

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

Willits

Weekly

newspaper

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 368

Thursday, August 20, 2020

Local lightning fires under control

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Mendocino County mostly escaped severe consequences from the series of thunderstorms that dropped more than 10,000 lightning strikes on the state on Sunday and Monday.

The National Weather Service Eureka office put out a special weather alert warning of severe thunderstorms for Mendocino County late Sunday afternoon, but weather radar images showed the storms' path was mostly east of the county.

Read the rest of
Fires
Over on Page 9

Brooktrails hears positive reports on water, finances

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township board met August 11 for a brief meeting. Board members congratulated their colleagues Tina Tyler O'Shea and Ralph Santos for being reelected by appointment to serve for another four years. "I'm glad that Ralph and Tina are willing to serve on the board," said board President Rick Williams. "It's great when valuable members of the board continue to serve."

It was noted that all of the candidates on the slate for the upcoming Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees election are Brooktrails residents. General Manager Tamara

Read more of
Brooktrails
Over on Page 10

City OKs contracts for airport rehab project

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At a short meeting on August 12, the Willits City Council approved two contracts for a combined total of over \$1.1 million to move forward with the Willits Airport Runway Rehabilitation Project.

Thanks in part to a provision in the recently passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Federal Aviation Administration is expected to provide all the funding for

Read the rest of
Rehab
Over on Page 11



Above, from left: Brendan Hodge holds two of Old Mission Pizza's delicious ranch dressing cups. A glorious last pizza for this reporter: half vegetarian with cold tomatoes and white/pesto combo sauce and half cheese and pineapple. Xander Jennison works on the cutting station. Below: Owner of the soon-to-closed Old Mission Pizza, Chris Bulcke, surrounded by pizza boxes ready to be filled.



Photos by
Maureen Moore

Putting down the Peel

Willits' Chris Bulcke to close Old Mission Pizza on August 23 after 25 years in business

When I first heard the news of the imminent closing of Old Mission Pizza, the south-town pizza establishment for birthday parties, sporting events, a cold beer or an amazing pizza, my first thought was surely similar to others hearing the news: "But, but, what about the ranch dressing! It's the best!"

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Fears were partially calmed when Chris Bulcke, owner of OMP for over 25 years, assured me that the recipes were going to be passed along to the businesses' new owners, Slam Dunk Pizza, out of Ukiah. While she couldn't make any promises about their decision to use the ranch, she noted it was possible. Along with the ranch recipe, the dough, sauce and pizza combination lists will go along with the sale.

"They're going to have everything, and all the recipes," said Bulcke. "I had to pay \$1,000 for that sauce recipe!" Bulcke laughed. "Slam Dunk will have them all, but what they do is up to them."

Slam Dunk already has a great following in the Ukiah area, and there were many excited comments on social media when the announcement broke that the change of ownership was underway. The phone number will remain the same, 459-6811, but the name will change, Bulcke noted.

Diehard OMPers will still have a few days to get their last slice in while Bulcke and the crew continue work until the final day – Sunday, August 23. They're open Thursday from 1 to 7 pm; Friday and Saturday from 1 to 8 pm; and Sunday from 1 to 6 (ish) pm.

"As soon as word was out that we finally sold, we got super busy!" laughed Bulcke, half-thrilled and half-overwhelmed by the outpouring of support, and orders. "We weren't quite prepared, I was letting everything get lower in supplies so we didn't get stuck with a bunch of leftovers when we closed, but it's great to have this last hurrah, I've really loved this business."

Bulcke and Slam Dunk have a little history before this

Read the rest of
Pizza
Over on Page 8



At top: Manager Kevin Warriner pulls a hot and bubbly pizza out of the oven. Above: A sign in the restaurant warns diners of the upcoming last day. Below, left: James Feigel takes one of many phone orders that have flooded in since people heard the news about the pending closure of Old Mission Pizza. Below, right: Darbi Hendry, left, smiles with Dominique Ferma-Heal behind the bar.



Little Lake Fire board gets updates

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

It was mostly pretty good news at the August meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

Construction of the new firehouse is moving right along. The budget is bigger than expected. New firefighters are signing up. Calls are up. Mutual aid with other local departments is working well. Strike teams are going out. And weed abatement efforts are proving thorny.

On the firehouse, the "hard part [for the department] is done ... our part of the project has

Read the rest of
LLFD
Over on Page 10

PG&E vows to do better in 2020

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

PG&E has taken steps to reduce the impacts of its public safety power shutoff events for the 2020 fire season, the board of supervisors learned on Tuesday.

According to a presentation from PG&E, the company has taken at least two steps to make PSPS events shorter, smaller and smarter. First, they have installed energy isolation devices which have been inserted into the grid and which allow the company to better pinpoint which areas need to be de-energized during high-wind events.

According to PG&E PSPS

Read the rest of
PG&E
Over on Page 4

Convicted murderer arrested for murder again

Jameson Wolfgang Jackson, 34, of Ukiah and formerly from Willits, was arrested Tuesday in Covelo on murder charges after reportedly fleeing from the scene of a fatal shooting there on Monday morning. Mendocino County Sheriff's Office put out an "armed and dangerous" alert about Jackson on Monday, and advised Covelo citizens to shelter in place.

Jackson was arrested by officers from the Round Valley Tribal Police Department, on charges of 187 PC (Homicide), 182 PC (Conspiracy) and 32

Read the rest of
Murder
Over on Page 10

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

More peace and love

To the Editor:

I read with great interest the article by Bill Barksdale in the Willits Weekly dated August 13 ["Peace and Love," Barksdale's "Journal" column in the August Real Estate section].

He mentioned the San Francisco rock group It's A Beautiful Day and Willits' own Hal Wagenet was a member of the band. I would add that Willits own Mitchell Holman was also a member of that group. Michell is still at it and was playing every Tuesday at the Shanachie Pub hosting "Wabi Sabi" (Virus has Pub down for now). Another well-known song by the group is "White Bird."

Bill mentions Richard Alpert who came back from India after some LSD trips as Ram Dass and his book "Be Here Now." Brings back memories as I was living in San Francisco in the late '60s to early '80s. Got involved in the "Be Here Now" movement which was a "trip" for me as a conservative accountant working in the financial district of SF.

Went to many of Bill Graham's Fillmore West concerts. Still have some of the poster/schedules with the amazing art work from the period. One schedule has It's A Beautiful Day at the Filmore in February 1970 and also in August of that year. They are on the same night as "Tower of Power" and another night with Elvin Bishop and Boz Scaggs. Some over-the-top music, and I can remember most of those nights!

Bill also mentions many local businessmen making money by subdividing their logged-over lands and fallow ranches in Mendocino and Humboldt counties. I was a weekend refugee getting out of the suit and tie crowd in SF and in 1971 bought 30 acres 12 miles up Spy Rock in Mendocino County. What a contrast to go from SF financial district to my place on Spy Rock.

It was only camping until I built my cabin in the '80s and moved up fulltime in the mid-'90s. On my parcel were several Douglas fir stumps that measured 8 feet across. So in 1971 I paid \$12,000 for the 30 acres and will not say what I sold it for 39 years later except to say it was a BUNCH.

As far as the Vietnam war I was very lucky. At 17 and just out of high school, I convinced my mother to sign the papers for me to go into the Marine Corps. I had the draft hanging over my head, and as savvy folks knew if you were drafted you went into the infantry. This was 1959 and I got out four years later in 1963. Vietnam got hot after March 1965.

I mention this as a prelude to my many years as an active member of the Mendocino County Veterans for Peace. With the help of Pat Tate, Michael Moore, and others our little VFP chapter raised \$554,000 in cash donations and truck loads of food and supplies for Hurricane Katrina victims.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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All I can say is "Those were the days my friend." The '60s, '70s, and right on through to where we are now. Locked down and masked like dogs.

Bob Wilkinson, Willits

Did it have to be so complicated?

To the Editor:

Thank you, Mike A'Dair, for another great article helping explain Mendocino County's complicated cannabis permitting problems ("Cannabis question not decided," August 6).

The results of our county's failed cannabis program are all around us. While legal growers submit to a costly and seemingly endless permitting process, outlaws are escalating their grows – on steep hillside and in plain sight – with hoop houses, greenhouses, generators, lights, and new roads.

County code enforcement and law enforcement officials cannot seem to stop them. Maybe there are too many.

It's easy to understand why small farmers trying to comply with county regs might feel betrayed and angry. After more than three years, the county has issued only 270 cannabis cultivation permits out of 1,429 permit applications received.

Yes, part of the problem is the state. More than 800 applications are still waiting for approval from the California Department. of Food and Agriculture or the California Department. of Fish and Wildlife.

But 42 percent of Mendocino County applications from 2017 are still under review by the county. Planning and Building's Brent Schultz estimated that if everything went right, his department might be able to process 150 to 200 permits by January 2022. Although the state has issued more than 800 provisional licenses to local cultivators, those provisional licenses will expire in January 2022.

Now, Supervisor John McCowen, who singlehandedly wrote the county's cannabis regulations, has proposed throwing out the regs he wrote and instituting a land-use based approach that could cost about \$6 million. The county does not have the resources, according to Supervisor Ted Williams, to process hundreds of land-use permits for provisional permit holders by the state's deadline of 2022.

Did it have to be so complicated?

Streamline the application process, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, and ensure that provisional applicants get their cultivation permits before they're disqualified from getting state licenses in January 2022.

Please, don't make the climb so steep that more family farmers drop out, and the outlaws thrive!

Jane Fletcher, Laytonville

See you on September 3!

Willits Weekly is taking a quick break and skipping our August 27 edition. But no worries, we'll be back on September 3, 2020.

MASKUP MENDO

SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

To the editor:

We want to report to our members and all business owners in Mendocino County that masks and hand sanitizers are available at your local Chamber of Commerce office.

Please call your local Chamber office for more information on how to obtain your supplies.

Willits Chamber 707-459-7910

Mendocino Coast 707-961-6300

Ukiah 707-462-4705

Ron Moorhead, director, Willits Chamber of Commerce

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

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

Drive-thru and walk-up meals are still available 12 to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. Pickup is outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. All Senior Center meals are currently \$5.

Home Meal Delivery

Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery; \$5 per meal, Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits. Can you volunteer as a Meals on Wheels driver? Call Deb at 459-6826.

Thursday, August 20: Shrimp Scampi

Friday, August 21: Ham Dinner

Monday, August 24: Honey Chicken

Tuesday, August 25: Pork Roast

Wednesday, August 26: Fish & Chips

Thursday, August 27: BBQ Rib Sandwich

Friday, August 28: Turkey Dinner

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

State reports \$208.4 million in 2nd Quarter cannabis tax revenues

Submitted by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

Sacramento – The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) reported revenue numbers today for cannabis sales for the 2nd Quarter of 2020. As of August 11, 2020, California's cannabis excise tax generated \$101.8 million in revenue reported on the 2nd Quarter 2020 returns due by July 31, 2020, and the cultivation tax generated \$22.9 million.

Sales tax from cannabis businesses totaled \$83.7 million in revenue for the same period. Sales tax applies to sales of cannabis, cannabis products, and other tangible personal property. Certain retail sales of medicinal cannabis are exempt from sales and use taxes when the purchaser provides at the time of purchase a valid Medical Marijuana Identification Card issued by the California Department of Public Health and a valid government-issued identification card.

Total tax revenue reported by the cannabis industry is \$208.4 million for 2nd Quarter returns due by July 31, 2020. This does not include tax revenue collected by each jurisdiction. Previously reported revenue for 1st Quarter 2020 returns was revised to \$205.9 million, which included \$107.4 million in cannabis excise tax, \$26.9 million in cultivation tax, and \$71.6 million in sales tax. Revisions to quarterly data are the result of amended and late returns, and other tax return adjustments.

Since January 2018, total program revenue to date is \$1.45 billion, which includes \$709.9 million in cannabis excise tax, \$173.7 million in cultivation tax, and \$563.6 million in sales tax.

In November 2016, California voters approved Proposition 64, the Control, Regulate, and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act. Beginning on January 1, 2018, two new cannabis taxes went into effect: a cultivation tax on all harvested cannabis that enters the commercial market and a 15 percent cannabis excise tax upon purchasers of cannabis and cannabis products. In addition, retail sales of cannabis and cannabis products are subject to state and local sales tax. To learn more, visit the Tax Guide for Cannabis Businesses on the CDTFA website.

The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, 450 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; 1-800-400-7115, administers California's sales and use, fuel, tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis taxes, as well as a variety of other taxes and fees that fund specific state programs. CDTFA-administered programs account for over \$70 billion annually which in turn supports local essential services such as transportation, public safety and health, libraries, schools, social services, and natural resource management programs through the distribution of tax dollars going directly to local communities.

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Photos courtesy of the Community Foundation of Mendocino County

2020 Census

There's still time to fill out nine questions from the U.S. Census to help Mendocino County receive its fair share of federal funding

There are only 41 days left. The deadline for the 2020 U.S. Census, which normally would be October 31, has been moved up a month to September 30, but there is still time to make a difference. There is still time to complete the simple nine-question U.S. Census survey. This confidential questionnaire, done every 10 years, is consequential in several ways.

"The No. 1 reason the census count is so important is that our census count this year is the amount of federal funding our county gets for the next 10 years," states Paloma Patterson, project manager with the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, along with Miranda Ramos, who is the data tracker.

"For every person that doesn't respond to the census, we lose roughly \$1,000 per person per year that their community will miss out on. Right now, Mendocino County has a 52.2 percent response rate. That's money we should be getting for basic services like education, health care, services that everybody uses every day. If you're going to see a doctor, if you're going to drive on the roads. If you're going to school. If you care about wildfires. Fill out the census or you can't complain."

The estimated population of Mendocino County in 2019 was 86,749 according to the Census Bureau. So roughly 44,000 residents have not yet been counted in the 2020 Census. At roughly \$1,000 in federal funds per year, 44,000 residents times \$1,000 equals \$44,000,000 or \$44 million per year in potential funds that may be forgone if Mendocino County locals don't complete the U.S. Census survey.

"Early on, California was already anticipating an undercount," Patterson continued. "What the state decided to do was to fund local communities. The state and federal government do the messaging, but the people who are equipped to reach all the rural areas in the individual counties are the people who live there.

"Your friends and neighbors are the best ones to come up with the messaging and identify who needs to hear it and deliver the messages within the county. People are more likely to listen to me or you than they are to listen to someone from the United States Census Bureau.

"California invested in counties within the state," said Patterson. "Mendocino County received a grant to do outreach to improve their response rate. Some of that money was sub-granted to the Mendocino Community Foundation. The Community Foundation hired Miranda and myself as project managers.

"There have also been a group of people involved from the Complete Count Committee, which is a committee of about 20 people and agencies who get together monthly to discuss how best to increase our response to the census. Members of that committee span the entire county.

"It's not just Miranda and I doing the work," added Patterson. "We have activated and involved every community in Mendocino County. Anderson Valley is doing their own thing. Covelo is doing their thing and collective things. It's been a pretty concentrated effort since January."

One of the effective strategies that has been employed by Patterson is to identify "census influencers" within each "tract," or smaller population areas, who are known and trusted by the local people.

"Our outreach strategies have been pretty robust and diverse. All kinds of media, digital and print advertising, social media. We've really run the gamut. We've put inserts in utility bills. We put up banners. One of the challenges that our county has is that a number of people have broadband issues and this is the first year that the census went online," Patterson stated.

The group was not able to throw the "census parties" they had planned due to the pandemic. "What we did is we identified 'influencers' within those areas," she said. "Influencer is a very loosely defined term. It can be anybody who is active in the community or somebody that we just know is influential within their own network. We identified influencers in every census tract and we created a 'bilingual influencer toolkit.' We created messaging for email, for texting, for phone," she said.

"We contacted all these individuals throughout the county and asked if they would be interested in using their contacts and help spread the message throughout their networks in the best way that works for them – Facebook, texting, or whatever works best for them.

"That has made a huge difference," shared Patterson. "We definitely know that it has moved the needle in those tracts. It works to get a message from your neighbor as opposed to a postcard you get from a government bureau. I think it has engendered a sense of community and responsibility even though we are all pretty much relegated to our homes and isolated. We are all coming together to get the resources that our county needs."

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

pho•tog•ra•phress

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

Book Fall & Holiday 2020 appointments now!

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At left: The League of Women Voters, one of many groups helping to get the word out, promoted the importance of the 2020 U.S. Census in the 2019 Labor Day parade.

Above: At the Boonville Farmers Market, census worker Jerry Tuttle mans his booth to help people go online and fill in their forms.

Photo by Mathew Caine

Below: Census influencer Marylou Mileck of M&M Feed & Supply in Covelo helps people fill out the census from her store.

Above: Census influencer Javier Chavez of Action Network sets up on the south coast.

Photo courtesy of the Community Foundation of Mendocino County

Below: Posters are distributed by the federal government to remind the public to fill out the census form.

Photo by Mathew Caine

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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Potluck every 2nd Sunday

Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

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Willits, CA 95490

Father Aaron Bandanadanam

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9:00 a.m. Spanish

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Karl Bliese, Pastor

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If you want to be included in this column please call:

April Tweddell

(707) 972-2475

april@willitsweekly.com

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Aerial photo courtesy of www.loopnet.com.



Above: A collection of documentaries donated by WELL are available for rent from Main Street Music. Below: Pets Swanton, owner of Main Street Music and Shanachie Pub, accepts two movies about sustainability from Richard Jergenson of the Little Lake Grange.

Photos by Annie Waters



707.459.5193

JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

Clockwise from above: Looking into the space where Little League tryouts were held years ago. The front room of the office building shows the possibilities with fine woodwork. A banner announces the future of the building. The front of the office space will be a showplace after renovation. Aerial view of the facility. The main space in the 70,000-square-foot warehouse. The front building, erected in 1905, was originally a bank. Andrew Hosford, executive vice president of Sparetime Supply shows off the new digs.

Photos by Mathew Caine

HABBAH SENIOR CENTER

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Menu - August Week 4
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Honey Chicken
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Wednesday, August 26
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Thursday, August 27
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Friday, August 28
Turkey Dinner

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Room to Grow

Sparetime Supply buys old Little Lake Industries property on East Commercial for wholesale division distribution center

"This is the old Little Lake Industries building," explained Andrew Hosford, executive vice president of Sparetime Supply, Inc., which has purchased the property for their wholesale division. "They vacated in 1994. Anybody who's grown up in Willits for the last 40 years has worked here or has known somebody who has worked here.

"This building," he continued, "the red brick one up against the railroad tracks, is the original bank in Willits, built in 1906. It's still really pretty. The guy that inspected it said this building could hold a tank."

Indeed, the redwood woodwork on the interior of the office building of the property on East Commercial Street is beautiful and well-preserved, yet there is still much work to be completed prior to Sparetime's wholesale division, Sparetime Supply Distribution, being able to move in.

Renovations in the hundreds of thousands of dollars will have to be completed to upgrade and prepare the property in both the office portion and the cavernous 70,000-square-foot warehouse space, which are estimated to be completed around March of 2021.

The office portion has about 5,000 square feet of space. "Everything will be upgraded to be energy-efficient," added vice president of administration and board secretary, Jaime Wilkes.

"This is going to be our new distribution facility," Hosford continued. "We're currently over on East San Francisco. Our original retail store is there. Down the street from there is our wholesale yard. We have about 35 acres there. We have a lot of outdoor storage and a small warehouse, about 16,000 square feet. It's just not enough for our business needs.

"Mike Sr. [founder and CEO Mike Griggs, Sr.] is very community-oriented. He loves Willits. He loves our community," Hosford said. "Our goal has always been to keep our warehouse in Willits.

"We looked into building our own warehouses. We looked into either buying warehouses here or elsewhere. We looked at the Microphor facility. That was 40,000 square feet, which is about three times what we currently have, but it wasn't enough to allow us to grow. When we looked at that facility, we realized we really need something much larger."

The Little Lake Industries office building was originally a bank, built in 1906, next to the railroad tracks at 300 East Commercial. There is still an old vault in the office building, although it is doubtful anyone still recalls the combination. It will be utilized as an office storage closet, most likely.

This is not the only time Sparetime has had a connection to the building, having rented storage space there from previous owner, Willits resident Peter Koch after founder and CEO Mike Griggs, Sr. bought Remco office supplies at auction and needed a place to store them. The facility has had several uses throughout the years, including a tryout space for the Little League, which Hosford remembers as a child, in one of the huge areas of the warehouse.

Sparetime Supply is one of the few local businesses that is flourishing during the COVID-19 pandemic. "It's been quite the year with everyone staying home and gardening," said Hosford, who mentioned that the company has been doing very well for the last couple years with substantial growth.

He attributes their success to "Mike, Sr. and his leadership. He tries to lead by example. He's always working. He cares very much about his employees, his business, and his community. He wants to see people have a happy life, and he wants people to work for him that do as much as they are able. He knows that not everybody is as able as him, but everybody should do the best they can with what they have.

"The other thing is his model of customer service," added Hosford. "Treat others the way you want to be treated. The customer is always right. We try to service our customers to the best of our ability. If we say we're going to do something, we do it." In addition to taking care of their employees and their customers, Sparetime is integral in the community, donating thousands of dollars to various endeavors and institutions.

"Sparetime Supply was started as a concept by Mike Griggs, Sr.," explained Hosford. "He and his wife, Dianne, originally lived in Northspur for a long period of time. Mike, Sr. had planned on being a homesteader and raising and teaching his kids. He came to realize that that was not the lifestyle for him.

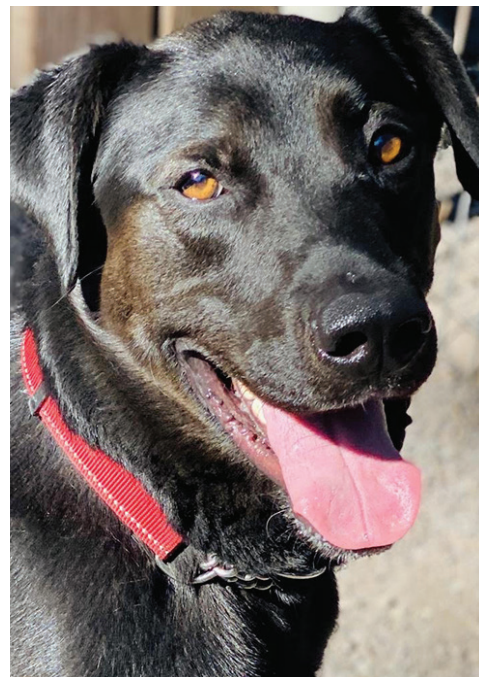
"He ended up getting a place off of Railroad Avenue. He had a house there and built the original retail store with his father-in-law, Nelson St. Jean, and my grandfather, Wendel Davis. He started buying mushroom compost out of Pescadero. He'd drive down in the evening and bring it back. He'd sell it by the shovel-full.

"Over time," said Hosford, "he developed that into a hardware store during the development of Brooktrails. It morphed into a nursery, with a diverse set of goods. As Sparetime grew, they moved across the railroad tracks to the current location in the early '90s.

"My parents, Paul and Diana Hosford, and I moved up here around then and they managed the retail store. Sparetime bought the property where Solid Waste was at the end of San Francisco for the wholesale operation, and we've been there ever since. In 2017, we purchased land in Cave Junction, Southern Oregon for a secondary distribution center, which services Oregon and Washington."

Over the years, Sparetime Supply has become an integral part of the community, currently employing around 130 people in Willits and nearby areas. Over the years, since its beginnings in 1983, approximately 700 people have found work with the company. All indications are that Sparetime Supply will continue to grow their wholesale division in the future.

"Our slogan for the distribution side of the business is: 'Bringing small town customer service to the wholesale garden supply,'" stated Wilkes. "We try to maintain that every single day. We take care of our customers and our community."



Active Angus

Meet our stunning boy Angus. This handsome fella is around 3 years old and weighs about 60 pounds. Angus came to us in May as a transfer from Clearlake Animal Control. Angus is looking for a forever family that is active. This stud loves to do any kind of adventure with his people. He loves it so much he doesn't stop smiling! Angus has some training under his belt, but would love to continue it as he benefits from it greatly. If you're interested in adopting Angus, you may apply at mendohumanesociety.com

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

Diesel (and friend?)

Meet Diesel. Diesel is a senior male tabby who is around 12 years old. Diesel found himself needing a friend to help find him a forever home. Who better to help with this task other than us! Diesel is a very sweet boy who would love nothing more than to spend his golden years in a home that loves him. He would show you daily how much he adores you by greeting you at the front door. He does have one small request though. He would love for you to adopt his buddy, Melvin. Diesel is very important to Melvin. Diesel makes Melvin feel safer, more secure, and over all more comfortable. Diesel is a superior study buddy! Diesel is neutered, microchipped, and current on his vaccines. You may apply to love Diesel and Melvin at mendohumanesociety.com.

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



Grange film series on hold, but documentaries about sustainability are now available at Main Street Music

Submitted by Little Lake Grange

The Grange "Now and Then Film Series" is not showing films right now, but we are encouraging you to rent sustainability films from Main Street Music, from their great WELL collection of indie films which will be of interest to farmers, gardeners, eaters of food, and other intelligent humans.

Watch a film to inform your world! We recently donated a couple of newly released films the Grange had hoped to schedule this year:

"The Pollinators": Our complex food system rests on the wings of the honey bee and the commercial beekeepers that move them from farm to orchard, pollinating the crops that produce the food we eat. One-third of everything we eat would disappear if the bees fail to thrive. Can we help? Yes! Let's find out why this problem is growing and could result in a USA food crisis.

More at: www.thepollinators.net.

"The Biggest Little Farm": This film chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature.

Through dogged perseverance and embracing the opportunity provided by nature's conflicts, the Chesters unlock and uncover a biodiverse design for living that exists far beyond their farm, its seasons, and our wildest imagination. More at: www.biggestlittlefarmmovie.com.

"The Pollinators," "The Biggest Little Farm," and many more important films about climate change, renewable energy, organic foods, and more can be found and rented for \$2.75 at Main Street Music, which is open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, from noon to 6 pm. Call 459-4747 to order a film that will be sanitized at least twice before you handle it. Curbside pickup available. Shop local! Watch local!



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Above, left: The first virtual hospital patient in Ukiah, Curtis Carlson says he is grateful to be able to recover with his family at his side and in the convenience of his home, while having the expertise and support of his clinical team through the virtual hospital.

Above, right: Cecil Gowan, RN monitors a patient's vital signs and connects with patients from the virtual hospital command center at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley.

The rest of Pizza From Page 1

sale; Old Mission Pizza started in Ukiah, at the same location where Slam Dunk is now. When Old Mission Pizza moved to Willits 30 years ago, the owner had heard that Bulcke, who was working at Sprouse Ritz at the time, had some previous pizza experience and asked her to come work at the new pizza shop. Bulcke was asked to purchase the business and did so five years later, becoming the owner on July 1, 1995, despite her husband's concerns.

"I told my husband I wanted to buy it, and he said no way!" laughed Bulcke. "After a few months, he came around. I remember it was a hard start, it took two or three years and lots of 17- to 18-hour days, but I did it. I was always the one running things and built it up to everything it's become by myself and with a few great long-term employees. I couldn't have gone anywhere without them. I'm so proud to be a woman-owned business. It's always been my baby."

Now, with the passing of the peel, Bulcke hopes the transition will go smoothly.

All of the current OMP employees were encouraged to apply for jobs at Slam Dunk. The new owners will take the next while to renovate and modify the space to their branding.

"I have to take all of this with me," Bulcke said, scanning the rows of photos of youth baseball and soccer sponsorship plaques and looking at the arched windows that showcased the Mission design. "I think maybe I'll make a greenhouse out of those windows."

Bulcke said that so many memories have been shared in the building, and many were being posted on OMP's social media. "I just love seeing all the things people remember – I'd love if people can post more before I have to close the page!"

With retirement on the horizon, Bulcke is looking forward to taking some time off to rest and then hopes to do a little camping trip.

Stop in and grab one last pizza and say farewell to a great Willits tradition.

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Hospital@Home: Virtual hospital care adds much-needed capacity during COVID-19

Submitted by Cici Winiger for Adventist Health

Curtis Carlson, 49, from Ukiah, knew he was not the most patient of patients. So when he ended up in the emergency room for a kidney infection at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley, he was not looking forward to being in the hospital for a week, especially during a pandemic. Until he heard about Adventist Health Hospital@Home, a virtual hospital that opened in May.

Carlson, who was Adventist Health's first virtual hospital patient in Mendocino County, says it's how a hospital experience should be: "This is my kind of hospital. I've always received great care here, but I just don't like being in a hospital. I can never get comfortable, because no matter what I do, it's not my home, not my bed."

And when he shared the good news with his family that he was "bringing the hospital home," Carlson knew he made the right decision. "The biggest part for me was when my 7-year old son gave me the biggest hug. He was so happy. He couldn't believe I was home. I knew they were worried about me."

Carlson says his experience was revolutionary and he is grateful to benefit from this innovative program that allows hospitals to add much-needed capacity during the pandemic, while improving the experience by caring for patients in their own homes through a virtual hospital.

Even as hospitals across the nation worked in no time to prepare to care for COVID-19 patients, the challenge for everyone was adding bed capacity. "Adventist Health realized early on that we had to identify how we could grow and have

the ability to take care of patients without building actual buildings, and it had to be done within a quick timeframe," explains Jason Wells, president for Adventist Health in Mendocino County.

The solution is a virtual hospital – a hospital with no beds or waiting rooms, through Adventist Health's Hospital@Home, an innovative plan that supplements acute care capacity by using virtual technology to safely treat hundreds of additional patients in their homes. The first of its kind in California, Adventist Health Hospital@Home began admitting patients in May.

In collaboration with Medically Home® and Huron, Adventist Health Hospital@Home initiated three Medical Command Centers inside its current hospitals that can manage as many as 150 beds at homes in targeted service areas. Each service area has Rapid Response Teams that deploy to patients' homes during scheduled visits when needed. These teams can accommodate a variety of clinical services, such as infusion, lab, pharmacy and mobile imaging, among others.

In addition to Mendocino County, the virtual hospital currently serves Bakersfield, Clear Lake, Glendale, Hanford, Los Angeles and Simi Valley. Adventist Health Ukiah Valley operates one of the three command centers located across the state. As a rural community with limited resources, Mendocino County is an ideal area for this innovative program.

Wells describes the project as an important window into the future of health

Read the rest of Virtual Over on Page 12

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At left: This single tree was the smallest of 13 lightning fires confirmed by CalFire Mendocino Unit since Sunday.

The rest of Fires From Page 1

CalFire's Mendocino Unit posted on Facebook Tuesday evening that they'd had 40 reports of fires from Sunday, August 16 through Tuesday, August 18. "Each report was investigated," the post said, with "13 reports confirmed as lightning fires; two were in the Mendocino National Forest; one was determined to be a campfire; and 24 were determined to be 'not as reported (no fire found).'"

The smallest lightning spot fire was a single tree, and the largest spot fire was 1 acre. Lightning fire "3-19" near Burris Lane in Potter Valley had burned 62 acres and was 40 percent contained as of Wednesday morning's update, when it was also reported "Fire resources were able to stop the forward progress of the fire. They will work today to extinguish hot spots and build containment lines."

The cause of the biggest recent local fire, the Creek Fire near Highway 162 and Short Creek Road 4 miles northeast of Covelo, reported as starting at 3:47 pm on Tuesday afternoon, is still under investigation. The Creek Fire prompted evacuation orders and warnings in parts of Covelo, as it grew rapidly, but all orders were lifted early Wednesday, though warnings remain in place.

As of CalFire's 7 pm Wednesday update, the Creek Fire is reported to have burned 800 acres, and is deemed 50 percent contained. Eight structures are still threatened, two outbuildings were destroyed. No firefighters or civilians have been injured.

"Fire resources will continue to work on active fire areas and work to increase containment lines," the update noted. "Firefighters face the challenges of steep and rugged terrain, critically dry and receptive fuel, along with higher temperatures, low humidity, and increased wind expected this evening."

On Wednesday afternoon, a new fire, the Red Fire along Highway 101 at Mile Post 37 on the Ridgewood Grade, Redwood Valley, was knocked down before it grew larger than 12 acres by CalFire air and ground resources.

At a press conference Wednesday afternoon, Gov. Gavin Newsom said California has already experienced more than 2,000 more wildfires in 2020 than at this time last year, amounting to a total of 6,754 blazes so far.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW285

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willits, at its regular meeting on August 26, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m., to be held via teleconference/video conference, will conduct a public hearing to discuss future applications for funding under the CARES Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) program and to solicit citizen input on possible activities to be included in future CDBG-CV applications. After discussion, the City Council shall consider adoption of a resolution approving application for funding and the execution of grant agreement and amendments thereto from the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program - Coronavirus Response Round 1 (CDBG-CV1) Funding NOFA Dated June 5, 2020. Said application will be for an amount not to exceed \$77,266 to be used for subsistence payments (water bill assistance) to eligible residents of the City. Eligible activities paid for with State CDBG-CV funds must benefit low and moderate-income households and provide assistance to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the public hearing is to give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known regarding what types of eligible activities the City of Willits should apply for in the next available and additional future opportunities under the State CDBG-CV program as well as comment on the proposed funding application.

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.

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 the Council and uploaded to the City's website in advance of the meeting.
- Oral public comments may be presented to the Willits City Council via teleconference during the public hearing. To address the Council 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 ensuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

/s/ Dusty Duley
Community Development Director
Posted: August 21, 2020
Published: August 20, 2020

LEGALS

WW283

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0371

The following person is doing business as Mendocino Janitorial, 15 Maple Street, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: David J. Edgar, 15 Maple Street, 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 filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 21, 2020

/s/ David J. Edgar

Publication dates: 07/30, 08/06, 08/13, 08/20/2020

WW282

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0358

The following person is doing business as T & N Market, 1250 South Main Street, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: Swamirupa 1986 Inc., 1250 South Main Street, Willits CA 95490.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on July 10, 2015

FBN statement renewed filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on July 16, 2020.

/s/ Trikamal T. Patel, President

Publication dates: 07/30, 08/06, 08/13, 08/20/2020

LEGALS

WW281

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0336

The following person is doing business as Camomoto, 1435 Hulett Place, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: Jean Hanamoto, 1435 Hulett Place, 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 renewed filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on June 25, 2020.

/s/ Jean Hanamoto

Publication dates: 07/30, 08/06, 08/13, 08/20/2020

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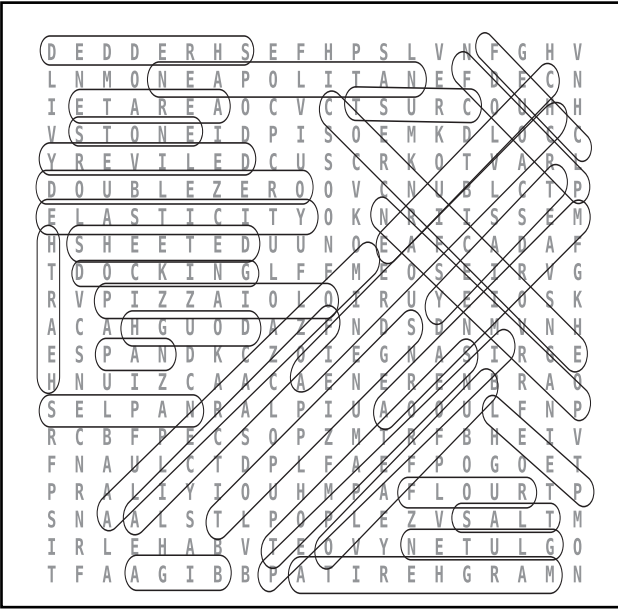
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CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help

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

Cottage for Sale

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

For Sale

Black Elder trees (Sambucus nigra), for sale in 3 and 5 gallon pots: \$15. Call 4459-5030.

Mendocino Counts!

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

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. 707-354-2473.

Outdoor Educator Wanted

Seeking highly motivated, organized, outdoor educator for small, conscientious, early childhood play group. Onsite housing available. Safety protocols and mitigation requirements. M-Th 8am - 2pm, salary DOE starting in September. Please send cover letter and resume to karrinstarr@gmail.com

Freezer Empty? We can help!

Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

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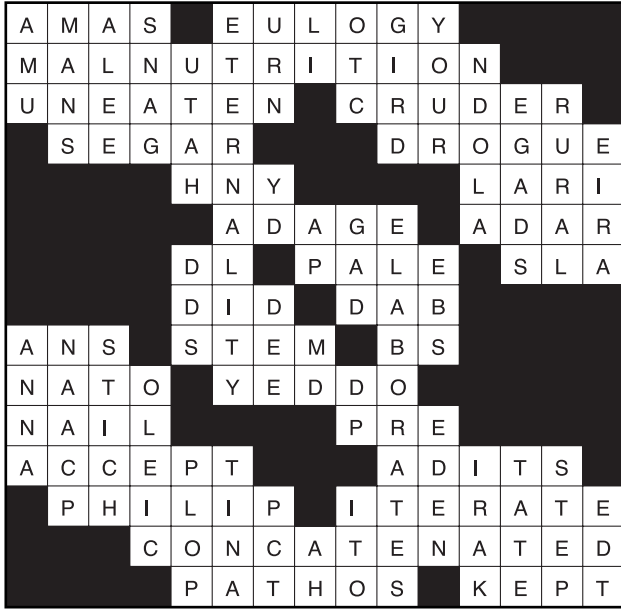
Golden retriever or a GR mix with a golden lab. Female puppy or up to 6 months. Call 459-3107, ask for Ron.

Willits Food Bank Open

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

COME WORK AT WECS!

Willits Elementary Charter School is looking for a classroom aide to join our team this year. You should like to help students, have patience, have experience with using computers and technology and enjoy being part of a team. Aides work about 25 hours per week. Please send resume to director@willits5kcharter.org



settled down,” said Chief Chris Wilkes at the August 11 meeting. “Go to the site, and you can almost start picturing ... it’s starting to take shape.”

In budget news, an actual and bigger than originally estimated budget is the welcome result of initial conservative projections that didn’t include revenue from the city’s cannabis excise tax, state Proposition 172 sales tax proceeds, or a share of the new county transient occupancy tax.

The actual “becoming more normal” budget includes \$70,000 from the cannabis tax and \$29,000 from the sales tax.

“The transient occupancy tax ... I can only think there will be some money,” said Wilkes. “We’re seeing camp trailers go through town like mad.”

More revenue is also expected from fees to be assessed on new property development within the department’s response area, but that source of money is held up for the moment awaiting the passage of the city and county ordinances necessary to establish the fees.

More volunteer firefighters, though, are a sure thing.

“We have a bunch of new members coming in. The roster’s going to be in the 35 range again,” said Wilkes.

More help also comes in the form of a local “mutual aid system ... [that] is working very well for us.... Mutual aid response has been huge ... extremely important,” said Wilkes. “Brooktrails is available to us as much as they can be.... The coordination is really good.”

And “Ridgewood Ranch is responding automatically to any fires that we have and has been responding to all vehicle accidents on the ridge with us.”

There are a lot of vehicle accidents on the ridge, and they pose a significant danger to first responders.

So much so that Wilkes had made a request to Caltrans “a long time ago [for an] electronic sign ... to help first responders ... that could be activated by the first responding agency.

“The sign that we requested ... it’s up,” said Wilkes. “We gave them statistics of accidents and some of the problems that we’ve had, and I have to tell you, Caltrans has been extremely receptive once they came out and looked at it.

“We don’t have the use of it yet. I’m curious to see how we activate it,” he said. “It’s very uncommon for a first responding agency to be able to turn on a Caltrans sign.... Hats off to Caltrans.”

Vehicle accidents, emergency medical services, fires, and more: The department responded to 71 local incidents in July, which, Wilkes said, was “in my career [he thought], a record.”

The department also participates in a larger regional and statewide way, by providing “assistance by hire” resources regionally and sending strike teams out statewide wherever needed ... both of which services are compensable in varying amounts dependent upon a host of governing regulations and agreements.

“There were three assistance by hire events: “the Condor incident way out in Brooktrails ... the Logan incident ... and the Mina incident, [both] in Covelo,” said Wilkes.

“We’ve also been to [multiple day] strike team assignments ... to the Badger fire in Yreka ... the Hog incident in Lassen ... the Apple incident in Riverside

... and then to the Stagecoach fire in Kern County.”

In addition to fighting fires, the department has responsibilities when it comes to preventing them from starting in the first place ... one example of which is enforcement of a city weed abatement ordinance.

Which should be simple enough. The department identifies weeds that constitute a fire hazard on a lot, issues an order, and the weeds get whacked.

But it isn’t. The department only has abatement authority within the boundaries of the City of Willits, and weeds don’t pay attention to city limits.

For example, just over one of those boundaries “next to Mill Creek Court off of Northbrook ... there are 6-, 7-, 8-foot-tall weeds,” said Wilkes. “And those weeds have a very concerned citizen that lives on Mill Creek Court ... who had a place burn down in Paradise ... feels like a fire could come rolling out of Brooktrails or anywhere in that area and burn down the houses on Mill Creek Court.

“And I think that’s a legitimate concern. I’m not going to argue with a concern like that,” he said. “However, there’s not much I can do.

“We did let the landowner know. We talked to him ... let him know he has civil and fiscal responsibility for any fire that’s kindled on his property. But whether he chooses to do anything about it or not is up to him,” said Wilkes. “He actually had his weed abatement contractor come out and cut a couple of swaths out behind those houses where he could.

“[He] will let anybody go out there and cut the grass down behind that fence,” said Wilkes. But “the folks that live on Mill Creek Court say it’s not their responsibility.

“People also say, ‘what about the 100 foot clearance’ required by Cal Fire,” he continued. “But that’s only for around structures, and there are no structures on this particular piece of property.... So there’s nothing to go 100 feet away from.

“To me, what it boils down to is being neighborly ... working with your neighbors,” said Wilkes. “But we can’t make people be neighborly with one another.

“These are the rough situations we run into,” he said. “It’s not only here. This is just the perfect example.”

Third District Supervisor John Haschak, who was at the meeting, agreed “that there’s a real problem here, [and told the board that] the county was just starting work on a vegetation abatement ordinance.

“Everyone can agree that it’s a good idea to have one,” he said. “But at the same time, getting into the ‘how it’s going to be enforced, and who’s going to do it, and how it’s written up’ ... it’s complicated because you have this wildland urban interface area all throughout our county.”

“I don’t envy you guys on crafting this ordinance because I think it’s going to be tough,” said Chief Wilkes. “I really do. I tried to explain that to the person making the complaint.

“She thinks there needs to be a statewide ordinance that makes these properties abate, [and] she’s gone as far as to talk to the county ... [and] she talked to McGuire’s office. She’s moving right up the chain ... to find something with traction and teeth to make something happen,” said Wilkes.

“It’s a big issue,” he said, “bigger than we can deal with.”

Alaniz advised: “All information regarding the candidates can be found on the County of Mendocino Elections web site, under the ‘Candidates’ tab.”

Alaniz reported there’s been quite a bit of activity by water crews on Sherwood Road recently – doing patching and leak detection and fixing leaks while out on the job.

“Our water supply is good,” she added. “In August we are reimplementing late fees, though we will not be instituting shut-offs.”

Next up for discussion were the two resolutions approving the application for Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program grant funds (Proposition 68 Round 4/Parcourse and Ohl Grove Revitalization projects). The board voted and approved the resolutions for Round 4 filing for grant funds by the December 14 deadline.

The board will take a brief break and will meet again at 7 pm on September 8.

July 28 Brooktrails meeting

All the Brooktrails Township directors were in attendance at the previous online board meeting, held on July 28, including President Williams, Santos, Tyler-O’Shea, Vice-President Tony Orth, and Ed Horrick, along with Manager Alaniz, legal counsel Chris Neary and Fire Chief Jon Noyer (after he returned from an emergency call).

Alaniz and Williams agreed the July 28 meeting could be counted as the most highly attended Zoom Brooktrails board meeting yet. Williams suggested that Mendocino County Third District Supervisor John Haschak, attending as a special guest, and this reporter be counted as “the public” in attendance.

There were a few technological “ins and outs” during the Zoom meeting – attendees being unable to participate or hear proceedings, and all agreed that this presented a challenge. Supervisor Haschak pointed out that not being able to see participants proves to be difficult, during call-in meetings or with telephone commenting, but happily, he remarked, that at least in this meeting he could “see everyone’s smiling faces.”

Manager Alaniz told directors that she’d received word from the City of Willits just that day that their sewer bond refinancing was successful, which will save money for Brooktrails as well as Willits. As amended, Alaniz said, the refinancing will save a total of \$1.9 million, or 12.18 percent of the total cost of the bonds.

Board president Williams surmised that “Brooktrails share will be approximately 37 percent of that,” and Alaniz in agreement said, “Brooktrails will save hundreds of thousands of dollars over the term of the bond refinancing in the coming years.”

It will also free up \$125,000 that Brooktrails has had to keep “in a restricted reserve.” “All in all, this is great for Brooktrails and great for the City of Willits,” Alaniz said. “Our customers will see savings over the years due to this. So, yay for that!”

Director Orth asked: “With the restricted funds being released, would this allow for a budget amendment to provide a benefit for the Primrose Lift Station?” Alaniz responded with, “That is a great question.”

Director Tina Tyler-O’Shea reported back that the members of the Brooktrails Recreation/Greenbelt Conservation committee were meeting on July 30 to look at the committee charter to update and to look at ways to increase membership and outreach efforts for that committee. Tyler-O’Shea also said: “The California Special Districts Association announced today that a ‘Special Districts Provide Essential Services’ act was

PC (Accessory), and then released to the custody of Sheriff’s Office detectives. Jackson also had multiple outstanding warrants for his arrest.

Jackson’s prior history with law enforcement includes being convicted of the murder of Brooktrails store owner Joan LeFeat when he was 15, with his friend Chris Coleman, who was convicted for the murder as an adult, and received 25 years to life. Jackson was convicted in juvenile court, of murder, robbery, burglary and attempted vehicle theft, and was released from the California Youth Authority when he was 23.

After reports of a shooting from a red Ford pick-up near the Round Valley Indian Health Center started coming in Monday morning, a Tribal Police officer spotted the suspect vehicle traveling westbound on Biggar Lane. The pick-up continued across Highway 162, almost striking the Tribal Police vehicle. The vehicle then pulled into the Tribal Cemetery on the west side of Highway 162. The Tribal Police officer attempted to contact the female driver and male passenger, but they fled into a wooded area where he lost sight of them.

Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office Detective Unit responded, as did the Mendocino Multi-Agency SWAT Team, the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, the California Highway Patrol, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The MCSO Marijuana Unit had been working the area with the California National Guard Counter Drug Team helicopter, which also responded to assist.

A shelter-in-place order was issued due to the armed and dangerous suspect loose in the area. An MCSO trailing bloodhound was used to track the suspects from the vehicle into the Mill Creek drainage. The adult female suspect, Shayla Dawn Guerrero of Ukiah, 31, who had been the driver of the vehicle, was located in the creek just north of the cemetery and detained. She was later arrested for conspiracy and accessory and booked into the Mendocino County Jail.

introduced in the U.S. Senate today.” This act HR 7073, would make special districts eligible for payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund if more than \$150 billion is appropriated to the fund. “More to be revealed,” Tyler-O’Shea said.

Vegetation abatement ordinance

Another topic of discussion was the hazardous vegetation abatement ordinance being put together at the county that will apply to unincorporated areas in Mendocino County. First District Supervisor Carre Brown is the sponsor, and correspondence indicates that this is something that’s being driven by Mendocino Fire Safe Council as well as the Deerwood Neighborhood Association and other neighborhood groups working on fire-related ordinances, coordination between neighborhoods, vegetation abatement grants, and projects through CalFire and the county.

“This is an opportunity for the county to look at a hazardous abatement ordinance like there is in Brooktrails,” Manager Alaniz said.

President Williams commented: “I have had communication with officials from the Fire Safe Council and was told that the chipper run by the Fire Safe Council had a huge amount, four full truckloads, go out of Brooktrails to the landfill recently. They are operating at this rate every weekend lately.”

Alaniz added: “Solid Wastes of Willits has reported that due to the pandemic with residents staying home, many residents have been cleaning up their properties, abating vegetation, and that is evident at the transfer station. A result of that is that Solid Wastes of Willits has been overflowing. More tonnage being transported and deposited allows for Brooktrails to receive a franchise fee revenue that results in a benefit for Parks and Recreation. That’s a nice bit of information.”

Tyler-O’Shea asked: “Is that hazardous abatement ordinance just in regards to vegetation, yard waste, or is that also inclusive of vehicles parked on the road that prohibit vehicles driving by one another?” Alaniz answered that hazardous abatement is inclusive of rubbish. Listed in that rubbish would be inoperable vehicles parked on property.

Tyler-O’Shea noted that roads, in the event of an emergency, are unsafe as they are – in effect, reduced to one lane with numerous vehicles, boats and semis parked on the sides of the road. Alaniz responded that, “Yes, that is definitely hazardous, but no, vehicles parked on the side of the road are not included in the ordinance.”

Supervisor Haschak was asked to comment on the progress of the potential county ordinance.

“We all want to have safer communities and to get rid of vegetation, i.e. dying trees and all that,” he said. “It’s just that the agenda item that came forth, that we had to work with in the ordinance was very bare-boned and so it really didn’t have any ‘meat’ to it, and we sent it back to be worked on. Hopefully, General Manager Alaniz and those at the county level can work on it. There are just a lot of unknowns about how it will come back and what it will actually deal with [at this time].”

Haschak said he was appreciative of the letter that Brooktrails had sent supporting the county’s potential ordinance. He added: “We don’t want to put more laws on the books that we are not able to enforce,” but “the concept is great, of course.”

Road repairs and internet access

Supervisor Haschak then answered questions from

The bloodhound followed the creek bed for approximately 1 mile west, until it lost the scent at the intersection of Refuge Road and Crawford Road. A continued search of approximately 3 square miles was unable to locate the suspect and the shelter-in-place order was lifted at 7:30 pm that night.

The deceased victim of the shooting was located in a very large marijuana growing operation encompassing approximately 15 acres. A search warrant was drafted for the scene. The second gunshot victim was interviewed, and indicated his vehicle had been stolen the day before.

He and another party saw the vehicle pull into the marijuana growing area where he waited while the other party left to locate Tribal Police. While the first party waited, a third person, uninvolved with the vehicle issue, stood nearby.

At one point the suspect entered the vehicle to flee, and the vehicle struck a large pole. The suspect exited and fired one round from a handgun at the first party, striking him and causing a minor wound. The round was believed to have continued on, striking the second party, who ultimately succumbed to his

injuries. MCSO has not been able to make a positive identification of the decedent, and next of kin have not been located.

Several weeks earlier, Jackson had fled from law enforcement in the Calpella area where deputies were seeking to arrest him on four outstanding warrants for his arrest.

Jackson currently has felony warrants for his arrest for making criminal threats, second degree robbery, cruelty to a child, dissuading a victim by force, rape by force, failing to appear on charges, committing a felony while on bail for a felony. He also has misdemeanor warrants for his arrest for cruelty to a child, battery, violation of a court order, and violation of probation.

This report was based on press releases from the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office.

the project, which is projected to cost nearly \$2 million in total.

The improvements at the airport in Brooktrails will include runway rehabilitation and alterations; taxiway relocation and construction; and “electrical relocations and rehabilitations” for lights and signs.

Community Development Director Dusty Duley said these changes were needed to keep the airport in compliance with FAA regulations and standards.

Team Ghilotti, Inc. out of Petaluma was awarded a contract of \$957,141 for construction on the project, while Mead & Hunt, Inc. will receive a contract of \$212,340 for “construction support services.”

According to the agenda summary report from Duley, “the scope of services are organized into six phases to include project management, pre-construction services, construction administration services, construction observation, material testing, and post construction services.”

Duley explained in the report that normally the city would have to provide 5.5 to 10 percent of the total costs for such a project, but the CARES Act included \$10 billion in funds for eligible airports.

“A portion of these funds are being used to increase the federal share to 100 percent for Airport Improvement Program and supplemental discretionary grants already planned for fiscal year 2020,” the report read. “The Airport Runway Rehab Construction Project is eligible to receive these funds and is expected to be fully funded by the FAA. Staff has included a request to reimburse up to \$18,975 in city staff time in our grant application, subject to FAA approval.”

At the meeting Duley said that due to an error on the part of the FAA’s financial department, there was a holdup on getting the agreement between the city and the FAA “fully executed,” but in his discussions with them they had assured him that there wouldn’t be a problem in moving forward.

“They apologized profusely, and they said that it shouldn’t be an issue to get that unfrozen and off to us any day now,” said Duley. “But you will notice that you got a revised resolution earlier today to make note that this project is contingent on receiving that funding from the FAA.”

The report said that the construction on the project is expected to take place in October of 2020, “subject to weather conditions and release of FAA funding,” and is likely to take up to 22 working days, during which time the airport runway would be closed.

Team Ghilotti beat out one competitive bidder for their contract, but “the city did not need to complete a competitive process for services” for Mead & Hunt, according to the report.

“Mead & Hunt, Inc. is the industry recognized expert in FAA/airport projects, and the only qualified consultant known to the city,” the report stated, “and the city has previously entered into a Master Service Agreement with Mead & Hunt, Inc. on May 25, 2017 to provide airport related services.”

Regarding enforcement of the city’s mask ordinance, which includes potential fines, she said, “We have not issued any citations, however we have issued warnings.”

Rec Grove trees

Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez inquired about trees that had recently been cut down in Recreation Grove, which she said she’d been receiving a lot of questions from the community about.

Deputy City Manager/City Clerk Cathy Moorhead responded that she had discussed the issue with Garrabrant-Sierra and Public Works Superintendent Kenan O’Shea.

“Apparently those were tagged by PG&E to take down because they interfered with the [power] lines on Commercial Street,” said Moorhead.

Garrabrant-Sierra added that PG&E had informed the city of their plans a while back, and she had forwarded that information to the councilmembers at the time.

She also noted that an arborist had been involved in the decision, and that PG&E had determined there were “safety issues” with the trees.

Water shut-offs

The council also approved a resolution which puts in place new state mandated regulations regarding when the city can shut off a customer’s water due to non-payment.

The regulations include “expanded notification procedures,” as well as producing a written water shutoff policy provided in multiple languages.

As described in the agenda report from City Attorney Jim Lance, the changes were needed to remain compliant with state law due to the passing of Senate Bill 998 (the Water Shutoff Protection Bill) in 2018, which increased safeguards for those who could potentially have their water service discontinued.

The new guidelines prohibit water shutoff to a customer until

a payment has been delinquent for at least 60 days. According to Lance’s report, the previous policy for the City of Willits was that “disconnection due to non-payment may occur 45 days after the billing date.”

Under the SB 998 rules, water shutoff by the city is also prohibited “while the delinquent payment is under investigation by the utility or under review for appeal, and while the customer is enrolled in an alternative payment arrangement.”

The city must also provide written or telephone notice at least seven days before discontinuation, and that notice “must contain information on the delinquent amount, a deadline to contact the utility to arrange for alternative payment arrangements, procedures to avoid discontinuation, and a description of the bill review and appeal process.”

Lance noted that “the impact of this legislation is anticipated to be significant. Every month, there are approximately 200 late bills. Negotiating and keeping track of payment plans, then hand noticing before shut offs will entail significant amounts of staff time and may require adding at least a half-time employee.”

The report also pointed out that currently there is a moratorium on water shutoff in California due to a health order as part of the state’s response to COVID-19 impacts, meaning some sections of the policy will not be implemented yet.

COVID update

City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra said the city was very supportive of the Mendocino County supervisors’ recent decision to develop materials in Spanish for COVID-19 updates and general information.

“This disease appears to be affecting disproportionately those of the Latinx community,” she said. “So it’s incredibly important that we get the message out in a bilingual manner, just so that all residents of Mendocino County have equal access to equal information. Any bilingual materials that are produced by the county we will be putting out to the City of Willits residents.”

Regarding enforcement of the city’s mask ordinance, which includes potential fines, she said, “We have not issued any citations, however we have issued warnings.”

Five months in, 104 active COVID cases

Since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Mendocino County on March 19, the county has confirmed a cumulative total of 579 cases of the disease. Of that number, 462 have been released from isolation.

As of Wednesday evening, the county has 104 confirmed active cases of COVID-19 in the county. Of those cases, 97 are being kept in isolation; four COVID-19 patients are in local hospitals; and three are in an intensive care unit in the county. Thirteen Mendocino County residents have died from the disease.

Looking at disease statistics along racial lines, 352 of all cases are among people of Latinx descent; 85 among whites; 27 among American Indians; 20 among Blacks; one among Asians; 106 are categorized as “unreported”; and six are classified as “other.”

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective, 437 cases reside in the Ukiah valley; 53 live in the north county; 58 are from the north coast; 20 are from the south county; and 11 are from the south coast.

Looking at the disease as broken up into age cohorts: 14 cases have been among people between the ages of 0 and 5; 27 cases between ages of 6 and 12; 52 people between the ages of 13 and 18; 203 people between the ages of 19 and 34; 136 people between the ages of 35 and 49; 88 people between the ages of 50 and 64; and 59 cases are among people who are 65 or older.

A total of 21,245 tests have been done in this county. As of Wednesday evening, the results of 1,627 tests, or 7.6 percent of the total number of tests, were pending.

Officially on the watch list now

During the board of supervisors meeting on August 18, both Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan, MD and county CEO Carmel Angelo were absent. Departmental Operations Center Manager Bekkie Emery provided most of the information on the pandemic to the supervisors. Emery said the state has finally placed Mendocino County on the state’s watch list; the county’s presence on that list has been back-dated to July 25.

As a practical matter, placement on the list will have no effect on Mendocino County regulations, since Doohan issued on July 24 a shelter-in-place public health order that anticipated the county would be placed on the watch list.

Emery told the supervisors that the public health staff has been “challenged” by the lack of bilingual staff. She also said that she and other departmental planners have put in a request to Carmel Angelo that the county hire a “COVID-19 unit.” Emery described the unit briefly as a three- to five-person unit that would manage the county’s response to the disease. Emery said that she is asking that the prospective employees be hired for a two-year period.

According to Emery, the University of California at San Francisco’s Richmond, California laboratory has greatly improved its turnaround time for processing the results of coronavirus tests and getting those results back to Mendocino County Public Health. Emery said the lab is now turning around those test results in four to five days.

She said the turnaround time for commercial labs, including the Quest Diagnostics lab in San Juan Capistrano, remains unchanged. Previously, other county personnel, including Public Health Officer Doohan, have said that the turnaround time for commercial labs is at 10 to 14 days. Emery said that people from her team are attempting to work through the time lag for other testing services.

Three law enforcement personnel whose forces have been given the task of enforcing the county’s public health orders virtually attended the supervisors meeting. They were Sheriff Matt Kendall, Special investigations Unit Manager John Martire, and Code Enforcement Acting Supervisor John Burkes. The three men agreed that over the past two weeks the COVID-19-related calls for service coming into their departments have decreased.

Brooktrails Director Santos regarding road repairs and said he’d heard a couple weeks ago that the Peacock Road repairs were 75 percent completed and Primrose Road repairs were 50 percent complete, and that “now they were even further along in the repair process.”

Regarding the Mallard Street repairs, General Manager Alaniz said the contractors and county crews have been delayed on the road construction side, but the sewer construction has moved forward effectively. There were, apparently, unanticipated excavation needs because of the very steep gully and the culvert there that caused the project to take considerable time. “It’s unfortunate that the road is incomplete, but the utilities have come along very well – daily pumping is no longer required – so the road construction will be able to move forward to completion,” she said.

President Williams had another question for Supervisor Haschak. “Every rural and country governmental organization in the entire United States has now gone to distance meetings utilizing the internet,” Williams said. “Schools, rural and country in the entire U.S. are now trying to figure out how to implement universal access/ connectivity for students for education by way of the internet. Now, if there’s ever going to be an energy boost and driver for adequate internet access in every rural community, now would be that moment. