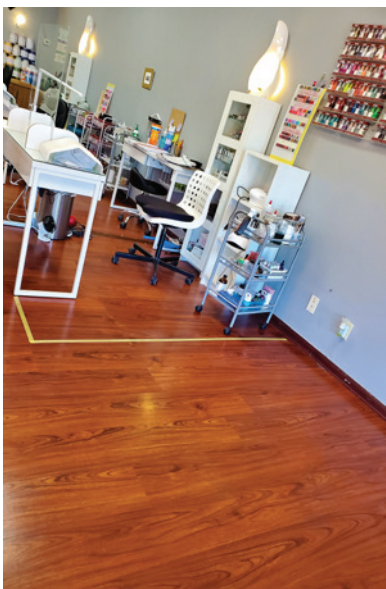


## Thursday, June 25, 2020

A photograph of three staff members in a nail salon. On the left, a man in a green plaid shirt and a black cap with a white 'M' logo wears a pink face mask and a clear face shield. In the center, a woman in a black apron and a black cap with a white 'M' logo wears a blue surgical mask and a clear face shield. On the right, a man in a light blue polo shirt and a black cap with a white 'M' logo wears a clear face shield and white gloves, holding a black glove. The background shows shelves of nail polish bottles and a sign that says 'Nail Center'.





# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and  
thank you letters from our readers

## Confederate flag

To the Editor:

I'm writing in support of John Sherman's recent letter calling for an end to public displays of the Confederate flag. I saw it mounted on the back of a hot rod in the last Frontier Days parade. It felt wrong. It was wrong. The flag stands for white supremacy, human enslavement, and a history of racial violence.

I'm reasonably certain that the Frontier Days organizers would not allow people in white KKK hoods to march in the parade. Why allow a banner that represents the same values?

Willits has several signs posted around town which read "We're All In This Together." The Confederate flag proclaims the opposite message. It doesn't belong. Let's celebrate the values that bind this community together on the 4th of July.

Louis Rohlicek, Willits

## Put in the tower

To the Editor:

We recently became aware of a proposed AT&T cell tower for the Sherwood corridor: County Case #: Major Use Permit U. 2019-0014.

We are writing to express our *support* for the cell tower. Several tower proposals in the county had reactions from residents fearing health problems that have been debunked by the American Cancer Society, the government, scientists, medical studies, technology data, etc., yet fears persist. To us, their opinions and concerns seem based on the ideal of holding onto a lifestyle appropriate for 1850, not 2020. The world has changed, and we can't ignore the real threats we're facing without the tower.

We can't afford to live in the past or imagine an ideal life without technology. Many people who object to the tower own cell phones, use WiFi, have microwave ovens, satellite TV, and PG&E power poles near, in or serving their homes. These all emit electronic fields and/or forms of radiation, yet no one mentions these as health risks. Using these electronics while objecting to the cell tower is hypocritical. The guidelines for living near a cell tower are well-established and indicate there is no danger. The Telecom Act of 1996 was enacted to address these concerns regarding cell towers. The language was codified in Section 704 which prohibits environmental concerns or health concerns by purported lack of substantial evidence as a reason for denial of cell towers. Perceived health threats cannot take priority over the real threats we face without the cell tower: Fire safety, pandemic impacts, business impacts, online education.

COVID-19 destroyed many people's livelihoods with lost jobs, closed businesses, no income, in addition to threats of lost health and potential death from this uncontrolled virus. Many are turning to e-commerce to find ways to earn a living. In today's world, time is money, and we need high-speed internet to get work done, orders filled, shipments sent, and communications answered. We operate three online businesses which is extremely difficult with slow speed internet. We resort to working in the middle of the night hoping for less internet traffic and faster speed.

The new cell tower would give us all of these. To deny the cell tower for the Sherwood corridor is to deny residents their right to start e-commerce businesses and safely earn a living.

COVID-19 closed schools in spring 2020, and reopening

is uncertain. Homeschooling and distance learning offered online are the best alternatives for local families facing these decisions. Today, essential components of all education are computers, devices, cell phones, and internet connection. Our county has been working towards giving every student these resources to keep up with the world they live in. It is our responsibility to set them up for success in our digital world, not hold them back.

Without the tower, there are greater risks to our health, safety, lives, businesses and futures. Willits must grow and plan for a future with technology. Put in the tower.

Jon Calonico and Burt Buchmann, Willits

## End the Wildlife Services contract

To the Editor:

Most residents and visitors to Mendocino County have a deep love and respect for nature and for wildlife. Yet, each year our county renews its contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services to kill hundreds of bears, bobcats, coyotes, foxes and many other wild animals, as well as unintended victims, such as endangered species and our beloved pets.

The USDA's Wildlife Services is a multimillion-dollar federal program that sets snares to kill wildlife by slow strangulation, and metal-jawed conibear traps that snap shut with crushing force on the animal's body. Both methods are indiscriminate, killing non-target species and pets alike.

In 2018 Wildlife Services reported killing nearly 1.5 million native animals nationwide. That year, in California, the program reported killing 26,441 native animals, including 3,826 coyotes, 859 beavers, 170 foxes, 83 mountain lions and 105 black bears. The 5,675 birds killed in 2018 in California included blackbirds, ducks, egrets, hawks, owls and doves (USDA WS statistics).

There is absolutely no moral reason to continue the horrific, archaic practice of implementing torture traps for wildlife management when there are non-lethal methods proven to be more effective and humane.

"Wildlife Services' indiscriminate killing of millions of animals annually has many damaging impacts on the environment. Peer-reviewed research shows that such reckless slaughter of animals — particularly predators — results in broad ecological destruction and loss of biodiversity. The program's controversial and indiscriminate killing methods are employed largely at the behest of ranchers to protect livestock and have come under increased scrutiny from scientists, the public and government officials. In addition the agency has been responsible for the countless deaths of threatened and endangered species, as well as family pets." - Camilla Fox, founder and executive director of Marin-based Project Coyote.

Counties throughout the country, including neighboring Marin and Sonoma, have ended their contracts with Wildlife Services. They have brought in non-lethal wildlife management services to educate the public regarding deterrent and exclusion programs to protect property and livestock. Such non-lethal wildlife exclusion programs have proven far more effective than senseless killing by Wildlife Services.

A bare majority of Mendocino County supervisors want to continue our lethal contract with Wildlife Services, and use a non-lethal wildlife service as a supplement. This means the county would continue to subsidize Wildlife Services to kill wildlife, while community members who did not want wildlife to be killed would pay a fee for non-lethal wildlife services.

We, of the Mendocino Non-lethal Wildlife Alliance, believe that killing wildlife should be a last resort and only used to protect human safety, euthanize a rabid animal, or, when all other appropriate non-lethal methods of wildlife exclusion have been exhausted.

Ranchers have a legal right to kill a predator that threatens their livestock, so terminating the contract with Wildlife Services would not infringe upon their rights.

We are a progressive county that values and respects our majestic wildlife. We certainly would not be the first county in the U.S. to end an agreement with USDA's Wildlife Services; let us not be among the last!

We, of the Mendocino Non-lethal Wildlife Alliance believe that killing wildlife should only be a last resort. Please sign our petition to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to end the senseless killing now at: [www.thepetitionsite.com/842/567/041/stop-the-killing-now](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/842/567/041/stop-the-killing-now)

Jon Spitz, Laytonville,  
for the MNWA steering committee

## First 2019/20 grand jury reports out

Submitted by the Mendocino County Grand Jury

The 2019-2020 Mendocino County Grand Jury, a citizen organization established by California law to review and investigate government of a county and its cities, released its first three reports on June 5. All three reports are now available to the public on the grand jury website; find the "2019-2020 Reports" link at [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury)

The first report is entitled "The Emergency Communications System In Mendocino County"; the second report is entitled "How Tax Dollars Pay for Services"; and the third report is entitled: "School Safety – A Priority."

Prior to publication, each grand jury report is reviewed and approved by the full panel of seated jurors and is reviewed by the Mendocino County Counsel and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

It is a misdemeanor for individual jurors to discuss grand jury reports or the process through which a particular report was developed and published. Please address any inquiries to the 2019-20 grand jury foreperson Fred Branson, who serves as the jury's sole spokesperson: [grandjury@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:grandjury@mendocinocounty.org) or 707-463-4320.

## COVID-19 relief grants available for local micro-businesses

Submitted by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County and West Business Development Center

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County and West Business Development Center are pleased to announce applications are now open for the Business Innovation and Resiliency Grants for Mendocino County micro-businesses that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and need funds to reboot their businesses. The Business Innovation and Resiliency Fund was established to help countywide businesses adapt, innovate, and pivot in the face of the pandemic crisis and marketplace changes.

Grants are for up to \$5,000. Applicants must be a for-profit micro-business based in Mendocino County, have five or fewer full-time employees, demonstrate a pressing need to retool and adapt business operations within the next six months, and demonstrate the viability of their business in the face of ongoing disruptions due to COVID-19.

Grants will be scored and awarded based on business viability and willingness to learn, and being in an underserved locality and having a unique approach to change. Grant funds must be utilized to cover expenses that will allow you to adapt and retool business operations to drive long-term viability and revenue generation.

Grant applications are evaluated by a review committee comprised of local business experts and economic development agencies. Grant proposals may have two stages of review: an initial application followed by a phone conversation if deemed necessary.

The first round of grant applications opened Friday, June 19 and must be completed by Friday, July 3 at 5 pm. Awards will be announced Friday, July 24 at noon. The second round of grant applications opens Friday, August 21 at noon and must be completed by Friday September 4 at 5 pm. Awards will be announced Friday, September 25 at noon.

If chosen, grant awardees must complete the following before receiving their award:

- Schedule and complete a 30-minute orientation call with West Center.
- Complete and sign West Center participant forms.
- Schedule first advisor meeting to receive funds.
- Agree to one-hour monthly business advising.
- At the end of 12 months, provide a summary of how funds were used and its impact.

Applications can be found at [www.westcenter.org/grants](http://www.westcenter.org/grants). This website also contains information about eligibility and answers to frequently asked questions. ¿Hablamos español? Puede contactarnos al 707-409-0530 para obtener asistencia.

The fund is made possible by an anonymous lead gift that was matched locally by many contributors. Significant funding came from the J-Olivanti Fund, the Mayfield Family Economic Development Fund, the DeLucia Family Fund, the Jantzen-Romelli Donor-Advised Fund, and the South Ukiah Rotary Foundation as well as gifts from Pacific Gas & Electric, Ted and Wilma Westman Fund, Jim and Babbie Mayfield Fund, and The Kevin and Bree Klotter Charitable Trust.



Above, from left: A crew member digs by hand to locate utilities before bringing in the excavator. The large crew is made up of people who dig, examine, lay new pipe, ensure safety, and efficiency. PG&E-approved sand and base rock are piled up and ready for filling trenches. At left: The ARB, Inc. and PG&E crews are hard at work. Below: Steel plates are laid over the unfinished trenches for safety. Below: Joe Watson of Wipf Construction works traffic control for the pipeline replacement project. At bottom: The streets are closed to through traffic during work hours.

