

[illegible]**Thursday, July 23, 2020**

Read the rest of
Brooktrails
Over on Page 10

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Why should I wear a mask?

To the Editor:

This is a letter I submitted to our Willits City Council recently. I thought it might be useful to share more widely.

I would like to register my request that you take on approving the understandably difficult issue of enforcing mask-wearing in public (re: COVID 19 risks) here in Willits. Especially now that we are seeing numbers of positives, illness, death rates rising, it is timely.

Myself and several of my community friends have recently had unfortunate and tense encounters at local places such as Safeway where several quite hostile exchanges have occurred, as well as my trying to shop local at small businesses, only to find that employees, and even an owner, not wearing masks while bringing in and handling food and talking with one another.

This is alarming. I want to shop local, and we all are tired of cooking at home! These employees and owners are no doubt as tired as I am of wearing a mask in public and no doubt tired of being asked to "police" customers. I suspect they are doing the best they can and perhaps need more education on the issue so they don't wonder why they are losing more potential customers.

We are trying to keep up on the science behind this virus. I was told that some of the comments to city council by "anti-maskers" include that wearing a mask doesn't scientifically prove that it's even helpful. I am a healthcare provider, and those persons are just straight up misinformed. This doesn't have to become a political issue and there are many reasons why it has become so and that is tragic in my opinion, but I wanted to present this info from the CDC to the council for your Tuesday meeting to consider as you deal with this issue.

We all need to wear masks, physically distance, wash hands often with soap and water. No one wants to take on this new way of having to live, but it will save lives. We are a community, and thus we depend upon one another to band together, get smart and keep numbers down and thus keep family and friends alive. We can get through this if we stay smart, kind, level-headed.

Thank you for your time, Kate Black, PA-C, L.Ac., Willits resident and small business owner.

Here is the CDC site on the evidence for wearing masks to help prevent COVID infection: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html

Kate Black, Willits

'Watercolor for Older Adults'

To the Editor:

I would like to let you know about a new art class that I am teaching online this fall, called "Watercolor for Older Adults." There are no prerequisites, and anyone can join. There is no credit given for the class so the college does not charge the regular fees. The cost of the class is only \$12! Experience is helpful, but not needed; the classes are structured to include basic watercolor skills but also to offer inspiring projects for any skill level. Anyone in California can take the class for the same fee.

One special part of this class offering is that the college system is trying to provide classes like this to older adults, for their enrichment and lifelong learning at a very reasonable price. Remember that is what community colleges used to be about? Classes for the whole community, as well as

students on a career path. And the fact that it is online overrides many physical limitations.

One of the themes we will be exploring is how art can enrich our quality of life by giving us a space to express our emotions as well as our ideas, questions, dreams, and explorations of the hand and heart. As part of the class we will journal and sketch, try out new colors, and explore who we are with our art. I have all kinds of inspiring paintings to share with you, and several projects to do just for fun! Art Journaling will give you an opportunity to stop, relax, and claim a moment of each day for creativity.

You do not need to do all the projects, and are welcome to choose your own painting path. If you miss some classes that is fine, too. There are no grades given. Register for ART 522 online at the college site, www.mendocino.edu or call the college at 459-6224.

I also will be offering ART 222A, Beginning Watercolor, and ART 222B Intermediate/Adv. Watercolor if you would like to take the classes for credit. Classes begin on August 17 and end December 10.

I look forward to sharing painting with you.

Ann Maglente, Willits

Don't toss the cannabis ordinance

To the Editor:

At a time when we are seeing record high temperatures, record low rainfall, worsening dead zones off our coastline and killer toxic algae in our rivers, a proposal is afoot to expand cannabis cultivation into our rangelands. This will demand a lot of water that we can't spare, and it will deposit a lot more fertilizer into our rivers and streams that we don't need.

This is exactly the wrong proposal at this time of worsening droughts. It will likely sabotage decades of restoration efforts, which we've already invested in to save our struggling salmon fisheries from being pushed into extinction. We must not let our rich heritage of salmon fisheries be jeopardized by the lure of short-term profits.

Some supervisors are proposing abandoning our cannabis ordinance, which has strict requirements and limitations, replacing it with the use permits process which will give the Planning and Building staff a lot more "flexibility." Replacing our ordinance with use permits, which are at the "discretion" of the planning staff, will also provide few, if any, remedies for complaints from the public. This is a bad deal.

You may have noticed recently the proliferation of large clusters of 14 or more white plastic hoop houses. This has occurred because the 10,000 square feet of cannabis canopy allowed in the ordinance was then changed to 10,000 square feet of white plastic eyesore at the "discretion" of the Planning and Building Department. Surprises like this that destroy our views and devalue our properties are exactly what we don't want. We should, instead, abide by the promises made in the ordinance and work to make it even better.

Instead of the proposal to expand cannabis into our last remaining open space, our rangelands, we could, instead, expand into our industrial and commercial zones where infrastructure and water resources are already developed. Cannabis growers truck in much of their soil and even at times their water, so having these activities in an industrial setting would be a much better fit than in our neighborhoods, or in our open spaces, and it would help reduce their carbon footprint. Electricity instead of generators would also greatly reduce the risk of fire

Lured by the promise of big money, Ted Williams and John McCowen are working hand in hand with the cannabis industry to promote this expansion plan into our rangeland, largely for the benefit of the corporate grower. The small grower is not likely to afford these bigger parcels and all the permits and infrastructure that will be needed, so this will likely benefit the better capitalized crew that is flooding in from out of the area.

We've already seen so much plundering and pillaging, and now this proposal for bigger grows on steep, highly erodible land, will deliver just more of the same – a lot more fish-choking sediment in our rivers, water diversions, garbage, code enforcement complaints, crime, and threat of fire.

Code Enforcement complaints are up by 31 percent, with only two officers on the cannabis beat. Policing is stretched thin, too, and the Covelo cartel problem is spreading. Why expand cannabis to our rangelands where enforcement is much more difficult?

Measure AF went down to defeat by a large margin in

'Call to Connect'

Submitted by Suzanne Picetti-Johnson
for Avenues to Wellness

Avenues to Wellness (a program of the Frank R. Howard Foundation) has launched a free-of-charge new program for the community named "Call to Connect." It is a telephone-based emotional support system for all ages. The purpose of CTC is to match you with a "buddy" to help you feel supported, connected, and not alone in these challenging times.

Perhaps you are someone who would like to help others during these tough times. CTC provides volunteers an opportunity to help folks feeling lonely. CTC is a service you could offer without leaving your home.

To get started or for more information call Suzanne Picetti-Johnson at 707-367-5078.

every district in 2016 because it proposed cannabis for every zone. We've already voted this idea down, but they are determined to ignore the wishes of the public.

If we hope to have a future on this fragile earth, protecting our fisheries, our wildlife and wildlands, enforcing the laws already on the books should matter to all of us.

If you don't wish to see our cannabis ordinance abandoned, or are sick of non-enforcement, then let your supervisors know by mail, email (bos@mendocinocounty.org), or by phone. Their upcoming meeting is the 4th of August. Urge them to take a cautionary approach by staying with our existing cannabis ordinance and our existing cannabis zones. I urge you to write or call to make sure that your voice is heard.

Sheila Jenkins, Willits

Leaving Willits

To the Editor:

As I sit here in the early morning hours, relishing these last days on our mountain before we move to North Idaho, my mind races full steam with all the memories created here in the last thirty-five years.

When we moved our family here from Altadena, a suburb of Los Angeles, our hope was to raise our four children in a healthy, rural, small town environment. We sold our tiny house, packed up our family belongings into one pick up truck and trailer and headed north, leaving all my lifelong friends as well as my mother behind.

Johnny had come here several months earlier and went to work for family friend Richard Martin at Martin's Electric in Ukiah, leaving me down south to sell the house. The only people I knew here in Willits were my brother-in-law Jerry McFadden and his wife Lil. We had spent several summer vacations here with them and bought our property in 1984.

The move was precipitated by Johnny's company in LA going bankrupt. We felt it is now or never to make the move as Randi was starting middle school and it would be hardest on her. So off we went into the great unknown.

We arrived here on our mountain on Labor Day 1986. School started the very next day. Without knowing my way around or anything about Willits, I managed to find the schools, get all four enrolled and they started school the next day.

Life was rough those first six months. With four kids, one dog, two cats, and two rescued baby rabbits, we were crammed into a twenty-seven-foot travel trailer which served as our kitchen, dining, homework, shower, toilet and adult sleeping area. The kids slept in our twelve-foot camper off loaded behind the trailer. We hauled water from anywhere we could and often that was Walker Lake. We also had a big green army tent set up that the boys would take over until they got tired of pretend camping because our whole existence at that time was real camping. It was hard living like that for eighteen months while we built the house, but it did have its rewards.

Our children had the freedom to run and play unfettered on this mountain. The Swinney kids, Maggie and Andy (Nigel) were right next door and were the same ages as Jaime and Shane. There were girls up the street and friends were made by all four. I think that Randi had the hardest time adjusting and making friends. Most of the kids here had been raised here and we were outsiders. The girls often came home FEELING like outsiders. They did make friends but that feeling always stayed with them. The boys made friends easily as they were so young.

As the house started taking shape, our time was so busy it just seems like a blur. Jerry was our construction boss and directed the project from start to finish. Johnny was

Read the rest of
Leaving Over on Page 13



At left: Customer Linda Weldon has been waiting for the farm stand to open.

Above: Beautiful flower arrangements by Ananda Johnson are also for purchase.

Below: Mellisa Bouley, manager of the Commonwealth Garden, stands between the rows of tomatoes and flowers.

At bottom: Starts are also available at the stand.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Farm Stand

Organic vegetables and herbs available by donation at Commonwealth Garden on Fridays

The Commonwealth Garden across from Adventist Health Howard Memorial has reopened its Friday farm stand for the season.

