

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

Willits *newspaper*

2020 WFD BOOKLET INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION!

Happy 4th of July

Willits FRONTIER DAYS

Sign color activities working something int... An... all... cation... sets... mc... ni...
 hands possible every... bills...
 get help... write... sports...
 share... accounting... right... online...
 want... join... right... online...
 contribute... business... conta...
 show also... area... week...
 letters... unnecessary... right...
 Good... man... business... conta...
 small... man... business... conta...
 able... man... business... conta...
 support... man... business... conta...
 well today... years... quality... organ...

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
 Donations Accepted Edition No. 361

Thursday, July 2, 2020

Organizers cancel 'parade' opposed by city council

Forrest Glycer
 Reporter
 willitsweekly@gmail.com

The two main organizers of a Willits 4th of July parade which was being planned without the support of the City of Willits and with no connection to Willits Frontier Days have announced they are cancelling the event.

The decision to cancel came a few days after the Willits City Council voted at their June 24 meeting to send a jointly signed letter with the County of Mendocino to organizers Adrianna Martin-Wyatt

Read the rest of **Cancelled**
 Over on Page 6

A look at the new Juvenile Justice Plan

Mike A'Dair
 Reporter
 mike@willitsweekly.com

On June 23, Mendocino County Chief Probation Officer Izen Locatelli appeared before the board of supervisors to show them his Juvenile Justice Plan and to seek approval for a \$271,315 partial budget for the program. Locatelli told the supervisors that the money for the plan was coming from the State of California. The supervisors approved the budget unanimously.

A look at the Juvenile Justice Plan reveals that youth services in this county has become a conundrum. On the one hand, about 60 percent

Read the rest of **Justice**
 Over on Page 13

Fireworks are illegal in Mendocino County

Submitted by CalFire, Mendocino Unit

Fourth of July is synonymous for sun, fun, barbecuing, and fireworks. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit Chief George Gonzalez is reminding everyone to do their part to have a safe holiday and help prevent wildfires and injuries caused by fireworks. Two out of five fires on the Fourth of July are caused by fireworks, more than any other cause of fires.

CalFire is reminding the public of the state's zero

Read the rest of **Illegal**
 Over on Page 6



Still Some Celebrating

Willits Frontier Days lamppost decorations decorate Main Street as of July 1

Above: Willits Public Works' Frankie Lavine holds one of the traditional Willits Frontier Days lamppost decorations that features a horse and foal. Below, from left: The help of a bucket truck makes it possible to hang the dozens of decorations about 20 feet in the air. The three-man crew that spent Wednesday morning swapping the Willits High School senior banners for the Willits Frontier Days 4th of July hangings, including, Frankie Lavine, left, Darin Bowlds, right, and Kenan O'Shea, in the bucket. O'Shea gets ready to snip the hose clamp holding up the senior banners. Once removed, the banners and brackets will be given back to the Willits Unified School District, and graduates will be able to pick up and keep their banners for decoration at home or in their rooms.



Laura McBride and horse Twinkie make annual ride through Savings Bank of Mendocino County's drive-thru

Above: "Whaddaya mean you're not wearing your mask?!" wonders Twinkie, who wears her own mask, along with owner Laura McBride, to keep up awareness of the county's health order. Below, left: Laura McBride and Twinkie make their annual pass through the drive-thru lane at the Savings Bank of Mendocino County. Below, right: SBMC's Marketing Support member, Maggie Coons-Abbott, left, and SBMC's Operations Officer Becky Ramirez, right, smile with Laura McBride, and Twinkie, who all don masks for safety.



New COVID order tightens some rules slightly

Mike A'Dair
 Reporter
 mike@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino County Interim Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan issued another public health order on Wednesday July 1, which will roll back – slightly – certain freedoms recently enjoyed by the public. The health order will become effective Friday, July 3 at noon.

The new Order "maintains the current stage 3 opening, but adds additional restrictions to certain sectors and activities to ensure public safety in light of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Mendocino County".

During the Monday "Facebook Live" event announcing the new order, Doohan said, based on the evidence: "We have community spread in the Ukiah valley. We are not seeing evidence of community spread actively occurring in any other part of our county at this time."

The July 1 health order in some respects represent a step backwards. Business

Read the rest of **COVID**
 Over on Page 13

Grand jury on Emergency Comms System

Mike A'Dair
 Reporter
 mike@willitsweekly.com

A new report by the Mendocino County Grand Jury finds that the board of supervisors has failed to fully fund an \$11.3 million project to rebuild and upgrade the county's Emergency Communications System, which is at the end of its life and which has been subject to what the grand jury terms "an ever-increasing failure rate."

According to an appendix to the report, the system has failed 21 times since the beginning of 2017. Some of those failures have come at the height of fire season, and have endangered both the public and first responders.

The outlying buildings which house the radio frequency equipment are generally in poor repair, subject to leaky roofs, standing water, rotting floorboards, and rodent infestation. Two county departments, Information Services and the facilities division within the county's executive office, oversee the maintenance of the system, with Information Services taking charge of the equipment itself, and

Read the rest of **Emergency**
 Over on Page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Confederate flag

To the Editor:

I think this is their God-given right to display the Confederate flag. Good for them. This is just freedom of speech. Sorry, John, you're wrong.

Shirley Streeter, Willits

Brooktrails Chipper Days

To the Editor:

There is no denying that we are in fire season and need to be prepared! Sherwood Firewise Community, CA Fire Safe Council, and Mendocino Fire Safe Council are pleased to offer a Chipper Days Program to Brooktrails residents.

This funding will allow a crew and chipper to come to the front of your property to haul away piles of brush beginning after the 4th of July. They will be visiting different properties for chipping the first week of each following month.

To be enrolled in the project you must first sign a Landowner Access Agreement. This form can be downloaded on our website at www.sherwoodfirewise.org or request one via email at info@sherwoodfirewise.org. You must then be prepared by bringing materials 6 inches in diameter and smaller to the side of the road, with the cut end towards the street.

Schedule when piles are ready for chipping by emailing info@sherwoodfirewise.org or calling 485-2613. Scheduled sites will be serviced the next chipper date. Please ask your neighbors to join in! Funding is limited to first-come, first-served. Email now so you can get this cost-saving assistance!

Doreen Blumenfeld, Sherwood Firewise Communities, Willits

Soccer bubbles

To the Editor:

In response to the parents and families in our soccer community, Mendocino County Soccer Academy returned to the field in Willits on June 22 for our youth Grassroots Academy.

Soccer is known around the world as "the beautiful game" in part because it speaks to the physical, social, and emotional needs of players. We've received overwhelming feedback from parents that they want their child involved, which has resulted in max capacity for all of our programs throughout the county.

Current county health orders allow for "social bubbles" for children's sports activities. These are stable groups of 12 people: in our case, 11 kids and one coach or 10 kids and two coaches, over 30 days. In Willits, we've created two separate bubbles, and per current health guidelines, social distancing

rules don't apply, which means players and coaches are not required to wear face coverings or social distance.

In addition to consistent, weekly contact with Mendocino County Public Health to ensure we are in compliance, we've developed our internal safety protocols for players, coaches and families.

Before starting our programs, we've hosted Zooms, sent countless emails and texts, and had numerous phone calls to educate parents, players, and staff to explain these protocols and get buy-in. We've communicated from the beginning that county health rules can change at any time, which could include shutting down these social bubbles and our on-field activities. We're prepared to do so at any time, and our families understand that possibility.

However, as long as we have a green light, our families, players and staff are all working together to create a safe, positive atmosphere for these socially starved kids to express themselves through the beautiful game.

Recently county public health reduced the size of the social bubbles to six people. However, children's camps and sports bubbles remain at 12, so our program can continue. Our families have been tremendously supportive. Parents and families are required to wear a mask and practice social distancing when dropping their kiddos off at practice, and we encourage parents to stay in their car to watch.

We understand the health and safety concerns of our community. We're doing everything in our power to satisfy those concerns while meeting the physical, social and mental well-being of our children. It's a delicate balance. We appreciate everyone involved who makes it possible, including the City of Willits, which is allowing us to use the city fields.

MCSA offers an alternative to other local leagues in the area. We have professional staff and coaches that provide training to our volunteer parent coaches and provide a network of support. Educated coaches create high-quality experiences for players and families. To learn more about MCSA and our plans for the fall, please visit MendocinoSoccer.com/Meet-MCSA

Please email any questions to lan@MendocinoSoccer.com. We understand the sensitivity of our times, and we pride ourselves on being responsive to any concerns as quickly as we can.

In the meantime, soccer is doing what soccer does. It's teaching children valuable life skills and putting smiles on faces. Thank you.

Ian Fitzpatrick, MCSA coach and admin director, Willits

Safeway gives \$10,000 'Nourishing Neighbors' grant to senior center

To the Editor:

I am very pleased to announce that Safeway welcomed the Harrah Senior Center to their Nourishing Neighbors Family with a \$10,000 grant. This grant enables us to feed seniors and those with health conditions who are sheltering in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of everyone who will benefit from the Nourishing Neighbors Grant, I would like to thank Safeway for providing funding for this much-needed service.

Richard Baker, executive director, Willits Seniors Inc.

Third District Supervisor's Report

July 2020

By Supervisor John Haschak

Covid-19 cases are increasing in Mendocino County. Most cases are now in the Ukiah valley. The modeling that the state has done thru UCLA shows that Mendocino County will surge in late August-early September. Just as schools are scheduled to start back up, the modelling shows a spike.

There are so many businesses trying to adhere to the masking, social distancing, and other strategies so that they can do business and still keep customers and the community safe. That is very much appreciated. We have stayed healthy and kept our numbers low, but we are not immune. Please follow the public health orders so that we can keep our community safe and healthy. In comparison, you can see the results in Texas, Florida, Arizona, and other parts of California.

We passed a budget for the next fiscal year. It includes stable funding for our fire districts, another \$100,000 for the Mendocino County Fire Council, which has been doing stellar work in coordinating fire safe programs throughout the county, and no layoffs though there is a hiring freeze.

There are many variables such as state and federal funding, local sales, property, and transient occupancy taxes which will most likely drop. Mendocino County has so many funding needs, such as to ensure the proper functioning of our critical emergency communication infrastructure and fix roads, and not enough dollars to even patch up existing problems.

The board of supervisors is discussing the future direction of the cannabis program. It was proposed to do away with the ordinance and use the state permitting structure. I have concerns about this approach for several reasons, such as environmental and community protections, local control, support for the mom and pop growers who have gone through the permitting gauntlet now having to start over and compete against large and well-financed growers, and the ability and capacity of the county to actually switch to a land-use approach. I am sure that there are other concerns that haven't even been brought up yet.

There is also a push to expand and extend cannabis grows. I am against this, too, for many of the same reasons mentioned above. Protecting our resource lands and enforcing the laws that we have seem to be more than enough for our limited code and law enforcement staff.

To open cannabis cultivation on a big scale doesn't seem like what is best for our communities until we get the current people through the permitting system, are able to regulate the illicit grows, and ensure that the cumulative impacts of opening up will not damage the beautiful lands that we have in Mendocino County. Please contact me and the other board members if you have an opinion about these issues. This cannabis program issue is on the agenda for July 21.

Take care and stay well. Happy 4th of July! As always, you can reach me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

Notes from State Sen. Mike McGuire

Please celebrate the 4th at home

The coronavirus trends are concerning in California. The statewide coronavirus positivity rate continues to rise. Two weeks ago CA had a 4.4 percent positivity rate. In the last seven days, our average positivity rate has risen to 5.9 percent, and this rate is expected to continue to grow at a rapid clip in the coming couple of weeks. Hospitalization rates are also increasing.

If you don't have to be out in the community, please stay at home (especially over the July 4th holiday).

Please wear a mask when you're out in the community and in an indoor space.

Get tested. There are free coronavirus testing sites in all North Coast counties. (Editor's note: The OptumServe COVID-19 testing site is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 7 am to 7 pm at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds, 1055 North State Street in Ukiah in the Fine Arts Building. Appointments are encouraged, visit <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or call 888-634-1123 if you don't have internet access. If you have insurance, they will be billed; if you don't, the test will be paid for by the State of California.)

Keep your distance.