Photos by Mathew Caine



## New Pipes

### PG&E's Pipeline Replacement Program is upgrading 8,000 feet of antiquated gas lines in Willits

"We try to cover all possibilities and contingencies," explained Nick Jensen, project manager with ARB, Inc., contractor for the PG&E Pipeline Replacement Program. All precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of residents and motorists during the project, which involves replacing approximately 8,000 feet of antiquated, deteriorating gas lines, mostly on the east side of Willits.

The project began on June 15, necessitating the closure of streets to through traffic on a rotating basis, as to ameliorate the inconvenience to residents and businesses.

PG&E projects that the Willits work will be completed by the end of 2020.

"We're going to install a 2-inch gas main, replacing an older plastic," continued Jensen. "The older plastic has degraded over almost 50 years. It was an Adelaide plastic that can't pass inspection anymore. It's not a good quality pipe. The new pipes we're installing should last forever."

The crew, consisting of the ARB workers, PG&E inspectors, the local general contractors, and Wipf Construction (which is in charge of traffic control) attempts to create the least disruption possible to the daily life of the residents.

First in the process, was to notify those affected by the construction, by mail and by phone, so that they could be prepared. Next, the crew has to identify the location of the buried utilities, water and gas, so as to know where it is possible to excavate the trenches in which to lay the new pipe without disturbing existing lines.

They begin by saw cutting the trench lines to get a clean edge and remove the asphalt. They dig down by hand to locate the existing utilities which are marked prior to bringing in the excavator that will dig the trench. The pipe is laid 3 feet from the existing gas lines or other utilities in order to avoid having to turn off the gas while they are installing the new main lines. The work is usually done in a couple days in a given area.

Each night, the crews make sure to cover the trench with steel plating. Then they go to work in another area so as to relieve the residents of their presence for long periods of time. They will come back and install new gas "service" to the houses and connect them to the main at that time. The trench will then be filled with sand and base rock and the street will then be newly asphalted.

For safety, a "water buffalo" is always present, containing a minimum of 300 gallons in the rare possibility that a spark from the equipment might cause a small grass fire. Additionally, all equipment is grounded and inspectors are

always present. Traffic control personnel are present at both ends of the street at which they are working.

Most of the crew are out-of-towners who spend money at the local restaurants and motels. In addition, Wipf is a local company out of Ukiah that has been contracted for various services.

According to literature from PG&E, the company is "enhancing the safety and reliability of its natural gas system. The company has started replacing 8,300 feet of gas distribution lines in Willits. Work will occur from Monday through Thursday and Fridays, as needed between the hours of 7 am to 5:30 pm.

"For the safety of the public and workers," it continues, "there will be some detours and lane closures throughout the duration of the project. Some streets may be condensed from two-lanes to one-lane. To aid drivers through the construction zone, PG&E has hired contractors for traffic management.

"Crews may need to release natural gas from the pipeline for each project and will follow all necessary safety requirements. This is also called 'venting the line.' As PG&E purges gas from the line, the smell of natural gas and the sound of venting may be noticeable. The natural gas released during venting will quickly dissipate into the atmosphere and will not be harmful. However, PG&E encourages anyone who has concerns about natural gas odors in or around their home or business to call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

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

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Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto: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**  
EST. 2013  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047  
[willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) / [www.willitsweekly.com](http://www.willitsweekly.com)

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com) / 707-459-2633  
Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / [maureen@willitsweekly.com](mailto:maureen@willitsweekly.com) / 707-972-7047  
Mike A'Dair, reporter / [mike@willitsweekly.com](mailto:mike@willitsweekly.com)  
Mathew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer / [mathew@willitsweekly.com](mailto:mathew@willitsweekly.com)  
Forrest Glyer, reporter / [forrest@willitsweekly.com](mailto:forrest@willitsweekly.com)  
Zack Cinek, reporter / [zack@willitsweekly.com](mailto:zack@willitsweekly.com)  
Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / [joanne@willitsweekly.com](mailto:joanne@willitsweekly.com)  
Ree Slocum, features writer / [ree@willitsweekly.com](mailto:ree@willitsweekly.com)  
Jenny Senter, features writer / [jenny@willitsweekly.com](mailto:jenny@willitsweekly.com)  
Holly Madrigal, features writer / [willitsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:willitsweekly@gmail.com)  
Danya Davis, features writer / police log / [danya@willitsweekly.com](mailto:danya@willitsweekly.com)  
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Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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HAIR & BEAUTY WORD SEARCH

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ACTIVATOR	CUTTING	HAIR	SALON
AMMONIA	DERMABRASION	HENNA	SANITIZER
BLEACH	DEVELOPER	HIGHLIGHTS	SECTIONING
BOB	EPILATION	KERATIN	SKIN
BRASSY	EXFOLIATE	MASSAGE	SPA
CLARIFIER	EXTENSIONS	NEUTRALIZE	STRAIGHTEN
COLLAGEN	FACIAL	PERM	TONER
COLOR	FOILS	PIGMENT	TREATMENT
CROP	FUSION	RELAXER	WAVES

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	51									52	

CLUES ACROSS

- Protects from weather
- Superhigh frequency
- Southern constellation
- Swines
- Self-righteously moralistic person
- United Arab Emirates city
- Surinam toad
- Sign language
- Tattoo (slang)
- Makes level
- Sun up in New York
- It must be scratched
- Where people live
- Swiss river
- Buddy
- One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
- Shrek is one
- Egyptian unit of weight
- Fiddler crabs
- Carroll O'Connor's TV wife
- No longer having life

- Former OSS
- A way to emit sound
- Mandela's party
- Adult female chicken
- U. of Miami's mascot
- Southeastern Chinese people
- Casino game
- Amos Alonzo \_\_\_\_ US football coach
- Joint connecting two pipes at right angles
- Will Ferrell film
- River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

- Occur
- Show up
- Capital of Taiwan
- Former French coin
- Some are bad
- Monetary unit
- Package (abbr.)
- Indian religious person
- Crew
- Antidiuretic hormone

- Makeshift
- Baseball box score stat
- Make a mistake
- Not moving
- Even distribution of weight
- Clumsy person
- Paddle
- Worked the soil
- Alias
- Plant cultivated in Peru
- Side-blotched lizards genus
- Wild dog
- Immoral act
- Pound
- Manning and Lilly are two
- Put on the shelf for now
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Dashes
- Related on the mother's side
- Witch
- Kilogram force (abbr.)

The rest of Oversight | From Page 1

interested citizens, to, in the words of Second District Supervisor John McCowen, "see what sort of Mendocino model can be developed." The motion asked for recommendations from the committee within 60 days.

Saying that there did not appear to be a problem with law enforcement in this county, First District Supervisor Carre Brown cast the lone dissenting vote.

The issue was brought to the board by Third District Supervisor John Haschak and by Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams. During discussion, it appeared as if there was a real possibility that the supervisors would not create a citizens advisory committee, as both Brown and Second District Supervisor John McCowen appeared to be lining up against it.

The option of not creating a citizens advisory committee remains a possibility, as all the supervisors did on Tuesday was to create an ad hoc committee to explore creating a committee.

Both District Attorney David Eyster and Sheriff Matt Kendall argued against creating the committee. Eyster suggested that the county ought to ask the Mendocino County Grand Jury to evaluate the Sheriff's Office.

"If you have concerns, rather than composing a panel or the like, why don't you ask [Sheriff Matt Kendall] to respond in writing to what your concerns are?" Eyster asked. "There's the '8 Can't Wait' program that's out there. Why don't you ask him to address those eight things?"

"And then if you're not sure about what's presented, you have another [way to get] citizens' input, called the grand jury. You ask the grand jury. They're about to come into session starting July 1. That is nothing but citizens from all districts of this county that get together and provide public reports on what is right and what is wrong."

Eyster reminded the board that the State of California has passed, in the past five years, 11 laws that reformed police practices in cities and counties throughout the state. Eyster said the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office had implemented all 11 reforms.

"Our local law enforcement, whether it be the sheriff or the police chiefs, have, without a gripe or a whine, instituted all 11 of those reforms. So that brings me back to my original question: what in addition are you looking for? Why not ask your subject matter expert, the sheriff, to reply to your questions in writing, and then decide what you do from there?" Eyster said.

Initially, Kendall directed his remarks to the manner in which the issue was made public, and also to a draft ordinance that was brought forward by Haschak and Williams as an example of what the county might do.

The ordinance stated that the purpose of the oversight committee would be to "to propose thoughtful policy recommendations to the sheriff-coroner; to create greater cooperation between law enforcement and the public; to provide an objective, independent and appropriate review of law enforcement administrative investigations, which include allegations of misconduct; to help increase transparency of law enforcement operations, policies and procedures."

The draft ordinance proposed appointing and hiring a director for a "Citizens Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Oversight." That person would be empowered to "assign personnel" which would use county equipment and supplies in order to accomplish certain goals and objectives, which would include receiving and

reviewing citizen complaints, forwarding these to the sheriff-coroner; reviewing, auditing and analyzing administrative and public complaint investigations; assessing and making recommendations regarding policies, procedures, strategies, training and practices based on information gathered in the review process; advising if investigations appear incomplete or are otherwise deficient and recommending further review as deemed necessary; when warranted, proposing independent recommendations or determinations regarding investigations, which may be made public on a summary level without personally identifying information."

"We've been working extremely hard over the past two years, on several pieces of legislation, that deal directly with transparency in policing and all of these things have been very good for our community and for the sheriff's office," Kendall said.

"The various senate bills that came into play just last year took some of the vacuum out of the things that we do here, and -- let's face it -- if we have a sheriff who has a complaint against a deputy, or a police chief has a complaint on an officer, up until this time we haven't been able to show the work that we've done to be able to correct these things.

"And that vacuum, whether we like it or not, is going to be filled by what people believe, based on what their thoughts and experiences are.

"I hope people understand that I am absolutely not happy with the release of this on Facebook before anyone spoke with me," Sheriff Kendall continued. "The manner in which this was presented was not in the spirit of collaboration with any transparency. It's easy to speak about transparency. It's another thing to actually exercise it.

"I don't agree with the proposed ordinance. It is a carbon copy of what they have in Sonoma County, which became antiquated in July of 2019. And I don't believe it covers anything outside of the sheriff's office.... If this is truly a systemic issue, then are we going to look at 100 percent of our county departments? Anybody who serves the public. I think we should probably begin looking at it, as a whole."

County resident Troyle Tognoli, who initiated the move to create a citizens advisory committee two weeks ago when she spoke to the board of supervisors during the public comment portion of a board meeting, explained why she is calling for a citizens advisory committee on law enforcement.