The farm stand offers produce on a donation, pay-what-you-can-afford basis. Customers, who've been waiting to partake of the high-quality organic vegetables and herbs, have been willing to pay generously to support the garden. Approximately 35 patrons took advantage of the opening day, many lined up at 10 am to get the freshest produce.

"People are generous," said Ananda Johnson, of the Howard Foundation and creator of the Commonwealth Garden. "They want to see this happen and they want good food and food security for our community, for the hospital. I think it's amazing that food is coming from a source they can see."

As people approached the table in front of the stand on Friday, they were handed an ordering menu on which they could check the items they wanted, and then the workers would bag up the produce. The list of available items was quite extensive, as was the "On Its Way" section which stated what produce would be available in the near future.

Available items were four varieties of zucchini, including yellow, green, crookneck and patty pan; cucumbers, including Armenian, painted serpent, marketmore, lemon, and salt and pepper; greens, such as lettuce, chard, red or green kale, collards and Asian greens; herbs like basil, rosemary and parsley; and four root vegetables, including garlic, carrots, beets and radishes.

Upcoming availability includes winter

squashes, melons, tomatoes, and more root vegetables, including onions, leeks and potatoes. There should be plenty through October to supply all who want these local sustainably grown and delicious vegetables. In addition to the produce, Johnson's lovely flower arrangements will be available, as will certain plant starts for those who wish to grow their own.

The system of sales at the stand will be revised this coming Friday to allow people to actually see the goods they are buying prior to purchase. Customers will be allowed to come onto the premises one or two at a time to complete their shopping. As always, all safety precautions will be adhered to in order to ensure the safety of the staff as well as the purchasers.

"We would like to arrange it where people can come in and see the vegetables before they choose what they want to buy," said Johnson. "We're going to arrange it differently next week, where one of two people can come in back here and when they leave, two more can come in."

In addition to operating the vegetable stand to the public, the Commonwealth Garden has been providing fresh greens and other vegetables and herbs to Roots Restaurant for the last seven years. The restaurant, although currently closed to the public due to COVID-19, still supplies an extensive menu of healthy, fresh, and organically grown food to the staff and patients at the hospital. Any excess food from the garden is donated to the Willits Food Bank, the Caring Kitchen Project, and hopefully soon to Willits Daily Bread.

The garden is staffed by Johnson and Mellisa Bouley, who manage the garden,

Read the rest of
Farm stand Over on Page 10



At left: Micro greens are available for use in Roots Restaurant.

Below, from left: Mellisa Bouley shows off a perfect onion.

Mellisa Bouley, Scott Selzer, Quinton Bowlds man the farm stand on Friday.

The spaghetti squash is almost ready.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 for a Sudoku puzzle.

POOL TIME WORD SEARCH
K K P L G N I T S E T R O A A L D R Z N
G C C O V O B A N P L U M G F I D G T Y U
R S P N H F A N F E G S N G V A F L C B
Y R U I S U W L A G W I R H Y C T M V L H E
K C K M T Y T O G Y I E T F M O V F Y E
M H I B P E Z W L Z M M K D R M I P T A
B N M T E S B M A I M U I E A N F I T
E A O K A L S T K W I I O V N C Y R D E
S R C I B M A A E Z N K E E I E L F I R C
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Y D S R Y O E T U G I L S T O U A I R B R
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CORROSION DIATOMACEOUS DIVERTER DRAIN FEEDER FIBERGLASS FILTER FLOW GUNITE
HEATER INDOOR LINER NEUTRALIZE PLUMBING POOL PUBLIC PUMP SHOCK
SKIMMER SOLAR SWIMMING TESTING TURBIDITY VACUUM VALVES VINYL WEIR

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

CLUES ACROSS
1. One-time world power
5. Central Florida city
10. Winged nut
12. Elevate spiritually
14. Creative
16. It cools your home
18. Woman (French)
19. '60 Minutes' network
20. Old World lizard
22. Swiss river
23. Ethnic group of Cambodians
25. Abba __, Israeli politician
26. Tire measurement
27. Affirmative
28. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
30. One point north of due east
31. A type of 'pet'
33. Tech giant
35. European nation
37. Fencing swords
38. Acquired
40. Origin
41. Cashless payment interface (abbr.)
42. Pouch
44. Peter's last name
45. Inclined
CLUES DOWN
1. 'Pulp Fiction' actress Thurman
2. Actors' organization
3. Conscientious investment approach (abbr.)
4. Ranch (Spanish)
5. Beginning
6. Index
7. Portuguese wine
8. A feudal superior
9. Military brach (abbr.)
10. Lithuanian given name
11. A way to become different
13. Able to be domesticated
15. Defensive nuclear weapon
17. Hosts film festival
18. Shows you how to get there
21. Arranged alphabetically
23. S. Thai isthmus
24. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Woods
29. Make yourself attractive
32. Concealed
34. Large primate
35. A favorite saying of a sect or political group
36. Tropical fruits
39. Obstruct
40. Car mechanics group
43. Stroke gently
44. They're in your toolbox
46. Throngs
47. One and only
49. In a way, bent
51. 'Downton Abbey' broadcaster
54. Herring-like fish
59. A major division of geological time
60. Vast body of water
61. Cannister
62. Encourage
64. The man

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

July 13 to July 19
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 189 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.
Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests
July 13
12:27 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.
12:35 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Madden Lane.
1:00 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.
1:24 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East Valley Street and Madden Lane.
7:14 am: CARTER, Darryl Anthony (65) of Rancho Cucamonga was contacted in the 1300 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.
8:53 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 500 block of Central Street and issued a warning.
9:15 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.
11:10 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of Central Street and issued a warning.
12:46 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.
12:52 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
6:23 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.
8:34 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Coast Street and West Valley Street.
11:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of Alameda Avenue and Central Street.

July 14
9:08 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of East Valley Street and Railroad Avenue.
11:23 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
5:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
5:53 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
9:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
July 15
12:48 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.
8:35 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of East Hill Road and Center Valley Road.
10:39 am: SIERRAZUNIGA, Rodrigo (42) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to felony 273.5 PC (Domestic Corporal Injury).
10:50 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 14000 block of Branscomb Road.
7:30 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.
9:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Wood Street.

More of Swimming From Page 1

full right away. Lap swim is \$5 per swimmer.
"Lap swim is first-come, first-served, and is limited to one swimmer per lane, or if swimmers are from the same family, then two are welcome to swim in a lane," Pinon explained. "That along with how swimmers space themselves out in the lanes depending on their speed, makes plenty of safe space to swim."
Swim lessons are also held daily, starting at 9 am and going until 4:15 pm. Swimmers are permitted to enter after everything is wiped down and sanitized after the previous swimming session.
"Even though there is plenty of chlorine in the pool, we have also invested in a machine to wash down the decks and surfaces with chlorine, too," explained Pinon. "The chemicals in the pool are all up to code - our county health inspector Vince Hawkins came by two weeks ago and gave us the green light and said everything looked great."
While masks are worn by staff in the office, during check-in, and around the pool's veranda, they aren't worn inside the pool. Instructors do try to remain distant while teaching when possible, while keeping swimmer safety in mind, too.
Swimmers and instructors stay together in their own social bubble and are taught in a one-on-one environment. Each teacher

Read the rest of Swimming Over on Page 9



At left: Trimmed tree limbs are stacked according to specifications on South Williams Ranch Road for Chipper Days.

Photo by Lance Parker

Below: The Diamond Tree crew chips tree limbs, making quick work of the piles.

Further below: A close-up of firefighter Monroe Lucas "spinning the weather" to determine the dew point. Lucas and his wife, Jodi, also a firefighter, were hired to suppress any fires that may start during Chipper Days.

At bottom, left: A "before" photo: Westview Road needs to be trimmed back a bit.

At bottom, right: An "after" photo: Westview Road is now safer thanks to some trimming work done by Diamond Tree Service.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Fire Wise
Local fire councils work to make neighborhoods safer by organizing brush-clearing parties and ensuring emergency exits are available

In 2003 Anderson Valley Fire Chief Colin Wilson and Ukiah resident Julie Rogers were inspired to form the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. The 2006 Community Wildfire Protection Plan they authored states: "A primary motivation for starting the council was the realization that county residents tend to rely too heavily on fire suppression resources [think: fire departments and CalFire] without taking responsibility for their own safety, thus putting both themselves and firefighters in harm's way needlessly."

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

This statement is one of the main components of the MCFSC and all statewide fire safe councils and firewise community organizations.

Working to organize people is second nature for the new executive director of the MCFSC, Scott Cratty, who took the helm in January. He sees the common thread with his involvement in local food organizing and being involved in fire safety as "probably two of very few things on the planet that people can agree NOT to argue about. It's a huge opportunity to organize neighborhoods and get people coordinated that haven't been coordinating," he said.

True to his nature, a few months ago, Cratty organized his east-side Ukiah neighborhood to join the Ridge neighborhood in order to remove French broom from the roadsides. "In a morning we took out maybe 10 loads of the broom. It's kinda fun and makes for a nice morning with everyone working together and, lo and behold, you can make a darn lot happen," he smiled.

Among the gazillion project demands with his executive director's job, this season's top priority for Cratty is "landing more resources for the county." He's hoping to get grants and is continuing to encourage neighborhoods to organize and get some important things done by the residents themselves.

The hours spent by community members getting their homes and properties more fire safe are self-logged and used as in-kind hours. Those are valuable and could go toward receiving grant funding for community fire safety projects.



Read the rest of Council Over on Page 10

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•ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
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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

At right: Jerry Harris' daughter, Brook, seen here working at the Toy Run, organized the Drive-Thru Spaghetti Feed.

Kat and Jerry Harris are joined by their dog, Freckles.

Jerry "Top Hat" Harris and wife, Kat "Tigger", ride down Main Street at a past July 4 parade.

Photos by
Mathew Caine



At left: Jerry "Top Hat" Harris with his American and pirate flags in the distance.

At left, below: Jerry "Top Hat" Harris with the Wild Bunch's Barrel Ice Chest (at the car show).

