City Council buys out solar

Forrest Glyer Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

At their July 8 meeting the Willits City Council approved a buyout of the large solar power system at the wastewater treatment plant, which is expected to save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs over the next 12 years or so.

Project manager Andrea Trincado Slater explained that previously the city had been buying the energy from the owners of the system, Perpetual Solar Project, LLC, at around \$150,000 per year. The city had been purchasing solar power at the plant through

Read the rest of Council

Over on Page 9

County to get \$20 million from PG&E

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo confirmed Wednesday afternoon that Mendocino County received "more than \$20 million" as a settlement from PG&E regarding the company's role in causing the October 2017 Redwood

Angelo did not have the exact number at her fingertips but said it was something more than \$20 million.

When asked what the county would do with the money, Angelo responded that it would be "one-time money" and that it would go into reserves. "It's gotta go into reserves," Angelo said. "We've spent \$16 million on COVID-19, and we're not done."

Read the rest of PG&E

Over on Page 4

MCSO checks up on registered sex offenders in Willits and Ukiah

By Detective Sergeant L. Espinoza for MCSO

On June 22, detectives with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, assisted by the Mendocino County Office of Adult Probation, initiated a compliance check of registered sex offenders pursuant to section 290 of the California Penal Code.

The sheriff's office is able to organize this check due to a grant from Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement. The effort included compliance checks on registered sex

Read the rest of Check up Over on Page 11

array





Above, from left: Walnuts replace the more traditional ingredient - pine nuts - in this pesto recipe. Just the chopped basil, garlic and walnuts look good to top a plate of pasta. A Cuisinart food processor makes quick work of emulsifying in the butter and oil. Below: The final luscious product: basil pesto with walnuts and parmesan cheese.



Pesto Party

Help your bountiful basil reach one of its highest and best uses by being turning it into bright, garlicky pesto

Those with a green thumb, or those who frequent the Willits Farmers Market alike can all join in the basil-filled celebration of the season by making a batch of delicious pesto. This recipe comes from Cassandra Andich, who adapted it from one in "The Silver Palate Cookbook." Add 2 cups of basil, 4 large garlic cloves, and 1 cup of shelled, toasted walnuts into a food processor. Run the processor to chop and combine. While processor is running, slowly stream in 1 stick of melted butter and 1 cup of olive oil, letting the processor emulsify the mixture together. Add 1 1/2 cups grated Parmesan cheese, a heavy pinch of salt,

and heavy dose of black pepper. Give everything a final grind, and scrape into clean Mason jars for storage. Top off each jar with a small amount of olive oil on top of the pesto to prevent air contact and browning. Freezes wonderfully or perfect to eat right out of the mixer. Add green peas and sautéed zucchini to pasta and top with pesto for a delicious dinner or lunch, or mix pesto into an omelet for a bright breakfast. Add to tomatoes and mozzarella for a quick mock caprese salad.

- Maureen Moore





Above: Basil leaves start to emerge from the center of the growing stalks. At left: The first three ingredients in this pesto recipe: garlic, basil and walnuts. Below: While hand-chopping can do, there's nothing like a food processor to make pesto easily.



COVID cases up, 7 in hospital

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

There's been lots of news on the "COVID-19 front" over the past week, as confirmed cases in Mendocino County have spiked to at least 165, with seven locals now in the hospital. At Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting, the public learned the county will have an opportunity to hire a new fulltime public health officer - a local physician - next

Read the rest of Cases

Over on Page 11

WUSD not ready to make back to school decision

Joanne Moore Reporter .joanne@willitsweekly.com

The Willits Unified School District board will hold a special meeting this Friday, July 17, at 5 pm, via Zoom. One of the items on the agenda is discussion and possible approval of the district's plan to reopen schools next month.

However. **WUSD** Superintendent Westerburg announced Wednesday night: "There will not be a decision made. It is too soon to know what it will look like on August 31.... Our goal is to allow parents choice of doing independent study or back-in-classroom instruction if the conditions allow it."

Westerburg continued: "In mid-August our goal will be to call each family and ask parents to choose an option of in-class or independent study, and we will make the staffing adjustments needed. Beyond staffing

Read the rest of Schools

Over on Page 4

Supes approve Wildlife Services contract

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

On a 3-2 vote, the of supervisors Tuesday approved a contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services for its Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program.

Voting in favor of the \$800,000 five-year, contract were supervisors Carre Brown, Dan Gjerde McCowen: John

Read the rest of Contract

Over on Page 11

Sen. McGuire introduces SB 629, the Press Freedom Act

Submitted by the Office of State Senator Mike McGuire

Freedom of the press is one of the foundations upon which America was born. That said, those freedoms are under attack here in 2020.

Intentional attacks or detainments of reporters and members of the press in the United States in 2020 have increased significantly, particularly during the nationwide anti-racism protests, according to the US Press Freedom Tracker, the Freedom of the Press Foundation, and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

During recent protests reporters have been hit by rubber bullets, struck with batons, sprayed with tear gas, and detained, all while performing their critical role of documenting and informing the public of current events.

Senator Mike McGuire introduced SB 629. which will enhance and extend access and protections to members of the media who are attending demonstrations in order to gather vital information.

"Members of the press risk their personal health and safety each time they attend protests or rallies to get the public the information they need and deserve. Rubber bullets, tear gas, and even detainment cannot be the new norm for an essential pillar of our nation's democracy. California must lead the way to ensure the right of the press and the First Amendment are protected and held to the highest standard," Senator McGuire said.

SB 629 - the Press Freedom Act - will ensure that journalists are protected as they perform these critical roles when covering demonstrations, marches, protests and rallies. It will prohibit law enforcement officers from obstructing, detaining, assaulting or otherwise preventing the press from fulfilling their constitutional mandate in reporting on these events by making it a misdemeanor for any peace officer to do so.

Recent police action demonstrates that these statutory protections are critical to ensure our democratic system has access to newsworthy information to inform the discussion on the crucial issues that California and the nation face.

During protests throughout California in May, numerous reporters were injured during incidents with law enforcement.

For example, a reporter for KCRW, a Santa Monica NPR affiliate, was reporting at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue when she was hit by a rubber bullet. She was holding her press badge above her head at

A Buzzfeed News reporter was detained by the Santa Monica Police while documenting

A KPIX CBS affiliate reporter was detained by law enforcement while reporting on protests in Oakland.

A San Diego Union-Tribune reporter was shot with pepper balls while he was documenting protests in La Mesa.

While California law allows reporters and members of the press to enter natural disaster emergency areas for the purpose of gathering information, these protections do not expressly extend to protests. SB 629 provides these protections.

The legislation is supported by the California Newspaper Publishers Association, the California Broadcasters Association, California Black Media Impremedia, Ethnic Media Services, and the First Amendment Coalition.

Hertzberg, Hill, Wiener, Gonzalez, Portantino and Skinner and Assemblymember Wicks.

The legislation is co-authored by: Senators

SB 629 will be heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee in the coming

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

The Willits Senior Center is continuing to provide drive-thru, walk-up and delivered meals, now that inside dining has been shut down again by the state. Call 459-6826 for more info.

Drive-thru and walk-up meals are still Tuesday, July 21: Chili Mac available 12 to 1 pm, Monday through Friday Pickup is outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. All Senior Center meals are Thursday, July 23: Baked Ham currently \$5.

Home Meal Delivery

to schedule home meal delivery; \$5 per shopping, banking, doctors' appointments.

meal, Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits.