"We demand that our policing agencies be thoroughly examined from top to bottom, so that we may support them in the best way possible," she said. "The goal is not to hurt anyone, but instead to align with our policing agencies, to better understand the culture, to understand that the good of these agents should be at the forefront of their training models, to ensure that the tools and personnel that are needed are at their disposal, that tools and personnel that serve to intimidate, strike fear or distrust in our communities, are removed.

"This alignment must have one goal -- a strong and unwavering commitment to transparency," Tognoli said. "Revamping our local policing agencies will be no easy task. We will be faced with a swell of resistance, opposition and possible exodus. We must understand this, however, and we must still act. One cannot combat systemic racism and deny that policing is not at the top of that rung."

Mendocino College board appoints new president, Tim Karas

Submitted by Mendocino College

The Mendocino-Lake Community College Board of Trustees approved the appointment of their next superintendent/president, Tim Karas, on Wednesday evening at their regularly scheduled June meeting. Karas' new role will officially begin July 13. Karas will be leaving his post as the president of the College of Alameda, a position he has held since 2016.

"I could not be more honored, excited and exceptionally proud to be named the superintendent/ president of Mendocino-Lake Community College District. I am immensely grateful for and sincerely humbled by the confidence and trust that the search committee and the board of trustees has demonstrated in me," stated Karas.

Karas has spent the last two decades working in the California Community College system. Prior to serving as the president at the College of Alameda, he held the position of vice-president of instruction. Previous positions held include dean of Liberal Studies and Language Arts at Mission College and tenured faculty member at College of San Mateo.

Karas was the first person in his family to attend college. He received an

Read the rest of College | Over on Page 11



Photo courtesy of GregKochPhoto.com  
Far left: Chana Eisenstein, left, owner of East Hill Vet Clinic, smiles with Ann Koch, owner of Dog Mountain Rescue. Boxer Finn, sitting in front, was adopted by Eisenstein adopted DMR.  
At left, top: Charm is available for adoption at DMR.  
At left: Eisenstein checks Finn's ears. Above: Ann Koch, owner of Dog Mountain Rescue.

Helping Dogs Find Homes

Dog Mountain Rescue fosters, rehabilitates and re-homes Dobermans and more

There's a special kind of person in the world who chooses to take on the job of caring, fostering and rescuing animals, and Willits' Ann Koch is just one of those people.

Koch started Dog Mountain Rescue over a decade ago with the hopes of giving dogs "the support, the love, any necessary medicine, and ultimately the homes they deserve." Dogs who might be high-risk, have various issues or conditions, or some who have been pulled from terminal shelters have roamed the hills of DMR. While many of these are various breeds, Koch likes to focus her efforts on Dobermans.

"We take in Dobermans from all over," explained Koch. "Most of our dogs are from shelters. Rescues give the shelters a chance to place the dogs and if they aren't placed in time, we take them, get them ready for adoption, and then match them with a great new home."

Koch noted that when dogs arrive to DMR, they need time to adjust, de-stress and acclimate to their new surroundings, and time to "retune a little."

Once dogs are ready for adoption, they are photographed and listed on the rescue's website: www. DogMountainRescue.org and on Petfinder.

Making sure the right dog gets matched with the right human is a big concern and area of focus for Koch and DMR, and they will accept or request the dogs back if the adoptions don't work out.

"In the 15 years we've been doing the rescue, we've only had about six to seven returned dogs," explained Koch. "And that's out of over 800 placed dogs."

Some adoptions are local, but Koch has also placed dogs in out-of-the-area places like Idaho, Sacramento and Reno. Some are even repeat adopters. Over the last few months, Koch noted that DMR has placed 10 to 15 dogs.

"The young ones always get adopted quickly, or picked up from the shelters before coming to us," said Koch. "We do have a range of ages and both male and female dogs currently available, but also many senior dogs who are also available at a reduced rate."

Taking care of the all the dogs' medical needs, and senior dogs' needs especially, is something Koch diligently attends to. She also works closely with Dr. Chana Eisenstein and Dr. Brittany Kessler of East Hill Veterinary Clinic to make sure they are all in good health.

"We are happy to provide vet care for Ann and the dogs," said Dr. Eisenstein, owner of EHV. "Many of the dogs have problems when they come in, some with skin problems, chronic conditions and other issues. Ann is diligent about making sure they have medications, vaccinations, are

spayed or neutered, and making sure they are ready for possible adopters."

All of the dogs have been heartworm-tested, are treated for fleas and ticks, they're up-to-date on vaccines, and also receive region-appropriate extras like rattlesnake vaccines, which add value to the adoption. Generally, the adoption pool is also already micro-chipped which can help return lost dogs easily to their owners. The dogs also all have health certificates in place and available for travel.

Once a potential adopter finds a dog they would like to have, Koch asks that they fill out an application and talk

about their experience with dogs, why they're interested in a Doberman or other breed, what their living situation is, how much space they have, how dedicated they'll be to dog ownership, and the like to help make sure the match will be a good fit.

East Hill Vet Clinic's Willits valley location also comes in at this stage.

"We're happy to enable Ann to meet new adopters, and honor her privacy concerns with having people at her rescue facility," said Eisenstein. "We can create a place that is neutral, safe and comfy to meet and to let the dogs get to run in the fields. We're delighted to make that possible for Ann."

While all of the dogs hope to find loving homes, two dogs that stood out to Eisenstein and Koch that would be wonderful candidates for a new home included Blue Bella, a Doberman, and Charm, a mini Australian shepherd mix. "Bella is an adult blue female Doberman, and only lived with one person, and no dogs," said Koch. "Her last owner passed away, The Doberman rescue where he had gotten her no longer existed as the owner had passed away, but we immediately agreed to take her back. She prefers to be the only dog and is a very sweet girl. Sometimes folks overlook older dogs in favor of younger ones because they don't realize the benefits of having an older dog -- she knows what "no" means, she is content to keep a person company, she no longer chases everything that moves, she is well-housebroken, and just wants a nice home with a nice person that she can care for."

"Charm was found on the streets in Willits, and after no one came forward, she stayed," said Koch. "Charm loves to ride in a golf cart, right up front with her paws on the dash so she can see everything. She has a wonderful temperament, is friendly, but a little edgy as herding dogs usually are. She is active and curious."

If you are interested in Bella, Charm, or any of the other dogs currently available for adoption, log on to www.dogmountainrescue.org or email Koch at Info@dogmountainrescue.org, or call East Hill Veterinary Clinic at 459-5236 for more information. East Hill Veterinary Clinic is located at 1200 East Hill Road.

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# Summer Entertainment

Kids' activities go virtual amid pandemic challenges, still, there's lots of fun to be had

COVID-19 has definitely changed how activities for children are offered and conducted this summer. Most have gone virtual – even some sports programs. Yet some went through self-certifying their business or activities in order to provide on-field or in-pool activities for children.

Through the self-certification program, the **Willits City Pool** has been able to open the pool for one-on-one swimming instruction for children and lap swims for adults.

Instructors Lillian Turner, Teophil Labus and Taylor Pardue told Willits Weekly the children's lessons are conducted by creating social bubbles of instructors and children during each session. Each instructor and child have a lane in the pool to themselves,



which maintains social distancing from other children and instructors. Anyone else, including parents, aren't allowed in the pool facility during lessons, but there's plenty of space around the fenced-in pool area for people to observe.

Life Guard Kallie Brown said: "It's going super smooth. The instructors are having a lot of fun. I think everyone is super happy to be able to work and make it work out to get kids here swimming and have a little bit of normalness."

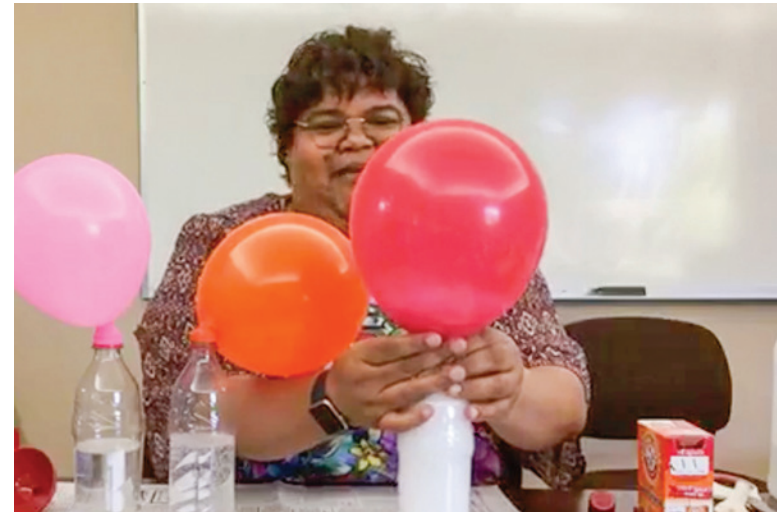
Kyle Tipp and his son, Ronin, were at the pool for Ronin's 11:15 am lesson. "That's unheard of, really, unless you pay an arm and a leg," he said. "I was talking to my mom on the way here and she was talking about my swim lessons when I was young. There were like 20 kids to an instructor and you got maybe 20 minutes in the pool. Here you get half-an-hour to 45 minutes in the pool with one-on-one instruction."

Tipp sees the one-on-one instruction as a great opportunity for his son. "That's unheard of, really, unless you pay an arm and a leg," he said. "I was talking to my mom on the way here and she was talking about my swim lessons when I was young. There were like 20 kids to an instructor and you got maybe 20 minutes in the pool. Here you get half-an-hour to 45 minutes in the pool with one-on-one instruction."

The next session of swim lessons at the Willits Pool is Monday, June 29 through Saturday, July 11. Call 707-456-4122 or 459-5778, Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 10 am and 3 pm to 5 pm to register or ask questions.

The **Willits Youth Soccer League**, for children from 3- to 15 years-old, is still on track to begin August 1. Besides the game itself, the league's mission is to teach sportsmanship, team building, and a love of soccer. The group of parents and volunteers is currently busy preparing and implementing COVID-19 safety protocols.

The Willits fields are now open, and players may condition with family members or in social bubbles of up to 12 people. The league has also reserved several school sites for soccer again this year. This will give more spaciousness for social distancing at pick-up and drop-off points.



There won't be any concession stands this year. Players need to have their own water bottle, hand sanitizer, and designated ball. Games will only be on Saturdays.

If you played soccer with Willits Youth Soccer last year, look for an email on Saturday, June 27. Registration will open Monday, June 29.

Visit the "Willits Youth Soccer" Facebook page or [www.willitsyouthsoccer.com](http://www.willitsyouthsoccer.com), or call 707-354-2539 for more information.

The following activities have

gone virtual until further notice:

This is from Willits Librarian Nicole Bird: "The **Mendocino County Library** will be hosting a Summer Reading Challenge this year. It will run from June 29 through August 10. This year's theme is 'Dig Deeper – Read, Investigate, Discover.' The program is open to all ages. To complete the Summer Reading Challenge, we are asking participants to record the number of minutes read. They can track their reading online or by using a paper reading log.