Our collective action will help keep our neighbors healthy. Our community's health and economy depends on it. Stay safe. Thank you.

Fire Season Telephone Town Hall July 7

Get prepared for fire season! We're partnering with local CalFire chiefs, Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin, and Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall to host a Fire Preparedness Telephone Town Hall.

We'll provide the very latest from fire officials about efforts we can all take to harden our homes and better prepare our communities from the threat of wildfires. Sheriff Kendall and Sheriff Martin will focus on how law enforcement is gearing up for the fire season given the concerns with the coronavirus, and PG&E officials will cover efforts the utility company is making to harden its electrical grid and reduce the frequency and duration of power shutoffs.

The Town Hall is set for Tuesday, July 7, starting at 6:30 p.m. To participate: Dial: 844-721-7241, enter code 6666128. Send questions and comments to Senator.McGuire@Senate.Ca.Gov

Hope you can join us!

Note: This information was posted on Sen. McGuire's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SenatorMikeMcGuire



At left: A warm, mouth-watering slice is served up for a delighted patron who couldn't wait for the weekend. Above: These strawberries might be in your strawberry-rhubarb pie this weekend. Below: The large Commonwealth Garden, across from Adventist Health Howard Memorial, thrives with many rows of healthy plants. Ethan Fisher, seen in the bottom right corner, is a high school student who enjoys working part-time at the garden.

Photos by Ree Stocum

Strawberry-Rhubarb Pie

Kemmy's Pies and Commonwealth Garden partner up for a delicious 4th of July treat

If you want to ensure getting your favorite pie from Kemmy's Pies for Fourth of July festivities, order it today! "If someone wants a pie, it's best to order it. We've been selling out early during holidays," said Brenda Moss, one of Kemmy's owners. She advises that if you'd like a pie for this weekend, you should order it Thursday, July 2, by 4 pm. Then you can pick it up tomorrow, Friday, at the depot before 5 pm.

Kemmy's is offering all of their favorite fruit pies, including the very fresh and popular strawberry-rhubarb. The strawberries and rhubarb in your pie will most likely be from Commonwealth Garden, a project of the Frank R. Howard Foundation. The garden is located across the street from Adventist Health Howard Memorial.

Moss said Commonwealth made a delivery of freshly picked strawberries and rhubarb to the bakery last Friday. The scrumptious pies made from the fruit were warm with lusciously dripping sides and lightly browned crumble top and flaky crust when Willits Weekly visited Monday morning. Mouth-watering to say the least.

It turns out, the bakery orders fresh, local fruit and vegetables in season directly from growers like Commonwealth Garden or through the Mendo-Lake Food Hub, which is stocked with local produce, whenever feasible.

"Our apricots are from the county, and our peaches are ready to come in from Landon Farm in Potter Valley," Moss said and added: "The beef for our Taco Pie is also from the Magruder Ranch in Potter Valley." She explained that they source local food as much as possible, but there aren't enough local year-round vegetables and fruits to make all the goods Kemmy's likes to offer.

The bakery had a healthy wholesale business before the pandemic, when it took a downturn. The good news is that their shop sales are up. "So we can't complain," said Moss. "We're able to stay open!"

On Monday they were ramping up to make more pies than usual. Their special pies right now include the strawberry-rhubarb and mixed berry with blackberries, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. All year they offer blackberry pies and they're getting more blueberries from Lake County to keep up demands for blueberry pies, too. They'll have their yummy Banana Cream and Chocolate Cream Pies with homemade whipped cream.

Read the rest of **Strawberry** | Over on Page 15



Above, left: Brenda Moss, one of the owners of Kemmy's, safely smiles for the camera. Above, right: Melissa Bouley, Commonwealth Garden's supervisor, is picking a very ripe strawberry from the large, two-row strawberry bed. Below: Brenda Moss turns the blackberry pies during baking in Kemmy's oven. At left: Rhubarb grows among other plants in the Commonwealth Garden.



The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

Willits Weekly

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

Volume 8, Number 361
3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays
P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633 / 707-972-7047
willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / jwillitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen Moore, art director and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047
Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com
Matthew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer / mthw@willitsweekly.com
Forrest Glycer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com
Zack Cinek, reporter / zack@willitsweekly.com
Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / joanne@willitsweekly.com
Ree Stocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com
Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com
Holly Madrigal, features writer / willitsweekly@gmail.com
Danya Davis, features writer / police log / danya@willitsweekly.com
April Tweedell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com
Jackie Cobbs, features copy editor
Justin Stephens, webmaster

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

In the mail: 1 year - \$75 Additional donation included \$ _____
Home delivery: 1 year - \$50 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas) (call for details)

Please make checks payable to Willits Weekly | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 95490

Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print

QUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047

Web: www.willitsweekly.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/willitsweekly Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

707.459.5193

JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No hormones, fastured in Willits, California

COBURN'S CONSTRUCTION & CABINETS INC.
CALIC #932108

Preview your completed project with our 3-D Computer Image

Randy J. Coburn
General Contractor
P.O. Box 616
Willits, CA 95490
707-459-9719/FAX 707-459-4984
coburn_randy@yahoo.com/
coburnsconst@gmail.com

- Custom Homes
- New Construction
- ICF Structures
- Remodeling
- Cabinetry
- Kitchens and Baths
- Blueprints
- Plan Drawing
- Design

Online-Remote Mac tutoring & troubleshooting available!

Blue Sky Mac Tech

"Your Local Independent Macintosh Technician"

• Troubleshooting, Tutoring & Installation of Apple Products & Other Home Tech •

David Hannon
707-371-6160

E-mail: david@blueskymactech.com www.blueskymactech.com
Serving the Willits & Ukiah Area

WE'RE BACK! Restaurant El Mexicano COME EAT WITH US!

459-5702

EL MEXICANO CAN NOW SERVE FOOD & DRINKS IN THE DINING ROOM!

Today's Special
Hand pressed Hamburger
Tip of the Relleno
W/ Beer Better French Fries
\$12.95

MONDAY - SATURDAY: 10 AM - 8:30 PM

Taxes* | Investments | Insurance
Real Estate* | Payroll & Bookkeeping*

Nicholas Casagrande, EA
855.240.6606
675 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490
105 W Clay St, Ukiah, CA 95482
nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com
nicholas.casagrande@ceterafs.com**

NC Financial Group

EA # 00109934 • CA DRE # 01854336 • CA Insurance LIC # 0H68496
Advisory services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC (doing insurance business in CA as CFGS Insurance Agency), member FINRA/SIPC. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity. *These services are not offered through Cetera Financial Specialists LLC. **Investment email

T and T TOWING

707-459-9116
277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA
24-HOUR RADIO DISPATCHED TOWING

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



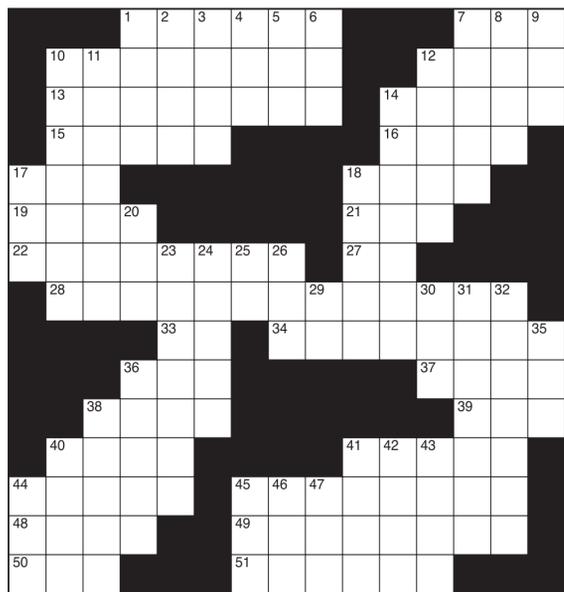
HOW TO SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SUMMERTIME WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| BARBECUE | DIVE | SCUBA | SWIMSUIT |
| BEACH | FAIR | SEASIDE | TRAVEL |
| BIKINI | FIREWORKS | SNORKEL | UMBRELLA |
| BOARDWALK | FROLIC | SUNLIGHT | VACATION |
| BOAT | PADDLEBOARD | SUNSCREEN | WARMTH |
| COAST | SANDY | SWIMMING | WAVES |



CLUES ACROSS

- African nation
- ___ fi (slang)
- Not arranged according to size
- A demand for a show of hands in a card game
- Having a play of lustrous rainbowlike colors
- Panama has one
- Taking legal action
- Top of the body
- Part of (abbr.)
- Soul and calypso song
- Murres
- Irish river
- Accepts as true
- The Bay State
- 1950s Hollywood icon
- Blood type
- In a way, became lost
- Large primate
- A spongelike cake leavened with yeast
- Mama ___ folk singer
- Visual metaphor (computers)

- Trim by cutting
- Small group of people
- Pulitzer-winning scientist
- Unique S. American mammal
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- One who works for you
- Snake-like fish
- Consumers

CLUES DOWN

- Cylindrical sacs
- Extinct North Germanic language
- Late rocker Allman
- Word element meaning ear
- Amino acid (abbr.)
- Promotions
- Actress Lathan
- Clothed
- Unwell
- Loosen
- Cephalopod mollusks
- ___ at Obdurata: Harmful papal bull
- Musical composition
- Irish bar
- Greek island
- Afflict
- Goes by
- Ambience
- Video game manufacturer
- Surplus Marketing Administration
- Football position
- Electronic musical style (abbr.)
- Furniture with open shelves
- Clouds of gas in outer space
- Indian midwife
- Packers' signal caller
- Secret political clique
- Cry weakly
- Gomer __, marine
- Academic Bill of Rights
- Negatives
- Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___
- Soul singer ___ Lo
- Doctors' group
- Parts per thousand (abbr.)

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

June 15 to June 28

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **356 incidents** in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

June 15

9:41 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.
 4:24 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.
 8:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.
 8:19 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.
 8:22 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.
 8:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 600 block of South Main Street.

June 16

10:14 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.
 10:57 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of East Barbara Lane and issued a warning.
 4:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal dumping in the 700 block of Central Street.
 11:43 am: CONNOLLY, Gloria Martina (33) of Redwood Valley and CONNOLLY, Jesse James (33) of Ukiah were contacted in the 1200 block of South Main Street. Both were arrested pursuant to 211 PC (Robbery), 182 PC (Conspiracy to Commit a Crime), and 242 PC (Battery).
 5:06 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.

June 18

9:09 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal dumping in the 700 block of Central Street.
 9:44 am: WICKSTROM, Noel August (52) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue following a report of threats. He was arrested pursuant to 422 PC (Criminal Threats), and also booked on felony charges of offenses committed while released on bail, and on misdemeanor charges of making obscene / threatening phone calls.
 11:45 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 200 block of Alice Drive and issued a warning.
 2:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
 4:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Hazel Street and issued a warning.
 9:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 800 block of South Main Street.

June 19

9:58 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Main Street.
 7:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street.
 10:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street and issued a warning.

June 20

1:13 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School Street.
 8:10 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School Street.
 11:42 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
 11:54 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1000 block of Poplar Avenue.
 1:20 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 23000 block of North Highway 101.
 8:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

June 21

11:28 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
 5:26 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:30 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.
 8:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of South Main Street.
 10:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Magnolia Avenue.
 10:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

June 22

12:59 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of South Main Street.
 5:52 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
 6:24 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 500 block of West Mendocino Avenue.
 8:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of North Main Street.
 9:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of East Valley Street.
 3:19 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Bush Street and McKinley Street.
 11:35 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.
 3:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 400 block of Central Street.
 6:45 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Baechtel Road.

June 23

11:24 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
 1:51 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.
 7:36 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
 3:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.
 6:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
 7:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
 9:53 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

June 24

4:48 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of West Mendocino Avenue and Muir Lane.
 7:04 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault near the intersection of East Oak Street and South Main Street.
 8:18 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.
 11:32 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Mill Creek Court.
 11:43 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of Hearst Willits Road.
 1:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of Alder Court.
 6:54 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Holly Street.