Helping the Helpful

Drive-thru spaghetti dinner on August 1 benefits Willits Wild Bunch's Jerry "Top Hat" Harris

Jerry "Top Hat" Harris has paid it forward. Every year, along with the rest of the members of the Willits Wild Bunch, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that all the children of the Little Lake Valley have toys, clothing, and other items that bring them joy, comfort and warmth.

As a member of the motorcycle club, he is an integral part of the team that operates the Willits Toy Run which helps to supply money and toys to the Willits Rotary Christmas Program. Whenever they are needed, the Wild Bunch is eager and willing to help, especially when one of their members requires some assistance.

"Jerry is an awesome individual," said Rich "Pops" Venturi. "If you need something, and he can provide it, he will. He's worked tirelessly on the Willits Toy Run. He helped raise money when I had cancer, and we're hoping the community gets behind him."

Harris has been diagnosed with cancer of the bladder, a condition which will, and has, cost many dollars above his insurance. Harris' daughters, Brooke and Katie, brought a request to Mylinda "Bubblez" Shaul, a Wild Bunch member who previously had piloted a fundraiser for Venturi when he needed funds for his cancer treatment.

It was a wild success that netted several thousand dollars to aid Venturi in his recovery. It is in this spirit that Shaul, the Harris daughters, and the rest of the Wild Bunch have planned a spaghetti dinner to benefit Harris' battle with the disease.

The drive-thru spaghetti dinner fundraiser event will take place Saturday, August 1, 5 to 8 pm at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds on Commercial Street, across from the baseball fields.

For \$25 (family of two) or \$50 (family of four), participants will get pasta, sauce, bread, salad and cookies to take home and enjoy – simple comfort food.

To purchase tickets (cash only): contact Rich Venturi at Gunnink's Harley Davidson Parts Department, 2600 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482; Brook Harris at 707-972-7332, brookeharris0816@gmail.com; Mylinda Shaul at 707-472-8474, mylindasshaul707@gmail.com; willitswildbunch@gmail.com; Kat Harris at Myers Medical Pharmacy, 260 Hospital Street, Ukiah, CA 95482, rxkat@pacific.net.

Born in San Jose and growing up on a sheep farm in Fort Bragg, Harris also lived in Ukiah and Potter Valley. He has been a Willits resident since 2000 when he went to work for Frontier Days, which became a 13-year labor of love, welding and repairing the grounds as a volunteer.

This was his introduction to life in Willits and later, he went to work for Ann Koch, who sold her business to NorCal Recycled Rock and Aggregate. After that he started working at Solid Waste, driving a truck and doing fabrication in their shop.

Finally, he found employment with the County of Mendocino about 13 years ago. "I started out as an equipment operator in the Ukiah yard," said Harris, "then transferred to the Laytonville yard, then the Willits yard. About three years ago I was upgraded to road maintenance supervisor in Laytonville."

Harris got the moniker "Top Hat" from his habit of wearing them in order for his wife, Kat "Tigger" Harris, to find him in a sea of black leather at the Toy Run party as well as other events. His original sequined top hat came from a Halloween store.

About 2.5 months ago, Harris noticed blood in his urine. "I made

all the proper phone calls. I went to my doctors and they got me to the hospital." Through a CT scan, the doctors discovered a tumor in Harris' bladder.

"They referred me to Dr. Lamonica in Ukiah, a wonderful lady ... and she rides! Redwood Medical Clinic got me in to see her the very next day. I told her that I wanted to be aggressive in my treatments. She did some tests. She asked me if I wanted surgery the next day. So, the next day they went in and removed the tumor from my bladder."

The biopsy of the tumor came back positive for bladder cancer. Harris was referred to UCSF where they discussed removing his bladder. The UCSF doctor told Harris he was a candidate for receiving a neobladder, which involves using the body's own tissues to build a new bladder.

Harris is currently undergoing a low-grade chemo to kill all the cancer prior to the neobladder surgery, "so when they go in and cut it out, they know it is all gone. When they do the chemo first, they've found they have a mid-to-high-90-percent success rate," he stated.

The chemo, however, has lowered his white cell count, and he has been receiving white blood cell booster injections. He has good insurance with the county, but it will not pay for all of the surgery, chemo, tests, etc., which is why his daughters came up with the plan for the spaghetti benefit.

"That's the neat thing about Willits," Harris said. "There is always a group of volunteers to back up volunteers to support this or that group. Willits works together and I love it, and that's why I'm here and I'm staying here. It's a perfect community. We don't always get along, but we support each other, like a family."



OBITUARY |

Genevieve Campbell

Genevieve Henthorne Campbell, born September 5, 1940, passed peacefully Friday, July 10, 2020 at the age of 79. Preceded into death by her husband, Robert Nathan Campbell; son Gregory Todd Campbell Sr.; grandson Aaron Mathew Campbell; father Benjamin Sylvester Henthorne; mother Viola Lucille Wilson-Ivonen; brother Norman Frazier; sisters Doreen Venus Frazier, Gertrude Della Wilson-Campbell, and Dolores Victoria Wilson; and Uncle Joseph "Tom" Lucas.

Loving mother of Sandra Phillips, Trent Mathew Campbell, Krystal Gayle Campbell, Eileen Phillips, and Douglas Phillips.

Loving grandmother of Todd Anderson, Angela Campbell, Gregory Campbell Jr., Dustin Campbell, Shashanna Campbell, Nolan Phillips, Tatyana Vivica Guevara, Bianca Blaze Guevara, and Rachael Phillips-Hoaglin.

Loving great-grandmother to Elijah Hopkins, Amya Hopkins, Andre Anderson, Kaliyah Anderson, Isaiah Campbell, Farrah Campbell, Ivory Fox "Box" Campbell, Bailly Campbell, Autumn Campbell, Briar Campbell,

OBITUARY |

'Shayne' Gear

"Shayne" Bette-Ruth Gear passed away on Sunday, July 12, 2020 in her children's home in Los Altos, CA at the age of 77. She was born September 06, 1942.

Shayne is survived by her son and daughter, Brian Alan Batz and June Christine Batz; and is preceded in death by her brother, Scott Gear.

Shayne loved life and adventure, but settled early on in the town of Willits, California where she became known to and loved by many. Her kind and generous spirit will be missed by all who knew her.

There will be no services; however, anyone wishing to pay their respects to the family can do so in one of the following ways:

In person: Folks may come by Shayne's home at 20 Alder Court, Willits, on Saturday, July 25 from 11 am to 8 pm, or Sunday, July 26 from 11 am to 1 pm when Shayne's children will be wrapping up personal affairs and belongings.

Or, condolences can be sent to Brian Batz and June Batz at 933 Sherwood Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022.

Memorial donations may be sent to: Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County (Redwood Valley), Willits Food Bank or Willits Senior Center.

William Scott IV, Gavin Hoaglin, Niesha Hoaglin, Sierra Hoaglin, and Denahi Hoaglin. And loving sister to Lilian Frazier; loving brother to Rudy Henthorne.

Survived by many nephews; nieces; cousins and friends.

Genevieve was the most devoted and the biggest fan at every child's, grandchild's, and great-grandchild's sporting events, accomplishments and just life.

Her heart was always her family and adoptive families she had acquired throughout the years of service through the school, church, sporting events, and tribal leadership.

Genevieve was a mother and grandmother before anything else, and she always put our family first. She was the glue that kept us together. Our family had a special bond even heaven could not break. Life will never be the same.

Genevieve was small in frame, but her personality was huge. She had the ability like no other to keep up with every loved one and made you feel special. Thank you for the blessings you gave to us every day. Your memories will always live on with us.

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



Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Sweet Skillet

Meet our handsome Skillet. Skillet is around 7 years old, weighs about 10 pounds, and came to us in December of 2019. Skillet is one of the sweetest cats around, and overall is just a fun guy. Skillet is a very social guy who would love to live with other cats but not required. Skillet is up to date on vaccine and has been neutered. If you would like to apply to love this handsome guy you may at mendohumanesociety.com.

Handsome Blue

Meet our handsome fella Blue. Blue is not young – we believe he is between 7 and 8 years old. He may be older, but he believes he is still a young fella who can run the town. Blue is heartworm positive. He is currently going through treatment so he has to lay low for a bit. This guy would really appreciate a loving forever home to help him through this treatment and recovery. We will cover all expenses for his treatment. If you want to make this fellas dream's come true, you can apply to love Blue 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, 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.

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.

Happy 50th anniversary!

Happy 50th anniversary to Steve and Sharon Short, who were married 50 years ago this month on July 18, 1970. Congratulations on your Golden Anniversary!





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
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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 4
Thursday, July 23
Baked Ham
Friday, July 24
Asian Chicken Wrap

Menu - July Week 5
Monday, July 27
Chicken Parmesan
Tuesday, July 28
Hawaiian Pizza
Wednesday, July 29
Ortega Chicken
Thursday, July 30
Western Bacon Cheeseburger
Friday, July 31
Turkey Dinner

Accepting donations to aid us in feeding seniors Sheltering in Place — Please Visit —
www.willitsseniorcenter.com

Transportation For Seniors

Call 707-459-6826 to Schedule
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- Plan Drawing
- Design



A young Steller's jay cries and waits for Mom and Dad to bring some breakfast.
Photos by Chris Hansen



A young Steller's jay cries for food

Earlier this July, local photographer Chris Hansen posted on Facebook two pictures of a young Steller's jay he photographed. The post read, "Feed ME! FEED ME! Young Steller's Jay crying out for its parent to feed it. From my front yard this morning."

The Steller's jay has blue plumage like many jays, but the charcoal-colored head is the key characteristic that sets it apart from other jay species. There are interior and coastal varieties of the Steller's jay. The interior adult has white streaks on its black crest, while the coastal adult has blue streaks on its black crest. More information about identifying Steller's jays can be found at the Cornell Lab website: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Stellers_Jay/id.

Hansen is known for his wildlife photography and is the author of the book "Secrets of Backyard Bird Photography." He has a blog at www.christhephotog.blogspot.com/. He frequently posts his photography on Facebook under "Chris Hansen."