"The Willits Library will be offering registration kits that will include a paper reading log, two grab-and-go activities, and a bookmark. Registration kits will be available by request. More information will be available soon on the library website: [www.mendolib.org](http://www.mendolib.org)."

"Also, the Willits Library has been hosting two video programs through Facebook Live called 'Nicole's Test Kitchen – Craft Edition' and 'Nicole's Test Kitchen – STEAM Edition.' We plan to continue hosting the two-video series on Facebook Live. A third video series is in the works." All videos may be accessed through the Willits Library Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/WillitsLibrary/](https://www.facebook.com/WillitsLibrary/).

The **Round Valley Library** is offering the Summer Reading Challenge with curbside pick-up. Josh Bennett, branch librarian, has a Thursday morning Reading Radio program for teens on Round Valley's KYBU radio station.

If you're looking for even more book recommendations and daily activities for children, visit **First Partners Summer Reading Program**. It's a five-week summer reading program launched by filmmaker and actor Jennifer Siebel Newsom. Her husband is Governor Gavin Newsom, that's why you'll find her program link at [www.gov.ca.gov/2020/06/17/](http://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/06/17/).

The **Willits Junior Giants League** is a large organization that stepped up to the plate, going online early, bringing the fun of the field into the homes of children ages 5 to 18. Emmett Reilly, Willits Junior Giants ambassador, said the objectives of the program aren't just about the game and competition. Four core principles for character development – confidence, integrity, leadership and teamwork – are taught as well as skills and exercises.

They're now online with a four-week virtual season featuring training from San Francisco Giants Manager Gabe Kapler and other coaching staff. The new season [season] is July 6 through August 1. To sign up or for more information, email [willits.jrg@gmail.com](mailto:willits.jrg@gmail.com) or call Reilly at 707-

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

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July 29th  
Last Day to Upload Videos for the Virtual Show & Online Auction  
August 1st  
Breeding Rabbit & Cavy Entries Due  
August 3rd  
Virtual Show Live!  
August 5th  
Live Market Rabbit Show at REF Fairgrounds (no spectators)  
August 3-5th  
Online Breeding Rabbit & Cavy Show Judging  
Aug 7-8th  
SC Online Junior Livestock Auction

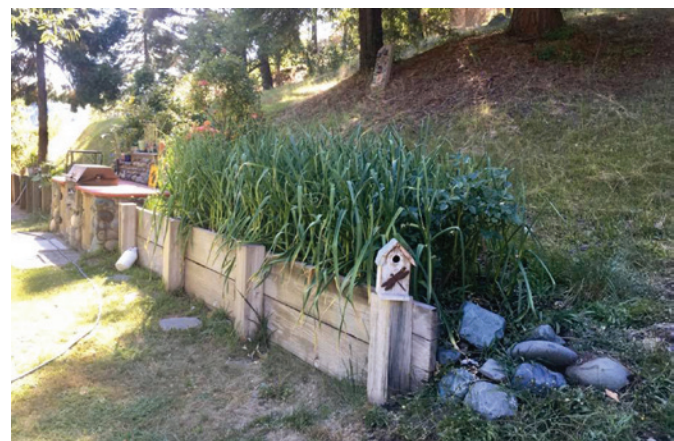
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Summer Reading 2020  
June 29-August 10



¡a escarbar!  
lee, investiga, descubre.  
¡dig deeper!  
read, investigate, discover.

<https://www.mendolib.org/home>



Above, from left: Pink petunias in Sandy Strong's garden in the Willits valley garden. Valley Sawyer says "It's coming along! I have a great helper!" Cauliflower from the garden of Sarah Segale. Mary Eileen Allen says her "Music" Garlic will be ready to harvest in a couple weeks!

# Community Gardens

Despite all of the coronavirus complications elsewhere, gardens are still growing, blooming and fruiting with wonderful things. Here are some community-submitted photos of local gardens and their beautiful bounties.

At right: One of Sarah Segale's roses blooms wide open in the summer heat. Below: A Brooktrails Victory Garden. Below: Liv C. in her backyard flower and organic vegetable garden. At bottom: Four varieties of sunflowers grown in the garden of Rachel Cash.



AT THE MOVIES



**Retro-classic series at the Noyo Theatre**  
June 6 to July 2

'JAWS'

**The Story:** Adventure/thriller/horror movie directed by Steven Spielberg. The seaside resort town of Amity. A man-eater/woman-eater Great White Shark gorges on beachgoers and threatens the local economy. Eek! Very contemporary. **Dan Essman** The heroes: a police chief (Roy Scheider), a talky shark expert (Richard Dreyfuss), and a colorful old fisherman (Robert Shaw) set out on a small fishing boat to kill the monster, and make famous the ironic understatement, "We're going to need a bigger boat."

**My Thoughts:** This flick is so good, so well-made, acted, directed and edited, and it's sometimes so funny, yet so darn suspenseful, that all a film lover can do is genuflect while muttering, "I'm not worthy." This is Spielberg's first giant hit. Rightly so.

**Parents:** Not for children. Too tension-filled, and the terror music is a Pavlovian brain worm.

'ET'

**The Story:** Spielberg's heartwarming science fiction thriller. A fatherless boy makes friends with a lost extraterrestrial. Then the boy, his brother and his sister must hide the ET from sinister government agents. They run, ride bikes, and miraculous things happen so the ET can phone home. A great movie.

**My Thoughts:** Like "Jaws," this family film is a classic of modern world cinema. I cannot recommend it enough. ET's plaintive cry "Phone home" has entered the American film-goers' mental collection of movie dialogue, on a par with "We'll always have Paris" and "Bond, James Bond."

**Parents:** This is a great flick for kids. It's kind and empowering. Take 'em to see this movie on the big screen.

**Note:** Call the Noyo for screen times. 459-6696

LET'S ROOT FOR THE HOME TEAM!

**JUNIOR GIANTS**  
AT HOME  
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4-WEEK  
**Virtual Season**

Featuring training from San Francisco Giants Manager Gabe Kapler & the Giants Coaching Staff!



**2020**  
WILLITS YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER  
REGISTRATION

At left, top: Swimming Instructor Taylor Pardue guides Lifeguard Kallie Brown in helping Ronin enter the water to do a set of activities to help him feel comfortable in the water.

At left, above: Willits Branch Librarian Nicole Bird shows what happens with vinegar and different amounts of baking soda in an episode of "Nicole's Test Kitchen – STEAM Edition."

Photos by Ree Slocum



Above: Instructors for the WCT summer theater program for youth include, from left, Jeff Shipp, Mike A'Dair, TinaMarie Silveira, Gretchen Moore and Robert Ford.

## WCT announces online summer youth theater program

By Steve Hellman for WCT

Willits Community Theatre will present a summer theater academy for young people, ages 7 to 17, starting on July 6 through August 14. The Virtual Theatre Train Youth Academy will feature online workshops in scriptwriting, acting, songwriting, singing, set painting, and Shakespearean monologues.

Director Karen Mattson says that the Virtual Youth Academy is going to provide an opportunity for collaboration, creativity, and skill building when kids need it most.

"Our youth has been isolated due to shelter-in-place orders," she said, "and this summer academy will be a fun, safe way for the kids to connect and shine. We have such wonderful and talented children in our community. I cannot wait to see how their performance will turn out."

Instructors are Robert Ford for scriptwriting, Oscar Montelongo Medina for acting, Jeff Shipp for songwriting, TinaMarie Silveira for voice and singing, Gretchen Moore for set painting, and Mike A'Dair for Shakespearean monologues.

Classes will culminate in a final video performance, which will be taped during the week of August 8 through August 14 for presentation online. Fees for the class are \$50 each, \$100 for three classes, and all six classes for \$200. Individual classes are one hour and 15 minutes each, twice a week.

Those wishing to register for the academy may find the registration form online at [www.wctstreamtrainacademy.com](http://www.wctstreamtrainacademy.com). Please print and mail the form together with the registration fee to Willits Community Theatre, PO Box 80, Willits, CA 95490.

**Temporary Hours**  
Monday - Saturday  
8am - 6pm  
Sunday - Closed  
Until Further Notice  
Curbside pick up available

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**JUNE 26 - JULY 2**

**ET: The Extraterrestrial (1982)**  
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4:00pm  
\$5 Adult General Admission • \$3 Kids, Seniors & Matinees  
Theater limited to 25% capacity for your safety. Masks required until seated.  
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**Jaws (1975)**  
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7:00pm  
**JAWS**

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Willits Weekly on June 22, Garbrabrant-Sierra said that while her contract actually goes until March, she has accrued enough vacation and management leave time to leave the position by January, and will do what she can to help the city find a replacement by then.

"I wanted to give plenty of notice, because recruiting and finding a good city manager is a difficult process that takes time," she said in the email. "I can be available for transition as well."

She said that she plans to continue living in the area after her work as city manager is over.

"I care a lot about this city and do not plan to go anywhere! Willits is a wonderful city with a lot of very special people."

During the ethics code discussion at the meeting, Garrabrant-Sierra indicated that she had already told council she would not be seeking another contract with the city.

"As you know I have decided to leave the City [of Willits] at the end of the year, and it was with heavy heart that I decided to do that," she said. "Because I do love the city. It has been a difficult decision, and I want to make sure that the next city manager has a chance to have an ethical workplace in which to work."

"And I would like to say that the majority of council has been wonderful," she continued. "However, I think that there are some conditions such as some of the behavior on social media that is not appropriate, and the violations of the council/manager form of government that continue to happen. And I do hope that you pass something quickly and do not take it lightly. Because I want to make sure that the next city manager is in a position to succeed."

Instead of approving the ethics code draft that was presented at the meeting, the council decided to form an ad hoc committee to further research and craft the language of the code. The council was in general agreement that they would like to look at more samples of ethics codes from other cities for more ideas to consider. Mayor Gerry Gonzalez appointed councilmembers Greta Kanne and Madge Strong to the committee.

Following some of the councilmembers' comments about how they would prefer to delay the vote, Garrabrant-Sierra gave an emotional statement urging the council to act quickly on the matter.

"I have been working on this for a while," she said. "I have been with you for over two years, and I am very concerned with the tone and tenor of the relationship of council and council's relationship with staff."

"And a lot of what happens in this council is really not appropriate or ethical or acceptable," she continued. "I will say that I have seen things on Facebook written about me that are flat-out lies. And that should never happen. And I think it's time, and the time is now to do something to improve the tenor of our relationship."

Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez took umbrage with those comments from Garrabrant-Sierra in her response.

"I find it very disheartening," she said, "that we were having a conversation as a council about our ethics policy, and wanting to look at other examples and respecting that there were certain elements of this particular one that we wanted; and because it appears that the majority wasn't going to vote in favor of this immediately that it apparently elicited the city manager to call us liars and unethical at a public meeting. And I'm very disheartened by the comments when we're just talking about ethics, and yet here you are making in my opinion unethical statements about the council."