June 25

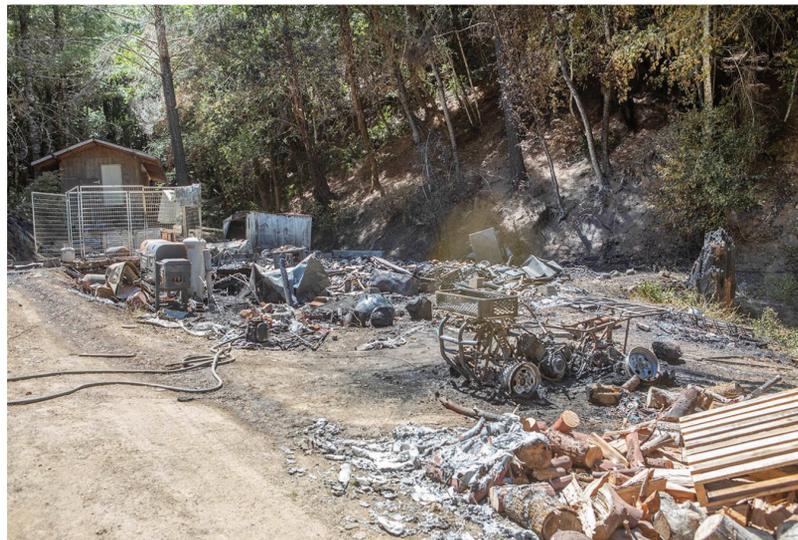
8:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
 8:59 pm: NOVO, Samantha Jane (25) of Willits and YOUNG, Terrance Joseph John Oneal (28) of Ukiah were contacted in the 500 block of East Commercial Street. Novo was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance for sale, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and receiving stolen property. Young was arrested on misdemeanor charges of domestic battery, driving with a suspended license, and violation of probation.
 1:20 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of

June 26

8:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
 8:59 pm: NOVO, Samantha Jane (25) of Willits and YOUNG, Terrance Joseph John Oneal (28) of Ukiah were contacted in the 500 block of East Commercial Street. Novo was arrested on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance for sale, and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and receiving stolen property. Young was arrested on misdemeanor charges of domestic battery, driving with a suspended license, and violation of probation.
 1:20 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of

June 27

1:20 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of



At left: The combined efforts of the firefighters kept the destruction contained, but the house was destroyed and the surrounding area was charred.

Above: The Little Lake Fire panel determines which bid to accept: from left, Michelle Schnitzius, secretary; Skip Lucier, vice chairman of the board of directors; Chris Wilkes, fire chief; and Dennis Dong, architect.

Below: Dennis Dong, architect of the new firehouse, attends the bidding session to determine which contractor will bring his design to life.

At bottom: The cabin off String Creek Road, which started burning on Sunday, June 28 is a total loss.

Photos by Mathew Caine

String Creek Fire

Little Lake Fire, Brooktrails Fire and CalFire respond to residential blaze in the hills east of Willits

Sunday night's cabin fire up on String Creek Road in the hills east of Willits was just the start of a busy 18 hours for the Little Lake Fire Department. Just before midnight on June 28, crews arrived at the scene of the residential structure fire, which was reported as extending into the surrounding vegetation at a slow rate of speed.

The site was difficult to access, on the edge of the Little Lake Fire Protection District. Along with the Brooktrails Fire Department and CalFire, firefighters had to navigate narrow dirt roads, then travel over a thin wooden bridge and up to the property via a driveway that was barely wide enough for an engine to get through.

Mathew Caine

Features Writer
 mathew@willitsweekly.com

Once there, crews could place a couple engines side by side, but the remainder of the vehicles had to queue up and down the drive. Water needed to be shuttled to the site in 2,000-gallon water tenders. Their first responsibility was to prevent the spread of the fire over the seasonally dry terrain and to keep it confined to the immediate area.

Working efficiently, they were able to extinguish the vegetation fire, although the cabin was a total loss. The other buildings on the property, due to the work of the firefighting crews, were spared, and there were no injuries or loss of life. No evacuations were deemed necessary. Most of the crew remained at the site until after 4 am.

Some of the Little Lake staffers weren't able to get very much sleep that night, as they had to prepare for a bidding session at the temporary firehouse on Baechtel Road. The session was held to determine which bidders would be in the running to get the contract to build the new firehouse on the corner of Commercial and Humboldt streets.

The firehouse had to be prepared for the five contractors and their representatives, for the reading of the numbers on their proposals. Engines had to be moved out for space, food and drink were prepared and set out, and chairs had to be spaced out to properly provide for social distancing. The cutoff time for handing in the proposals was 3 pm, and most of the contractors complied. A sixth contractor, ink still wet on the proposal, tried to hand theirs in late and was turned away.

A panel of Michelle Schnitzius, fire district secretary; Skip Lucier, vice chair of the board of directors; Chris Wilkes, fire chief; and Dennis Dong, architect of the new firehouse, accepted the proposals. Wilkes read off the proposal numbers, one by one.

"We have to go with the lowest responsible bidders," explained Wilkes. "The apparent low bidder at this time is a company called ACGC out of Eureka with a price of \$5.646 million. The high bid was \$7.173 million.

"Our board of directors will make the final decision on who we are going to go with," Wilkes continued. "Because we're a government entity, and we have to go with the lowest responsible bidder, we take the three lowest packages and it goes to our architect, our project manager, and our compliance consultant, and they ratify the contract to make sure everything is there: that all the bonding is in place, all the insurance is in place, and they are what is called 'a responsible bidder.' Then they will make a recommendation of which company to go with, most likely the lowest bidder.

"Then the Little Lake board of directors makes the final decision. They make a resolution, and then we start working out the contract details. Once we fill out what is called 'a notice to proceed,' the contractors have 10 days to begin work, and then they have 365 days to complete the project."

After the contract is finally awarded, the fire district will work with the contractor to find some "value engineering," places where money can be saved. Wilkes hopes to have the work completed and have an opening ceremony on July 4, 2021.



Above: The construction company representatives are socially distanced as they await the reading of the bids for the new firehouse at the Little Lake Fire Department's temporary HQ on Baechtel Road. Below: More debris from the String Creek residential fire.



MENDOCINO COLLEGE

The Mendocino-Lake Community College District has opportunities for qualified community members to run for November 2020 board elections for trustee area #1 (Willits/Fort Bragg), area #3 (Calpella/Redwood Valley), area #4 (Hopland/Boonville/Mendocino), and area #7 (Kelseyville).

Interested candidates must complete a packet which will be available through the Mendocino County Elections Department beginning July 13, 2020 and are due back to the Election Department by August 7, 2020.

The Board of Trustees of the Mendocino-Lake Community College District consists of seven members who reside in their specific trustee area and are elected by that area's voters. Individual members perform their duties in accordance with their oaths of office and are committed to serving the educational needs of the citizens of the district, regardless of national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race or ethnicity, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, immigration status, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status.

For additional information please visit www.mendocino.edu/elections or email Mary Lamb, Executive Assistant to the President at mlamb@mendocino.edu



and Katelyn Garcia asking that they cancel the parade due to COVID-19 related safety concerns and potential repercussions from the state government.

The vote was 4-1 to send the letter after councilmember Saprina Rodriguez made a few small changes in the letter in her motion to soften the language and make it less "accusatory" and "aggressive" towards Garcia and Martin-Wyatt.

"I know that as a city council member we have an obligation to be fair," said Rodriguez, "but we also have an obligation to protect the city, and we also have an obligation to ensure that our citizens feel safe, and [do what] we can do to protect their health."

Vice Mayor Larry Stranske cast the lone vote against, but did not explain why.

In a June 28 post on the "Willits 4th of July" Facebook Group page, Martin-Wyatt said they were cancelling the parade due to the increasing number of positive COVID-19 cases in Mendocino County in recent weeks – including the first in Willits – and because of "the government's threats to re-shut the county down."

"While we maintain that our only request has been for participants to engage in the lawful activity of driving, the concern that spectators will watch the holiday procession as they did the graduation procession requires us to consider this decision in light of the county's new 'six-person bubble' restrictions," said Martin-Wyatt.

"We further maintain that many of the restrictions we have seen this year are an overreach by the government but feel even stronger that we want our local businesses to never experience a government-mandated shutdown again. We also stand firm in our position that a number of city council members were inconsistent with their support of other protests and parades in town. We hope that cancelling this protest will give them one less scapegoat in their overreach, and we further hope that you vote in the next local election."

The alternative parade idea had gained attention in the community after the Facebook Group was started in May, picking up over 800 members and leading to hundreds of posts and comments on the page. It was started near the same time that the Willits Frontier Days decided to cancel their annual 4th of July festivities.

At the June 24 teleconference council meeting, Martin-Wyatt called in and spoke out strongly that she felt the city was being unfair to them. She emphatically stated that she and Garcia were not encouraging anybody to mass gather either on the sidewalks or in any city parks on the 4th, and their plans included chalk lines and signs to help with social distancing.

"The only gathering [would be] in cars at the baseball field," she said. "And I just really want to echo that I think you guys are really being hypocritical and discriminatory in the sense that you have encouraged and supported the Willits High School [graduation] celebratory parade which happened on city property, city roads, where there were teenagers in the backs of trucks driving through town dangerously.... Our entire event has just been advocating for the procession of cars, calling for drivers, demanding that anybody who participates follows all laws."

"Katie and I share in the concerns of COVID-19 being a very serious virus and being very problematic for the community," she said referring to Garcia, "and that is why we have worked so hard for months to make sure the event that we are planning is perfectly safe."

Councilmember Greta Kanne acknowledged that Martin-Wyatt and Garcia had good intentions and were making good efforts to address safety issues, but like others on the council she felt that given all the circumstances a parade in town would pose too big of a risk for now.

She pointed out that the high school graduation procession ended up having some who were not following social distancing guidelines on the sidewalks.

"It's great that you're not asking people to line up on Main Street," said Kanne. "But the reality is that in Willits when there's a procession on Main Street, we line up. That's who we are, it's what we do. It's our Main Street. So unless you've actually specifically said to people, 'Do not go and watch this procession on Main Street, the city's going to freak out,' that's what's happening here."

"And you all have been so great about trying to figure out a safe way to do it," she continued. "But I think what is clear as the [COVID-19] cases rise is that people are afraid there is no safe way to do this right now.... So I feel your pain ... but this year, right now, in the middle of this, it just doesn't seem smart."

City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra said that after her discussions with county officials prior to the meeting she was convinced the parade would be a non-compliant "mass gathering."

"I worked with and discussed this gathering at length with the county, who also talked to county counsel, and there is no question that what is being asked for here is a mass gathering," said Garrabrant-Sierra.

She added that Governor Gavin Newsom had said recently that holding events like this could lead to repercussions from the state against counties.

"The county is extremely concerned because the blatant violation of the state order ... could result in the state deciding to roll back the opening of Mendocino County," she said. "The governor actually today was on a live conference in which he stated that he was going to withhold funds from counties that did not comply with the state orders. County [officials] actually confirmed that they are concerned about this."

After Rodriguez's changes were approved, the last section of the letter ended up stating: "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 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," it concluded, "the City of Willits and the County of Mendocino ask that you not conduct a 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. Neither the city nor the county support mass gatherings."

Sales tax consultant

The council also narrowly passed a resolution to award a contract to Tramutola Political Strategists for \$25,000 for public education and consulting regarding a potential sales tax measure for the City of Willits.

The move means that in all likelihood the city will be putting some sort of sales tax measure on the ballot this November to help increase revenue.

The resolution passed 3-2 with Kanne and Rodriguez voting against.

Garrabrant-Sierra explained that she thought increasing the city sales tax made sense because Willits has the lowest sales tax percentage in all of Mendocino and Lake counties; and because rising costs and falling revenue have left the city with a serious "structural deficit," she said.

"We have seen that sales tax this past eight years has declined by 8 percent [for Willits] and obviously expenses have been rising," she said, "particularly insurance and other costs. Because of that we have cut and cut, and the finance directors have recommended that we simply can't cut anymore and probably still be a city. We really require revenue enhancement."

She said that Tramutola had a lot of experience and a great reputation in political consulting, and they could help with crafting the bill along with community outreach and education. She also noted that the price they were charging was much lower than they usually charge for their services.

City Interim Finance Director Andy Heath agreed with the overall assessment of Garrabrant-Sierra, and talked about the potential revenue a tax measure could bring in.