— Jackie Cobbs

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AUGUST 7 - 8, 2020

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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

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: Omar Sisemore, 32 Fort Bragg 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 July 1, 2020.

/s/ Omar Sisemore

Publication dates:
07/09, 07/16, 07/23, 07/30/2020

WW280

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0348

The following person is doing business as Monkey Wrench Mens and Womens Wear, 150 #A S. Main St., Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: Shannon Germann, 24401 Sherwood Rd., 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.

FBN statement renewal filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 7, 2020.

/s/ Shannon Germann

Publication dates:
07/23, 07/30, 08/06, 08/13/2020

Current Job Openings:

Administrative Assistant
County Health Officer
Deputy District Attorney IV
Eligibility Specialist II/III
Planner III – Part-Time
Public Health Nurse
Screener
Senior Planner – Fort Bragg
Senior Public Health Nurse
Staff Assistant I – Extra-Help
Staff Assistant II
Supervising Public Health Nurse
Vocational Assistant

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

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources

EOE

LEGAL NOTICES

WW279

CITY OF WILLITS NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/ NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT #GP 19-01 AND REZONE #ZC 19-01 PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in compliance with Section 15072 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, interested parties and the general public, that the City of Willits intends to adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Willits Unified School District General Plan Amendment and Rezone Project (Project).

The IS/MND is available for review electronically on the City's website at: <https://cityofwillits.org/143/Planning-Documents>. The City of Willits will accept public comments on the IS/MND during a 30-day public review period extending through August 21, 2020. Written comments must be sent to the City of Willits/Attn: Dusty Duley, 111 East Commercial Street Willits, CA 95490 or via email dduley@cityofwillits.org and received on or before August 21, 2020.

PROJECT LOCATION: 1277 Blosser Lane, Willits, Mendocino County, CA 95490 (APNs: 006-210-19; 006-210-26X)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project proposes a General Plan amendment and rezone of approximately 5.68-acres inclusive of a 3.17-acre, flag shaped lot with frontage on Locust Street (APN 006-210-19) and a 2.51-acre portion of a 5.74-acre lot located at 1277 Blosser Lane (APN 006-210-26). The properties are currently vacant and are designated Industrial General (M-G) under the General Plan and Heavy Industrial (MH) under the Zoning Ordinance. The project proposes to amend the General Plan designation to Residential Medium Density (R-M) and rezone the properties to Residential Medium-Density (R2).

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Willits Unified School District submitted an application for a General Plan Amendment and Rezone, which the Planning Commission will consider and make a decision on the adequacy of the IS/ MND and the merits of the proposed Project.

MEETING DATE/TIME: August 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION: City Council Chambers 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490 and/or conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 or any subsequent Order related to conducting the public meetings during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the City of Willits is currently conducting public meetings pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act and the way the public can participate during the public meetings. Participation in the public meeting will be allowed pursuant to applicable Executive Orders at the time of the public meeting. Participation is expected to be through electronic means as posted on the City Council meeting agenda for the August 26, 2020 regular meeting. This allows the City to adhere to social distancing requirements, follow the Governors' Executive Order N-29-20 and provide a way for the public to provide public comment live during the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, electronic copies of the staff report and agenda will be available on the City's website at <https://cityofwillits.org/143/Planning-Documents>. To request information or provide comments, please contact Dusty Duley, dduley@cityofwillits.org.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: The City Council acting as the Planning Commission will receive a staff presentation, consider public comments and decide to either adopt, not adopt, or modify the IS/MND, and whether to approve, disapprove, or modify the General Plan Amendment and Rezone application.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The City of Willits encourages all interested parties to participate in the Public Hearing and to comment on the issues being discussed. Members of the public may participate and provide public comment as follows:

- Written public comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted by email to Dusty Duley, dduley@cityofwillits.org or the City Clerk's office, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. All public comments received will be provided to Commissioners and uploaded to the City's website in advance of the meeting.

- Oral public comments may be presented to the Willits Planning Commission via teleconference during the public hearing. To address the Commission during the live meeting please find the meeting-specific link to the teleconference included on the agenda for the August 26, 2020 City Council meeting that will be posted on the City's website.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the public meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 459-4601. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

/s/ Dusty Duley
Community Development Director
Publication Date: July 23, 2020

The rest of
Swimming | From Page 4

has a maximum of the same nine swimmers per day for each of the Monday-through-Wednesday and the Thursday-through-Saturday sessions.

Pinon noted that while things are filling up fast, there were still a few spots open for the upcoming swim lesson sessions: Session IV, to be held from July 27 through August 8 and Session V, to be held from August 10 to August 19. Sessions are \$50 and can be for children of all ages, just not adults.

"We even have a teenager taking swim lessons this year, it's great!" said Pinon.

The Willits Otters finish the day's schedule at the pool at 4:30 pm (and also have a quick dip from 7:30 am to 8:30 am), practicing until the evening hours until the swimming season closes on August 22.

To reserve a swimming lesson slot, or for more information, contact the pool at 459-5778.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring. \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhail@gmail.com

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Cottage for Sale

In town, a 2-bedroom cottage for sale. \$178,000. Call 707-459-9228.

"Falliday" (Fall and Holiday!) Photo Sessions

Holiday cards might be more useful this year than ever before! Make sure that you can mail your well wishes to friends and distant family if social distancing regulations are still tightly in place. Local photographer, Maureen Moore, is happy to schedule sessions now through mid-November to get your images ready for cards. Outside settings, a long lens and mask wearing by the photographer will help put everyone at ease - and keep everyone safe! Schedule now while dates last! 707-972-7047 or email maureengetsmail@gmail.com

Office for Rent

Office space 190 sq ft with large shared waiting area, handicap access, off street parking, util. incl. Avail Aug. 1st. \$300/ mo.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

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

Willits Food Bank Open

Willits Community Services & Food Bank is still distributing food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. "For those with room to plant surplus organic greens, carrots, squash, melons, beans, peas and more to share with the food bank, thank you!" Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

The Fruit Group

Freestone peaches & nectarines yellow & white \$32 a lug, field & Roma tomatoes \$0lb lug \$32, Pluots \$33 a lug July 9th & 23rd deliveries. Brenda 459-9335 - email thefruitgroup95490@yahoo.com

Fruit Group Coordinators

Willits:
Brenda 459-9335
Ukiah, Redwood & Potter Valley:
Deanna 391-7736
Lakeport
Linda 279-8840
Laytonville:
Heather 984-9430
Fort Bragg:
Karen 937-4664
Covelo:
Debi 489-0742
Brooktrails:
Vicky 354-1453

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

Email us your ad copy by the end of Monday to be included in that week's Thursday paper!

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104 W. Mendocino, Willits
I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

That is illustrated by the recent Chipper Days grant awarded to four fire safety organizations surrounding Willits: Sherwood FireWise and Pine Mountain FireWise Communities; Shafer Ranch Road Fire Safe and Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Councils.

Through the MCFSC, each organization received funding for a crew to come into their community to clear brush, limb trees, and chip the trimmings with property owners' permission. This service, which clears roadsides for safe passage and reduces fuel load, could cost communities thousands of dollars. The hundreds of in-kind volunteer hours logged by community members were added as match funding for the projects.

Willits Weekly asked leaders of Pine Mountain FireWise Community, Sherwood FireWise Community, and Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council what projects were of concern to them this year.

Lauren Robertson, vice president of the Pine Mountain FireWise Community, has been studying fire behavior for years. It's informed how she thinks about and helps others prepare for fire safety. She believes that understanding fire behavior is what's behind preventing structure fires in the home ignition zone.

Robertson authored a recent document that asks and answers the question, "Why is it so important to understand how and why a structure ignites? Because home ignition can be prevented. The key point is that more than 80 percent of homes

ignite because of embers. Although it seems counterintuitive, only a small fraction of homes catch fire due to direct flame contact. That is because the flame front typically passes before a home has a chance to ignite."

She emphasizes that one's home can be hardened against fire embers, much like making sure other elements like rain and wind can't get into the structure

The Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council is located west of Highway 101, at the end of Black Hawk Road, on the top of the grade between Willits and Ukiah.

Striding into summer, the Williams Road council passed its one-year anniversary in April. The steering committee members and working groups have made progress getting fire safety information to members, getting help from grants and neighborhood work parties, and ensuring there are emergency-only exits and more.

One of their newest projects is a one-call emergency alert system they call "REN," for Ridgewood Emergency Network. People will monitor and receive information about hyper-local fires and other emergencies. They then let everyone who is subscribed know what's going on and what, if anything they need to do, as well as keeping them updated. It's faster, easier, and more informative than the traditional phone tree.

Co-Chair Eric Hart said, "REN is meant to complement, not replace, other emergency notifications like Nixle."

Sherwood FireWise Communities has been at work in their neighborhoods for quite a few years. From talking and

emailing with Keith Rutledge for this article, his main concern at this point is for Sherwood and beyond securing emergency exits along with their future maintenance by working with the land owners, the county, and governmental agencies.

"The physical ingress and egress route," Rutledge explained, "needs to be maintained so that IF it is needed in an emergency, access is clear for emergency vehicles or possibly evacuating people in vehicles with law enforcement or fire department in charge." He sees the importance of this "is to assure private property owners [that they] will not be held legally liable for even agreeing to allow maintenance of a route."

Rutledge is forging ahead with this project that will affect how emergency exits on private property are approached in Mendocino County.

Robertson from Pine Mountain leaves us with this sobering thought: "Remember that structures burn because they meet the requirements for ignition – nothing more, nothing less."

For more about the home ignition zone and detailed home ember ignition, visit www.LivingWithFire.com or www.nfpa.org.

To see a video demonstration of what happens to a home with home hardening and one without, visit www.ibhs.org/wildfire/wildfire-demo-2019/.