City Human Resources Director Karen Stephenson spoke in strong agreement of Garrabrant-Sierra's sentiments.

"I feel compelled to speak as a member of this community in regards to the communications and interactions conducted by some members of this council during council meetings and on social media," she said. "The lack of respect, the passive aggressive and uncivil behavior, has become a serious problem."

"I agree our councilmembers must have the right to share their opinions, but people don't always see eye to eye," she continued. "And there's a way to communicate your opinion without making staff feel like they are being disregarded, disrespected, and demoralized.... Respect is one of the city's core values, and as a councilmember you must lead by example and demonstrate acceptable behaviors and attitudes."

Respect was also one of the main themes of the 19 page Code of Ethics draft the council looked at.

"It all comes down to respect," it states in one section. "Respect for one another as individuals ... respect for the validity of different opinions ... respect for the democratic process ... respect for the community that we serve."

City Attorney Jim Lance explained the

draft the council was considering was largely based on one approved by the City of Saratoga, and codes of ethics were pretty common among districts now.

"While state law prohibits municipal officers from engaging in certain conflicts of interest and unethical behavior, many local governments adopt their own ethics code that include additional restrictions," he said in his agenda summary report. "These policies cannot conflict with state law, but they can supplement it."

One of the more contentious aspects of the ethics code involved putting stricter guidelines onto councilmembers' ability to criticize others on the council or city staff, including on social media.

For example, one section in the 19 page document stated: "[The professional and personal conduct of [councilmembers] must be above reproach and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Members shall refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other members of council, boards and commissions, the staff or public."

As for punishments, one section stated: "City councilmembers who intentionally and repeatedly do not follow proper conduct may be reprimanded or formally censured by the council, lose seniority or committee assignments (both within the City of Willits or with inter-government agencies) or have official travel restricted. Serious infractions of the Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct could lead to other sanctions as deemed appropriate by council."

Rodriguez was clearly opposed to some of the proposed speech restrictions in particular, and spoke against them at the meeting and in a Facebook post just prior.

"I believe it'll muzzle your elected officials," she said in a June 9 Facebook post. "We'll forgo our right to free speech. Councilmembers won't be allowed to criticize members of the council, the staff or public. We're trading the public's right to transparency, so that management and elected officials can feel more comfortable at meetings. It is at these public meetings that it's more important than ever that elected officials speak openly in front of the full view of the public."

In her email, Garrabrant-Sierra gave more detail about why she supported the code of ethics.

"The [code] that was presented to council by the city attorney was a code that many cities have adopted, and it is very straightforward," she said. "For staff, we have HR rules that strongly cover ethics, integrity and fairness, and we attend trainings on bullying and sexual harassment, etc.... You just can't have an effective organization without ground rules on respectful and ethical behavior. Good teams have good rules. We listen to each other. The principles of a council code of conduct looks at how the municipal team can work together and get things done."

"It can also cover a number of legal issues as well," she continued, "such as the Brown Act, council-manager form of government, not accepting or asking for favors, agreeing to follow the law, etc. There is nothing particularly odd or different or even a little unusual about this particular code of ethics, and they are all principles that the League of California Cities, ICMA [the International City/County Management Association], and/or state and federal law either dictate or strongly recommend."

#### Non-sanctioned parade

Also, at the June 10 meeting the council discussed their concerns around the planning of a non-sanctioned 4th of July parade in Willits that has been organizing on social media. The result of that June 10 discussion was that the council decided to consider sending a jointly signed letter with the County of Mendocino expressing disapproval of the plans, and they were scheduled to vote on whether the city should sign it at last night's council meeting. (Note: the city council voted 4-1 to send the letter to organizers with Councilmember Larry Stranske dissenting. More in next week's edition.)

The letter, which was in the June 24 agenda summary, states the parade would be unlawful since it would be a "mass gathering," and currently the only mass gatherings allowed by the state are "for the purpose of worship or protest."

Garrabrant-Sierra, who wrote the agenda summary report about the letter, said that Mendocino County Counsel Christian Curtis and County Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan had already approved sending it prior to the meeting last night.

Parade organizer Katelyn Garcia called into the June 10 teleconference city council meeting to advocate for the parade plans. As she and others supporting the parade have repeatedly done on social media and elsewhere, she insisted they were asking all participants to follow all social distancing and other county health regulations so that they would be having a legal event following the health order's rules.

For example, she said the parade is

planned to consist entirely of people in vehicles following the same extended route, obeying all traffic laws, with all onlookers asked to follow social distance rules.

"We're just basically going to drive through town and celebrate the unity of our community and the freedom that we have, and we're not encouraging anyone to break any of the shelter-in-place laws," said Garcia.

However, as is evident in the letter the city council was to consider at the June 24 meeting, some city and county officials still believe the event would be unlawful and potentially dangerous.

"Willits is a small town with few hospital beds and a large percentage of people who are at higher risk of death from COVID-19, such as the elderly," reads the letter. "While we have been fortunate to not have had many cases in our county ... many of those cases were the direct result of gatherings and none were in Willits. Public Health officials throughout the state agree that mass gatherings are dangerous and likely to promote community spread of COVID-19. We are also concerned that the blatant violation of the governor's order will cause the state to halt or reverse the opening up of Mendocino County for businesses and recreation, as what happened in Cottonwood, because people insisted on holding a rodeo in violation of the state health order."

"For this reason, the City of Willits and the County of Mendocino ask that you not conduct your proposed celebration and mass gathering on the Fourth of July and that you issue a statement to that effect immediately to prevent people from gathering."

It appears from social media posts that there's a good chance the group organizing and supporting the parade will move forward with their plans whether the city and county send them the letter of disapproval or not.

Garcia started a Facebook Group – "Willits 4th of July" – focused on the parade idea in May, and it now has over 800 followers.

Willits Frontier Days canceled the holiday's festivities, including the traditional Independence Day parade, back in May over concerns about COVID-19 and the shelter-in-place rules.

There is also a Facebook event page now up called "Willits Fourth of July Parade PROTEST," hosted by Garcia and Adrianna Martin-Wyatt. The event name is a nod to the state's rule that gathering for a "protest" is legal, as long as social distancing and other rules are followed. The page includes a parade route, a "call for participants," reminders of the rules, and a starting time and location on the 4th.

"The Fourth of July in Willits is legendary," the page states in the "Details" section. "For decades our community has celebrated with events that bring us close. Unfortunately, 2020 must and will look different... Please note, the roads will remain open, and all drivers must follow the rules of the road or they risk individual citations from law enforcement. Spectators, if any, must abide by county COVID health restrictions, otherwise they risk individual citations from law enforcement."

Despite the "PROTEST" title, the page also states that "this event is not associated with any political leanings and all community members are encouraged to participate."

The city council did not approve an urgency ordinance on June 10 that would have put in place penalty fines for violations of COVID-19 related health orders, so fining the parade organizers for violations will apparently not be an option, though standard law and regulation infractions could still conceivably carry penalties.

#### Howard patient tested positive

For the first time, a patient at Adventist Health Howard Memorial in Willits tested positive for COVID-19 last week.

It is reportedly the first known positive case to be discovered in Willits, although information such as the area where the patient lives was not made public to Willits Weekly.

Adventist Health public relations representative Cici Winiger said that the patient was admitted to the hospital for a few days last week and released Friday, but couldn't give more information due to patient privacy rules.

Willits Weekly attempted to reach out to a county public health official about the matter, but did not receive a reply.

The positive case is part of a surge of COVID-19 cases in the county for the last couple weeks. As of Wednesday evening, confirmed positive cases are up to 74, mostly in the Ukiah valley area, with 1 patient in the hospital, 31 in isolation, and 42 recovered cases.

#### Willits sewage tests positive

On Monday, Garrabrant-Sierra announced that a test of the city's wastewater influent also came back positive for COVID-19, meaning that evidence indicates one or more persons with the virus have been in the city recently.

The test sample was taken at the

headworks of the city's wastewater treatment plant on June 16, and a report of the first findings came back June 19. The same test was conducted for Brooktrails, but the results had not come in yet.

"We just received the preliminary report which states that the virus is in our sewer system," said Garrabrant-Sierra. "We are still processing results for Brooktrails – this is only [for] the City of Willits."

Testing of wastewater for the presence of COVID-19 has become fairly common in recent months, and four wastewater plants in Lake County that were tested in April also came back with positive COVID-19 results.

#### Western Wear Days

Despite there being no official Willits Frontier Days festivities due to the COVID-19 crisis, the City of Willits did continue the tradition of declaring "Western Wear Days" in Willits from June 26 through July 5 this year. It will be the 94th anniversary of the Western Wear Days proclamation in town, and the council officially declared it at their meeting on June 10.

The proclamation reads: "WHEREAS, Willits Frontier Days is the oldest continuous rodeo in the state of California, and this year's theme, 'No Place Like Home,' marks the 94th anniversary of Willits Frontier Days, which has drawn people from all over to come and not only celebrate Independence Day, but to celebrate our community; and WHEREAS, this year, 2020, while we are unable to gather, because we are protecting our community from COVID-19, we still want to celebrate Frontier Days by encouraging people to wear western wear while keeping in our heart that there is 'No Place Like Home' ... NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gerardo Gonzalez, mayor of the City of Willits, along with Vice Mayor Larry Stranske and Councilmembers Madge Strong, Saprina Rodriguez, and Greta Kanne, do hereby proclaim June 26 through July 5, 2020, as "Western Wear Days."

couple weeks of data to look at from other schools staring earlier." The Ukiah school district is starting August 17.

"I think by August 31, we'll have some data from 30 miles away that'll be pretty pertinent," Westerburg said. "And it's either going to be a yes or a no. We'll let them get out there, and hope it works well for them; if it doesn't, it'll help us prepare. We'll start the 31st, and see where we go."

"We do have a plan we're looking at," Westerburg said, a COVID plan. At the April meeting, Westerburg talked about a group of "some teachers, some administrators, some support staff" who we was working with to "try and figure out what are our best options and what kind of creative ideas are out there."

Westerburg said the COVID plan had to take into account safety concerns, and also take into account academic and financial concerns. "All three of those pieces have to go together," he said.

The WUSD COVID safety plan will have to be submitted to the county public health officer, sometime in July. "And who knows what's going to be [happening] at the end of August," Westerburg said.

Westerburg will present the completed safety plan to the board at a special Friday, July 17 meeting at 5 pm.

He told the board there were "some general consensus things" that have already been agreed on for a COVID safety plan.

"Smaller class size is our goal," Westerburg said. "The teacher having fewer contacts a day, which in elementary, means a smaller class size, a single class; in middle school and high school it's seeing fewer teachers in a day and staggering times at the high school, because regardless of what we do during the school day, at 7:40 we have 450 kids at the high school. So it wouldn't matter what cohort group we go into, unless we fix that from the get go."

Later discussion revealed a half-day kindergarten program, split into morning and afternoon groups, is under consideration.