"From a cost benefit perspective to the extent that the city was successful with the sales tax measure, you're looking at potentially upwards of a million dollars of additional sales tax that would accrue to the general fund," he said, "and that's right away in one year according to one payout.... Cutting costs can be done to some degree, and to some extent. but I think your city has reached that extent at this point in time. So looking at this contract it's probably a fiscally prudent thing to do."

Downtown Improvement Project

The council unanimously approved plans and specifications for the City of Willits Downtown Improvement Project. Project Managers Jeremy Ronco and Andrea Trincado Slater described the plans in their Agenda Summary report.

"The project incorporates recommendations from various planning documents, including the Downtown Streets & Alleys Study and the Main Street Corridor Plan," it reads. "The goal of the project is to fill the existing planter strips to enhance safety and improve aesthetics on Main Street. Permeable brick pavers will be installed, with openings for street trees in various locations starting at West Valley Street and ending at Sherwood Road."

"A total of 38 street trees will be planted," it continued, "including: 16 Chinese Elms, 10 Japanese Crepe Myrtles, 10 Autumn Blaze Maples, and 2 Cork Oaks.... The trees will be planted in a minimum of 24 square feet of open space, as required by the Urban Forestry grant that will reimburse the city for costs associated with the trees."

The project is estimated to cost \$418,393, but the vast majority of that will be reimbursed to the city through the Urban Forestry grant and the Regional Service Transportation Fund. Only the irrigation work and other water-related costs – projected at around \$35,000 – will come out of the city's water fund.

According to the report, construction is scheduled to take place from late September to late October – "the optimal season for tree planting."

New housing on Baechtel Road

The council also approved an application from Bemcore Enterprises, Inc., to subdivide a 3.23 acre vacant lot on Baechtel Road in order to facilitate the construction of eight single-family homes and four fourplexes at the location.

The 10 new residential lots will range in size from 6,374 feet to 32,204 square feet, and will be located just next to Willow Lane.

The plans also include an access road consisting of two 10-foot-wide travel lanes with a 7-foot-wide parking lane on either side of the travel lanes; as well as a new 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the eastern side of the access road; and other improvements required of the applicant.

After discussing potential environmental and community impacts with Community Development Director Dusty Duley, applicant Ed Mitchell, and several residents who lived on or near Willow Lane, the council unanimously approved the project to move forward.

COVID in sewage

Recently a test of the influent, or wastewater, of Willits tested positive for COVID-19, and a "Community News" post was put up on the city's website (cityofwillits.org) on June 29 to make clear that there is absolutely no evidence of COVID-19 in the local drinking water – an apparent misconception some were having.

"Influent (aka 'wastewater') is the sewage that comes from everyone's homes and businesses before it goes into the treatment plant to be treated," the statement reads. "Once it is treated, it is released, but it is not released into our water supply or anywhere near our actual water supply."

"Our water supply has nothing to do with our wastewater system," it continues. "Our wastewater is not released into our water supply, even after treatment. Our drinking water is beautiful clean water that comes from the Eel River watershed, then goes through substantial treatment under very strict state and federal standards, before it comes to

your home."

The post also said that the city was still looking into interpreting what the numbers from the Willits influent test mean.

"We are trying to find out from the company what this concentration actually means for the City of Willits," it read, "and if we can estimate how many people have the virus from this concentration. We do not yet have this information."

However, councilmember Kanne said in a June 27 Facebook post that her research on the matter indicated the amount of COVID-19 found in the Willits wastewater ("286,408 copies per liter of sewage") was relatively small compared to results at other locations.

"The concentration found in the Willits samples were measurable in parts per liter, indicative of a very low concentration," she said. "Samples taken in other communities showing high concentration and community spread show results in parts per mL (milliliter). Because our concentrations were 'really quite small' these sewer test results do not appear to indicate community spread of the disease, and may even be due to a person or persons traveling through our community."

"While, I take comfort in the knowledge that this test result is not a sign of rampant, escalation of COVID in our community," she continued, "I urge all residents to remain vigilant and to continue physical distancing, hand washing, limited close contact with individuals not in your immediate household, and mask wearing when you're out and about."

Kanne also said that the results from the same type of sewage test done in Brooktrails turned up no positive results for COVID-19.

tolerance regarding the use or sale of illegal fireworks. CalFire is working closely with local law enforcement and firefighting agencies to seize illegal fireworks and prosecute those found in possession of them.

In Mendocino County, all types of fireworks are illegal and their use is punishable by law. Anyone possessing, transporting or using fireworks in Mendocino County is in violation of the law.

Fireworks are inherently dangerous and can quickly change a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday into a sad and costly one. Children are at the greatest risk of injury. Any person can be held liable for the firefighting costs as well as property damage costs associated with the start of a wildfire. Often, these costs are in the hundreds of thousands, and sometimes, millions of dollars.

For information and tips to prevent wildfires, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org and download the ReadyForWildfire app at google play or the App Store to receive alerts for wildland fires in your area.

Have a safe Fourth of July and help prevent unwanted fires. One less spark, means one less wildfire.

Caltrans, CHP announce joint litter cleanup, enforcement effort

Submitted by Caltrans and CHP

The California Department of Transportation and the California Highway Patrol announced on June 16 a statewide effort to resume litter removal on the state highways. Roadside litter cleanup has been limited since March due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

"Litter increases the risk of fire, pollutes our waterways, threatens wildlife, and costs taxpayers millions of dollars to remove," said Toks Omishakin, Caltrans director. "We ask all Californians to be part of the solution, dispose of trash responsibly, and secure cargo loads before getting on the road."

Caltrans maintenance workers and partnering programs are adhering to recommendations developed in consultation with licensed industrial hygienists to ensure safe working environments while conducting litter removal efforts during the current health crisis. Crews will continue to wear personal protective equipment such as facemasks and gloves and practice physical distancing in accordance with guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

California needs your help to prevent trash from ever making it to the highways. Money spent on cleaning up trash diverts crews away from filling potholes, fixing guardrails, and performing other essential maintenance activities. Motorists can be part of the solution by following a few basic travel behaviors:

- Stow a litter bag in your vehicle and always dispose of trash appropriately.
- Properly extinguish cigarettes and cigars; never throw any item, particularly one that is lit, from a vehicle.
- Always cover and properly secure cargo or materials hauled in passenger trucks and pick-ups to prevent items from falling off the vehicle.
- Volunteer to adopt a California highway and remove litter.

Litter removal was limited to protect the health and safety of Caltrans crews during the current health crisis. Due to the accumulation of trash on the state highways with traffic beginning to increase as the state reopens, Caltrans crews and volunteers with the Adopt-a-Highway program are picking up garbage statewide and removing items abandoned on the side of the road.

The CHP actively enforces California's anti-littering laws, ticketing motorists seen littering highways or driving with unsecured cargo loads. Last year, CHP officers issued



At top, from left: The classic films don't come with posters, so Jeff Hoover is downloading and printing himself. Blare Elliott is glad to be back to work. Makenzie Hansen and Jacob Schwarm work the concession stand.

Above, left: Family units can sit together with social distancing from other family bubbles. Above, right: The Noyo Theatre reopens with a selection of classic films.

It's Showtime! Noyo Theatre reopens, with matinee and evening showings of classic films

Ever since the very first movie, a Louis Lumiere release of a train pulling into a station, films have brought dreams and far-off lands to life. They have frightened people, delighted children, made grown men cry with emotional catharses. Cinema has had the ability to transform the way that moviegoers see the world and bring them to places they never knew existed. Films can create fantasy or stark reality and provide a window on the world.

Early visionaries such as Lumiere, Thomas Edison and Georges Melies created visions never before possible, and the people were enthralled. The first theater dedicated to film was constructed in New Orleans in 1896, although the first full-length feature, "The Squaw Man" was not until 1913.

The first popcorn served in theaters was in 1912. Since then there have been many innovations, Panavision Wide Screen, Cinerama, 3D, and now most theaters project in digital format, delivering clean, crisp visuals and audio.

As the art form grew, most towns, even small ones, had some kind of movie theater where families could go on the weekends or the kids could attend with their allowance in the afternoons. Moviegoers could see current events in black and white newsreels, which proceeded most films, or just get away from daily life, follow their favorite stars, be thrilled, or be taken emotionally to unfamiliar places.

The town of Willits has in its midst, a gem of the glory days of cinema, a remnant of the time before video and streaming movies on home TVs. The Noyo Theatre was constructed by a chain, Redwood Theatres, opening on May 4, 1940. It was small but magnificent in its deco design, and served the community well.

It was later bought and renovated by Cinema West and then bought by Jeff and Lois Hoover in 2012, who updated the projection and sound to digital. As stated on www.noyotheatre.com, "We purchased the Noyo Theatre on June 8, 2012. Our goal was to continue showing feature films as we changed ownership and replace the old film projectors with state-of-the-art digital equipment. The task was completed on June 14 and WOW, we are all digital!"

But then, in March of 2020, COVID-19 struck the U.S. The state of California ordered "non-essential" businesses to shut down. The Noyo Theatre, like other theaters and performing arts venues around the state, had to shut its doors. Along with many other businesses, the theater was in danger of not being able to weather the storm of the closures.

However, with stimulus money, unemployment, Social Security, and grants, the owners got by. A few weeks ago, the Noyo began to offer curbside theater popcorn and other concessions on Friday and Saturday nights for people to take home and create their own theater experience. The funds from this venture have allowed the Hoovers to stay current on their bills, and hire back some employees.

Then, the state of California began to open up more businesses, with extremely strict guidelines. The Noyo Theatre would be able to once again open its doors to patrons as long as they passed a lengthy checklist of COVID-related restrictions and practices.

They taped off every other row in the main theater, which was the only room they will open for the time-being. They meticulously cleaned and sanitized every inch of the auditorium, the carpets, the seats, and

WE'RE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT YOKUM'S BODY SHOP IS NOW **CARSTAR YOKUM'S BODY SHOP!** SAME GREAT PEOPLE WITH A FRESH NEW LOOK, STILL FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1982.

CARSTAR YOKUM'S BODY SHOP
1619 S MAIN STREET
WILLITS, CA 95490
707-459-9385

CARSTAR UKIAH - YOKUM'S BODY SHOP
550 TALMAGE RD
UKIAH, CA 95482
707-462-6636

CARSTAR.com **CARSTAR**
Auto Body Repair Experts

Happy Independence Day!

We will be closed Saturday & Sunday July 4th & 5th

Have a fun & safe holiday

SPARETIME - GARDEN CENTER -
208 E. San Francisco Ave Willits, CA (707)459-6791

At top: Lois Hoover displays how every other row is taped off. Above: Dad surprised the kids with a trip to the movies.

Photos by Mathew Caine

BUD GARMAN
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.
LAW 95117

707-459-5859

Environmental Restoration - Ponds
Septic & Water Systems - Site Development
Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

24900 N. HWY 101 IN WILLITS GARMANCONST@GMAIL.COM

BWG



Above, from left: The golden glow of evening summer sun spills over the crowd in the stands at the Willits Frontier Days Truck Pulls event in 2019. Danielle Barry rides her horse, Rebel, and carries the American flag around the area. Bruce Cartwright carves up meat for the 2019 Sweetheart Dinner.

Photos by Maureen Moore



At right: The 2020 Willits Frontier Days crew wishes everyone a happy 4th of July, including, back row, from left: Danielle Barry, Tracy Evans, Karen Cavanaugh, Marcy Barry, Fred Barry, Bruce Cartwright, Deana Rutledge, Earl Rambath, Matt Harbour, Willie England and Alexis England. Front row, from left: Madison Forrester, Lee Persico, June Sizemore, Cathy Moorhead, Ron Moorhead, Jeff Cook, Kera Colvard, Alyssa Colvard and Jaden Doak.



Above, from left: The tradition of pancakes for the 4th of July will have to happen at home this year as the Willits Lions Club Pancake Breakfast will be cancelled, along with all the other June/July events this year. Fred Barry and the Time Bandit are usual sights at the Willits Frontier Days Truck Pulls. Junior Rodeo riders will get another year to practice their skills, like daubing, shown here. Below, left: Strolling the streets during Hometown Celebration is a wonderful favorite activity, but again, was cancelled due to the coronavirus epidemic this year. Past and present Willits Frontier Days Sweethearts, including from left: Lilah Garman, Jaden Doak, Nicol Persico Kunka, and Hailey Riley smile together at the 2019 Sweetheart dinner.



Join Us For A
DRIVE-THRU Spaghetti Dinner FUNDRAISER EVENT
To Benefit Jerry "Tophat" Harris' Cancer Battle
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST
5:00PM - 8:00PM

Willits Frontier Days-Carnival Grounds
Commercial St. across from the baseball fields
Willits, CA 95490

Tickets:
\$25 Family of 2
\$50 Family of 4

Ticket Price Includes:
Spaghetti, Bread,
Salad and Cookies

To purchase tickets:
Rich at Gunnink's Harley Davidson-Parts Department (Cash Only)

Contact Brooke: (707) 972-7332 or brookcharris0816@gmail.com
Contact Mylinda: (707) 472-8474 or mylindasshaul707@gmail.com
willitswildhunch@gmail.com



Photo courtesy Willits Community TV.



Our Hometown Memories

BY CHARLINE FORD

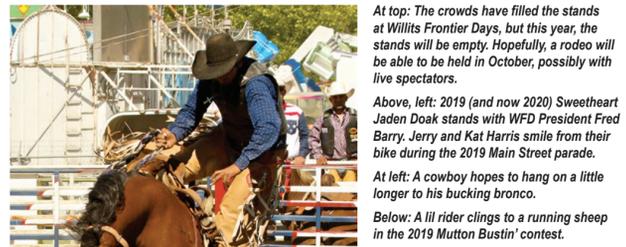
Willits is known for its 4th of July; If you've ever attended, you certainly know why! The previous week begins with the Sweetheart Dinner; Where crowning the Frontier Days Sweetheart is always a winner! All contestants have been busy modeling, selling tickets and speaking; They have been out in the public, not at home sleeping! The Grand Marshal(s) and the Heritage Award winners are presented – Individuals who have been outstanding community members! On the 3rd of July a night rodeo begins our celebration; Always starting with flags and horse runs to honor our nation. The people in the stands cheer and wave at the riders on horses; Who are thrilled as they pass the crowd, who cheer with loud voices. Then silence reigns as we stand to salute Old Glory; Next, the announcer entertains the crowd with this rodeo's story. The Willits Rodeo is the longest continuously running rodeo in our state; Started by Bill Whitney, Deed Wimmer, and Dr. Babcock – How great! Then we all stand and salute the country we love, which has long been blessed by our Lord up above. The "Star Spangled Banner" is the next crowd pleaser; The performing artist is the singing contest winner. On the evening/night of July 3, a street dance happens on the tennis courts/street; It's a happening event where old and new friends meet. On July 4, the day begins with a local parade and local folk; Riding on machines and trucks and even bikes with spokes. After the parade, the crowd drifts to the park for the long-awaited barbecue lunch; Then time to go home, rest or eat more, and back to the night rodeo for the bunch. Other families hang around to go to the carnival, museum, and Roots of Motive Power festivities. Our Independence Day Celebration is always a momentous event with all of its activities!

Thank you to all the Frontier Days Crew for all the time and effort you invest in Willits Frontier Days!!! God Bless America! Happy July 4, 2020!

Sharing Memories

Willits Frontier Days is going digital this year with a video broadcast of WFD veterans sharing their memories on local Willits TV Cable Channel 3. The event will premiere on Friday, July 3 at 8 pm with a repeat run on Saturday, July 4. Anyone without cable can view the showing online at the Willits Community TV YouTube channel on Friday night: www.youtube.com/user/WillitsCommunityTV.

Below, from left: Willits Frontier Days' Rick Crowder, Chuck Persico, Chris Neary, Lee Persico, Kathleen Goss and Annette Pinon talk on set at Willits Community TV.



Photos by Maureen Moore

A message from the crew of Willits Frontier Days

This year continues to be a different year – we know that more than most. While we hope to hold a rodeo in October, if allowed, to continue our title of "Longest Continuous Running Rodeo in the State of California," we want to remind the public and our community that there will be **NO OFFICIAL WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS EVENTS held during June/July of 2020.**

We encourage everyone to stay home, celebrate the holiday with your social bubble, and help end this pandemic as soon as possible so we can all go back to as normal as possible, as soon as possible. **We wish you a Happy 4th of July, and can't wait to see you all next year.**

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore 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 Marjie 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 2nd 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 3rd 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

pho•tog•ra•phress
photography by maureen moore

Time is now to book summer + fall sessions!
www.mphotographress.com | 707-972-7047



At top, from left: Filling the car trunks with cartons of food. Boxes of food ready to be distributed. Richard Baker, Senior Center director, wears his volunteer T-shirt.

At left: Volunteers and staff of the Redwood Empire Food Bank and Harrah Senior Center.

Below: Cars lined up to receive the free commodities.

Photos by Mathew Caine



First Tuesday

Redwood Empire Food Bank set to do monthly community food distribution in Willits on July 7

The Redwood Empire Food Bank will be back in Willits on Tuesday, July 7, to do another community food distribution from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Santa Rosa nonprofit, part of the Feeding America Network, plans to visit Willits on the first Tuesday of every month. Anyone and everyone whose family could use some extra food is welcome, and it's fine to pick up for another household, too.

Jennifer Poole, Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At the June 2 event, 271 Willits area families received food boxes to help their monthly food budget stretch further.

The truck and tables will be set up on East Commercial Street, at the ballfields. Patrons are asked not to get out of their cars. Volunteers wearing masks are happy to direct traffic and to load up your vehicle.

In June the boxes given away to each household were filled with produce (lettuce, russet and fingerling potatoes, oranges, apples, and onions), meat, bread, dry and canned goods, dried fruit, milk, cheese, butter and more.

The Willits Senior Center is partnering with the Redwood Empire Food Bank on this effort. "This is an extension of what the Redwood Empire Food Bank does here with the commodities distribution for seniors once a month," said the Senior Center's Richard Baker. "We know there's a need out there, and some people could really use the help, so we're helping to facilitate that."

To learn more about the Redwood Empire Food Bank, and its mission to feed people, visit <https://refb.org/>.



HARRAH SENIOR CENTER
SERVING THE COMMUNITY

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 - July Week 1
Thursday, July 2
Taco Salad
Friday, July 3
— Closed —

Menu - July Week 2
Monday, July 6
Tuna Sandwich
Tuesday, July 7
Kielbasa with Peppers & Onions
Wednesday, July 8
Turkey ala King
Thursday, July 9
Pork Carnitas Burrito (wet with green)
Friday, July 10
Baked Chicken with Stuffing

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



Do it Best WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE
HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT
Lawn & Garden Equipment ■ Generators
Sales, Parts & Service ■ Pick-up & Delivery

1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420
Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596
willitspower@gmail.com Fax: 707 459-6369

At top: Yolanda Avelar, Redwood Empire Food Bank program coordinator.
Above: A variety of foods is ready for distribution to anyone who shows up.

Roofing applications available to fit any roofing need
W.C. & G.I. Insured Ca. Lic # 927007

B.A.S. ROOFING, Inc

Office: (707) 462-4514
Mobile: (707) 367-3786

Residential & Commercial

Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties

Online: www.basroofing.com Email: basroofing@live.com

LEGAL NOTICES

WW276

CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS
PROJECT NO. 2020-02

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for: The work shown on the project plans entitled:

CITY OF WILLITS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLANS

For:
Willits Downtown Improvement Project - Project No. 2020-02

The work for this project includes installation of irrigation, permeable pavers, and planting trees in existing planter strips along Main Street. Irrigation will mostly be installed in existing 2" conduit, and connections to existing water services will be made in various forms. Battery operated timers and valves will be installed, as well as root watering wells at each tree location. Some minor concrete sidewalk will be installed in small sections. There is a small amount of concrete removal in one location as well.

IN
City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California &

The work described in specifications books entitled:
CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET
CITY OF WILLITS - AWARD PACKET

For:
Willits Downtown Improvement Project - Project No. 2020-02
THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS IS: \$363,820.00

The contractor shall possess a Class C-27 license at the time this contract is awarded.

Key Dates:
• Pre-bid Meeting: Thursday, July 30, 9:00 a.m. (on site)
• Final Questions from Bidders: August 3rd, 2020, by 5 p.m.
• Final Addendum Issued: August 4, 2020
• Bid Opening: August 10, 2020, 2 p.m.
• Project Start Date: September 21, 2020
• Project length: 39 calendar days

IN
City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2 p.m., August 10, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers, of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.

Bid packets can be obtained by contacting the Public Works Department at 707-459-4605 or by emailing engineering@cityofwillits.org.

CITY OF WILLITS: s/Cathy Moorhead
Deputy City Manager / City Clerk
DATED: 6/19/20
Publication Dates: July 2, July 9, July 16 and July 23, 2020

WW273

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DALE M. SCHATZ, aka DALE MARTIN SCHATZ CASE NO. SCUK-CVBP 20-27372

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

A Petition for Probate 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 many actions 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.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
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.

If you object 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.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months 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) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

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.

You may examine the file kept by the court. 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 MOMSEN PC, 716 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490. Telephone: 707-456-9210
Publication Dates: June 18, June 25, July 2, 2020

AT THE MOVIES

Retro-classic series at the Noyo Theatre July 3 to July 9

'GHOSTBUSTERS'

The Story: High-action supernatural comedy. Venkman (Bill Murray), Stantz (Dan Aykroyd), Winston (Ernie Hudson), and Spengler (Harold Ramis) operate a company called Ghostbusters. Their business specializes in exorcising troublesome spirits. An ancient god named Gozer the Gozerian, or Gozer the Destructor threatens all of New York City and the whole world, including beautiful Dana Barrett (Sigourney Weaver). So who ya gonna call? Ghostbusters!

My Thoughts: Funny funny movie. Bill Murray at his deadpan finest. Great/silly story about supernatural menace(s). This fast-paced flick is truly BTG (better than good). A classic, with an unforgettable theme song.

Parents: I think kids will love it. A wee bit scary for younger ones. Ages 10 and up. The bumbling wise-cracking good guys win.

'SUPERMAN' (1978 VERSION)

The Story: DC Comics' most-famous superhero origin story. Baby Kal-El is sent to Earth just as his home planet of Krypton explodes. Kal-El grows up to become Clark Kent/Superman (Christopher Reeve). Lois Lane (Margot Kidder) is Superman's ace reporter girlfriend, and the smirking genius-of-evil Lex Luthor (Gene Hackman) is Superman's arch enemy.

My Thoughts: This 2.5 hour version of the Superman saga made 40-plus years ago features A-list actors and is really the first of the big-time comic book blockbusters. It's well-made. The actors are excellent. Christopher Reeve is deftly funny as Clark Kent, and appropriately noble as the Man of Steel. This movie's a keeper.

Parents: Bring the kids. It's the A-No. 1 hero story.
Note: Call the Noyo for screen times: 459-6696

LEGAL NOTICES

WW272

Fictitious Business Name Statement
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: 06/11, 06/18, 06/25, 07/02/2020

WW274

Fictitious Business Name Statement
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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help
Need help with your 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.

Help Wanted
F/T Kennel/Cattery Technician: Cleaning dog kennels, cat condos; other duties as assigned. Apply in person during regular business hours. Due to COVID-19 all applicants must call before coming. Wed-Fri 1p-5p; Sat-Sun 11a-3p; 707-485-0123

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

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

New Mini Storage Units in Willits
Reserve yours today!
707-459-4599
or 707-259-0159

RV/Trailer Space for Rent
Space for RV's and Trailers - \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Sawayay in Willits. Call Tony (707) 510-5895. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tp>

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

Classified ads are just \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks

LEGAL NOTICES

WW277

NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, on Tuesday, the 3rd of November, 2020, at which election the following offices will be filled: Three (3) City Council Members

NOMINATION PAPERS will be available at the Office of the City Clerk, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, by APPOINTMENT ONLY, Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please contact the City Clerk to make your appointment at (707) 459-7121.

