscasino.com, Sherwood Valley Casino Admin. Office or e-mail HR at ktuttle@svrscasino.com.

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.oakvine.net/tp"

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

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

Willits Food Bank Open
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

Help Wanted
Looking for in-house masseuse to work out of chiropractor's office. Flexible schedule. Bring resume to 1225 S. Main St. or fax to 707-459-9484.

Yard Sale
Huge Multi-Family Yard Sale. Lot of new clothes with tags on, gently used clothes, shoes, baby items, household items, toys, and much more. Don't miss out! Saturday, June 19th, 2021 at 8 am. 300 East Valley St.

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.

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Word search grid with words like RACES, TRUCKS, and others.

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

Word search grid with words like BRAVEST, RESIDUE, and others.



Above, from left: Wrestler Josh Potter coaches his coach, Wayne Shull. Willits wrestlers Josh Potter, Iziah Folsom and Vladimir Bertolino. Willits wrestler Jordan Shull in a 12 and up match. Below, from left: Coach Wayne Shull, Alayna Folsom, Christopher Thompson, Iziah Folsom, Vladimir Bertolino, Josh Potter, Jordan Shull and Natalie Hunolt of the Willits Grapplin Pack. Willits wrestlers Natalie Hunolt and Alayna Folsom get ready to go.



Willits Grapplin Pack competes at Roseville championships

Submitted by Willits Grapplin Pack

Willits Grapplin Pack Coach Wayne Shull along with a small group of the Willits Grapplin Pack wrestling team went to Roseville this past weekend to compete in the CA Folkstyle Championships. This two-day event brought in some fierce competition. The tournament ranged in ages, under 8 all the way up to high school. There was even open adult brackets. WGP competed in almost every age group.

In 8U: Josh Potter 3rd place; Natalie Hunolt 6th place; and Alayna Folsom 7th place. In 10U: Iziah Folsom 2nd place; Vladimir Bertolino 6th place; and Josh Potter 6th place. In 12U: Jordan Shull 5th place; and Vladimir Bertolino 7th place. Middle School Boys: Christopher Thompson

High School Boys: Geovanni Bertolino and Trevor Wilson.

For the first time in 17 years, Coach Shull competed in the open men's 174 pounds bracket. The Willits Grapplin Pack team got to see their coach compete in a match, cheering and coaching him the whole time! It was a pretty amazing experience, to say the least.

We are really proud of these kids and their coach for all the hard work they put in. We are all looking forward to the upcoming wrestling season and seeing all these amazing kids get back to the sport they love.

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21+ to participate. Please drink responsibly.

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Lovely Maybel

Our light caramel sparkling ray of blissfulness gal Maybel is here requesting your help! This beauty wants nothing more than to ditch her kennel, jump right back into home life, and into your heart. Maybel is not just all looks though, oh no! She is a quick learner, loves to dance, enjoys a good cuddle session, a nice swim, and the kiddos!

Maybel did not care for her dog friends in her previous home, however, she did get along with cats, bunnies, chickens and livestock. Maybel is not too hard to please, whether it is a day of hiking and having adventure, or just lounging around on the couch binge-watching your favorite TV shows. Either way, it is a win-win for this girl! If Maybel sounds like your girl, apply today at www.mendohumansociety.com.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for

intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email 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.mendohumansociety.com to learn more.



located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendoanimalsshelter.com. For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

Affectionate Zip

Zip is total a love bug, and boy, he's like a wet noodle when he gets his belly scratched! Zip wants to be close to his people, which will make him a great companion for his new guardian. Zip will need a home with secure fencing and a guardian who has time to spend with him. Zip is 2 years old and 63 adorable pounds.

For more about Zip 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, visit: www.mendoanimalsshelter.com.