Westerburg emphasized the importance of getting a large response on the parents' survey WUSD has sent out, in terms of helping the district figure out "what we can staff, and what we can afford to do.... Do parents want an independent study program? or do they want to be back in school regularly?"

He also stressed the importance of training to get all the teachers ready for the fall. "Each school site will look different," he said, as far as how it will deal with the challenges. Maintenance during the COVID shutdown has been making great progress. "We're ... fixing and repairing everything we can get done. The high school is almost completely done for next year."

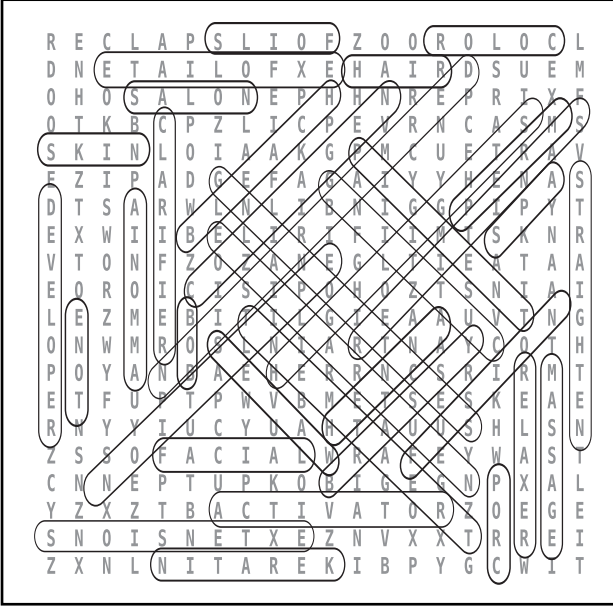
He concluded that in his opinion the district's "best plan" is to spend time now planning how to go "into a much more reduced and focused schedule," to start the fall with a COVID plan. "We can always go back, but we can't jump into this without a lot of preparation."


## LEGAL NOTICES

<b>WW272</b> <b>Fictitious Business Name Statement</b>  2020-F0276 The following person is doing business as Tango, 158 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490. Registered owner: William Bryan Mann, 2520 Buckeye Road, Willits, CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 15, 2020. /s/ William Mann  Publication dates: 06/18, 06/18, 06/25, 07/02/2020	<b>WW274</b> <b>Fictitious Business Name Statement</b>  2020-F0301 The following person is doing business as T&T Salvage and Storage, 277 North Lenore, Willits, CA 95490. Registered owner: Forest Wayne Hunt, 1228 West Highway 20, Upper Lake, CA 95485. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 2, 2020. /s/ Wayne Hunt  Publication dates: 06/18, 06/25, 07/02, 07/09/2020
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<b>WW273</b> <b>NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DALE M. SCHATZ, aka DALE MARTIN SCHATZ CASE NO. SCUC-CVPB 20-27372</b>  To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or both of: DALE M. SCHATZ, DALE MARTIN SCHATZ <b>A Petition for Probate</b> has been filed by LEATHA MARIE ANDERSEN in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that LEATHA MARIE ANDERSEN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take any action without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. <b>A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:</b> Date: July 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: E of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482. <b>If you object</b> to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. <b>If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent</b> , you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the letters of either (1) <b>four months</b> from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) <b>60 days</b> from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. <b>Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.</b> <b>You may examine the file kept by the court.</b> If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: ALEXANDER C. RICH, ESQ., CARTER MCMEN PC, 716 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490. Telephone: 707-456-9210 Publication Dates: June 18, June 25, July 2, 2020
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<b>WW275</b> <b>CITY OF WILLITS SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01</b>  NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 10, 2020 at a regular noticed meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2020-01. <b>AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLITS, CALIFORNIA, MODIFYING CHAPTER 2.44 OF THE WILLITS MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED EMERGENCY SERVICES TO WAIVE ZONING REQUIREMENTS AND/OR STANDARDS TO FACILITATE BUSINESS OPERATIONS AFFECTED BY THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)</b> The City Council adopted an Urgency Ordinance amending the City Code to allow the director of emergency services to waive zoning requirements and/or standards to facilitate business operations of established businesses affected by emergency orders of the federal, state, and local government, to the extent that such waivers would not result in a general intensity of use beyond what is otherwise allowed, as applicable to the zoning district where the use is located. Such waivers would expire concurrently with the termination of the local emergency pursuant to Section 2.44.130 of the Willits City Code. A certified copy of the full text of Urgency Ordinance No. 2020-01 is posted on the City's website, www.cityofwillits.org. Any person wanting a hardcopy of this ordinance, please contact Cathy Moorhead, City Clerk at (707) 459-7121 or mail a letter to the City Clerk's Office, 111 E. Commercial St., Willits, California and one will be mailed to you. The foregoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting, held on the 10th day of June, 2020 by the following vote: AYES: Kanne, Rodriguez, Strong, Stranske, and Gonzalez NOES: None ABSENT: None  This summary of the adopted Ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code Section 36933. /s/ Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk Posted: June 25, 2020 Publication Date: June 25, 2020
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### NOYO THEATRE MOVIE SCHEDULE

June 26 through July 23 2020

4:00	ET: The Extraterrestrial (1982)	1:55 PG
7:00	Jaws (1975)	2:04 PG

**July 3-July 9**

4:00	Ghostbusters (1984)	1:45 PG
7:00	American Graffiti (1973)	1:53 PG

**July 10-July 16**


4:00	The Muppet Movie (1979)	1:35 G
7:00	The Blues Brothers (1980)	2:13 R

**July 17-July 23**

4:00	Iron Giant (1999)	1:30 PG
7:00	Purple Rain (1984)	1:51 R

**\$5 Adult General Admission \$3 Kids, Seniors & Matinees**  
Theater limited to 25% capacity for your safety.  
Masks required until seated.

Movietimes Recording: 459-NOYO(6696)  
Website: www.noyotheatre.com



### Current Job Openings:

Account Specialist III  
County Health Officer  
Legal Clerk III  
Legal Secretary I/II  
Public Health Nurse  
Registered Nurse  
Senior Department Analyst  
Senior Program Specialist  
Senior Public Health Nurse  
Social Worker II/III/IV A-D  
Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C  
Supervising Public Health Nurse  
Vocational Assistant

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources)

EOE

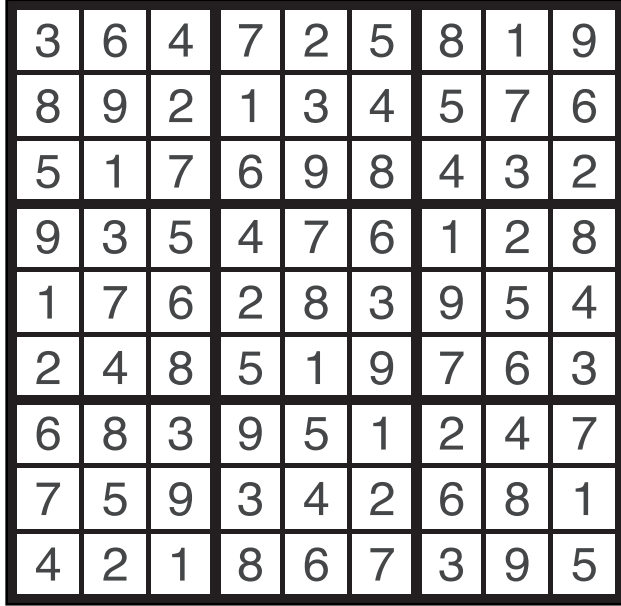
"If gas service to customers in the area will be impacted, they will receive notice from PG&E several days in advance."

The crews will be replacing the lines in the following areas: Page Court, Railroad Avenue starting at East Valley Street, south to East Oak Street, East San Francisco Avenue from Highway 101 east to Railroad Avenue, Monroe Street from Highway 101 east to Central Avenue, Alameda Avenue from Highway 101 east to Central Avenue, South Street from Highway 101 east to Central Avenue, East Barbara Lane from Central Avenue to Railroad Avenue.

In addition, they will also be working on 2 miles of gas distribution main in southwest Willits.

If any residents have questions about the PG&E Pipeline Replacement Program, Nick Jensen asks that they contact Scott Hart, of PG&E Customer Relations: 415-517-6199, so as to get the best, most up-to-date answers.

"The No. 1 thing we are concerned with is safety," Jensen explained. "We have so many precautions. Everything is grounded. There are fire extinguishers in all the vehicles. We make sure the noise is not going all day. We take breaks. We're not here to make anyone's life difficult."



## CLASSIFIEDS

#### Computer Help

Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration, and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhail@gmail.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: Debi 489-0742  
Brooktrails: Vicky 354-1453

#### For Rent

770 sq. ft. Office for rent in healing arts complex. Central heat and A/C. Off street parking, centrally located. \$550/ mo. Utilities included. Avail. July 1st. 707-354-2473

#### 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.

#### Mendocino Counts!

\$5 Help Your Community \$\$ - the 2020 Census brings our federal tax dollars home. Mail in your 2020 Census form now! Or fill it out online at: www.my2020census.gov. More info at: www.mendocinocounts.org

#### RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

#### Keith's Structural Repair

Rural bridge repair and restoration. Structural retrofitting for buildings. On site welding. Retaining walls. Keith Rosen: 707-354-8992

#### Stay Safe

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

#### New Mini Storage Units in Willits

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

#### The Fruit Group

Freestone peaches & nectarines yellow & white \$32 a lug, field Roma tomatoes 30lb lug \$32, Pluots \$n/a a lug July 9th & 23rd deliveries. Brenda 459-9335 - email thefruitgroup95490@yahoo.com

#### Virtual Spiritual Exploration

To learn more about classes and topics that may interest you visit: <https://www.meetup.com/Lake-Mendocino-Cities-Spiritual-Explorers/> Join us on Zoom or via telephone Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8 pm, June III through July 29, 2020. Questions? Please call Joy at (952) 999-2288.

**\$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks**

371-6350.

For some, summer is all about 4H. The **Junior Livestock Auction** is going virtual this year. Blue ribbon online entries, YQCA certification and ownership paperwork are due July 10.

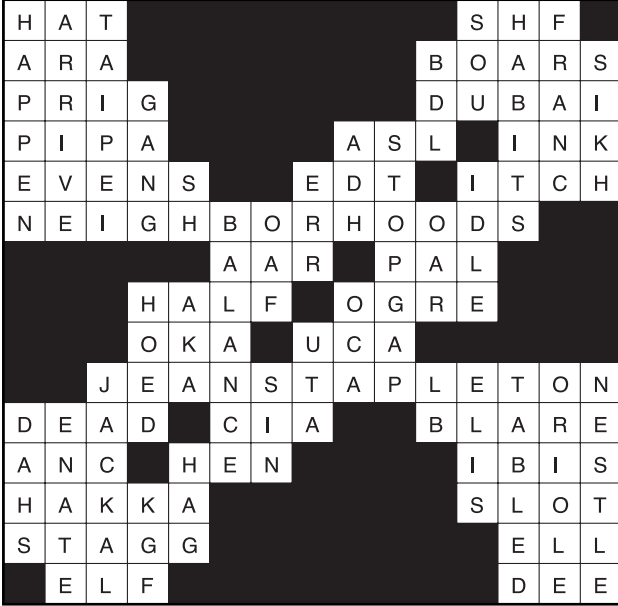
For more information, and other program dates, check the "Mendocino County Junior Livestock Auction Committee" Facebook page. Sponsors from Willits include Les Schwab, Marvin Gardens Tree Service, and J.D. Redhouse.