First day nomination papers will be issued: July 13, 2020
Last day to file nomination papers (by 5:00 p.m.): August 7, 2020
Last day to file nomination papers (by 5:00 p.m.) if an incumbent fails to file: August 12, 2020

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
/s/ Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk
Posted: July 2, 2020
Publication Date: July 2, 2020

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

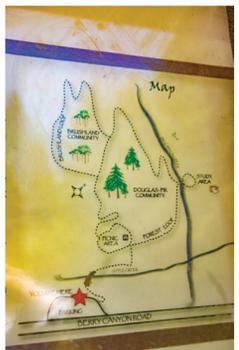


Above, left: A sign on the Little Darby Trail displays the varieties of mushrooms that grow in the spring. Above, right: The Douglas firs grow tall at Little Darby. At right: Thimbleberry trail is shady and well-maintained.

Below: The gently sloping Thimbleberry Trail is perfect for biking.

At bottom, left: A map of the trails at Little Darby is posted at the trail head. At bottom, right: Eroding banks reveal an intricate root system along the Thimbleberry Trail.

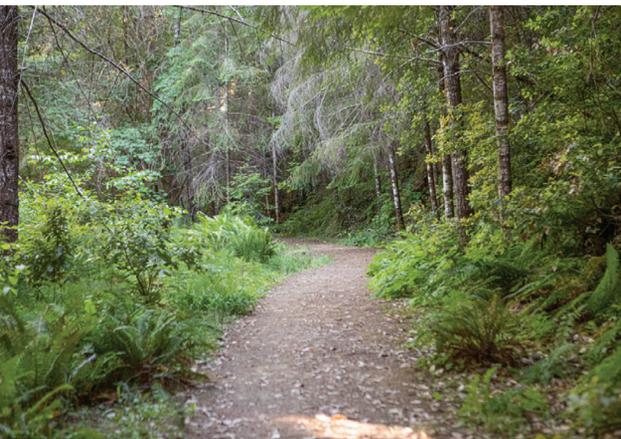
Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: A colorful leaf lies on the ground – remember to look down as well as up for lovely sights!

At right: A colorful butterfly lands upon a tan oak leaf.

Below: A bridge crosses over a trickling stream out Little Darby.



Local Hikes

Shady trails that meander through lush, green forests are closer than you think

While isolation may be necessary to quell the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it is not healthy in several other aspects. People, especially those who live so close to and who so often interact with nature, need to get out of the house to recreate, exercise and experience the natural world.

They need to stretch their legs, have a change of scenery, breathe fresh air, and experience safe means to coexist with others. One of the activities in which all of these conditions can be met is hiking along one of the trails in the area.

Perhaps a better word for some would be “strolling” or “ambling,” as “hiking” evokes an activity of a more strenuous nature than some would care to engage in. Exercise exists on many levels. For some, just a walk amongst the beauty is the medicine they need to rejuvenate their bodies and souls.

This is a tale of two such trails. One is more strenuous, although it can be taken at any pace desired in order to fit the abilities of the hiker. The other trail is gentle along most of the path but allows for more vertical side trails if so desired. One is currently well-maintained; the other needs some work but is still a walk well worth taking.

The Little Darby Nature Trail, 15 minutes east of the city of Willits, a little over a mile past the Wente Scout Camp, on the Canyon Road (county road 308), is in need of some work. However, its

beautiful array of wildflowers that are currently blooming and other educational possibilities, make it a walk worth taking for the entire family.

As an added bonus, the short drive to the trailhead is a delightful combination of green, sprawling farmland under the Willits “W” and the narrow, winding road that passes over two rustic bridges takes you through an ever-changing array of trees and flowers.

The Little Darby Nature Trail falls under the auspices of the Bureau of Land Management and has been adopted at times by various organizations, such as the Willits Charter School, who have helped in its maintenance. Without some work being performed on a trail, nature has a tendency to reclaim the area back to its original pre-human state.

The beginning of the trail at Little Darby takes you down through a walk lined with various blooming wildflowers and all the insect life that is attracted to them. Bees dance happily amongst the flowers as a part of the cycle of life.

At the bottom of the first section, a bridge crosses the stream, which is mostly dry at this time of year with just a trickle of water. From the bridge, the path begins to wind uphill in a series of switchbacks that enable the hiker to avoid expending all their energy.

Read the rest of **Hikes** | Over on Page 15

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

fewer kids are entering the juvenile justice system than entered a decade ago. On the other hand, there is evidence that the kids who do enter the juvenile justice system are more criminalized than their cohorts of 10 years ago. In addition, the kids who enter the juvenile justice system today are more likely to be suffering from mental illness than kids in the past.

According to a chart on page 10 of the plan, in 2009, the number of juvenile arrests for both misdemeanors and felonies was 500; in 2018, that number was 200.

When asked by Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde the reason for that, Locatelli gave three reasons: one, kids who are arrested cannot be brought before a juvenile court judge if they are under 12 years old, a condition that formerly did not apply; two, schools have changed the way that they deal with troubled youth; and three, probation departments are now trying to work with kids instead of incarcerating them.

But at the same time, those kids who do end up in the Mendocino County Juvenile Hall for a period of time are much more likely to be in there for a felony. According to a chart on page 12 of the plan, whereas between 2002 and 2017, the percentage of hall inmates who were in for felonies fluctuated between 20 and 30 percent, since 2017 that percentage has shot up to more than 70 percent.

Mental health issues are becoming a regular component of delinquency. According to a 2016 report by the Center of Juvenile and Criminal Justice, “Mendocino County had the highest percent of the local juvenile justice population (defined as those youths who were either confined or under alternative supervision) who were also designated as open mental health cases in California.”

A summary statement in the plan expresses the conundrum. “While the Mendocino County Juvenile Justice System is dealing with fewer numbers of youth than it did 10 years ago, the severity of both the behaviors and the needs for service are significant. The combination of gang activity, mental health diagnoses and a higher than usual consumption of drugs and alcohol should be alarming and of great concern to all system stakeholders interested in reducing the impact of juvenile delinquency,” the statement explains.

“While there are societal factors such as poverty, homelessness, and lack of employment opportunities, which lie outside of the system’s ability to influence, there are others that can be addressed,” the statement says.

“Mental Health issues, reflected both by the high average adverse childhood experience scores and by the number of open mental health cases, are a significant factor affecting many of the young people caught up in juvenile justice. Responding to gang involvement, through both prevention and suppression activities, will be necessary to reduce juvenile crime. Finally, providing support for youth and families dealing with substance abuse is clearly necessary for achieving the goal of mitigating juvenile crime in the region.”

The plan itself involves the use of two pots of money, one from a Youthful Offender Block Grant and one from funds that are given to the county through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act. That second pot of money was the one that was approved by the supervisors on June 23.

That part of the program that is funded by the Youthful Offender Block Grant includes a .5 full-time-equivalent mental health counselor; training in the Peaceful Warrior Akido program; drug and alcohol counseling from staff people from the county’s Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment unit; counseling in anger management; participation in the Council for Boys and Young Men, which the plan describes as a “strength-based group approach to promote healthy masculinity development”; and inter-active journaling.

The portion of the Juvenile Justice Plan which is being funded by money allocated to the county under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act includes a .20 full-time-equivalent deputy probation officer III who will coordinate programs at Juvenile Hall, and a .75 full-time-equivalent deputy probation officer III who will administer two anti-gang programs at the hall.

Those programs are Gang Resistance Education and Training, aka GREAT, and IMPACT.

GREAT is described as “an evidence-based and effective gang and violence prevention program built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curricula. The program is invented as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence and gang membership for children in the years immediately before the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behavior.”

IMPACT is an old program that is being brought back by Locatelli. Under it, probation kids will be paired with a probation officer for physical training and something called

“moral reconation therapy,” or MRT. The plan describes MRT as “a cognitive-behavioral group process designed to facilitate a change in the client’s process of conscious decision making and enhance appropriate behavior through the development of higher moral reasoning.”

A footnote in the plan states that “Cognitive-behavioral approaches such as MRT have been determined through research to be one of the most effective interventions for youth who engage in delinquency.”

In addition, employees from a company named GEO will provide “re-entry services” and employees of the Mendocino County Youth Project who will implement two programs at juvenile hall, Foundations and Passages.

Although the programs described above may seem like they make up a robust program, according to Locatelli and others, they don’t. In a section of the plan titled, “Assessment of Services and Needs,” Locatelli is quoted as expressing concern “about the system’s capacity for providing appropriate treatment services to youth and families.... With so few programs and options to select from, the Mendocino County Juvenile Justice system is only able to respond to delinquency after it occurs, rather than being able to be in a position to prevent it before it happens.... The Probation Department has undergone significant budget reductions which have limited its capacity to provide many services beyond its core functions.”

Mendocino County Deputy Public Defender Jessyca Hoagland also commented on the situation of youth in this county in the plan: “Ms. Hoagland would like to see a continuum of services that helps to connect young people from their time in custody back into the community. She described wanting to have a position that would act as a social worker for youth in the community, eliminating barriers to receiving services such as transportation and lack of follow-through. She said that there has been an increase in violence connected to gangs, and she believe that is in part due to youth not having pro-social activities as alternatives. She mentioned programs like athletics, martial arts, or ones that connect youth to working with animals, or classes at a community college: anything that might give youth a different perspective on what is possible in their lives.”

Community Corrections Partnership

After the supervisors approved moving the \$271,315 to Locatelli’s juvenile justice program, Locatelli officially asked the supervisors to release \$147,843 from the something called the “Local Innovation Subaccount” to partially defray a shortfall in the Community Corrections Partnership budget.

The Community Corrections Partnership is mandated for each California county’s Probation Department by a 2009 state law. The CCP must be chaired by the county’s chief probation officer and include as members the presiding judge of the Superior Court; the county CAO; the district attorney; the public defender; the sheriff; a police chief; the county heads of the Department of Social Services; County Mental Health; Alcohol and Drug services; Employment; County Office of Education; a representative from a community-based organization; and an individual who represents the interests of victims.

The CCP budget has taken a \$1,049,016 hit from the State of California for the prior and the upcoming fiscal years. In light of California’s \$53 billion deficit, the state has pared \$448,754 from its paybacks for fiscal 2019-20, and has reduced its allocations for the Community Corrections Partnership in fiscal 2020-21 by \$600,262. The notice which came as part of the governor’s May Revise left Locatelli with a budget deficit of \$525,415 for fiscal 2019-20.

Locatelli asked the supervisors to give him all of the funds in the Local Innovation Subaccount. In a staff report to the supervisors, Locatelli explained that the Local Innovation Subaccount was created as part of the 2011 Realignment for Public Safety and that the account is funded by a 10 percent share of the growth accounts of four components of the law enforcement complex within this county: community corrections, the district attorney and the public defender’s offices, trial court security, and juvenile justice.

The funds have been collecting in the Local Innovation Subaccount for the past four years. Community corrections had \$126,000 in its combined account for 2015-16 until June 30, 2019; Juvenile Justice had \$7,689; the combined offices of the district attorney and the public defender had amassed \$4,752; and the trail court security branch had amassed \$9,334, for a total of \$147,843.

The supervisors gave Locatelli the money, but not without some grousing. In his report, Locatelli wrote that he plans on taking additional steps to defray a budget deficit of \$525,415. He will cancel the contract with GEO Re-entry for work to be done in Willits, for \$30,000; he will drain his contingency fund of \$169,646; and he will take his reserve fund of \$107,012. This will leave him with a remaining deficit of \$69,913.

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

establishments that serve alcohol are required to stop serving alcohol at 8 pm. The new health order retreats somewhat on “social bubble” provisions. Certain sections of previous health orders had provided for social bubbles of up to 12 people, that would lock in and remain in place for up to four weeks. These social bubbles applied to child care providers, to those people who provided certain extra-curricular activities for children, to work groups, and to household support units.

Under the new order, the name is being changed from social bubbles to “stable bubbles.” The limit of 12 people is being kept for child care and for children’s extra-curricular activities, but is being reduced from 12 people to six people for household support units and stable work groups.

The limitation on minimum basic operations is being reduced from 12 people to six people. From the July 1 health order, section 12 c iii; (1); “Events at a single venue must involve not more than six individuals, i.e., a work group, for reoccurring events or present for the live event. All others must participate remotely, such as in separate vehicles or from their residence.”

Gatherings or social events are proscribed. From the new health order, Section 12 g vi, “All events or gathering that would bring together persons from different households, living units, or stable bubbles, such as private parties, must be cancelled or postponed until further notice.” Exceptions to this rule are granted for worship services at a regular house of worship.

The new order also requires certain personal service sectors, described both as “those treating head, face or mouth,” such as hairdressers and barbers, and “those workers who consistently serve the public,” such as servers in restaurants, cashiers and bartenders, to wear two layers of facial coverings. Such professionals are already required to wear a covering over the mouth and the nose. Additionally, the new order requires people who practice these professions to wear a plexiglass face shield or to work behind a plexiglass screen.

A new section in the order is quite clear about this provision. In Section 12 p ii the order reads, “Personal care service businesses are required to take additional measures to protect the worker from exposure when working on a customer’s head, face, or mouth. These measures must be in addition to and not a substitute for the use of facial coverings. Such additional protective measures may include installing plexiglass or other physical barrier, or the wearing of face shields by the worker, i.e., a piece of rigid, clear plastic attached to a headband which covers the entire face extending from the forehead to below the chin.”

In most other respects, the new health order is “status quo.” “There are no further openings for businesses, but there are no further restrictions,” Doohan said. She added that the July 1 health order will remain in effect until noon on August 3.

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams was on-screen for the Monday, June 30 announcement and said a few words encouraging local residents to abide by the rules requiring facial coverings.

“I’d like for you to imagine a tsunami,” Williams said. “An earthquake has hit. We know a wave is coming, but we don’t know when it will hit or how much damage it will cause. Do we stay put because nobody has died yet, or because, more people die of heart disease? No. We move to higher ground.”

“Facial coverings are our best tool for mitigating the rate of spread,” Williams continued. “The covering requirement is based on what we know about the role that respiratory droplets play in the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It’s actually quite simple. Imagine a friend sneezing on you with, and without, a facial covering. Education is also an important tool, especially for visitors.”

With that, Williams showed new posters requiring the basics: wearing a facial covering, and keeping a social distance of 6 feet. The posters are available from the county both in English and in Spanish. The signs can be downloaded at www.mendocinocounty.org/business/business-resource-for-covid-19. Businesses in this county are required to post them in places where they will be visible upon entrance.

In the June 30 public statement, Doohan said that the new July 1 order is being done proactively so that Mendocino County does not lose its autonomy with regard to battling the virus. Doohan said that she received a call on Sunday, June 28 from the California Director of Public Health Sonia Angel, during which Angel said she has become concerned by the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in this county.

Doohan said Angel told her counties that experience an uncontrolled spike may be placed on a watch list. If the county performs poorly while on the watch list, the ability to issue public health orders may be taken from the public health officer and given to the state.

Doohan said that she is acting to preserve, not only the health of the people of Mendocino County, but the county’s autonomy with regard to combating the virus.

Over the past two weeks, cases in this county have more than doubled. On June 15, Mendocino County had a total of 38 cases, including cases in which the patient had recovered. As of Wednesday July 1, the county has had a total of 85 cases. Of those, 76 people have recovered, nine are in isolation, and none are in the hospital. As of 5 pm on July 1, there have been 11,413 tests for the virus done in this county.

At the June 30 Facebook Live event, Mendocino County Adult and Aging Services Director and COVID-19 Departmental Operational Center Manager Bekkie Emery said the county is stepping up its testing in those parts of the county that are not located in the Ukiah valley.

Emery said the county recently performed 100 surveillance tests in Fort Bragg, another 100 in Laytonville, and another 100 in Anderson Valley. She said more tests are planned soon for the south coast area, that is, Point Arena and Gualala, and she added that the county government is planning to offer more surveillance testing throughout the more remote regions of the county in July.

In a press conference that took place on Friday, June 26, Dr. Doohan said that Mendocino County is experiencing a surge in cases and that the surge will peak in September.

She also said the computers of the California Department of Public Health have crunched the numbers and have determined that by late July, Mendocino County hospitals will have 53 COVID-19 patients in them, every day. The data and conclusions are available online at <https://calcat.covid19.ca.gov/cacovidmodels/>

According to the May 19 attestation that Doohan did for the California Department of Public Health, the county has 70 ventilators available in local hospitals. Mendocino County Public Information Officer Sarah Dukett said on Wednesday that the number 70 is still accurate, and, if more ventilators are needed in a surge, the county’s three hospitals are able to secure more through their own medical supply network.

During the June 26 press conference, Doohan was asked if she had any special message for members of the Hispanic community. Doohan did have such a message.

“My message to the Latino community is, I care about you, and you are a priority.” She thanked those that were helping “to communicate with our Latino community and to pledge that we will do more. We are asking for leadership from the Latin-X community to respond, in particular, to our monolingual Spanish-speaking community. This is the population that I am most concerned about right now, because I do not believe that we are doing enough to communicate.

“Every evidence that I have is that our Spanish-speaking population is doing everything that they can to follow the health orders. Our experience in public health is that this group of people is being very cooperative, and is doing everything that they can to slow the spread and flatten the curve. So I do not believe that we’re seeing an increase in numbers among this population because of something that this population is doing wrong.

“I think we have issues around our need to better communicate in the Spanish language, and also the nature of the work. For example, in agricultural workers – we know there have been outbreaks throughout the state. So we need to do a better job, both in the business community and the workers’ side. I want to be very, very clear. We are not putting any blame on the population. We are pledging to do more to help,” Doohan said.



Photos by Maureen Moore



At left: A beautiful sky started the show last Saturday at the drive-in. Above: Seating comes with a built in foot rest, and pro-tip: clean your windshield first! Below: Dark time means show time at the Lakeport Auto Movies.



Drive in to the Movies

Lakeport Auto Movies is open and showing classic movies and holding special events at its outdoor space. A special Garth Brooks concert was recorded and shown at drive-in theaters across the country on Saturday, June 26 and offered a fun, live-concert experience, on the screen. Cars are spaced apart, with larger trucks and SUVs parking in the back rows, and cars in the front. Waiting until dark allows the movies to be visible on the screen. All you need for audio is a car stereo tuned to 87.9 FM, or a car close by with a very loud sound system. Check out a current schedule and info below.

Featuring a Bright and Clear Digital Picture
Listen to the Movie on 89.7 FM

Lakeport Auto Movies
DRIVE-IN
Admission Per Car
Friday & Saturday - \$20.00
Sunday - Thursday - \$15.00
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE AT LAKEPORTAUTOMOVIES.COM

Gates open at
8:00 Fri & Sat, 8:30 Sun - Thur

lakeportautomovies.com

MONDAY JUNE 29 & TUESDAY JUNE 30	
MEAN GIRLS	ANCHORMAN
WEDNESDAY JULY 1 & THURSDAY JULY 2	
MAD MAX FURY ROAD	FULL METAL JACKET
FRIDAY JULY 3 & SATURDAY JULY 4	
INDIANA JONES THE TEMPLE OF DOOM	INDIANA JONES THE LAST CRUSADE
SUNDAY JULY 5 & MONDAY JULY 6	
STAR WARS	DEADPOOL

WE'RE BACK!

OUR DISPENSARY IS BACK OPEN TO SHOP IN PERSON
(LIMITED TO 2 PEOPLE AT A TIME)

OPEN DAILY:
10 AM TO 7 PM
KUREMENDOCINO.COM

WE'RE HIRING!

Kure Wellness

1788 S. MAIN ST.
IN WILLITS

707-459-4200

DELIVERY OPTIONS STILL AVAILABLE!

The rest of Theatre | From Page 7

the arm rests, as well as the concession area where they installed a Plexiglas barrier to protect the employees.

All patrons would be required to wear masks and distance themselves except in "family bubbles," groups that have been together through the shelter-in-place orders. Lois Hoover has ordered masks that will be available at cost, \$1, for those who do not have one.

The next problem to surmount was the lack of film releases. For the time being, they are only able to get older films from the distributors. "Jeff's been working really hard to get the theater open," remarked Lois Hoover. "With these old movies, the distributors don't send us posters or trailers. He's been actually downloading and digitizing trailers and one-sheets so we can run them or print them for the showcases out front. The first new release we were supposed to get is 'Mulan' in July, which just got changed to an August release. There are a couple of independent films available, but they're mostly like film festival kind of fare.

"They're giving us a big break on rental of these old films. We couldn't even get these films before. They weren't being offered. Now they're begging me to take them.

That's why I can lower the prices. We're charging \$3 for matinees for everybody. For the evening shows, adults are \$5, everybody else, kids under 11 and seniors, are \$3. You can't rent a movie for that, even online."

There will be a 4 pm family film each day and at 7 pm, a more adult film, although some of these are suitable for the younger kids. They opened with "ET: The Extraterrestrial" and "Jaws." Starting Friday, July 3 through July 9, "Ghostbusters" and "Superman." July 10 through July 16, "The Muppet Movie" and "The Truman Show." July 17 through July 23, "Iron Giant" and "Purple Rain." The ensuing schedule will be announced in the Willits Weekly and on the theater's website.

Jeff and Lois Hoover hope to keep the Noyo going as long as the state and county allow them to stay open. First-run films will be shown as soon as the studios and distributors make them available. If the response of the first weekend is any indication – they are getting 20 or more people per showing – people are still wanting to experience quality entertainment in a nostalgic setting, and the Noyo Theatre will exist in Willits for quite some time.

Have a Safe Summer!

We're here for you.
Call us if you need us.

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE BY PHONE
(707) 456-9600
45 Hazel St., Willits
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL.
WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE.
LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER
LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTERS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

The rest of Strawberry | From Page 3

Those need refrigeration and will be available for pick up on Friday.

Call 707-367-5498 to order any of their pies July 2 by 4 pm for pick up July 3 at the Skunk Depot at 299 East Commercial Street in Willits.

If you miss the holiday deadline, these summer fruit delights will still be on the menu. During non-holiday times, Kemmy's Pies is happy to deliver in Willits when they can, including items from their menu of quiches and savory pies, as well as desserts. Check their "Kemmy's Pies" page on Facebook to keep up with what's available.

Strawberry beds

Mellisa Bouley, garden supervisor at Commonwealth Garden, said, "This season we doubled our strawberry beds and made two separate mounds." They grow an ever-bearing variety that will keep producing the sweet, juicy fruit until September. This allows them the ability to harvest the berries twice a week, getting 10 to 12 pounds per harvest. "It's one of the gifts that keeps on giving," she said.

The large, leafy green rhubarb plants are spread amongst the beds in the rest of the garden and are harvested weekly as long as they last. They add a delightful texture in the garden and add tartness that combines well with the succulent sweetness of strawberries in the pie. Bouley had a bright smile when she said, "Whatever overflow of strawberries and rhubarb we have, we make available to Kemmy's Pies at a really good price."

All of the Frank R. Howard Foundation garden employees think locally and support the community where they can. When they separated the strawberry beds this year, they gave away over 300 left-over starts to the community. "We reached 150 families with the starts. We usually have a small plant sale and that wasn't going to happen this year with the COVID [pandemic]. So Howard Foundation, along with making masks, had the [left-over plant] starts available to people." They also donate produce to the Willits Food Bank, the Caring Kitchen, and other nonprofit organizations.

Commonwealth's vegetable stand will be opening Friday, July 10 and will be open every Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. "[This week] We'll be able to offer lettuce and sprouts. Lots of different root crops: carrots, radishes, beets. I'm thinking we may have some cherry tomatoes by then. But there will be cucumbers, along with kale, chard, collard greens. And then the orchard should be coming on and we should have early peaches," Bouley rattled off.

Bouley said keeping up with the weeds is difficult in the large garden. They're putting out a call for volunteers. "Because the garden's so big, we're able to put people in different places and do different jobs [for social distancing]. If anybody wants to get out, get their vitamin D, and weed, someone's here usually Monday through Saturday." If you'd like to find out about volunteering, call Ananda at the Foundation office, 459-2777 x 3.

The rest of Emergency | From Page 1

the facilities division taking care of the buildings and other structures that house the equipment. Their methods of tracking work done do not interface well, leading to confusion.