Thursday, July 16: BBQ Chicken

Friday, July 17: Hot dogs

Monday, July 20: Ground Beef Tacos

Wednesday, July 22: Pulled Pork Sandwich

Friday, July 24: Asian Chicken Wrap

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery

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the editor?

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We print letters

from residents of

the 3rd District,

just email us

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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.



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Distance learning until safe return possible Dear Willits Unified School Board members and Superintendent Westerburg:

On behalf of the more than 100 educators of the Willits Teachers Association, we are writing to express our concerns for the well-being of all members of the Willits Unified School District, including teachers and staff, students and their

Willits Teachers Association:

family members, and by extension, the members of our whole community, should we return to school in person this fall (with some returning as early as This past spring, when schools were closed as our state banded together

to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus and the accompanying overtaxing of our medical system, which we saw tragically play out in New York, we rallied behind one message: keeping our students and educators safe.

At that time, we had zero cases in Mendocino County, but our superintendent wisely kept campus closed, as his "biggest concern ... [was] the health of our adult staff," emphasizing "the impact from the virus can be harsh and we have a small number of substitutes available."

Rising to the challenge, teachers put in incredible effort learning new methods to keep students learning, engaged, and nurtured throughout the crisis learning period, all the while longing for a return to pre-COVID schooling.

However as much we wish otherwise, returning to campus this fall will not remotely resemble pre-COVID schooling, nor will it approach the same level of learning and engagement except with the help of technology. Instead of a 'normal" school day, it will be masked, socially distanced learning, with daily struggles to sustain the most basic precautions for dealing with an airborne

Introducing a complex regimen of new rules, practices, and environmental instructions would be of questionable effectiveness, even if followed perfectly: furthermore, it will take the focus away from content learning and skill building. Instead of dynamic group work and project-based learning, classes will be conducted in lecture or call-and-response format; we know this is not how

While our teachers are prepared and eager to implement new technologies in their classrooms to keep the learning collaborative and student-centered, how much better to do this virtually, if an in-person class would already be relying on virtual learning methods?

Our 1,800 students go home to nearly 1,000 different families, making up over a third of households in the areas of Willits and Brooktrails alone. We are seeing a rise in positive cases in Mendocino County, from 33 cases after the first eight weeks of school closure, to 146 cases 10 weeks later, and new cases rising daily.

How many cases will we be at when school reconvenes in another five weeks? How many more five weeks into the school year? To bring back any number of students to campus would mean risking first-hand exposure to a third of our community, and second-hand exposure to the rest, essentially negating the many months spent sheltering in place trying to reduce our risk.

Surely this is why the CDC called in-person classes the "highest risk" scenario for schools. The illness of a student, staff, or family member as a result of a return to school would have lasting deleterious effects on the mental health of any student traced to be the vector; the death of a teacher, student or family member would certainly wreck us to the core as a school and a community for a long time to come.

With hours of reaching out to our members through phone, surveys, and online discussion, the WTA is confident that our teachers are united in support of a return to virtual schooling this fall, until our county sees a decline in new cases over a 14-day period, and fewer than nine cases in a 14 day period, as recommended by current public health guidelines.

As indoor business operations shut down around California this week once again, at the recognition that an hour inside a room with 10 or 20 people risks an overloaded healthcare system in the not too distant future, how can we send children to spend upwards of five hours of their day in the company of 15 to 45 students from other families with their own networks of socializing, work and exposure to the virus?

Our rural hospitals "...run with what we absolutely have to have to survive," according to Howard and Ukiah Valley Hospital president Jason Wells, and are absolutely "not prepared for surges" from increasing COVID cases.

Our county's first death took place out of county precisely because of this deficit in critical care: We depend on Sonoma and Bay Area hospitals which at the moment are at capacity and have already caused those school districts to return to school virtually this fall.

Before March, no board member could have anticipated the difficult decisions you would be making in just a short amount of time; similarly, the harm of reopening schools this fall may be difficult to fathom before it hits us all. We urge you to first, do no harm, and second, allow for the best method available for student-centered learning, which is to opt for a virtual return to school in the fall.

Thank you for including our voices among the many other messages you are hearing right now. Navigating the pressures of state and federal funding, CDC guidance from those with expertise in this global pandemic, and the reality of escalating cases and inadequate medical system capacity in our county, we are certain that nothing will be of higher priority than the health and safety of your teachers, friends, neighbors, and especially the children and families of our schools.

We wish you clear thinking and a sense of accountability as you follow your conscience in this matter, knowing that the fate of many are entrusted to the decision-making power of five people.

- Willits Teachers Association, July 15, 2020

SUBSCRIPTION FORM NAME: PHONE ☐ 1 year - \$75 ☐ Additional donation included \$ In the mail: Home delivery: 1 year - \$50 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas) 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











Above, from left: Eli Mosher secures the stean tractor on the flatbed The moving crew rests victoriously; from left: William England, Joe Smith, Bruce Patterson Fli Mosher, Beda Garman and Troy James. Roots President Troy James operates the Gehl that was utilized to move the Best steam tractor.

Far left: The steam tractor is finally seated in place on the flatbed trailer.

At left: Beda Garman helps to line up the machinery.

Below: Beda Garman drives the Best steam tractor across town to Baldo Locomotive Works.

Preserving the Past

Roots of Motive Power moves 15-ton steam tractor across town for restoration

Mathew Caine

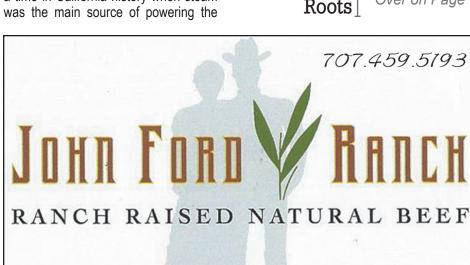
The crew from Roots of Motive Power loves to get their hands, hair and clothing full of grease, soot and rust, and a mixture of other materials that most people call "dirt," while tinkering about with the restoration of bulky, powerful and historical relics of the glory days of steam-driven technology. Wednesday nights have been designated as the time when they get together at Baldo Locomotive Works and bring these behemoths back from

the brink of extinction. They spend their time assessing the machines' viability, finding the flaws, and setting about to machine the parts that need replacing, rebuilding, patching or painting. Their goal is to make the machines run again in the manner in which they were originally designed or

to create a teachable piece for inclusion into the Roots Engine House Museum. Since 1982, Roots of Motive Power, "a loosely organized group of friends in the timber industry who shared a love of local history and the antique machinery that shaped it," per their Facebook page, has been tinkering, playing with, restoring, and exhibiting these

dynamic relics. The machines represent Read the rest of a time in California history when steam

Over on Page 6



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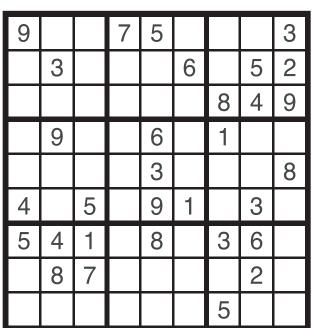


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GARMANCONST@GMAIL.COM

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku. Word Search & Crossword



HOW TO

the easier it gets to solve

A A R U R N E S S N L P S C F U E G R E N G V A D L H R E L N A A TIZCDCCINVETAUA O H Z A E N A M S O T M L E E P C O D G U L C S T R I N G C M F O T B P R O S C I U T T O F M G E P P U Z I **ANTIPASTI CANNELLONI** RAVIOLI