Visit Sherwood FireWise on Facebook or www.sherwoodfirewise.org. Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council and Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council both have a Facebook page as well.

and by Scott Selzer, Quinton Bowlds and Ethan Fisher, all of whom work tirelessly to create the healthiest and most productive growing field possible. Bouley is demonstrably proud of the results of their work as she tours the rows.

"Everything we use is all organic. For aphids we use a Safer Soap. For the grasshoppers, we use a thing called Nolo Bait, which is actually ground up grasshoppers. We use Bt for caterpillars. We have root-kiss cucumber beetles and squash bugs. We try to keep everything monitored. We go down the rows every day to see what's going on, looking for any plants in distress. We try to analyze what might be going on with a plant that is not doing well, whether it's a disease or a critter. We use diatomaceous earth on our eggplants to keep the beetles off. It deters them. They don't like the way it feels.

"The potato row is starting to die back," she continued, "so we'll begin to dig those out. When the leaves start to yellow, we'll turn off their water supply for a couple weeks to toughen the skin and not scratch them up when we dig them out. We have root crops going and hopefully we'll have some ripe tomatoes next week."

Bouley intends to offer the weekly menu on her Facebook page on Thursdays, when she knows what will be offered for sale the next day: www.facebook.com/mellisa.bouley.

The Howard Foundation Commonwealth Garden farm stand is open to the public on Fridays, 10 am to 2 pm. Flower arrangements by Johnson can be purchased at the stand or custom-ordered: 459-2777. Ask for Ananda.

results of the closed session decision to hire Coren, board of supervisors Chair John Haschak said that Coren "will start as soon as possible, and we certainly hope that September 1 would be the latest."

"So we welcome Dr. Coren, who is a local physician, well-known in the community of Ukiah, and we think he will do a great job. So thank you, and we look forward to working with you," said Haschak.

Speaking later in the meeting, Doohan said that one of the plusses associated with Coren is the fact that he is bilingual. "So as we are working together to do more for our Latinx community, I am happy to share that our health officer who will be coming in is bilingual, and he will for sure be able to cover our community more fully because of this," Doohan said.

Pandemic updates

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread in Mendocino County. As of 6:30 pm Wednesday evening, the county has had 227 cases of COVID-19. Of that total, 119 cases have recovered; 98 are in isolation; six COVID-19 patients are in local hospitals; one is in an intensive care unit in the county; and three people in this county have died from the disease.

Looking at disease statistics along racial lines, 132 of the 227 cases are among people of Hispanic descent; 39 among Caucasians; 13 among American Indians; 34 decline to report their ethnicity; and nine are classified as "other."

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective, 156 cases are in the Ukiah valley; 33 are from the north county; 25 are from the north coast; 10 are from the south county; and three are from the south coast.

Looking at the disease as broken up into age cohorts: 10 cases have been among people between the ages of 0 and 5; 15 cases between ages of 6 and 12; 21 people between the ages of 13 and 18; 76 people between the ages of 19 and 34; 51 people between the ages of 35 and 49; 28 people between the ages of 50 and 64; and 26 people who are 65 or older.

There have been a total of 15,302 tests done in this county. As of Wednesday evening, the results of 12.8 percent of those tests, or 1,958 tests, were pending.

Congressman, state legislators hold town hall

Last Friday the entire north coast California legislative team, absent the two U.S. senators, held a virtual town hall style meeting.

State Senator Mike McGuire burst a few bubbles during the online meeting when he said the pandemic would be reality in California for the next year. His exact words were, "Despite our efforts, folks should start planning for another 12 months – another 12 months – of ebb and flow of this virus, here, in the Golden State."

McGuire also said there could be some tough times ahead beginning in the fall, when the COVID surge could potentially join with a seasonal influx of flu patients. "If we don't get this pandemic under control in the next eight weeks, this state will be in serious trouble," McGuire said.

Congressman Jared Huffman spoke about the COVID pandemic from a national perspective. He criticized President Donald Trump, who recently ordered states to change which federal agency they report pandemic statistics to. Trump ordered states to cease reporting to the Centers for Disease Control and instead report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"The only possible reason to do that is to try to politically control and spin the data, before it is disclosed to the public and the media," Huffman said. "I am not a fan of that, and I will be pushing back on that. In the meantime, an obvious thing that the states can do is to share the data with both the CDC and HHS, and just continue sharing that data, because I think we all want transparency and real-time information."

Huffman said a bill of his that protects rivers and wilderness in his Congressional district, including both in Mendocino County, has a good chance of becoming law, because it has been incorporated into the Defense Authorization bill. Huffman expects Congress to be voting on the bill this week.

"Sometimes this is just how the sausage is made, but I had an opportunity, over the past couple of days, to take my big public lands bill, the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation and Working Forest Act, which includes lots of great Wild and Scenic River provisions in Mendocino County, as well as Trinity, Humboldt and Del Norte counties, and we got it into the Defense Authorization bill.

"Don't ask me how that works: It's just Congress," Huffman said. "But I'm pretty excited about it and I hope it will help advance a really good piece of legislation for managing our public lands."

Adventist hospitals ready for surge

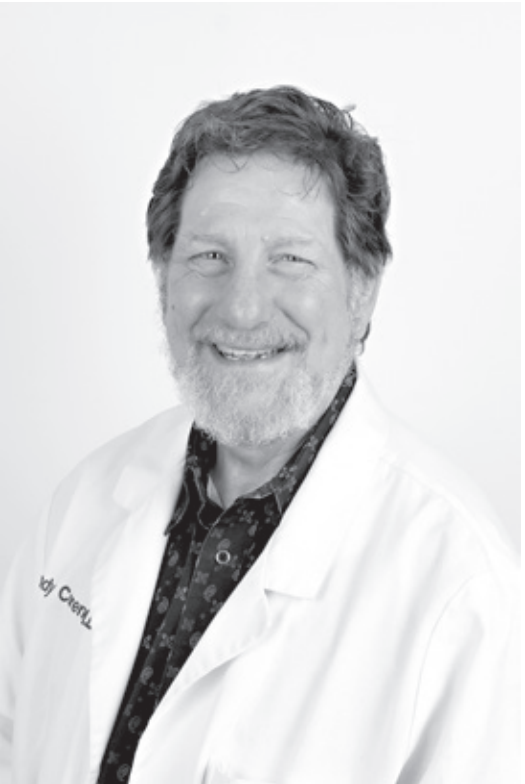
Adventist Mendocino President and CEO Jason Wells told both the legislative town hall on Friday, and the board of supervisors on Tuesday, that the three Adventist hospitals in Mendocino County are ready for the surge.

Wells said on Tuesday that the three hospitals have a combined total of 100 beds. Currently 70 are occupied with patients, eight of whom are COVID-19 patients. Wells is certain that the hospitals can easily accommodate 145 patients, and if pushed to the wall, can accommodate another 100 patients beyond the 100 beds they have now, meaning that the three hospitals can accommodate up to 200 patients.

Beyond that, Adventist has created a "virtual hospital" in which non-critical patients can stay at home and be monitored 24/7 by hospital staff.

Wells said the three Adventist hospitals in the county have a combined 16 intensive care unit beds. Currently, there are two COVID patients in ICU.

Wells also said that Adventist Mendocino has been able to get substantial supplies of Remdesivir, a drug which has been shown to shorten both the length and severity of COVID-19.



Above: New Mendocino County public health officer, Dr. Andy Coren.

Photo by Maureen Moore

attendance) that school would reopen August 31 in distance learning mode.

Teachers showed up en masse; of 79 attendees, most of them were teachers.

As the meeting began, Superintendent Mark Westerburg explained that "it's way too early to make a decision. We're 45 days from August 31.... We want to make sure that parents have a choice.

"In mid-August, probably the week of the 10th, it's my intention that every building will be calling every parent [and asking them]: 'Do you want independent study? Do you want to be in regular class

session?' When we get that number, we can then set our staffing to accommodate those needs," he said.

"Parents should have the option of what they want to do. We'll be able to provide that as long as every parent will communicate their choice to us in August. There's no point in calling them now. Now doesn't matter. Mid-August matters, because then we'll be within a couple of weeks of opening."

"There are a lot of concerns," said trustee Paula Nunez, "I would just as soon wait until the August 12 meeting."

Trustee Colvig agreed, saying he was "pleased to know the district is going to contact every parent to get their opinion and listen.... Right now, we're not making a decision."

"It's a confounding multiple choice test with no right answer.... We're going down a road where we've never been before, and we can't look to something that happened 20, 30 years ago," said trustee Jeanne King. "There's no right answer."

"The unfortunate reality is, we have a contingent of people that want to reopen schools with no changes.... Go back to school just the way it was because, they just don't believe that this virus is serious," said board president Alex Bowlds, "And we have another contingent, that there's no way you're ever going to convince them that as long as this virus is out there, that it's ever going to be safe to go back to school. And then there's everybody in between.

"There is no right answer. There is no wrong answer," he said.

But, if the answer were to be a return to classroom instruction, the district has a county health department-approved plan ready, with procedures yet to be determined.

"It's only going to be based on ... are you allowed in a restaurant with other people. If you are, with limitations, we can make those limitations happen in a classroom, and that's what we're going to try and do," said Westerburg. "If our [state] restrictions are that you can't be in those close environments, then it's remote learning."

Bowlds agreed, saying that "if you are able to go into a local restaurant and sit down and eat with a group of people under certain conditions, then realistically we might be able to open up schools with similar kinds of conditions. But those conditions don't exist today."

When they do, he continued, "we're going to adhere to all of the guidelines, all of the requirements that are required by the state and the county public health.

"I really want to emphasize that sooner or later, when the COVID thing is brought under more control, sooner or later we will bring our kids back into the classroom, and the real question is going to come down to how much risk are we willing to accept in order to provide this education for our kids?"

"The risk is not just to our kids, our staff, our teachers, but also to our community at large," he said, noting the "interesting statistics, [that] about 18 percent of the teachers in the Willits Unified School District fall into the high-risk category, [and] when you include all of the people who our teachers live with at home who are in high-risk categories, then that number jumps up to well over 30 percent.

"If we open up our schools, we put a lot of people at risk of potentially contracting this disease, and until it's reasonably safe we need to be very careful about how we bring our kids back into school," he said.

Then it was the teachers' turn, and their message was clear. They wanted the board to decide sooner rather than later how school would reopen, and the preferred choice was distance learning.

Of the restaurant analogy, sentiment ran high it was not apposite.

"I pretty much agree, if it's not safe in a restaurant, it's not safe in school," said Nunez. "But there are times when I go to a restaurant, and I don't sit there for three or four hours."

"I do not spend five days a week, six hours a day at a restaurant. Equating an education in a classroom environment to eating indoors ... personally, I'm disrespected," said sixth-grade teacher Dina Haigounian. "By forcing me to choose ... you're forcing me to put my health in the hands of the lowest public common denominator in that classroom.

"We should not be in limbo about what next year should look like. With all due respect and consideration, we keep kicking the can down the road to make this decision," she continued. "No matter how much we want to pretend otherwise, we're going to be distance learning in August. We are in a worse case with the

virus than we were in March.... The quicker the school board votes what the inevitable reality is, then the better prepared we're going to be."

"Dina is absolutely right; they have kicked this can down the road way too long," agreed Willits High School teacher Brian Bowles. "If you understand science, the COVID virus is not miraculously going to go away in one month. It is not. I don't care what kind of hope you want to put your basket in, but it is not. We need to move forward with a distance learning program, and we need to start with that reality now."

The Willits Teachers Association also weighed in heavily in favor of opening school in distance learning mode.

On behalf of the association, president Tessa Ford read a collaboratively written letter (and petition) to the board, which "was hovering at 600 signatures ... the last time [she] checked." At press time that number was over 750.

The full text of the letter can be read at www.change.org by typing "Willits" in at the search option. This excerpt reflects the letter's abundantly clear preference:

"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."

Ultimately, Bowlds and Westerburg acknowledged the reality of current conditions.

"I can't imagine at this point, we're not going to be in remote learning August 31," said Westerburg. "So as a teacher, that's where my head should be."

"This disease right now looks like it's on a steep uphill climb with no mitigation in sight, and if it continues to go in that direction ... quite frankly I think it's going to keep going in that direction for awhile to come ... our choice is being made for us," agreed Bowlds. "And we should definitely be leaning towards being more prepared for a distance learning model rather than a classroom-based model."

He also pointed out that "it sounds like there's a contingency among the teachers that would like to see us make a decision."

Indeed, over the course of the long evening meeting, board president Bowlds had repeatedly raised the possibility that the board might choose to take action.

"I don't know if the rest of the board wants to chime in here," he said. "Does anybody else have comments? Would any of the board like to make a motion to actually make a decision with this tonight? It is an action item, and we can make that decision if we choose to do so."

Silence.

Then later: "Would the board like to make a motion to address this tonight?"

Silence.

Again: "Does the board wish to address this issue tonight? If you'd like to make a motion, please make a motion as to whether or not you'd prefer to go to distance learning or classroom-based study August 31."

Then finally, "I move that we do distance learning starting August 31," said trustee Nunez.

The motion was unanimously approved, with trustee King voting "reluctantly in favor."

"It's way easier for me ... because I was going to have to make 1,500 calls with my staff," said Westerburg,

Bowlds clarified that the "expectation is that this would be in place for the first trimester with hopes that we would be able to open school ... with brick and mortar starting second trimester, but obviously no guarantee even of that."


Westerburg explained that "we can transition after the 12 week trimester ... the best time would be Thanksgiving break or March 3."

Fire authorities requested law enforcement response based on the unknown nature of the fire. MCSO Investigations Bureau detectives and arson investigators with CalFire and the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority responded to assist with the investigation.

Arson investigators determined the fire began on the exterior of the Western Auto Inc. building and was located at the rear of the property. Based on their investigation, the fire was determined to be arson. A suspect or suspects is unknown at this time.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office detectives continue to comb through surveillance footage from the area and have identified multiple persons of interest. We are asking anyone with information related to this investigation to come forward and contact us at the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office at 707-463-4086 or are tip line at 707-234-2100. People wishing to remain anonymous are asked to contact the We-Tip Anonymous Crime Reporting Hotline at 800-782-7463, giving as much detail as possible.

Additionally, anyone with surveillance equipment located along Highway 162 or downtown Covelo is asked to contact detectives about possible access to your recording system. We also ask anyone who was present just prior to or during the early stages of the fire to contact detectives and potentially provide digital evidence taken at that time, which will assist in identifying the person or persons involved in this incident.



Bonnie Lynn Mitchell-Dunlap

1949 - 2020

Bonnie Lynn Mitchell-Dunlap, 71, passed away on June 26, 2020 after a very brief battle with cancer. She was born on June 20, 1949 in Willits, to Ron and Betty Mitchell. She joined an older sister, Sandy, and a younger brother, Ted.

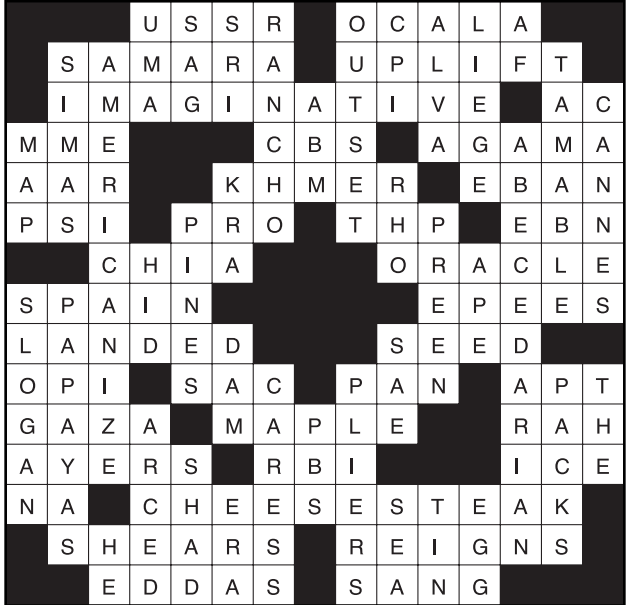
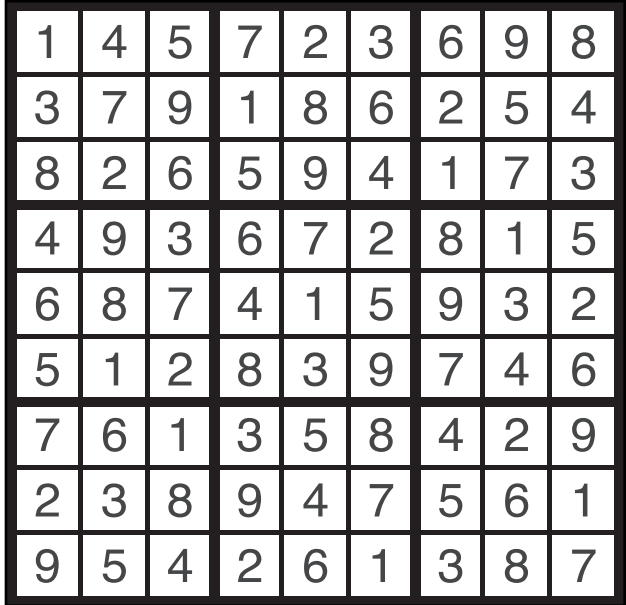
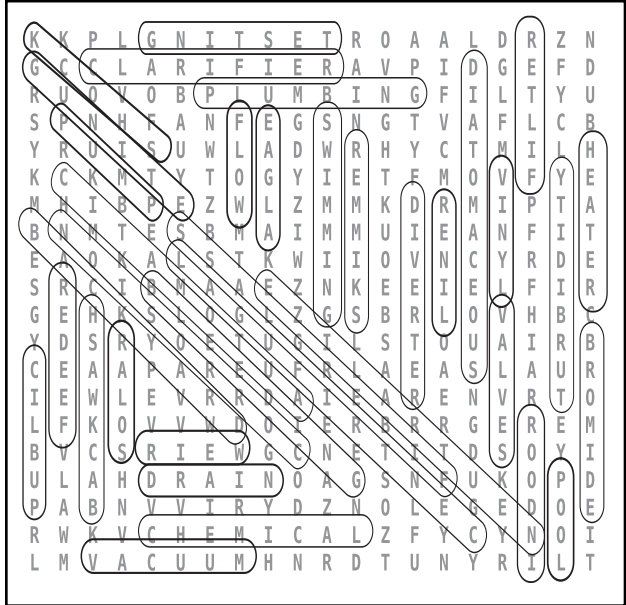
She graduated from Willits High School 1967. She attended Humboldt State University earning a journalism degree. While at HSU she met and married Peter Coyne and they were blessed with two daughters, Jennifer and Bridget. She wrote for *The Union* newspaper, started the magazine, *Pacifica* and won several journalism awards for stories on local life.

The family moved to the Boston area for a few years where she worked for an advertising agency. They returned to Humboldt County where she worked in a law firm and then as a real estate agent. She returned to HSU and earned a degree in English which lead her to a career of teaching at Fortuna High School. She loved the enthusiasm and energy of her students and being the adviser to the high school newspaper.

She was active with League of Women Voters and served as President of YWCA. She spent her later years with husband, Robert Dunlap, and enjoyed their many travels.

Bonnie is survived by her daughters, Jennifer Rosebrook of McKinleyville, CA, and Bridget Coyne of West Palm Beach, FL; her loving parents Ron and Betty Mitchell of Ukiah, sister and brother-in-law, Sandy and Joseph Madrigal of Carlsbad, CA; brother and sister-in-law, Ted and Jackie Mitchell of Richland, WA; and husband, Robert Dunlap of Eureka.

A great loss is felt by her grandchildren, Mae and Grace Rosebrook, Jann Harbers; her nieces and nephews, Shardaai and Kyle Mitchell; Angie, Teresa and Tony Madrigal. A heartfelt "thanks" to her dear friends over the years, Judy, Zara, Vicki, Debra, and Marilyn. Generous and quick witted, Bonnie's best and loving moments were family gatherings. Our lovely Bonnie will be missed! A "Celebration of Life" was held at the family home on July 11.





Inland Democrats work their new mobile campaign headquarters, which will substitute for a HQ in Ukiah this election year. The mobile HQ will make stops from Labor Day through Election Day, in inland communities from Hopland to Laytonville and from Boonville to Covelo.
Photo by Chris Pugh

Local Democrats create mobile campaign headquarters for 2020

Submitted by the Inland Mendocino Democratic Club

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Inland Mendocino Democratic Club and the Mendocino Democratic Central Committee will not open their traditional campaign headquarters in downtown Ukiah this year. Instead, we are equipping a large Sprinter van to be a mobile headquarters that will make stops from Labor Day through Election Day in inland communities from Hopland to Laytonville and from Boonville to Covelo.

The kickoff will be at Todd Grove Park on Labor Day, but we will not be sponsoring a picnic this year. It will be the first stop and the send-off for the mobile headquarters. "If this mobile headquarters is well-received in the areas beyond Ukiah, we may continue to do this in the future even if we resume having a Ukiah headquarters office," said Fred Mervine, president of the Inland Club.

Local Democrats are currently gathering campaign materials such as signs, buttons, and bumper stickers from candidates and initiative campaigns to make them available to interested Democratic voters. The Mendocino Democratic Central Committee will stock the mobile headquarters with campaign materials from Joe Biden and Jared Huffman, which will be available for a small donation to help cover the Central Committee's cost for obtaining them. The Inland Club will stock the van with materials from Jim Wood and state and local campaigns.

"Once the itinerary is planned out, we'll post it on the Inland Democratic Club's website," said Jim Mastin, co-chair of the Mendocino County Democratic Party. "This mobile campaign headquarters isn't just a fallback from having our usual office in Ukiah – it's an exciting new way to reach more Democrats."

For more information about the Inland Mendocino Democratic Club or the Mendocino Democratic Central Committee, visit <http://inlandmendodems.org/> or www.mendodems.org/.

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This shot of Comet Neowise was recently taken from Main Street around 10 pm.

Photo by Peter Hubert

Comet Neowise over Main Street

Thanks to photographer Peter Hubert, for sharing this photo of Comet Neowise over the iconic Willits Arch with Willits Weekly readers.

"I moved to Willits 20 years ago after retiring as a commercial photographer in L.A.," Hubert said. "I have taken photos of all the great comets, starting with Haley's comet in 1986, Hyakutake comet in 1996, Hale-Bopp comet in 1997, and now the Neowise comet."

Hubert advises those wishing to catch Neowise to start looking after 10 pm in the northwest sky just below the Big Dipper.

"With cameras now being digital it is so easy to take pictures of comets," he said. "All you need is a tripod and a camera that you can set manually. Start with the lens wide open (aperture at the smallest number), set the ISO at 3200 or as close as your camera has, and set the shutter speed to 10 seconds."

"After you take that first shot, you can see if you want to give it more or less time (lighter or darker)."

Find Peter Hubert and more of his photos on [instagram@peterwoldemar](https://www.instagram.com/peterwoldemar)

The rest of
Order | From Page 1

July 13 health orders and, in addition, prohibits indoor services at places of worship, as well as indoor operations at gyms, fitness centers, hair salons and barbershops. This new order has an end date of 12 noon on August 3.

Outdoor operations are allowed for restaurants, wineries and wine tasting rooms, places of worship, hair salons and barbershops.

Funeral services may no longer occur indoors; however, they may occur outdoors, subject to conformance to state guidelines.

Dr. Doohan's July 24 public health order also bans indoor political protests. At the same time, it removes language in a previous health order which limited the number of participants in an outdoor political protest to 25 percent of any venue's given capacity. The current health order states, "For outdoor protests, there are no capacity limits by this order."

Lodging establishments and campgrounds continue to remain open, subject to extensive guidelines and precautions which have been detailed in earlier versions of the public health order.

The new health order, which is the 12th issued by Doohan since her first shelter in place order on March 18, is written as if Mendocino County had been placed on California's COVID "watch list." However, as of 4 pm Tuesday, July 21, Mendocino County had not yet been placed on the watch list. So Doohan was acting proactively.

At the board of supervisors meeting held Tuesday, July 21, county CEO Carmel Angelo explained why Doohan issued the preemptive health order. "Dr. Doohan took an action over the past few days that I think was a bold action, and one that, certainly, some have questioned. We have been talking about the watch list, and honestly, trying to stay off of the state watch list, but, recognizing that we are just a few steps away from being placed on the watch list. One, we have had recent deaths. Two, we have had hospitalizations, that we have not had before, and three, our numbers have gone up approximately a dozen every day over the past few days. We are over 200 right now...."

"But if you look at the numbers, you look at the surge, you look at our uncontrolled community spread, it's only a matter of time before we are placed on the watch list. So what Dr. Doohan did is, she took local control. And, as this board knows, whenever we can take local control, and not turn it over to the state, we do. And so, what she did was she moved ahead with an order that includes all the directions and all the requirements we would get from the state, if the state put us on a watch list.

"Dr. Doohan has been talking to the state just about every day ... and it appears that the state is actually somewhat pleased with Mendocino County and our proactive effort. And so right now, because we are taking the same action that the state would take if they put us on the watch list, right now there is no indication over the next couple days, that we will make the watch list.

"So, the good news is, local control means, the regulations have come from local government, and the regulations can be removed by local government. If we did nothing, and we just sat back and waited for the state to put us on the watch list, we would have to wait for the state to take us off the watch list. So I'd like to say that, to give this board and the public a greater understanding here of the health officer's efforts, not only to keep the public safe, but to maintain local control," Angelo said.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen said that Doohan writing a watch list health order when Mendocino County was not on the watch list was "an absolutely great move." No other supervisor commented on whether they were supportive of Doohan's decision.

McCowen pointed out that one of the triggers that, in his mind, could possibly put Mendocino County on the watch list, is the fact that the number of cases that are being confirmed here now daily, greatly exceeds the number that represents the upper limit of allowable new confirmed cases noted in the May 2020 attestation document for Mendocino County.

The number that appears in the May 20 attestation document is 3; in recent days the public health officer has confirmed 8, and 10, and 12 new cases a day.

McCowen asked Doohan to inquire if exceeding the upper limit of new cases as it appears in the attestation document could have any role in being put on the state's watch list. He also asked her, if it does prove to have such a role, to get the number changed in the attestation document to something that more accurately reflects the current situation.

Doohan said that the formula for determining whether a county would be put on the watch list was a much more complicated algorithm. In their exchange, Doohan did not clearly state that she would do what McCowen had asked her to do.

The most recent shelter in place health order can be found online at the County of Mendocino's "Health Order" page at www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=36849.

The rest of
Masks | From Page 1

adopted by the City of Willits at the July 21 meeting.

The administrative penalties for refusal to wear a mask in places where it is required in city limits will range from \$100 for a first offense to \$500 for a third offense. The section the county and others had included which allowed for fines of up to \$10,000 for mass gatherings was not included in the Willits ordinance.

City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra said that since the initial attempt to pass a similar ordinance was met with "resistance," she felt it was appropriate to take out the option of the more hefty fines.

That first ordinance failed to pass at a June 10 Willits City Council meeting, with only three out of five council members voting in favor. An urgency ordinance requires four votes in favor to pass.

In addition to the removal of the larger fines, following a request by councilmember Saprina Rodriguez, the word "misdemeanor" was taken out of the language of the ordinance which passed Tuesday. This means that the city will treat violations for COVID-19 mask laws as "infractions" for "public nuisance," rather than as misdemeanors which could have potentially carried worse consequences for those charged.

Since Vice Mayor Larry Stranske was not present at the Tuesday night meeting, in order to pass the urgency ordinance all four councilmembers who were at the teleconference meeting needed to vote in favor.

Both councilmembers who had previously voted against the other urgency ordinance in June – Rodriguez and Greta Kanne – voted in favor this time.

Rodriguez said she was appreciative of the changes that Garrabrant-Sierra and city staff had made.

"I thank the city for bringing this item back and for making adjustments to it," she said. "I know that it's a challenge to adjust, and I know that the city's feeling some pressure to want to conform with what the county and other cities have. But local elected officials – I appreciate the fact that we're able to respond to what our local communities need. And I feel like that if we could strike that one word [misdemeanor] then I feel like this would be in line with what is best for our community."

Kanne, who co-owns The Book Juggler in town, said she had seen very little resistance to wearing masks inside her business, and felt that the ordinance would not be an infringement on people's rights.

"We have in the almost full month now that we've been open to customers had only two people who either refused to wear a mask or took off their mask in the store," she said, "And in both circumstances we told them that they would not be able to stay in the store without the mask on. And they put their mask on, and did their business and left."

"So overwhelmingly people are coming into my store wearing a mask, and it doesn't seem difficult to enforce," she continued. "And so I really don't think that passing this ordinance is in any way taking people's rights when the vast majority of people in my circumstance are gladly following it because of their concerns to keep themselves and their neighbors safe."

Wastewater test results

Garrabrant-Sierra said that according to representatives from the company Biobot, a test of the city's wastewater influent from July 13 which showed a "2 percent concentration rate" indicated that there were approximately 190 to 200 people who were likely positive for COVID-19 in the Willits and Brooktrails area.

She went into some detail

about the challenges the city has had in trying to translate the results of the wastewater tests, which there have now been two of.

"When we first did the test, we went ahead and grabbed samples, and we received some preliminary results that were frankly just very confusing," she said. "All that we knew for a fact was that COVID was present in our sewer system and it was not present in the Brooktrails system. The levels were mysterious to us, and we discussed it a lot, and we tried to get ahold of Biobot unsuccessfully for quite some time to really try to figure out what these results meant and we also didn't have a final report."

"When we did finally get the final report," she continued, "it actually suggested an extremely high concentration of COVID which did not correspond with the results of our surveillance testing and the cases that we knew to be existing so far. The numbers just did not seem right. And so we did finally get a meeting with the Biobot company. And we spoke with two of their scientists, and we really addressed the results quite a bit, and they informed us that the way we took our sample was not ideal and suggested that we take our sample a different way."

She went on to say that Biobot agreed to give the city a second test for free since the company didn't properly inform them initially about how to take test samples to get accurate results.

That second test she said, "showed a much lower concentration than the initial sample, but it still it was a fairly significant number."

She added that the cost for taking more wastewater tests in the future could potentially be taken out of \$62,000 from the federal CARES Act which is expected to be allotted to the City of Willits.

She said this money must be spent on "COVID-related costs," although what that specifically includes is still somewhat "mysterious."

'Mask Up Mendo'

Prior to the discussion about the urgency ordinance, Ron Moorhead, director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, told the council about how his organization was teaming up with other chambers from around the county along with law enforcement departments to start a program called "Mask Up Mendo."

The goal of the program, he said, is to educate the community on the importance of wearing masks in public settings.

"It is aimed at education to our businesses, employees, and the public so that we can go out with ambassadors and talk with individuals that aren't wearing masks and give them reasons and let them know how important it is for them to wear their masks," said Moorhead. "Particularly in stores, in businesses – not only for the health of themselves and family, but also the health of our businesses, our employees being employed so they can pay their bills."

"So we're hoping to get volunteer ambassadors to go out into the community and work with the businesses across the entire county," he continued. "We also are going to get ambassadors to set up stations where we can educate individuals as well."

He added that they are also working with the Mendocino County non-profit Economic Development & Financing Corporation to try and help provide businesses with supplies like masks and hand sanitizer to have available for their customers and employees.

(Note: the discussion at the July 21 meeting about the city's budget issues will be covered in the next edition of Willits Weekly.)

The rest of
Leaving | From Page 2

working at Martin's and would come home and work on the house late into the evenings. I was the "Gofer" person and developed a great dislike for Mendo Mill (no offence). We had several neighbors with construction experience who jumped in to help with the build. We owe a great debt to them!

One of the oddest things about moving here to Ridgewood was that there were no telephones up here. The land developer had brought in power to the subdivision about three years earlier and unfortunately, they hadn't been thinking about phones since the power poles they put in were too short to accommodate phone lines too. So, whenever we needed to call someone, we had to drive the two miles down the hill to the phone booth at the Ridge.

This sometimes presented a problem. Like the time we were snowed in and the County never showed up to plow the roads, and all neighbors who did NOT have four-wheel drive vehicles lost a few days of work. By the time I got out to the Ridge and called the County, their excuse was "Well, no one called to tell us." GRRRRRR!!!!!! So, like everyone else up here we set up a CB Radio system.

The girls had several friends who had CB's as well so they could chat with friends. By 1990, we petitioned the PUC and they forced PG&E to replace the poles and AT&T then brought phones lines in. We had gone four years without, and in November 1990 we had a phone!!!! It is amazing the things you take for granted. I mean who ever heard of a whole community not having phones in the late 1980's????

Once the house was finished and everyone was sleeping in real beds and eating at a real table and sitting on real couches, life calmed down a bit. We always heard from folks, "don't move in until it's finished, or it will NEVER get finished!" Well once those bedrooms were done, we could not keep the kids out.

So, in we went. And it is true, you DON'T finish it. Floors left bare, windowsills left bare, Plywood here, sheet rock there. We just got busy living life. Johnny worked full time at Martin's, kids were all involved in sports and I went to work full time with Ackerman Creek Large Animal Clinic, and then Michelsen and Witt/Redwood Valley Equine.

It was through my employment with Drs. Mike Witt and Paul Michelsen that I made my first real friends here. Through the course of my twenty-eight years with them I formed so many lifelong friendships and they are awfully hard to leave behind. The ranchers, farmers and fellow horse folks became my family as I helped them with their everyday routine husbandry issues and appointments or talked them through what to do when they had an emergency and were waiting for the vet to arrive. Or when I cried with them when they had to make that hardest decision of all. I knew how they felt because I had done it myself. Yes, I will miss every single one of you who made my life so full and enriched!

In 2009 something HUGE happened! Our kids got together with friends and family and sent us packing to Shane's house in Florida for twelve days and they FINISHED the house! That's right! "Extreme Home Makeover" without the bus!!!! New paint, new carpet and floors, windowsills, doors, new EVERYTHING! We were overwhelmed with emotion at the thoughtfulness and kindness showed to us. We truly had a Tribe here! It was absolutely amazing! We finally had a comfortable beautiful house to be proud of. And because they did that, we had a beautiful house to put on the market.

When we bought our property and built this house, it was going to be our forever home. No where else we would rather be. Unfortunately, California is an expensive place to live. And for Johnny to retire, that means moving out of the Golden State. When son Corey and his wife Brooke moved to Idaho with their sons almost four years ago and we saw that beautiful country, we decided maybe Idaho could be our forever home. And indeed, that is what will be.

Willits will always hold so many memories for our entire family. High School Graduations and weddings, funerals for family and friends. My group of amazing women who call themselves "The Willits Birthday Club and Terrorist Society" of which I am a founding member! Several of those special ladies have passed on and we miss them so much!

And babies! So many grandchildren played in this house and ran up and down this hallway and are measured on the wall that I am sure will be painted over. One of those babies was even BORN in this house! Kacee wants to reserve the right to come visit "her room" occasionally!

My husband does not do well with change. And when you work for a wonderful company such as Sparetime Supply it makes it even harder to leave. Johnny's first day at Sparetime was July 25, 2005. His last day will be July 24, 2020. Fifteen years has seen such growth for Sparetime, yet they are such caring appreciative folks and we will miss them terrible. They are family to us.

Another "family" we will miss is our Church family. You took us into your family in 1995 and we have had such growth because of it. Our kids all grew up together and even though most of those families have moved away, you all are in our hearts. I hope we can continue to stay in touch.

I ask myself why I am writing all of this. I guess it is because we can't hug and say our farewells in person. The Covid virus has taken much from us, and I am sad that we can't have a farewell party!!!! I want to see each and every one of you who has come into my life in the last thirty-five years. I will continue to be a Facebook nerd so I can stay in touch with you. That has pretty much been my social life since we closed the office three years ago anyway! We leave Willits on July 30th. And to answer your question YES Romeo is moving with us. Just not right away.

I hope that Willits welcomes the new family that bought our house and makes them feel at home as they continue to make memories in our beloved home on Blue Jay Lane.

I would love to chat with you should you want to call me.

Thanks and Much Love,

Roni McFadden, Willits



A California lake is tinted green from a harmful algal bloom. The algae can produce toxins that pose health risks to humans and animals.

Anglers, others urged to watch for harmful algal blooms when recreating on the water

Submitted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is urging anglers and other recreational water users to be vigilant about checking for harmful freshwater algal blooms while out enjoying California’s lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams and creeks this year.

Algae and cyanobacteria, the organisms that cause harmful freshwater algal blooms, have existed for billions of years as essential components of freshwater ecosystems. But when certain conditions accelerate their growth – warm temperatures, stagnant water flows, and excessive nutrients – they can multiply very rapidly, creating “blooms.” These blooms can produce toxins and taste and odor compounds that pose health risks to humans and animals. When blooms pose a risk, they are referred to as harmful algal blooms or HABs.

These blooms pose risks to the health and safety of people and pets drinking the water and recreating in water bodies affected by blooms. Children and pets, especially dogs, are particularly susceptible to HABs because of their smaller body size, increased potential to swallow water while swimming, and tendency to stay in the water longer. Dogs tend to lick their fur afterward, increasing their risk of exposure and illness.

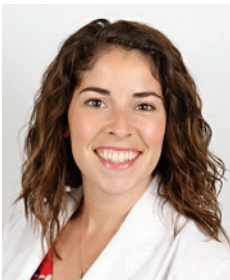
Symptoms of HAB-related illness in people and animals are available at www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: www.cdc.gov/habs/, and by contacting the California Poison Control Center (800-222-1222). If you, your children, or your pet experience these symptoms after potential HAB exposure, contact your doctor or veterinarian.

These toxins also can accumulate in fish and shellfish to levels that pose threats to people and wildlife. Specifically, these chemicals accumulate in the guts of fish and in shellfish. For this reason, only cleaned fish fillets (no consumption of fish guts) and no shellfish consumption is recommended if a HAB is present and an advisory is posted at the “Caution” or “Warning” level. If a “Danger” advisory is posted, no water contact or fish consumption is recommended.

CDFW urges anglers and others to practice the following healthy water habits when visiting California’s waterways:

- Heed all instructions on posted advisories if present
- Avoid algae and scum in the water and on the shore
- Keep an eye on children and dogs
- If you think a HAB is present, do not let pets and other animals go into or drink the water, or eat scum / algal accumulations on the shore
- Don’t drink the water or use it for cooking
- Wash yourself, your family, and your pets with clean water after water play
- If you catch fish, discard the guts and clean fillets with tap water or bottled water before cooking
- Avoid eating shellfish if you think a HAB is present
- Report any suspected or confirmed algal bloom and any related human, animal illness by visiting <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/do/bloomreport.html>.

Made for more growing



Erica Baumker, PNP
Se Habla Español

We’re all made for more. More smiles. More imagination. More milestones reached. That’s why our providers are focused on supporting your child’s dreams and active imaginations.

Our team provides personalized care tailored to your child’s development, including asthma management, developmental assessments and coordination of multi-specialty care as needed. From check-ups to immunizations, sports physicals, sick visits and so much more, Erica Baumker, PNP, is committed to inspiring health, wholeness and hope especially for the little ones in your life. Because when your child is growing big and strong, there’s nothing they can’t do.

Now welcoming new pediatric patients

Same-day appointments available
707-459-6115
3 Marcela Drive, Suite C, Willits
AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org