"The Grand Jury found that ineffective methods of communication between Facilities and Information Services contribute to a lack of coordinated effort to maintain remote sites and associated Emergency Communications System equipment," the report stated. "The separate tracking and reporting systems used by Facilities (work orders) and IS (Wiki) to report remote site problems and issues do not interface. In the absence of a joint system for tracking, the work order system needs to be used consistently by both departments independent of any internal tracking method."

"A searchable database with access by both departments would increase efficiency and aid in coordination and communication between the two departments. The combination of procedural documentation and formal staff training facilitates staff development and supports efficiencies in equipment repair and maintenance."

"Information Services relies on a single individual's historical knowledge of the microwave system, as opposed to formally documented processes and procedures, which puts maintenance of the Emergency Communications System at risk," the report states.

On the plus side, the board of supervisors did allocate \$1.6 million in April 2020 to replace microwave repeaters. According to the grand jury report, the supervisors are planning to spend \$8.6 million on new microwave equipment. However, no money has been spent or allocated on building new structures to house that microwave equipment.

The report states: "Not making necessary upgrades to the remote sites prior to installing an approximate \$8.2 million in new Emergency Communication System equipment is equivalent to buying all new furniture for a house with a leaking roof. The GJ finds the county is reactive in its planning."

The report concludes with numerous findings and recommendations, including the following.

"County leadership has not published a strategic plan for the maintenance, upgrade, and replacement of the system. This has allowed the Emergency Communications System microwave equipment to continue at end of life with an increasing number of outages." (Finding 1)

"The lives of Mendocino County residents depend on the integrity of the remote microwave-radio buildings. By de-prioritizing these buildings, the county is not well-positioned to protect the life, health, safety, and welfare of its residents through the Emergency Communications System." (Finding 4)

"The current board of supervisors faces a planning scenario similar to the 2007 and 2009 boards of supervisors, including impending risks to funding due to the current economic situation. Tabling funding for the new microwave system and infrastructure upgrades a second time will impact Mendocino County residents' safety." (Finding 5)

"While the Grand Jury found budgeted line items for Phase 2, Phase 3, and the sheriff's console relocation and replacement in the Information Technology Master Plan, it found no evidence of committed funding by the board of supervisors. This leaves all residents and first responders vulnerable." (Finding 10)

"The board of supervisors commit funding for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Public Safety Microwave Replacement Project and replacement of the sheriff's dispatch console." (Recommendation 1)

"The Executive Office classify structures housing Emergency Communications System equipment with the same priority as buildings housing people to ensure the required maintenance issues are promptly addressed." (Recommendation 2)

"As part of Phase 2 of the Emergency Communications System replacement, the Wiki and work order systems be replaced with a single, index-based system used by both departments which would create efficiency in tracking projects and work orders." (Recommendation 4)

"The county pursue co-location chargebacks for revenue as recommended in the 2009 Grand Jury report 'Out With The Old And In With The New.'" (Recommendation 6)

The full grand jury report is available at: www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=36010.

Handsome Titan

This handsome fella goes by the name Titan. Titan is a 7-year-old mixed-breed guy, who weighs around 100 pounds. Titan found himself suddenly out of a home and family. So at no fault of his own, he is searching again. It's OK – we specialize in this, and sometimes life happens. We would love to get Titan back into a home as soon as possible. He loves to play ball, spend time with you, and of course give tons of love. If you interested in this goof ball, we would love to meet you!



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 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.mendocinohumane.society.com to learn more.

The rest of Cleanup | From Page 6

more than 3,100 citations for littering, and roughly one-third of those violations involved a lit cigarette.

"Not only is littering illegal, but there can be devastating consequences resulting from these senseless actions," said CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley. "A lit cigarette carelessly tossed from a window can start a brush fire, an unsecured cargo load can result in a collision, and the safety of a highway worker cleaning up the mess is at great risk."

Caltrans collected 287,000 cubic yards of litter in 2019 alone – enough to fill 18,000 garbage trucks. Of that total, 35 percent resulted from efforts by the department's community volunteer programs, saving California millions of dollars and untold associated environmental costs.

Caltrans collaborates with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and advocacy groups to provide occupational mentoring and temporary employment to parolees and veterans. Participants are trained in litter abatement, and the program has grown from eight crews in 2009 to 55 crews operating in the state today.

The Adopt-a-Highway program provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and businesses to help maintain sections of the state highways. Since its start in 1989, Adopt-a-Highway volunteers have removed litter from more than 15,000 miles of roadway shoulders and helped maintain 36 acres of wildflowers, 1,540 acres of vegetation management, and 111 acres of tree planting. More information on becoming an Adopt-a-Highway volunteer may be found on the Caltrans website at www.dot.ca.gov.

Willits Senior Center Lunch

In-House Dining

The Willits Senior Center dining room has opened for lunch, starting Tuesday, June 16, with strict social distancing rules in place, including inside or outside seating, 6 foot distance, two people per table with exception for members of the same household, etc. All Senior Center meals are currently \$5. Call 459-6826 for more info.

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

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

Home Meal Delivery

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

Thursday, July 2: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

Friday, July 3: Closed for the holiday

Monday, July 6: Tuna Sandwich

Tuesday, July 7: Kielbasa with Peppers & Onions

Wednesday, July 8: Turkey a la King

Thursday, July 9: Pork Carnitas Burrito

Friday, July 10: Baked Chicken with Stuffing

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

The rest of Hikes | From Page 12

There are choices as to the trail loops that can be taken. The bottom portion of the area goes through what is known as "riparian habitat," where a variety of plants can be found. At various times of the year, trilliums, irises, wild strawberries, and violets can be seen.

The next habitat contains the stately Douglas firs. For those more ambitious and physically able people who have the energy to go higher, the chaparral habitat awaits, with madrone and manzanita and views of the mountains. Being an educational trail, there are signs and markers to explain the natural world surrounding the hiker. Dogs are welcome and can be off-leash as long as they can be controlled.

For more information on the Little Darby Trail, visit www.blm.gov/visit/little-darby-nature-trail.

The other trail is closer to town. It is gentler in rise, wider and currently better maintained. The Thimbleberry Trail in Brooktrails, above Willits, is perfect for the whole family and for biking, and offers an easy stroll among beautiful living beings. The flowers that adorn the walk in the spring are mostly gone at this time of year, however, the delicate ferns, the sentinel-like stumps of long-downed redwoods, and the predominance of green growth more than make up for the lack of colors.

The stream is still active, which

maintains, along with the shade, a cool, pleasant temperature. Beyond the visuals, the Thimbleberry Trail offers delights for all of the senses. If one can quiet the kids and convince your hiking companion to stop talking about what he is making for dinner for a moment, there is an orchestra of sounds to please the ears: the trickling stream, the calling of the birds, the whirring of insects. There is the deep, dark smell of nature, the water, the process of the deterioration of the fallen redwoods, the aroma of plants.

There are a few places where the trail crosses the stream. This time of year it is not difficult. However, during the rainy season it becomes a bit like hiking in a video game – the prize being not getting one's feet wet.

There are many ways to enjoy the natural generosity of the Little Lake Valley area. Hiking or strolling among the trees, plants, birds, and other forms of life is a great way to rejuvenate in a safe, healthy manner, one that affords the opportunity to get out of the house and exercise both one's body and one's mind. It is an opportunity to experience the serenity of this beautiful area far away from the insanity of city life.

The trailhead for Thimbleberry Trail is off the little parking lot (note sign) next to the bridge on Poppy Drive across from Lake Emily.

The rest of WPD | From Page 4

McKinley Street and Bush Street.

2:45 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

6:21 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:24 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:00 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

10:06 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School Street and issued a warning.

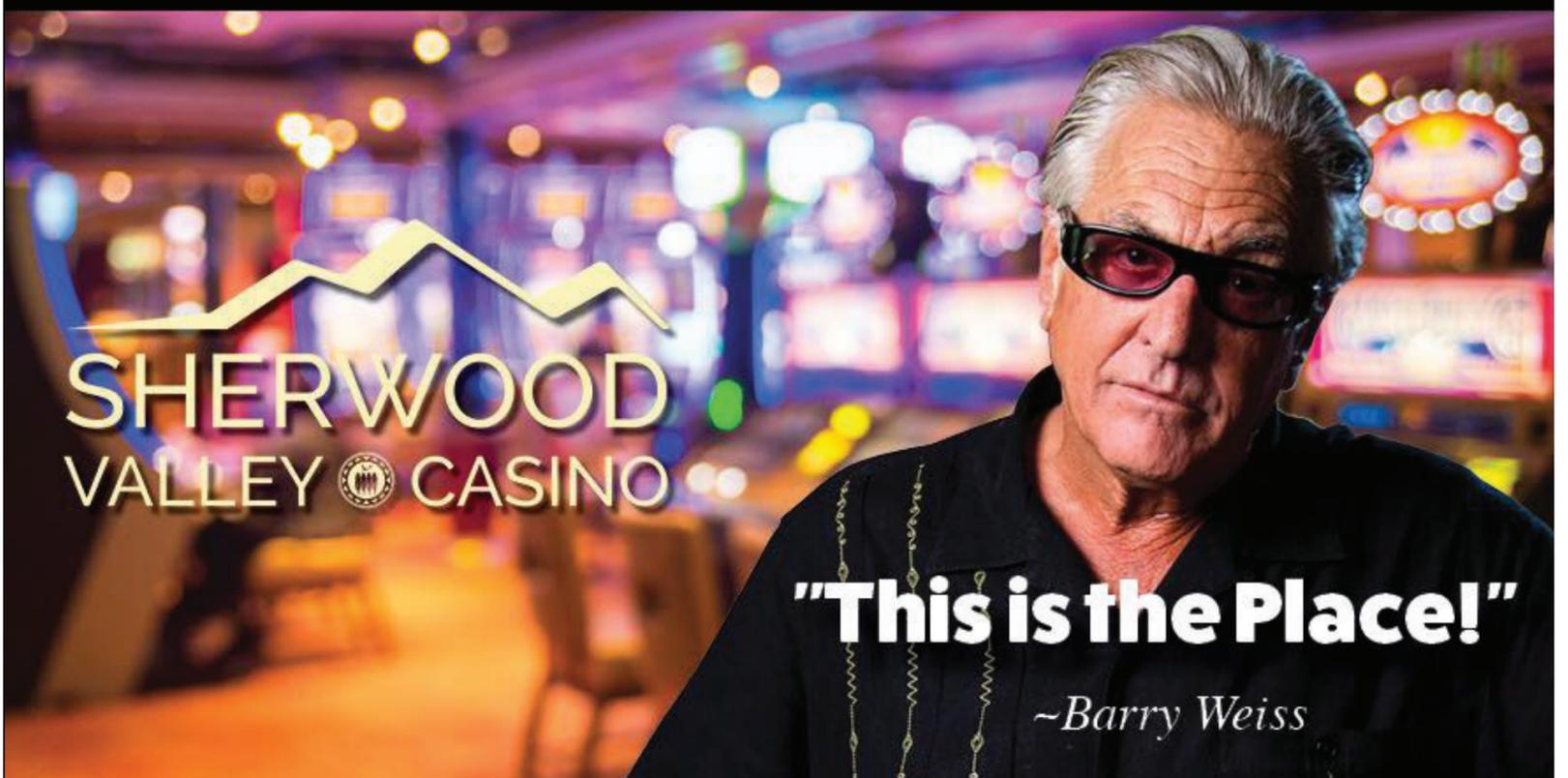
June 28
1:52 am: ALARCON, Aaron Seth (32) of Laytonville was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11350 H&S (Possession of a Controlled Substance), 23247 (E) VC (Unlawful Operation of a Vehicle without an Ignition Interlock Device), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and felony charges of driving under the influence with prior convictions.

10:31 am: ALVAREZ, Jack Steven (57) of Ukiah was contacted in the 700 block of Coast Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a blood alcohol content higher than 0.08%, driving with a blood alcohol content higher than 0.15%, driving with a suspended license revoked for DUI, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

11:40 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of Birch Street and Sherwood Road.



We're Open
Again!



"This is the Place!"

~Barry Weiss

Current Hours: 8 am to 2 am

— Masks Are Required —

100 Kawi Place, Willits • 707-459-7330 • www.svrcasino.com

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.