The four supervisors, county staff, and the corporate cannabis industry have been desperately maneuvering to get this ordinance through before July 1 so they can avoid doing a state-mandated environmental impact report," said Marianchild, author of "Secrets of The Oak Woodlands" and steering committee member of SOWWWW, in an email. "And after adopting this ordinance, they incredibly plan to adopt another one that will temporarily set the grow size cap at 2 acres before apparently letting it creep up to 3 or even 5 acres! It's all so confusing, the potential consequences are so great, that SOWWWW is going full steam ahead with a referendum that will put this ordinance to a vote of the people."

In addition, Jim Shields, supporter of Small Is Beautiful Mendocino, said in a June 6 column in the Ukiah Daily Journal that their coalition is continuing their referendum efforts as well. In his letter, Shields – who is editor of the Mendocino County Observer and the manager for the Laytonville Water District – gave an estimate that "conservatively speaking, 70 percent of county residents oppose the 10 percent rule and its direct causal adverse impact on our most valuable natural resource, water."

Chapter 22.18 does have some mitigations to alleviate impacts on water, including requirements that any applicant have their own water source on site with adequate supply, and that well water sites projected to use 1,500 gallons or more per day have a professional hydrological study done to assess impacts.

In addition the use of water delivery trucks is essentially banned under the

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The rest of Expansion

From Page 1

estimates an EIR for Mendocino could take the county years and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

With Third District Supervisor John Haschak as the lone dissenter, the board opted to include the "10% rule" in the ordinance, despite a recommendation from the Mendocino County Planning Commission after their most recent meeting to cap the maximum size of cultivation at 2 acres.

The board did consider going with that 2 acre maximum at the meeting, with the idea that they could potentially phase in larger size allowances in future years.

However after discussing it at length the supervisors decided to go with the 10% maximum, but did direct staff to bring back a new ordinance sometime this summer to potentially reduce the allowance to a 2 acre maximum, with the option to increase it in the upcoming years.

That idea was proposed by board Chair Dan Gjerde, but the motion eventually came from Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren and was approved with a 4 to 1 vote.

"My motion is to approve the Appendix A [chart with allowed cultivation sizes] without the planning commission recommendation to limit the acreage to 2 acres," said Mulheren, "and instead direct staff to bring back with a public hearing over the summer the phased-in rollout starting at 2 acres with no new licenses until 2023, and then to add more acreage."

This gesture was not enough to appease Haschak, who was skeptical.

"It's an interesting proposal, but I think that the people will see it as manipulation," he said. "And they will not be happy with the 10%. And then we'll spend more board time dealing with trying to put a cap on it later this summer."

"We heard over 400 comments for the planning commission and also for the board that this is not what they want," he said later in the meeting. "So go ahead and vote on it, but this expansion ... it's not what people want."

Based on the reaction from some in the community, it appears that Haschak may have been right about the chilly public response.

Organizers for both the referendums opposing the ordinance have come out to continue to publicly voice opposition since the vote, and are moving ahead as planned with their efforts.

The "Save Our Water, Wildlife, and Way of Life" referendum in the works would repeal the entire ordinance, while the "Small Is Beautiful Mendocino" referendum would repeal just the expansion to 10%.

SOWWWW organizers Ellen Drell and Kate Marianchild say that their group is continuing to train dozens of volunteers so they are ready to hit the ground running once they can begin to gather signatures.

"The four supervisors, county staff, and the corporate cannabis industry have been desperately maneuvering to get this ordinance through before July 1 so they can avoid doing a state-mandated environmental impact report," said Marianchild, author of "Secrets of The Oak Woodlands" and steering committee member of SOWWWW, in an email. "And after adopting this ordinance, they incredibly plan to adopt another one that will temporarily set the grow size cap at 2 acres before apparently letting it creep up to 3 or even 5 acres! It's all so confusing, the potential consequences are so great, that SOWWWW is going full steam ahead with a referendum that will put this ordinance to a vote of the people."

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Chapter 22.18 does have some mitigations to alleviate impacts on water, including requirements that any applicant have their own water source on site with adequate supply, and that well water sites projected to use 1,500 gallons or more per day have a professional hydrological study done to assess impacts.

In addition the use of water delivery trucks is essentially banned under the

ordinance even for those transitioning from Phase 1, except for use in "emergency situations."

However, those opposed to the ordinance, including Haschak and Willits Mayor Madge Strong, say that regulations on individual permit holders are not enough, and that an EIR is needed to measure the cumulative environmental impacts that significant expansion of cannabis cultivation could have in the county, particularly in the Rangeland zones.

During public comments, Strong said that without the EIR the county was essentially "flying blind" in allowing expansion.

"You do not have information," she said. "And I hope that you will simply do the right thing which is what Sonoma County recently did – put the whole thing on hold, do the [EIR], get the data that you need."

"When you do a 4 acre limit or a 2 acre limit, all of which is an enormous expansion from what's currently allowed, you are opening up this county to a whole different level of activity and, believe me, the residents don't want this," she continued. "It should not be done case by case. It's the wrong way. No cumulative impacts are identified. It puts an incredible burden on every single applicant instead of the county doing the right job in the first place."

During her presentation to the board, County Planning & Building Assistant Director Julia Acker Krog said there are a combined 11,200 parcels of Ag & Rangeland parcels that consist of 10 or more acres according to the county tax assessor, and those parcels make up 752,185 acres. That equates to roughly 30 percent of the county's total size.

Acker Krog was quick to point out that "many of the areas on these properties would likely not meet the required findings for being approved for cultivation permits."

The ordinance approved by the board did include the restriction that Rangeland cultivation permits can only be for sites only whose applicants can show proof of "previous agricultural activity" in the years from 2000-2016.

At the meeting the supervisors agreed to have the ordinance switch to the state definition for "agricultural activity" which is "the cultivation and tillage of the soil; dairying; the production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural commodity; the raising of livestock or poultry; and any practices performed by a farmer or on a farm as incident to or in conjunction with those farming operations including preparation for market."

At one point it appeared that the board might go with the 2 acre cap in the ordinance, with Gjerde seeming to favor it, and First District Supervisor McGourty beginning to lean that way.

"I think the other question is does this stave off a referendum?" asked McGourty. "Because the amount of work that's gone into this is extraordinary, and I think we have basically a pretty good product.... I guess what I fear is creating yet more chaos in an already chaotic situation.... So my thinking is that this could be revisited if we take a more conservative route now and build up some public trust, then I think we could move forward a little bit safer."

However, once again the looming EIR change came into play, with County Counsel Christian Curtis saying that the county starting with a larger 10% allowance prior to June 30 and then reducing it would be "less likely to trigger an EIR" than to begin with a 2 acre max and try and increase it later.

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams worried that the lack of flexibility to more easily increase the cap could negatively affect Mendocino's cannabis industry. "My worry is the bottom is going to fall out as other states come on line and stop buying California product, and other counties scale up," he said. "And are we going to get in a position where what we've allowed isn't enough to be viable, we see illegal activity at scale, we're back where we started, and now we're looking at a million dollar EIR?... So I'm not against having a limit today, I just don't want to be in a position where a year or two from now, the county has to spend a significant amount of money to lift it."

Like Strong, Supervisor Haschak also pointed out that Sonoma County recently decided to shelve a similar cultivation ordinance with increased expansion they had been considering, and are now looking to use state money for their EIR.

He noted that Mendocino County is expected to receive over \$18 million to help with their cannabis program if the current state budget proposal is approved, and hoped the county could use some of that for an EIR.

However, County Cannabis Program Director Kristin Nevedal said that it was likely not feasible since that money, if received, would be specifically slated to help those with provisional licenses get through the state licensing programs.

"There was a much smaller number of public comments at this meeting than previous ones relating to the new ordinance, which Haschak attributed to "the people of the community ... [having] lost some belief that we're listening to them."

Still, some did call in, including Mendocino County Farm Bureau Executive Director Devon Jones, who explained why the group's board voted to oppose the ordinance in April.

"The opposition is based on the fact that the county has not demonstrated under Phase 1 that they have the capacity to provide adequate oversight, for either assisting applicants with compliance, or verifying the applicants are in compliance with the county ordinance," said Jones.

"The Farm Bureau does not feel that the county has the current capacity to be the lead agency in CEQA review," Jones continued, "and the planning commissioners will be put into the difficult role of having to make determinations related to CEQA on a project-by-project level in Chapter 22.18. If the county continues to be inconsistent with permit review, then the frustration from the public regarding environmental and social impacts related to cannabis cultivation will just continue."

A few callers voiced support for a memo sent in to the meeting by the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, who gave recommendations seeking "a community-wide compromise, understanding that successful public policy often requires the softening of the hard lines to achieve reasonable progress."

MCA said they could support the limits to expansion laid out by the county planning commission, but felt anything beyond that should require an EIR.

They also expressed support for the discretionary land-use-based permit program in the ordinance to help streamline the process of applicants seeking to join the legal cannabis industry, especially those who have already come forward in Phases 1 and 2.

"It is imperative that existing operators have this pathway as an option," MCA stated, "and we ask the community at-large to stand together in support of these existing, tax-paying, small businesses and to say 'No' to any referendum that could put many of our licensed community members out of business."

Regarding the referendums, Haschak said: "I don't have a say in it, but the people will. And I'll just say I'm staying out of it right now, but the people will decide whether they want to go forward with something or not."

In addition to directing staff to bring back an ordinance this summer to reduce the maximum cultivation size, the supervisors also asked staff to look into ways to help prevent the "stacking of permits" by individuals and companies, and to more strictly limit the allowance of hoop houses in the new ordinance.

Cannabis tax relief

Also at the June 2 meeting the supervisors directed staff to look into ways to bring tax relief to smaller farms in the future, possibly by shifting that tax burden to farms of larger than 10,000 square feet. The item was sponsored by Supervisor Williams.

In addition the supervisors asked staff to pursue avenues to offer tax relief for cultivators who intentionally reduce the size of their operations in order to help with efforts to alleviate drought concerns and short water supply.

The supervisors were generally in agreement that both were good ideas to look into, but Supervisor McGourty pointed out that there will not be any farms larger than 10,000 square feet allowed until the new ordinance is passed and permits begin to be processed.

Even once the ordinance passes, the supervisors have said that they don't expect any new or expanded operations with Phase 3 permits to be up and running until 2023.

Williams summed up the plan moving forward in his motion which was passed unanimously:

"The cannabis program manager would be working with the tax collector and Planning & Building to identify opportunities to bring fairness and parity with other counties; and shift the burden of cannabis cultivation taxation to larger farms should they materialize; and come back with ideas for providing tax relief for the drought in a way that would encourage cultivators to reduce cultivation during the low water period."

The rest of Stabilized

From Page 1

Valley, two COVID patients are in med/surge; one post-partum patient who tested positive is also in med/surge; two are in ICU: one is in SF with a stroke, who had been hospitalized and released with COVID. Fifty people have passed away, the most recent being an 80-year-old Native American woman.

We recognize that we are in a surge at this time, though it may have stabilized in the last week. It is still a threat that could explode, especially with Father's Day, July 4 celebrations, and vacation/travel plans ahead.

We have been having conversations with the California Department of Public Health, which has agreed to extend our access to the contact investigators and contact tracers so we can continue the high-quality activity of our team. They have also offered assistance with testing and vaccination resources under the circumstances. We are also reconvening our hospital partners' weekly surge calls to coordinate and prepare.

There are no current outbreaks or open cases associated with schools. Schools are having their graduation ceremonies this week, and some will have summer school. Current plans are for full in-person teaching in the fall.

Testing throughout California is low, and In Mendocino County the traveling testing team as well as fixed site in Ukiah and the fixed weekly site in Fort Bragg are under-utilized.

Optum Serve Sites will be operating as follows: Ukiah: Redwood Empire Fairgrounds will host testing from 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday through Thursday.

Fort Bragg: Veterans Hall will host testing on Tuesdays, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Rotation: Point Arena/Boonville, Laytonville/Willits, Gualala/Boonville, Round Valley/Willits: Rotating locations on Fridays: Location 1 from 9 am to 12 pm; Location 2 from 2 to 5 pm. This Friday, June 11, the tests will be offered at Gualala/Boonville.

We have not had any new reports of variants. However, we have discovered a few of the UK variant and one of the Brazil strain. The state has created COVID NET to get variant testing of all positive tests, and I have requested that they focus on our county as well as other Northern California counties which are also surging, to ascertain if this is due to variants.

Vaccines continue to be distributed throughout Mendocino County. As of June 7, 2021 83,942 vaccines have been recorded at the state level for Mendocino County. This represents 64.5% of our population over 12 years old, who are at least partially vaccinated, and 54.6% who are fully vaccinated. Equity metrics show we are doing well with our least-resourced communities and the percent of Hispanic population vaccinated is catching up to our Caucasian population. I am concerned that the 18 to 49-year age group is only 53% partially vaccinated, and the age groups 50 and above seem to have stalled in the last week.

Our vaccine team has found that the large vaccine events are not efficient and are having multiple smaller events per day all around the county, with 18 scheduled this week. We have adequate supply of vaccines, and all those over 12 years old are eligible. We allow walk-ins and have a choice of vaccines available at each clinic. As the eligibility has gone to all who are over 12 years old, we have encouraged our clinic partners to offer the vaccines to patients as they come through for routine visits. Most of our "federally qualified health center" partners have been doing this for some time, and we have been told that Mendocino Community Health Clinics and the Adventist clinics will soon start.

To combat vaccine hesitancy, we have increased our outreach and education and, this week, coinciding with the state's "Call To Action Week," we have billboards going up and 10 original PSAs and a music video being distributed. Thanks to our partners Working Group on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion COVID-19 and Nuestra Alianza de Willits for producing these videos. Check out the PSAs on the "Mendocino County Public Health" page on Facebook.

The hard work of our teams must continue to control this surge and to vaccinate our community.

Dr. Andy Coren is the public health officer for Mendocino County.

The rest of Arrest

From Page 1

early in the evening that escalated into physical altercation.

During the argument Cape started pushing the adult female and eventually tackled her to the ground, causing visible injuries to her hands and knees. Cape also slapped the adult female in the face during the argument, causing visible injury to her face. Cape was arrested at the location for felony domestic violence battery. Deputies learned Cape was on Mendocino County misdemeanor probation, and he was also charged with violating the terms of his probation.

Cape was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.



Anthony Cape of Willits.

Celebrating the Grads



La Vida Charter School

Far left: 12th grade grads from left to right: Layla Pratt, Sarah Silva, Rachael Cudney, William Duncan, Kenneth Karns, Jasmyn Rosado, Bella Karg, and Kyren Anderson. Not shown: Tayja Summers, Genevieve Van Meter, and Jayson Yamamoto. At left: 8th grade grads left to right: Evangelynn Kotila and Damien Barrett. Not shown: Zander Albright.



Congrats | WHS Teacher Suzanne Kidwell retires

Congratulations to long-time Willits High School teacher Suzanne Kidwell, who retired this week. She taught the computer and business classes for 20 years. She also taught computer and business classes for Mendocino College for nearly 30 years. Suzanne has been a well-loved and respected part of WHS throughout her career. Now she is looking forward to doing some traveling with her husband, children, and four grandchildren.

"She was more than just a teacher to so many of us. She was a safe place, and an ear when you needed someone to listen, and she was always good for a laugh. She loved what she was teaching" – **Kaity Silva**

"In high school, the one person I always

felt safe with, and could go to with a problem, was Mrs. Kidwell. She has made such an impact on so many lives and is the golden example of what a teacher should be" – **Katelyn Agenbroad**



Suzanne Kidwell

"She has made such an impact on all the young people who have entered her classroom, made them feel safe and empowered, and taught them to be accountable for their actions and their work. I hope to one day be a teacher as amazing as Mrs. Kidwell" – **Devon Jones**

"As a teacher myself now, Mrs. Kidwell is the type of teacher that I am always striving to be. I am her daughter, but she treated all of her students like one of her own" – **Meghan White**

Baechtel Grove Middle School 8th Grade Promotion

Congratulations to the 8th grade students who are being promoted from Baechtel Grove Middle School including: Noe Alfaro Erostico, Ashlyn Alvarez, Aliyah Benjamin, Tristian Bennett, Jewel Beshara, Ethan Blum, Joseph Brackett, Hunter Britton, Hayden Bullington, Cristian Camargo Nunez, Marely Carrillo-Olmedo, Mara Castaneda, Mia Chavez, Maia Collins, Clayton Cooley, Emma Cullens, Orion Dennis, Kason Dondero, Cheyenne Dusky, Jessica Erwin, Cassie Esquivel, Danielle Estrada, Ava Etherton, Riley Faust, Jayden Finley, Bodhi Fischbach, Zachary Fisher, Jeremy Foster, Jeremiah Foster Langley, Kyla Framke, Torin Fraser, Ariana Gamez, Noemi Garcia Luna, Erick Haro Sierra, Ronaldo Hernandez, Wyatt Hinton, Landon Honeycutt, Robin Kendrick, Aidan Latimer, Samantha Lazaro, Giovanni Leon, Jmy Leon, Finn Lessner, Chase Lindsey, Hailee Lopez, Giovanni Lopez Chavez, Jayna MacDonald, Mariana Mendoza, Amy Mendoza Paniagua, Rhianna Middleton, Derrick Moore, Jacob Norvell, Dacian O'Malley, Jayden Osejo, Kayden Paullus, Aaron Perez Reyes, Joshua Perre, Brannon Petersen, Rogelio Rodriguez, Diego Roman Cardona, Kacey Rountree, Kevin Rountree, Esperanza Sanchez Orozco, Ryder Scarborough, Kialyn Scroggins, Aydin Simerson, Valerie Smith, Kyle Soqui, Caleb Sossaman, Alison Southard, Natasha Steel, Ethan Storey, Alexandra Suarez, Jason Tafolla Orutia, Annie Thomen, Ayden Thrikill, Lucero Vargas, Jose Villegas, Gage Whaley, Angel Whipple, Cameron Wiggins, Aleli Zuniga, and Ashlyn Zynda.



2021 Ventura Perez Merit Award winners.

Photo submitted by Carrie Oliver

Mendocino College celebrates 2020/21 graduates

Submitted by Mendocino College

Mendocino College graduates enjoyed a free dinner and virtual commencement ceremony this year.

In April, a survey was sent to all graduating students to gather input about how best to celebrate their accomplishments this year. The response from the majority of students was that they preferred a virtual ceremony.

"This past year has forever changed our world. Despite all the adversities, our graduates exemplified the resiliency the world needs," said Mendocino College Superintendent/President Tim Karas. "Our graduates are strong and will make the world a better place for everyone. We are very proud of our graduates! They will forever be an alumnus of Mendocino College and part of our family."

Thanks to the Mendocino College Foundation, students were gifted a \$50 dinner voucher to be used at a select group of participating local restaurants throughout the district. This allowed students to celebrate the actual day of graduation with a meal at home with their families while at the same time supporting local restaurants. There will also be a listing of all 2021 graduates in a special magazine published by the Ukiah Daily Journal that will be circulated in both Lake and Mendocino counties.

Amy Adams, who received two AS degrees, one in Business Management and the other in Business Accounting, says: "Although I was sad not to be able to walk the stage for my very first time, I felt the college did their best to celebrate my accomplishments, even in the midst of a pandemic. To top it off, they provided a graduation dinner in partnership with various local vendors. I chose Taqueria Bravo in Willits, which was delicious and the manager was so sweet and congratulated me on my graduation."

According to Mendocino College Foundation Board President Tom Dow, "the Foundation is honored to provide financial support towards this year's commencement activities. Now more than ever, it's important that we sufficiently honor and recognize our 2021 Mendocino College graduates."

Mendocino College hopes to have a traditional, in-person commencement ceremony next year and will invite all 2020 and 2021 graduates to participate if they wish. To view the recording of the 2021 virtual commencement ceremony visit: <https://youtu.be/rxlb27unbio>

Willits, Laytonville and Covelo Graduates:

Alexia Duran, Amy Adams, Andrea Mendoza, Anita Salmeron, Benjamin Branscomb, Brittany Budish, Brittany Tyrrell, Cherie Smith-Gibson, Cherokee Ramsing, Christine Amador, Damon Niesen, David Vega, Dulce Lopez Rodriguez, Eduardo Nieto, Emily Coria, Erin Henckell, Erin Orth, Gracie Silva, Griffin Moore, Iris Ferretta, James Donaldson, Jason Mansyur, Joleen Whipple, Justin Jepson, Karina Nieto, Kelsey Butler, Kiley Butler, Michele Ford Barrera, Miranda Villalobos, Nancy Villegas, Natalie Spackman, Rainier Hurley, Ramneet Mann, Renee Priestley, Sarah Petru, Shelby Geremia, Shephard Aragon, Stephany Brundage, Tamila Whippe, Taylor Watts, and Wyatt Brandon.

The rest of Graduation

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During the ceremony:

All attendees are asked to remain seated in your grouping while the ceremony is conducted.

The school will be providing a photographer, Maureen Jennison, for the event. Web-sized, watermarked images will be provided to all students free of charge, available to download from <https://photographress.zenfolio.com/whs2021>. Prints and more will be available to purchase additionally. QR codes and order forms will be available online on the Willits High School and Willits Unified School district Facebook pages, as well as on the Mphotographress Facebook page. Also see graphic below for QR code and print ordering information.

The event will be live-streamed with the video link posted to the WUSD and WHS websites as well as Facebook just prior to the event starting.

Once the ceremony ends, students will be released in a measured manner so that they can walk to their family grouping and proceed to their cars for the procession through town. There will be a 15 minute transition period from the end of the ceremony until the beginning of the procession through town.

Procession after the ceremony:

Once the 15-minute transition period ends at the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, the local fire and police departments will lead the graduate procession through town, following the same route as last year. Please refer to the map on Page 1 for details and route. As the procession begins, cars will pull into the road one at a time from the front parking lots, staff parking lot, or from the school farm.

Congratulations!

2021 Vutura Perez Merit Award Winners

Each year Willits Sober Grad gives Ventura Perez Merit Awards to graduating seniors who have invested the most time throughout the school year fundraising and promoting the mission of Sober Grad. These awards are made possible through a generous bequeath from the Estate of Ventura Perez, a 1939 graduate of Willits High School.

On behalf of the Willits Sober Grad Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for all you have done to make the Class of 2021 Sober Grad Party possible

★ Zandria Mondo	★ Aleen Hernandez
★ Amarah Potter	★ Samantha Arms
★ Taylor Drew	★ Callie Brown
★ Claire Case-Brackett	★ Dylan Gijon
★ Collin Spackman-Rowles	★ Hannah Bouthillier
★ Teophil Labus	★ Amy Andrade
★ Matthew Harries	★ Jada Smith
★ Nomiah Britton	★ Mandy Thurman

pho•tog•ra•phress

photography by maureen (moore) jennison

CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATION PHOTOS:

Download your free online image:

Scan with phone camera

<https://photographress.zenfolio.com/whs2021-free>

Photos from the June 11, 2021 Willits High School Graduation event!

4x6: \$3 each
5x7: \$5 each
8x10: \$10 each

Order & pay for prints online
Download web-size for free

Order high-quality print images:

Scan with phone camera

<https://photographress.zenfolio.com/whs2021-prints>

Questions?

Call: 707-972-7047 or Email: maureengetsmail@gmail.com