Being uncertain about what the future brings for most of the summer programs is part of the memorable 2020 summer. Most everyone wants to open for the kids' sakes but how to do that safely, without spreading COVID-19, is the

biggest challenge.

**Willits Youth Football and Cheer** is accepting registration for the 2020 season, although the final decision about the season hasn't been made yet, because the youth level follows the high school's lead. There won't be any in-person registrations or fees collected at this time, but the first day of practice is tentatively scheduled for July 20 at Baechtel Grove Middle School.

For more details, including eligibility, fees and what information the league needs to register your child, visit this post <https://www.facebook.com/WillitsYouthFootball/posts/3179310382129167> on the "Willits Youth Football and Cheer" Facebook page.







## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenora Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Where love is first  
and the Bible is central.  
Sunday Services:  
9:15 a.m. - Bible Class,  
adult & children  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebiblechurch.com

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**  
803 Coast Street  
P.O. Box 489, Willits  
707-303-5456  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Burton Jernigan  
**EVERYBODY IS WELCOME**

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
265 Margie Drive  
Willits, CA 95490  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
Sacrament Meeting  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-459-3066  
Church Services/Communion  
& Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Healing Prayer 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Karl Bliese, Pastor  
Church Service:  
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00  
Bible Study/Sunday School  
following the service.  
(707) 459-2988  
24 Mill Creek Drive  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
707-459-5714  
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.  
4th Sabbath of every month  
family potluck at the school.  
22751 Bray Road, Willits

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

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

# Willits Charter School wins ‘Jack London Innovation in Education Award’

By Jennifer Lockwood, WCS director

Willits Charter School is proud to announce that our Friday Academy program won the “Jack London Innovation in Education Award” through Sonoma State University’s School of Education.

Programs were judged based on original vision and impetus for the program, innovative and creative approaches, engaging teachers and school community collaboratively, and the impact of the program on students and how it might be adaptable to other settings.

The award program spans six different counties: Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Solano, Lake and Mendocino. The goal of the Jack London Award is “to recognize and publicize outstanding innovative programs within a school and the individuals responsible for them.”

Willits Charter School’s Friday Academy program was developed 11 years ago by teachers, administration, and our school board, the Charter School Association of Willits. The concept of the program was to find a way to provide a wide array of enrichment activities for our students.

Students are given a survey at the beginning of each semester to determine the appropriate class placement based on interest. Some classes are assigned based on the students’ academic needs. Some of the courses taught are Culinary Arts, Art, Ceramics, Theatre Arts, Podcasts, Gardening, Native American Studies, Martial Arts, and Archery.

High-school students have additional options designed for them, such as Driver’s Education, Internships, Senior Projects, and Coding. We also offer college courses through our local Mendocino College that are open

to the public as well. Oversight of the program includes both a teacher coordinator and the school director.

Friday Academic Support includes Reading Comprehension, Study Hall, Study Skills, Algebra Readiness, Honors, etc. This is a time where we can work on filling any gaps in the students’ knowledge in the areas of reading and / or math, or provide honors or AP-level labs and / or extension to the Monday through Thursday courses. We track students’ progress through a testing process and move students in and out of support classes as needed.

At the end of each semester, we engage in a “Variety Show” to showcase what the students have worked on in the area of the arts. This includes Ceramics, Art, Music and Acting. Food is provided by our culinary program. Students do not always have to perform to showcase their talents; we also display artistic talent through set design, graphic design, and art.

To check out our short video highlighting our Friday Academy program, go to <http://education.sonoma.edu/scholarships-awards/jack-london/> videos. We would like to thank the SSU faculty and the community and educational leaders who selected Willits Charter School to win this prestigious award.

Willits Charter School will receive a \$500 gift certificate, a certificate of recognition, and a book authored by Jack London. We would also like to sincerely thank Ms. Miles for her hard work coordinating the Friday Academy program at WCS, and to the CSAW Board for their tireless work conducting oversight and improvement of the charter school.



## Willits Swimming Pool Information Summer 2020

**For more information: 707-456-4122 or 707 459-5778**

# Lap Swim

## June 22, 2020 to August 22, 2020

### Monday thru Saturday

### 6:00am to 7:30am

### \$5.00/day

Space is limited  
First-Come First-serve Basis

To Comply with County of Mendocino Health Order:

- Lanes will be limited to one swimmer per lane, except members of the same household, living unit or social bubble may occupy a single lane.
- Any lap swimming must occur at fixed time when there are no other groups present

## See's Candy

**Drive Through Pick Up Call 459-6826**

**Home Meal Delivery**

Call 707-459-6826 to Schedule  
Available Monday thru Friday  
Cost - \$5 per meal  
Delivered throughout Willits.  
Please call to set up delivery.

**Drive Thru & Walk Up Meals**

Available:  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
1501 Baechtel Road  
\$5 per meal,  
Monday-Friday

**Menu - June Week 5**  
Thursday, June 25  
Beef Enchiladas  
Friday, June 26  
Turkey Dinner

**Menu - July Week 1**  
Monday, June 29  
Beef Tips & Noodles  
Tuesday, June 30  
Ruben Sandwich  
Wednesday, July 1  
Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole  
Thursday, July 2  
Taco Salad  
Friday, July 3  
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

**Accepting donations to aid us in feeding seniors Sheltering in Place — Please Visit —**  
[www.willitsseniorcenter.com](http://www.willitsseniorcenter.com)

**Transportation For Seniors**

Call 707-459-6826 to Schedule  
Pick Up and Drop Off for:  
Grocery Shopping  
Banking  
Doctor's Appointments

The rest of **Cases** | From Page 1

American Indian or Alaskan native; seven have been “other”; and eight have been “unreported.”

A total of 9,405 tests have been done in this county. Of those, 1,677 have been facilitated by the county’s Department of Public Health; 5,569 have been done either by local hospitals or clinics or the OptumServe unit at the Ukiah Fairgrounds; and 2,159 tests have been processed by the University of California at San Francisco.

According to Public Health, 36 cases have been generated due to “close contact,” eight have come from work/out-of-county travel; nine are attributable to community spread; and 21 cases are still under investigation.

### OptumServe not here forever

During the board meeting on Tuesday, Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams pointed out that OptumServe will be in the county only until the end of August. Williams told county CEO Carmel Angelo that the county needed a “second lane” testing facility that would serve people on the coast.

“The Fifth District has a large number of residents who have to drive a five-hour round trip to get tested in Ukiah. It’s like somebody at the Administration Center in Ukiah going to San Francisco to get tested. Right? It doesn’t scale up. Whether or not that service is in Ukiah or whether or not it’s free, doesn’t make any difference. Practically, we won’t get a population through it....

“It’s appropriate to discuss how we’re going to finance the long-term testing,” Williams continued. “COVID is not going to be over by September 1st. We may be testing for the next year. And we need to test the entire population, not just the Ukiah valley.

“How do we plan to pay for that? Or should we at least give board direction to staff to plan for it? We don’t know how we’re going to pay for it, but we know we’re going to need continuous testing and we need it throughout the county.”

CEO Angelo confirmed that the OptumServe contract with the State of California for a Mendocino County testing service was only until August 30. She said that she and her staff have been talking with the company about getting a “second lane” OptumServe facility for the coast.

“The one thing we haven’t worried about during this COVID response is money, unfortunately,” Angelo said. “We jumped in with both feet to do everything we can to keep the community safe, at the direction of this board. And so, it will be interesting to see when it’s all over, what the cost is.

“I assure you, we’re not waiting for the state,” Angelo said. “We’re pretty clear that the state will not pay for a second lane. But Optum is a large company. They’re not a local company. So working with them takes a little bit of time. They have 86 sites throughout this state, so it takes a little while to get another site. But I am certain, if we are willing to pay, that they will do it.”

Williams asked where the money would come from to pay for either the original OptumServe testing site in Ukiah, or a second lane test site on the coast.

Angelo said that she did not know. “We’ve been informed that we have Optum through August 30. My hope is that about mid-August we will hear that the state has agreed to extend their arrangement with Optum through September or October,” she said.

“If not, we will turn to Darcie Antle, who is our recovery finance guru, and she will assist us. I don’t know if the money will come out of disaster recovery or which line item and which department that money will come out of,” Angelo said.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen said he felt that the board of supervisors needed to have more oversight over the county’s COVID-19 expenditures.

“We know that our revenues are taking a hit,” McCowen said. “We’ve already adjusted them for this fiscal year – we’ve adjusted them for next fiscal year. We don’t know how deep the hit may be, how quickly business may rebound. We are told that our COVID expenses are well over \$5 million. We hope to receive reimbursement for at least 75 percent of that.

“I honestly believe it’s time for the board to be brought more directly into considerations of, how much money are we spending? It’s a concern, where the cost for the Optum could be well over \$100,000 a month. No funding source identified....

“We’ve shown that we can have a rapid response to rapidly evolving events,” McCowen continued. “I think some of these expenditure decisions need to be brought before the board. I understand, there’s times, there’s an emergency: You simply have to act. But in terms of our longer-range response to the COVID emergency, I think we need to be seeing a little more detail before the board,” he said.

Angelo said the cost of putting one OptumServe unit in the county would cost about \$50,000 a month. She assured the supervisors that her authority to spend ended at \$50,000, and any contract with Optum that exceeded that amount, would have to be brought before the board for its approval.

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The rest of **Roundup** | From Page 1

detectives who identified Juan Diego Vazquez-Cendejas, 22, of Willits as having allegedly committed the abuse.

On June 10, around 5 pm, in response to this investigation, Sheriff’s Office detectives and patrol deputies served a search warrant in the 1200 block of Locust Street in Willits. After an interview with Vazquez-Cendejas and at the conclusion of the search warrant, it was determined there was sufficient probable cause to arrest Vazquez-Cendejas for 288 (a) PC (Sexual Abuse of a Minor) stemming from the initial reported incident.

Further investigation revealed Vazquez-Cendejas was also suspected of multiple acts of sexual abuse with the same juvenile in 2019, resulting in a charge of 288.5 PC (Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child under 14 years of age).

Vazquez-Cendejas was arrested for the listed charges and booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$200,000 bail.

This remains an active investigation, and anyone with information related to this investigation or about Juan Diego Vazquez-Cendejas is asked to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office Tip Line at 707-234-2100 or through the We-Tip Anonymous Crime Reporting Hotline at 800-782-7463.

### Tribal police officer attacked after confronting vandal

On June 9 at approximately 10:53 pm, the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office received a 911 call from a person stating a Round Valley Tribal Police officer was in a physical fight with Kenneth Ryan Whipple, 45, in the 76000 block of Henderson Lane in Covelo.

Sheriff’s deputies met the tribal police officer who was receiving medical treatment for facial injuries and lacerations to his ear that were bleeding heavily. He advised Sheriff’s Office deputies he had responded to a residence because it was reported that Whipple was vandalizing the inside of the home.

Upon arrival, the officer confronted Whipple, resulting in Whipple immediately removing his shirt and attacking the officer by striking him about the face with closed fists.

During the assault, both went to the ground, where the officer tried to control Whipple and prevent him from striking him further. During this time, Whipple bit the officer on the neck and ear, causing puncture wounds consistent with a human bite. Whipple escaped and fled the scene on foot.

The Sheriff’s Office deputies investigated the initial call the tribal police officer responded to and learned that Whipple was at the home of his girlfriend, a 44-year-old adult female. While there, Whipple became enraged during an argument and threatened to stab the female. At one point, when she tried to leave the residence to escape him, he reportedly used a large rock to smash her vehicle window while she was seated inside.

It was also learned that Whipple had destroyed multiple electronics and appliances inside the female’s residence while angry, causing an estimated \$5,000 worth of damage.

On June 10, Whipple was located in the 2300 block of Charlie Hurt Highway in Covelo and was arrested without incident. Whipple was booked into the Mendocino County Jail, where he was to be held on \$50,000 bail.

### Suspect in Khadijah Britton case arrested on gun, drugs charges

On June 4 at about 2:49 am, Mendocino County Sheriff’s deputies located two vehicles parked in the roadway in the area of Ledger Lane and Hopper Lane in Covelo. The vehicles appeared to possibly be involved in a traffic collision, which prompted the deputies to stop and attempt contact.

Deputies observed that one of the vehicles was a Ford Mustang and recognized a subject they knew from prior contacts, Negie Fallis, 39, sitting in the driver’s seat. Fallis was a suspect in the disappearance of Khadijah Britton of Covelo more than two years ago.

Deputies started to approach on foot. In response, Fallis put the vehicle in reverse and started to leave the scene, backing the vehicle into a driveway of a nearby residence.

Deputies knew Fallis to be on post-release community supervision. Fallis appeared to be fleeing the scene, therefore deputies pursued him on foot. Fallis accelerated rapidly, backing deeper into the property but quickly ran out of terrain and came to a stop.

Deputies were able to identify the driver as Fallis, who was the sole occupant of the vehicle. Fallis has prior convictions for carrying firearms and is on PRCS for being a felon in possession of a firearm, so when deputies observed Fallis reaching down toward the floorboard of the vehicle, they feared he was trying to hide or reach for a firearm, so they directed him to exit the vehicle at gun point. Once Fallis exited the vehicle, he was placed in handcuffs without incident.

A search of Fallis’ vehicle was conducted by deputies. They immediately observed a glass methamphetamine smoking pipe in the center console of the vehicle. Deputies also located a loaded Glock Model #23 semi-automatic .40 caliber handgun underneath the driver’s seat, which was found to be stolen out of Lake County. Deputies continued the search of the vehicle and located a Ruger Mini-14 rifle in plain view that had been converted into an assault rifle and was loaded.

Fallis was evaluated and determined to be under the influence of a controlled substance. He was arrested on the listed charges and booked into the Mendocino County Jail, where he was to be held in lieu of \$75,000 bail.

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The rest of **Budget** | From Page 1

board on June 10, the budget contained \$0.00 for overtime for the sheriff’s office, and some \$14,000 for the jail.

Williams pointed out that since the sheriff’s office had spent \$2.27 million in overtime in 2019-20, it didn’t make sense to budget overtime at \$0.00. So after much discussion, the board directed staff to budget \$750,000 for overtime for the sheriff’s office and the jail.

On June 22, when the budget came back for adoption, county staff had budgeted \$750,000 for overtime for the sheriff’s office, and \$750,000 for overtime for the jail. Second District Supervisor John McCowen noticed the two entries, and pointed out that that wasn’t what the board had directed.

After a lunch break and closed session, the board took up the item again. Staff had eliminated the \$750,000 for jail overtime, leaving the department with just over \$14,000 for that function. Kendall said he had just found a probable \$300,000 in unfilled positions that he felt he could slip into the jail overtime column, leaving \$1,064,000 in overtime costs for the two departments.

Williams wasn’t happy with that number, either. “I think under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles one is to budget for all anticipated costs,” Williams said. “I worry that if last year the overtime was \$2.27 million and this year, due to COVID and reopening there could be more overtime, and with wages going up, the cost of the same number of hours will actually be more.

“I think that putting in an artificially low number, just for the sake of balancing the budget, we’re not really being honest with ourselves. We ought to put in the number that represents what we plan to spend,” Williams said.

McCowen reminded the board that Sheriff Kendall was proposing to convert a large room on the second floor of Building 2 at the jail complex into a courtroom and had suggested that having a courtroom at the jail would save a lot of money in costs to have sheriff’s deputies accompany prisoners to and from the old courthouse in downtown Ukiah. McCowen mentioned that Kendall had suggested that the new courtroom would save the department “in the range of half a million dollars.”

First District Supervisor Carre Brown asked the board to direct both Sheriff Kendall and Jail Commander Tim Pearce to work with CEO Carmel Angelo to get their overtime costs down.

“I don’t say that the sheriff will come in under budget,” said McCowen. “That is not realistic, and it hasn’t been for the 20 years that I’ve been following this. Because there’s structural overtime that is built into the budget, and then, as indicated, there’s no control over what crimes may be committed that can drive significant overtime.

“So I think the approach that we’re taking, to put overtime in there, to follow the direction that Supervisor Brown has given, and also to remember that the conversion of the Donovan Room [at the jail] will result in significant savings, is a prudent approach, and far preferable to considering significant cuts to juvenile hall, roads, etcetera. So I think what we have is appropriate.”

With that, the board approved the budget 4-1, with Williams voting no.

### Measure B update

Measure B Project Manager Alyson Bailey told the board that progress is being made in several areas having to do with Measure B. First, the Regional Training Center in Redwood Valley is due to open – twice. The “in house” opening will be in July, with certain repairs and remodeling still going forward before the general opening in October.

The architectural design for the crisis residential treatment facility on Orchard Avenue in Ukiah is in process, and Bailey said the plan will be ready to show to the Measure B Committee “within the next month. It needs to go to the Measure B Committee first, and then it will come to you,” Bailey said.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Jenine Miller said that the county will put out a request for proposals in mid-July in a search for companies to run the residential treatment facility. Miller said the RFP was designed to find a company to run the facility on their own dime. “The provider will operate the facility by billing for services and will not be dependent on the county to cover any deficits,” Miller said.

Bailey also said progress is being made on the operational feasibility study, also known as “the business plan.” She told the supervisors the fiscal plan has been drafted, and the most recent numbers have been incorporated into the report. “We only need a few more numbers from Mental Health,” she said. She said the feasibility study would be presented to the Measure B Committee at its meeting in July.

This document will hopefully answer the question which has been hamstringing progress in the committee for the past two years. The committee has been unable to realistically plan for how many buildings to construct and what kinds of ancillary mental health services it can offer, because it does not know how much any given set of options will cost, both for facility construction and for staffing. The operational feasibility study should answer those basic questions.

Supervisor Williams asked an interesting question. “What if we put out an RFP, and we don’t get a response because no one in their right mind would want to run that program without a subsidy?” he asked.

Bailey said that that question was “on the radar” of committee members, but she did not offer any suggestions of what the county might do if that happened.

The rest of **College** | From Page 4

Mendocino College Vice President of Administrative Services Eileen Cichocki has been serving as the college’s interim superintendent/president since August of 2019, after the previous president took a new position at a community college in southern California.

“On behalf of the entire governing board I am grateful to Karas for his interest in Mendocino College and his desire to take this amazing institution to the next level during some very challenging times. I want to thank Eileen Cichocki, our interim superintendent/president who navigated us through some rough seas with unwavering grace. We are lucky to have the best vice president of Administrative Services in the entire community college system,” stated Mendocino College Board President Robert Jason Pinoli.





OBITUARY |

# Gregory Hoffman

Gregory Allen Hoffman of Willits passed away June 5, 2020 at the age of 57. He was born June 19, 1962 to Thomas and Myra Hoffman in San Francisco, CA. He worked for Redwood Children's Services for 15 years as a Residential Therapeutic Counselor. He was a man of many interests and enjoyed traveling to "Vegas" and going to concerts; he loved Mariah Carey and Johnny Cash; and he was an avid Raiders fan, and loved the Oakland A's baseball team.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Myra Hoffman. He is survived by older brothers, Doug (Ruth) Hoffman, Gary (Mary) Hoffman; sister, Anne Marie (Fredy) Nava; and nieces and nephews: TJ Hoffman, Katie Hoffman, Michael Ruiz, David Leon, Myra Nava and Megan Nava.

It is hoped a celebration of his life will take place in August, if the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.



## Sweet Halo

Meet our girl, Halo. She is a 3-year-old German shepherd mix. Halo is a sweet gal who has finished her mama duties and is looking for love. She is a very social gal, greets other dogs at the dog park, and loves to play fetch. She walks well on an leash and enjoys car rides. She even loves to be bathed and groomed! If you're looking for a well-rounded gal who will steal your heart, Halo is your gal!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering: Call 707-485-0123 for information or any questions. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com) to learn more.



## Handsome Spade

Who is that handsome cat, you ask? Well he goes by the name "Spade." He is just hanging out, waiting to meet you! This handsome guy is the sweetest around. He takes just a little bit to warm up but once he does, it's worth the wait and love. Spade has been with us for almost a whole year! Can you believe that? We can't believe it! Want to make Spade's day?

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## Kitten time at Ukiah Shelter

We officially have kittens ready for adoption! Many people have been calling and asking if there are any babies available, and the time is finally here! Please keep a few things in mind before visiting the shelter – you *must* have an appointment. Space is still limited as we observe social distancing guidelines. You will not be allowed to enter the shelter if you do not have a prearranged time slot. Appointments must be made by calling 707-463-4427

- There will be no holds placed on kittens and no guarantees on which kittens will still be available when you visit. The kittens in the pictures below are just a few of the ones we currently have available. There will be more kittens available in the coming weeks as they start to return from their foster homes.
- In order to help your visit go smoothly, we suggest filling out an application prior to your appointment. Applications can be printed from our website [www.mendoanimalshelter.com](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com)
- A completed application will allow us to determine if you meet all of the requirements for adoption before you meet the kittens.

We look forward to getting all of our cute kittens into new and loving homes!

– Mendocino County Animal Shelter, June 18 update



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