PANCETTA

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PASTA

PESCE

PESTO

PIZZAIOLA

PROSCIUTTO

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SALAMI

SARDE

SCAMPI

TORTELLONI

VITELLO

ZITI

CAPONATA

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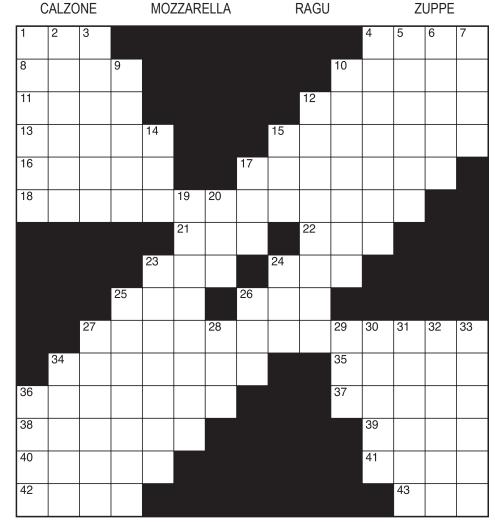
FARFALLE

GNOCCHI

LINGUINE

MARINARA

MINESTRONE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Sound unit

ARANCINI

ARRABBIATA

BRACIOLE

BRANZINO

BRUSCHETTA

CACCIATORE

CALAMARI

- 4. Trim by cutting 8. Small buffalo
- 10. Ancient manuscript 11. Look angry or sullen
- 12. Glum
- 13. Northern Zambia
- peoples
- 15. Central
- 16. Collector of birds' eggs
- 17. Misbehavior 18. Top of the line
- 21. Political action committee
- 22. Have already done 23. Al Bundy's wife
- 24. Entertainment channel 25. Holiday (informal)
- 26. The common gibbon
- 27. Legendary actress 34. Seasoned sausages

- 35. Bluish greens 36. Ridiculed
- 37. Three-dimensional arrangement
- 38. Emerged 39. Type of protein
- 40. Denmark natives 41. Leak slowly through 42. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 43. Midway between south and southeast
- CLUES DOWN 1. Artistic dancing
- 2. Plenty 3. Act leisurely
- 4. Serve as a warning 5. Admired lovingly 6. Leftover oil from distillation process
- 33. A way to break away 34. Intermediate 7. Company officer 9. Egyptian unit of capacity 36. Baby term for father

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,

9:01 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1400 of South Main Street and issued a warning.

Summary of Active Investigations

and Arrests

seven-day reporting period.

9:33 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

10:19 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of a sexual assault in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

8:22 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School

July 7

1:24 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School

8:32 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Main Street.

9:40 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:10 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:01 pm: CLEARWATER, Samaya Nicole (36) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 243 (B) PC (Battery on a Peace Officer), 148 (A) PC (Resisting Arrest), 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), on Drive. felony charges of threat of injury made to an officer in performance of their duties, and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

10:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

told the supervisors the county had spent roughly \$12 million on its response to the pandemic. In addition, county Auditor Lloyd Weer has estimated that county revenues would be down about \$2 million for fiscal 2019-20, and the same amount for fiscal

as a result of the virus. On July 14, Antle told the supervisors the county will likely receive \$8.9 million from the federal government's CARES program. Antle also predicted the county will receive \$4 million from the State of California's realignment backfill program. In addition, the county is in a position to receive more than a million dollars from FEMA.

Supes approve Redwood contract

The board approved a six-month contract extension with its mental health "administrative services organization," Redwood Quality Management Company, on Tuesday. RQMC has been providing mental health services for the county for children, since 2016, and for both adults and children, since 2017.

The contract was somewhat confusing. At first glance, compensation went from \$18.9 million to \$27.7 million. But on second glance, it was a year-and-a-half retroactive contract, going from July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Jenine Miller told the supervisors the September 1.

The rest of Schools

From Page 1

we will need to make building-specific plans for situations that may occur. Our goal is to provide the safest environment we can and give parents options. If we had to start tomorrow, our data is trending the wrong way and the guidelines are locking down more not less, so we would be on home

Westerburg also invited those interested in giving information to board members about the issue to send comments via

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

July 6 to July 12

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police July 8

Department handled 183 incidents in this (Nothing to report)

July 9

6:04 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

11:36 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of Baechtel

6:28 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:31 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Creekside

July 10

12:48 pm: Officers responded to a report a suspicious activity in the 100 block of Northbrook Way and issued a warning.

July 11

11:47 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust

July 12

10:50 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:47 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

1:58 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of Baechtel

3:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South

3:46 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Mill Creek

9:32 pm: GUSTIN, Richard Lee (52) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Hazel Street and South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license revoked

From Page 1

On July 7, Deputy CEO Darcie Antle county is preparing a request for proposals for some organization (possibly, but not necessarily RQMC) to act as administrative services organization for the county's mental health services. That RFP has been written and due to be released in the next couple of weeks. Miller said the contract which the supervisors approved included a six-month 2020-21, meaning that, at this point, the extension of contracted services, so that the county looks to be down about \$16 million county would have a mental health provider over the upcoming period, when it is trying to secure a provider for the next contract

> Miller said the extension period took into consideration the results of budget cuts made by the State of California, reflecting the hit that the state has taken from COVID-19. She said the contract reflected a 5 percent cut to payments for medical services, a 15 percent cut to administration costs, and a 15 percent cut to Mental Health Services Act programs.

Cannabis ad hocs terminated

During the July 14 meeting, the board voted unanimously to terminate all three of its cannabis ad hoc committees. Gone are the cannabis cultivation ad hoc (John Haschak), the economic development cannabis ad hoc (Dan Gjerde and Ted Williams) and the regional strategy ad hoc (Haschak and Williams.)

The board deferred creation of a single cannabis ad hoc until some future date. perhaps as early as July 21, maybe on August 4, and almost certainly before

markwesterburg@willitsunified.com

The Zoom meeting can be joined by clicking on the link on the first page of the agenda. The agenda is available at www. willitsunified.com. On the home page, go to explore, school board, board agendas, then current agenda.

The meeting can also be streamed on the YouTube channel of the "Willits Unified School District."







Above, left: The old signs should be coming down soon on the southern approach. Above, right: The old wooden bridge up Sherwood Road still stands for now, At left: As seen from First Gate, the new bridge is open to vehicles. Below: The wooden



Sherwood Bridge

Rowes Creek crossing gets much-needed upgrade to two-lane concrete structure

Nothing manmade lasts forever. Rustic the roadway approach curve radius," according structures, although beautiful to behold and reminiscent of earlier days, do not always function optimally in the present. There is always a balance to be struck between what residents are used to and what

is useable. Progress,

at times, comes at an aesthetic cost. Such is the case of the Rowes Creek Bridge on Sherwood Road, approximately 5.6 miles northwest of

Willits, just before First Gate. Five years ago, a proposal was made to replace the vintage 1965, 70-foot-by-20-foot wooden one-lane bridge with a more substantial concrete structure. Construction of the new 100-foot-by-33.5-foot bridge that allows for twoway traffic is almost complete and is functionally allowing vehicles to traverse.

In addition to replacing the old bridge, which has yet to be dismantled, the roadway is being straightened to "avoid the sharp reversing curves located on either end of the bridge and increase Memorandum.

to the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study published in 2015 (a 317-page report). Although the new bridge is in use, work remains to be done on the roadway.

As is the case with any county, state or federal project, several years of environmental impact studies and agency approvals were required prior to the start of construction, including from the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Transportation, and the Mendocino County Planning Department.

Additionally, several studies were required: an Archeological Survey Report, Natural Environment Study, Hydrology and Design Hydraulic Study, Wetland Delineation Report, Initial Site Assessment, Draft Foundation Report, and Farmland Impact Assessment Technical

Once all the requirements were satisfied, the federal government was able to fund almost all of the construction costs of an estimated \$2.4 million (2015 estimate), less than the cost of retrofitting the bridge, which had been determined to be "not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Per the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, the bridge, "signed as a singlelane bridge, Bridge 10C-0123 no longer meets the safety and functional needs of the public who use Sherwood Road." The federal program encompasses about 130 such structures in Mendocino County, in various stages of study or

The project, led by the Mendocino County Department of Transportation, is an example of the complexities involved in a seemingly simple construction, one that replaces the familiar, if not always entirely viable, rustic original, with a more modern, longer-lasting version. It's a trade-off of the aesthetic, upgraded to the higher-function. It is a difficult but sometimes necessary balance.



At left: Not rustic but still fairly attractive and more permanent. Above: The new

Rowes Creek Bridge is open, although some roadwork is still needed.

Mendocino County Weekly Update on COVID-19

Friday, July 17, 2020 at 5 PM

This week's COVID-19 Update will be a Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Jared Huffman, Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblymember Jim Wood and Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan.

It will be streamed live on Congressman Huffman's Facebook Page at facebook.com/ RepHuffman

Mendocino County will also be streaming this meeting on Facebook and YouTube.

facebook.com/mendocinocounty youtube.com/mendocinocountyvideo

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 ssembly 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 WELČOME

The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive Willits, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

ckankar: The Path Spiritual Freedor

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 dult 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. 9:00 a.m. English

10:30 a.m. Spanish

Ne welcome All Ŵalks of Faith St. Francis

Episcopal Church North Main Street, Willits 707-459-3066 Church Services/Communio & 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-Dav 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, pastoi Worship Celebration Sundays - 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m 459-2855 acebook: www.facebook.com

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

Willits Weekly | July 16, 2020 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

10. One transmits

embryo

19. Sample

24. Disallow

26. French river

28. Top of a pot

29. Type of drug

31. Animal disease

14. Form of 'to be'

information

12. Middle layer of an

15. Cairo Regional Airport

20. A shirt may have none

17. Partner to cheese

23. Public gatherings

25. Overnight suitcases

27. Where boats dock

30. City along the Rhine

32. They go in martinis

ecological stage

wheel of the Best steam tractor. Far right: The Best steam tractor is hauled on the flatbed in the first At right, below: Jelani Hall, Troy

President Troy James stands next

to the massive

James, Joe Smith and Alexis England take a moment after moving the Estep marine engine into place in the Roots

Roots

From Page 3

OUR DISPENSARY IS BACK OPEN TO SHOP

WE'RE BACK!

(LIMITED TO 2 PEOPLE AT A TIME)

IN PERSON

OPEN DAILY: 10 AM TO 7 PM

KUREMENDOCINO.COM

machinery that enabled the locomotive and logging industries that built the cities and businesses of the

trainmaster and past president, Gene Roediger, Jimmy Yokum and Ken Smith. Today, they maintain a plethora of steam donkeys, locomotives, steam shovels, and other tools of the steam era.

Their current projects are the restoration of an historic dining car and a Best steam tractor, a 15ton logging monster built in 1903 that was capable of pulling 40 tons of logs across a flat field with its 110-horsepower engine.

In order to have the "Wednesday Nighters" restore the Best to its full capacity and beauty, it had to be relocated from Roots of Motive Power, in its location next to the County Museum, to Baldo Locomotive Works at Blosser Lane and Robert Drive.

As the engine is not currently functional, a crew of hearty Roots members - including President Troy James, Eli Mosher, Joe Smith, William England, and Bruce Patterson, with the help of Beda Garman and his flatbed – pulled, pushed, strained and cajoled the piece of machinery up onto the flatbed.

Once that was done, they discovered that in order to attach the cab to the flatbed trailer, they would have to take the Best back off the flatbed and turn the trailer around so that the steam tractor would sit on it in the other direction. Finally, with much dexterity, determination and experience, they were able to move it across town and unload it at the BLW.

Not to quit there, the crew, a couple days later, moved their latest finished project, a huge fourcylinder Estep marine engine back to the Engine House Museum, with the help of Kevin Bouthillier's crane and flatbed and Willits Redwoods' two large forklifts. It was an energetic but ultimately rewarding

On the Best steam tractor, the walls of the old boiler have been weakened over years of use, necessitating a new one be built from scratch. It is estimated to be a two-year project to completely restore it, but when finished, the crew of Roots will be able to operate and demonstrate it in the yard to delight and educate the children and adults of Willits.

The Best was obtained from the Oakland Museum Memberships are available for \$35 per year.

on a \$1 a year lease. "When they were ready to give us this tractor," said Troy James, "the Oakland Museum became part of the California museum Among the founders are Chris Baldo, current system, so they had to go through a lot of paperwork and proposals before the transfer. There were seven or eight other historical museums that were after this piece. We got it, and it came with a purse. When we got it on loan, it had \$16,000 in donated funds attached to the tractor." It is estimated that it will require about \$150,000 to completely restore the

> Roots Engine House has an interesting history. It was rescued from the sunken 81-foot fishing trawler, the San Juan, which was unfortunately allowed to deteriorate and sink in fairly shallow water in the

> utilized in the laying of the Trans Pacific Cable Crossing and in various rescues on the coast. In one instance, "a fishing boat got into trouble in a storm off the coast," explained James. "The Coast Guard went out to attempt a rescue and got into trouble itself. The San Juan went out and rescued everybody and

> Roots was able to recover most of the engine parts, even though they had been strewn throughout the deck, with the help of Salvage Dive Locker out of Eureka. Unfortunately the San Juan has been relegated to the junk pile.

companies like Bouthillier's Construction, Garman Construction, B & B Industrial Hardware & Metals, and Daniel Steel & Machine because these companies realize the importance of preserving the history of the region and bringing parts of it back to life so that it can educate, thrill and fascinate new generations. To be able to feel the pounding of the machinery, see the fire and the steam, and hear the antique train whistles is a privilege and experience that all the people of Willits can share.

The Estep marine engine that was placed in the

The San Juan itself is a venerable boat. It was dragged all the boats back."

Roots gets much help from local construction

For more information, visit www.rootsofmotive power.com or email mail@rootsofmotivepower.com





Congrats

Odalys Lara-Lopez

The Willits Chamber of Commerce is proud to congratulate Odalys Lara-Lopez as the recipient of the first annual Willits Chamber of Commerce Lynn Kennelly Memorial Scholarship

"We are especially proud as Lara-Lopez is the first to receive the Lynn Kennelly Memorial Scholarship honoring our late executive director, a very special Willits lady who was so energetic for presenting our scholarships accomplished and deserving Willits graduates, said Director Chamber Ron Moorhead.

Lara-Lopez pursuing a career in nursing while attending Mendocino College in Ukiah.

The Willits Chamber of Commerce could not be prouder to present her with our 2020 Lynn Kennelly Memorial Scholarship.

Willits Chamber of

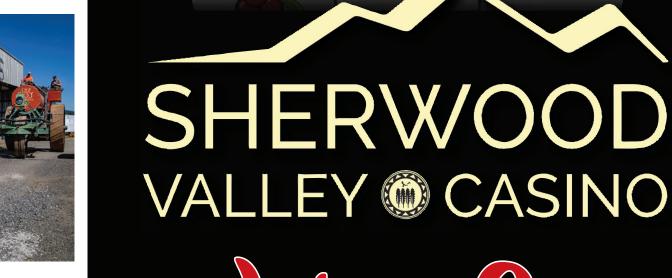




Above: Troy James and Beda Garman work to secure the tractor to the hauler. Below: The Gehl, operated by Troy James, hauls the Best steam tractor into position







Far left: The Estep fourcylinder engine is in its new

the Roots Engine House. At left:

Joe Smith checks the position of the Best

tractor after it is moved

where it will be restored. At left: The

Best steam tractor, a 15-ton

is capable of hauling 40 tons of

to Baldo Locomotive Works.

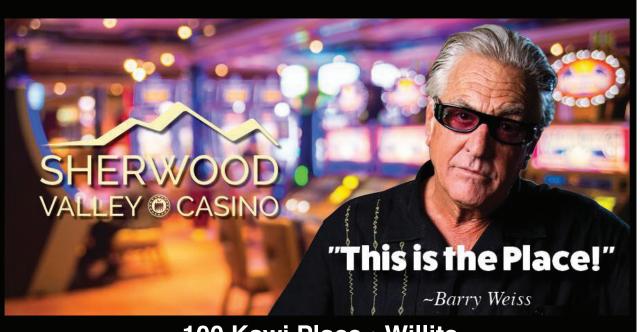
VALLEY © CASINO Merre Men

- PLEASE NOTE -

Our Current Hours: 8 am to 2 am

Face Masks Are Required

Must have a valid I.D. to enter the casino. Must play with Players Club Card at all times.



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.

WE'RE HIRING!



1788 S. MAIN ST. IN WILLITS

707-459-4200

DELIVERY OPTIONS STILL AVAILABLE!







pho-tog-ra-phress [fuh-tog-ruh-friss]

noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

Book Fall & Holiday 2020 intments now!

cell: 707-972-7047 email: maureengetsmail@gmail.com

Ukiah Shelter Feline Update

The Ukiah Shelter has some great new cats and kittens available and waiting for their new forever homes! If you are interested in one of these cuties, please keep the following

• You must have an appointment. Space is still limited as we observe social distancing guidelines. You will not be allowed to enter the shelter if you do not have a prearranged time slot. Appointments must be made by calling 707-463-4427.

• There will be no holds placed on kittens/cats and no guarantees on which kittens/cats will still be available when you visit. The kittens we've posted on Facebook ("Mendocino County Animal Shelter" page) are just a few of the ones we currently have available. There will be more kittens available in the coming weeks as they start to return from their foster

• In order to help your visit go smoothly, we suggest filling out an application prior to your appointment. Applications can be printed from our website www. mendoanimalshelter.com

 A completed application will allow us to determine if you meet all of the requirements for adoption before you meet the kittens. If you do not have a completed application on arrival, you will be asked to fill one out before visiting the kennels.

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

Home

Meal Delivery

Drive Thru

Walk Up Meals

Menu - July Week 3

Thursday, July 16

BBQ Chicken

Friday, July 17

Hot Dogs

Accepting donations

to aide us in feeding

seniors Sheltering in Place

Please Visit —

www.willitsseniorcenter.com

Transportation

For

Seniors



See's

Candy

Drive Through Pick Up

Call 459-6826

Call 707-459-6826 to Schedule

Available Monday thru Friday

Cost - \$5 per meal

Delivered throughout Willits.

Please call to set up delivery.

Available

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

1501 Baechtel Road

\$5 per meal,

Monday-Friday

Menu - July Week 4

Monday, July 20

Ground Beef Tacos

Tuesday, July 21

Chili Mac

Wednesday, July 22

Pulled Pork Sandwich

Thursday, July 23

Baked Ham

Friday, July 24

Asian Chicken Wrap

Call 707-459-6826

to Schedule

Pick Up and Drop Off for:

Grocery Shopping

Banking

Doctor's Appointments

Meet the adorable Marlee. Marlee is a wonderful dog who loves her people. Marlee lived in a home with kids ages 6, 3 and 2 who she adored, as well as cats and livestock!

Adorable Marlee

Marlee gets along with other dogs but likes her toys and food to be only hers, which we get! She is about 2.5 years old, about 60 pounds, and is a mixed-breed gal.

Marlee is looking for a home where she can be a princess and share her love with people who understand her and her needs. Are you the one? Apply to love Marlee at mendohumanesociety.com.

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

Young Faunzy

Meet this handsome cat Faunzy. Faunzy is a 9-month-old tabby male who weighs about 7 pounds. He came to us in November of last year as a stray. He was a only month old. He has lived pretty much his whole life with us.

We would love to get him a home so he can experience the good life. Faunzy is neutered and up to date on his vaccines. If you're interested in adopting Faunzy, you may fill an application out on our website at www.mendohumanesociety.com

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



and fostering: Call 707-485-0123 for information any questions. Visit "Humane Society Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www. mendohumane society.com to

10AM - 8:30PM

MON - SAT

TO-GO ORDERS CALL 459-5702

DINE IN ON LOOOSE CABOOSE PATIO FROM 5 - 8:30 PM



Restaurant El Mexicano

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

208 E. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 (707)459-6791



LEGAL NOTICES

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

Willits Downtown Improvement Project - Project No. 2020-02

The work for this project includes installation of rrigation, 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

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

- 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

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

Current Job Openings:

County Health Officer

Eligibility Specialist II/III

Public Health Nurse

Screener

Senior Public Health Nurse

Supervising Public Health Nurse

Vocational Assistant

For a complete list of current job openings

and to apply: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/ <u>human-resources</u>

EOE

WW278 Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0342 The following person is doing business as 3 Pronged Attack, 32 Fort Bragg Road, Willits, CA 95490 Registered owner: Sisemore, 32 Fort Bragg Road Willits, CA 95490.

The registrant commenced to

This business is conducted by an

above on N/A. Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder

on July 1, 2020. s/ Omar Sisemore

Publication dates: 07/09, 07/16, 07/23, 07/30/2020 letter would be included on the agenda for the upcoming July 22 city council meeting remained unanswered.

Clarity needed on health order

the county had asked for more clarity regarding the latest

county health order. "All of the city managers in the county have been a little

perplexed by the new order," she said. "This order keeps getting longer and longer and longer, and it's getting more and more confusing for us to understand, and I think that

some better messaging so that people can understand what is actually being required of us [with the] public health order," she continued. "And their response was that they're very busy with contact tracing, and they've reached out for the state for some assistance. And because the governor keeps changing the order, they're trying to respond as quickly as possible.... And I'm sorry I can't get more information to you because we're just not getting it."

CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help Need help with your

computer?

configuration

Freestone peaches & nectarines yellow & Macintosh, Android and white \$32 a lug, field & IOS devices. Repairs, Roma tomatoes 30lb lug \$32, Pluots \$33 tutoring: \$50/hr. Call a lug July 9th & 23rd Liam 459-2470 or email deliveries. 459-9335 uicearbhaill@gmail.com thefruitgroup95490@

yahoo.com

The Fruit Group

Cottage for Sale In town, a 2-bedroom \$178,000. Call 707-459-

Estate Sale 7/18/20, 8am-3pm; 151 Franklin Ave Willits Items for sale include: Vintage maple China hutch, adjustable premium bed (Twin XL), premium Tempurpedic mattress (California King), vintage maple dresser, vintage oak roll top desk, two small desks, small love seat, retro puffy chair, numerous end tables, coffee table, media cabinet(s), lamps, open style gun cabinet, small appliances, kitchen kitchen glassware, tools, men's & women's clothing and shoes

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. Also: Room

miscellaneous knick-

knacks.

for rent, 190 square ft. utilities incl. Avail. August 1. \$300/mo. 707-354-

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.

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

weeks

Fruit Group Coordinators Brenda 459-9335 Ukiah, Redwood &

email

Potter Valley: Deanna 391-7736 Lakeport Linda 279-8840 Laytonville: Heather 984-9430

Fort Bragg: Karen 937-4664 Debi 489-0742 Brooktrails: Vicky 354-1453

Keith's Structural Repair

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

> 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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

I'll be back to help you with your Alterations and Sewing Needs Barbara the Seamstress

> Virtual Spiritual Exploration

Stay Safe

To learn more about classes and topics that may interest you visit: https://www.meetup. com/Lake-Mendocino-Counties-Spiritual-Explorers/ Join us on Zoom or via telephone Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8 pm, June 3 through July 29, 2020. Questions? Please call Joy at (952) 999-2288.

COVID is within our city limits, and we just don't get that information," she said. "But apparently they do notify the dispatchers of every city of the addresses of any cases that they know of within the city. So if the responders go out to that address it's flagged, so that first responders do know and they're able to use all their PPE. [But] that information is not given to us, or the city manager or anyone else because of HIPAA regulations."

5 9 3 5 8 3 8 6 6 9

5 4 6 3 9 3 3 6 2 9 8

M A R I L Y N M O N R O E

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Willits Weekly | July 16, 2020

3 percent lower than what PG&E is charging. The city will pay \$730,000 for the solar power system. which will come out of the city's water enterprise fund.

different companies since 2007, at an agreed upon rate of

Council

Trincado Slater expected they would realize savings equal to that amount in about five or six years, after factoring in ongoing maintenance costs of about \$20,000 per year. After that she estimated the city would save about

From Page 1

\$120,000 per year in energy costs, and she expected the lifespan of the system to last for at least another 12 years total, so the city should save a considerable amount of money in the long run.

In her agenda summary report, Trincado Slater noted that research with consultants at Kenwood Energy had indicated that a buyout made the most fiscal sense at this

"After conducting an analysis of the system," she said, "Kenwood Energy determined that the rate that was specified in the [power purchase agreement] did not offer optimal savings for the city; and the system produces more power than is needed by the water treatment plant. The combination of these two conditions has led the city to pay more than it should for energy at the water treatment plant."

She added that initially the buy-out value was determined to be a much higher figure of \$1.25 million, "however, a purchase price of \$730,000 was successfully negotiated."

City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra and several on the council praised Trincado for her work to get the deal

"I just wanted to thank Andrea for her hard work on this project." said Garrabrant-Sierra. "She has doggedly been pursuing this, and she has put a ton of time and effort and real analytical skill into this.'

"I'm really thrilled that we're going to own our own solar array," said councilmember Madge Strong. "I think it's sort of too bad we didn't buy it in the first place because we probably would have realized a lot more savings if we'd owned it all the way through. But I'm glad we're doing it now, and I think that it will pay for itself in the seven years, and then we continue to get the benefits not only to our pocketbook, but we also are not putting greenhouse gases into the air with more PG&E or other power sources. So I think it's wonderful."

Letter set for future agenda

Following a discussion about a July 3 private party hosted by Willits Frontier Days board members, the council gave direction to Garrabrant-Sierra to craft a draft letter to the WFD and bring the issue back as an agenda item at a

Councilmembers Greta Kanne and Saprina Rodriguez both said that they were inundated with calls and emails from the community with concerns about the event, which they felt was not appropriate given the COVID-19 health order banning gatherings.

had about 15 people in attendance, and since it was not in city limits and not an official WFD event, "the city certainly would not have any purview over that." Still, the majority of the council felt it appropriate to direct Garrabrant-Sierra to craft a letter to basically "remind" members of Willits Frontier Days to adhere to all county health

Garrabrant-Sierra said it was her understanding that the party was a "small event" that

orders and other such regulations in the future. "At this point that's all we could do is send a letter just reminding the Frontier Days folks that we just expect everybody to abide by the same rules," said Mayor Gerry Gonzalez "If that's the extent I would be happy with that."

As of press time, an inquiry to City Manager Garrabrant-Sierra as to whether the draft

Garrabrant-Sierra told councilmembers that in her last call with Mendocino County Public Health, which had occurred the day of the meeting, she and other city managers in

"And so we did put that out to the county that we need

She added that she was also having difficulty finding out about COVID-19 cases in Willits, primarily due to patient privacy rules.

"We're constantly wanting to know what the status of

Willits Weekly | July 16, 2020

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Pg. 9

66 SOUTH

MAIN ST





Office: (707) 462-4514

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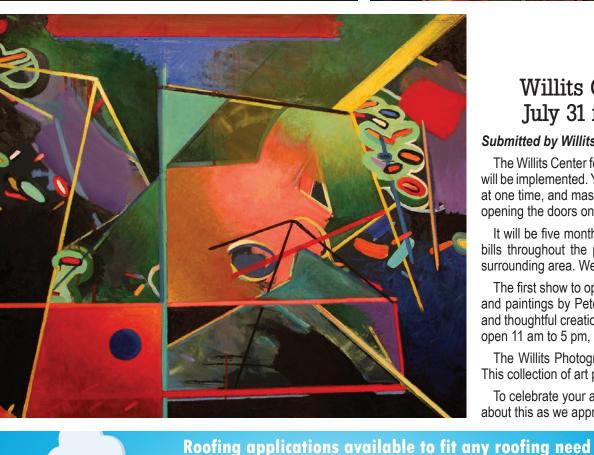
Residential & Commercial

Serving greas of Mendocino,

Lake and Sonoma Counties

basroofing@live.com





Art Fix

Willits Center for the Arts to open doors July 31 for gallery viewing on weekends

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts will open its doors on Friday, July 31. All safety procedures will be implemented. You will be greeted with hand sanitizer. Only six people in the galleries at one time, and masks are mandatory. No formal opening will take place. We are simply opening the doors on weekends for you to get an art fix.

It will be five months since we have been open. We have maintained the building and bills throughout the pandemic with the help of generous citizens from Willits and the surrounding area. We will also offer rental space for the Great Room on a limited basis.

The first show to open since the craziness began will feature ceramics by lleya Stewart and paintings by Peter Onstad. These two talented Willits artists promise both beautiful and thoughtful creations. As mentioned, there will be no formal opening. The doors will be open 11 am to 5 pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday

The Willits Photography Club will be showing new work in the upstairs Great Room. This collection of art photographers is something you don't want to miss.

To celebrate your art center's 20th anniversary, an online art auction will be held. More about this as we approach October, when the auction will take place.

Please join us on weekends to stroll through the galleries and see what imagination can create.

The Willits Center for the Arts, at 71 East Commercial Street, can be reached at 459-1726. For more information, visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

At top, from left: An intricate sculpture by ceramicist lleya Stewart. This oil painting by Peter Onstad is titled "The Magpie." "Self Portrait" by Peter Onstad can be viewed Friday, Saturday or Sunday at the Willits Center for the Arts starting July 31.

Above, at left: "Untitled" by Bay Area abstract expressionist Peter

Below: Sculpted ceramic work by lleya Stewart will be on display at the WCA this August, including this heart-shaped vase. At bottom: A delicate white flower envelops this custom ceramic vase by Ileya Stewart.





www.basroofina.com



From Page 1 Cases

week. CEO Carmel Angelo also told supervisors at the July 14 meeting she believes the county is heading toward being placed on the statewide COVID watch list, which will mean additional restrictions.

On Monday, California Governor Gavin Newsom ordered that many freedoms recently granted businesses with the loosening of the COVID health orders be rescinded. As a result, all over the state, indoor dining at restaurants and indoor tasting at wine tasting rooms is forbidden. Bars, pubs, movie theaters, zoos, museums and cardrooms are closed. Patio dining and take-out are still allowed for restaurants, and outdoor tasting is still allowed for wineries and tasting rooms.

In Mendocino County, at least, for the present, some freedoms are still allowed here that are not being allowed in other counties where the impact of the pandemic is more pronounced. In this county, for the time being, indoor worship services are still allowed, gyms and fitness centers are still allowed to be open, and some personal services, such as nail salons, hair salons and barbershops, are still allowed to operate.

Mendocino County Public Information Officer Sarah Dukett said if the county gets put in the watch list, that those relaxed restrictions would be removed. There will be no indoor worship services, gyms and fitness centers would be closed, as would nail salons, hair salons and barbershops.

Dukett said Wednesday morning that Interim Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan, MD was currently drafting a new public health order that would reflect Mendocino County's status if the county is placed on the watch list.

Case numbers

As of press deadline on Wednesday, the COVID-19 data dashboard had just been posted. According to that July 15 update, the county has had a total of 165 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Of that total, 98 cases had recovered; 60 were in isolation; 7 COVID-19 patients were in local hospitals, at least 3 at Adventist Health Howard Memorial, but none were in intensive care units; and 1 death from COVID-19 in Mendocino County has now officially been reported.

The demographic information on the dashboard reports that 97 of the 165 cases are among people of Hispanic descent; 33 among Caucasians; 13 among American Indians: 15 decline to report their ethnicity; and 7 are "other."

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective. 116 cases are in the Ukiah valley; 27 are from the north county; 11 are from the north coast; 9 are from the south county and 2 are from the south

Looking at the data updates over the last week, in the north county region, cases have grown by 8 over the past five days. On July 10 there were 19 cases from the north county. On July 13, there were still 19 cases. But on July 15 there were 27 cases from the north county.

Looking at the disease as broken up into age cohorts: 5 cases have been among people between the ages of 0 and 5; 10 cases between ages of 6 and 12; 17 people between the ages of 13 and 18; 58 people between the ages of 19 and 34; 37 people between the ages of 35 and 49; 21 people between the ages of 50 and 64; and 17 people who are 65 or older.

There have been a total of 13,360 tests done in this county. As of Wednesday evening, the results of almost exactly a tenth of those tests, or 1,363 tests, were it difficult to slow the spread of the still pending.

Heading for the watch list?

quarantine, until the county knows the COVID cases in Mendocino County have been increasing over the past three weeks, and more rapidly over the infected

test results of those who may have been

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past five days. On Tuesday, when the The rest of Contract

county's COVID case total stood at 146

cases, Mendocino County Departmental

Operations Center Manager Bekkie

Emery said that the county had, over

the previous three days, added 33

cases to its Friday total of 113, as it

received confirmation of 11 new cases

on Saturday, 8 cases on Sunday and

14 new cases on Monday. Eleven new

cases were added on Tuesday, and 10

During the July 14 board of

supervisors meeting, Fifth District

Supervisor Ted Williams asked county

CEO Carmel Angelo if the recent spike

in cases meant that it was likely that

state health officials would "shut down"

Angelo did not answer Williams'

question exactly, but she said: "I think,

if our numbers continue as they are,

which is over our attestation numbers

as far as how many positives a day,

and there appears to be a fragility to our

health care delivery system, I believe

we'll make the watch list, yes," Angelo

Doohan and the incoming person.

Currently, Doohan is limited by her

new contract to working just 15 hours

a week for Mendocino County. Her

current contract with Mendocino County

is through December 31, 2020. The

contract states that, in the event that a

During the Tuesday supervisors'

meeting, Second District Supervisor

John McCowen asked Operations

Center Manager Emery what the main

driver of the spike was. Emery said it

"We have had multiple cases that

have come through from informal

gatherings," Emery said. "There was a

gathering on the Fourth of July that we

received notification on vesterday, that

had multiple people at it in attendance.

It was reported as being in excess of

25 individuals in attendance. And the

individual tested positive, and was

"It is a significant concern for us. We

are monitoring, and trying to ensure that

we are putting everyone in quarantine.

The challenge we run into on these

types of situations is, not everyone is

available to share who was at these

they don't even know all of the names

of.... It is a huge challenge for us in

trying to contain the virus when people,

in taking these steps, put other people

Another challenge noted by Emery

is the delay in getting test results

back. As the disease has spread, and

as testing has become more available

in California, many of those tests are

being sent to Quest Diagnostics in San

Juan Capistrano. Emery said that Quest

is being inundated with tests, and that

it is now routinely taking them 10 days,

and more, to return results to counties.

This delay in getting results makes

disease, as the county cannot act to put people who have been contacts

of those infected by the coronavirus in

gatherings. They're gathering with

tested on the fifth.

at risk," Emery said.

more on Wednesday.

supervisors Ted Williams and John Haschak

that says on page 110, that the professional who did this study said that the lethal usage As on the numerous occasions when it has of this was less than significant. So I'm asking, come before the board of supervisors in the where are the facts of this lethal program?' past, the question of whether to use Wildlife Services became an issue that brought forth strong statements from both proponents and Director Devon Jones attempted to shed

Proponents to the program characterized it in harshly negative terms. "Scientific research demonstrates that nonselective removal of non-offending animals can destabilize populations and lead to increased breeding and pup survival, and ultimately to increased conflicts," said Project Coyote Executive Director Camilla Fox in her testimony before the board of supervisors.

"The use of strangulation neck snares and other indiscriminate and cruel devices frequently employed by Wildlife Services is morally and ethically indefensible, as well as being completely unnecessary when more effective nonlethal methods and models exist."

Carol Misseldine, an official with the "We're headed that way. I think we Washington, D.C. office of the Humane Society all know that. The way the numbers are of the United States, referenced a Power Point going, it doesn't really matter what we presentation that was given to the supervisors do – and we're doing everything we can during the board meeting. It was given by - the numbers are increasing. We're USDA California North District Manager Derek headed for the watch list, yes," Angelo Milsaps, and it painted the work done by Wildlife Services in a positive light.

Angelo said on Tuesday that a Misseldine pointed out that Milsaps' contract with a potential new, fulltime presentation highlighted the fact that Wildlife public health officer, a local physician. Services no longer uses "some of the cruelest would be placed on the board of killing methods" in California, "but they only supervisors' agenda on July 21. Dukett stopped using these methods in California said Wednesday that if the board votes because they have been forced to by law," to hire the new health officer, there would Misseldine said. likely be a transition period between

"Wildlife Services continues to use these sadistic methods in other areas of the country. Public dollars should not be used to support this immoral and secretive agency," she said.

Willits resident Paul Truette, who had been on the Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission for 10 years, said that most of new public health officer is hired by the the statements made by opponents to Wildlife county, Doohan would be available as a Services were untrue.

> "I've heard arguments about gruesome exercise and anti-science, sadism, pain and suffering, slaughtering of apex predators, and indiscriminate killing," Truette said. "I'm not really sure what that's all about, because Wildife Services just got done with a fantastic presentation, that USDA is 95 percent nonlethal. So where is the data [that shows that] this practice of lethality happens?

"I'm looking at the data that we have fundamentally been looking at from the opponents to Wildlife Services, from Project Coyote and the other groups: They're not

The rest of From Page 1

offenders who are currently on Mendocino County Court ordered probation or California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

During the compliance checks, starting at 8 am on that Monday, seven registered sex offenders were contacted in both the Ukiah Valley and the 24000 block of North Highway 101 in Willits. The registered sex offenders were checked for compliance to confirm their place of residence and to ensure they were in compliance with their court-ordered probation or CDCR parole conditions.

Of the seven registered sex offenders checked, two were determined to be out of

Brian Hurtado was identified as being on CDCR parole and as a registered sex offender. He was contacted in the 24000 block of North Highway 101 in Willits, and during the contact, suspected methamphetamine was found in his possession (a violation of 11377 of the Health and Safety Code).

Additional items were located in his possession, which were determined to be a suspected violation of his CDCR parole terms and conditions. Based on the information.

Hurtado was arrested for the possession of

methamphetamine and a parole hold was

based on facts. We have a CEQA document

Mendocino County Farm Bureau Executive

some light on the matter when she pointed

out that information found on the California

Fish and Wildlife website indicated how many

depredation permits for various wildlife had

Jones said that in 2017, 21 permits for black

bears had been issued, and 12 bears had been

killed. In 2018, six permits for black bears had

In 2018, 13 permits for mountain lions had

been issued, and four lions were killed. In

2019, 10 permits to kill a mountain lion were

issued, and four lions were killed. Jones said

that for the two years including 2016 and 2017,

421 wild pigs were killed in Mendocino County.

of supervisors last took action on the Wildlife

Services question on December 17, 2019,

when it approved the environmental impact

report for the Integrated Wildlife Damage

Management Program and directed the then-

ag commissioner to prepare a 5-year contract

Then Project Coyote and the Mendocino

Non-Lethal Alliance sued Mendocino County,

claiming that the EIR was fundamentally

When asked on Wednesday if something

had happened behind closed doors to allow

the county to move forward, Second District

Supervisor John McCowen said he believed

that the Project Coyote / Non-Lethal Alliance

lawsuit against the county was still pending.

"As far as I am aware, I am not aware that

anything [regarding that lawsuit] is moving

Laytonville resident Jon Spitz said the

groups' lawsuit against the county was indeed

still pending, but that COVID-19 had slowed

the courts down. "It's a civil suit," said Spitz.

"We're not gonna be in court until December.

Asked what he thought about Wildlife

Service's claims that they are 95 percent non-

lethal, Spitz was dismissive. "It's a lie," he said

'Their kill rate is more like 50 percent. And this

is something that the Wildlife Services guy

[Milsaps] said in his presentation. Because if

they do trap the animal, what can they do?

They can't transport the animal. That's against

state law and it should be. So, their first option

is to kill the animal because it's easy for them

to do it. And this is not even to talk about the

suffering of the animal, which for me is the

main thing," Spitz said.

with Wildlife Services.

forward," McCowen said.

Prior to taking action on Tuesday, the board

been issued over the past few years.

been issued, and one bear was killed.

Hurtado was booked into the Mendocino County Jail for the listed violations, where he was to be held in lieu of \$75,000 bail.

Personnel also conducted a compliance check of a 40-year-old male in the 24000 block of North Highway 101 in Willits, who was identified as being on CDCR parole and being a registered sex offender.

During the contact it was believed the 40-year-old male was in violation of his CDCR parole terms and conditions. At this time, this person remains out of custody as further investigations are needed

At the conclusion of the further investigations into the possible parole term violation, a report will be forwarded to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for review and consideration of charges.





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Tom Schott

Mendocino County's legendary forester, Thomas E. Schott, died on July 4, 2020 in Willits, after living with esophageal cancer for six years. He was 68.

He was born in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, but spent most of his early years in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He graduated cum laude from the University of Minnesota's College of Forestry in March 1974.

Tom worked for four different federal agencies: U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Natural Resources Conservation

Tom moved to Mendocino County, California in 1974. He soon met his wife of 41 years, Shirley Schott, who survives him. He is also survived by two sons, a granddaughter, a sister, a brother, aunts, numerous cousins, a niece and two nephews.

Tom worked as a soil conservationist and lead for the Tomki Watershed Project under the employment of Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD). Tom spent many years working for NRCS as an area forester and District Conservationist.

He received awards from the EPA and USDA for his watershed restoration work and is well known by landowners throughout Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties.

In 2004, Tom transferred within NRCS, to Riverside, California, where he was the Emergency Watershed Protection Coordinator of the multimillion-dollar, multi-year Southern California Watershed Restoration Project.

Tom retired in 2008 and returned to Mendocino County in 2011, working parttime as a forestry consultant and a forester for the MCRCD until January 2019.

For years he mentored new conservation employees. He was well-versed in all phases of local conservation issues. He was called "The Wizard", "Mr. Conservationist", and a "Steward of the Earth" because of his rich background and understanding of conservation problems and his abilities to explain complex issues clearly to land-owners, politicians and upcoming scientists. Current landowners still ask about Tom and rave about his knowledge and

Tom's colleagues and friends describe him as: trustworthy, intelligent, kind, optimistic, gentle, humorous, caring, and energetic. Everyone will miss his contagious laughter.

Beyond his forestry career, Tom was a wonderful family man while serving his community on the Board of Willits Community Services, acting in plays at the Willits Community Theater, and attending St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church. Tom and his family raised seven guide dog puppies over the years.

Due to the current pandemic, there will be no public ceremonies honoring Tom's life at this time. For anyone interested in making a donation in Tom's name: His favorite causes were the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Willits Daily Bread, and Guide Dogs of the Desert.

"We have lost a great conservationist as well as a great human."



Comet Neowise

Thanks to Willits photographer Matt Holzhauer for this local photo of the beautiful Comet Neowise.

"The photo was taken at approximately 4:45 am on July 7, at the northern end of the Willits bypass," Holzhauer said. "The comet should no longer be visible in the mornings but is now visible one hour after sunset. To see it, I recommend looking due north and bring binoculars. To the naked eye, it will look like a fuzzy ball of white light with a tail expanding upward.

"Also, try to find a mountain-top location or a location with a clear line of sight to the northern horizon, as it's still pretty low in the sky."

Holzhauer also offers this advice: "For photographers using a DSLR, I recommend long exposures based upon the type of lens you're using and high ISO's, usually between 3600-5000 depending on your equipment!"

OBITUARY |

Laura Powell

Laura was born in Geneva, Illinois, on December 9, 1950, to parents Tim and Inez Coman. The family moved to California in 1958. Laura was a graduate of Homestead High School in Cupertino. She loved the woods and moved to Willits in the 1980s. Laura was generous, compassionate, and hard-working. She waitressed for many years before her retirement.

She passed away at her home in Willits on June 29, 2020, with her husband, Ken, and their children, Brian and Megan, by her side. Laura dearly loved her family. She also leaves her son Keith, her grandsons Spencer, Maddax and Donovan, and her siblings Terry and Cathy.

Laura met life's challenges with resourcefulness and a keen sense of humor. She will be missed by many friends and extended family. May she rest in peace.







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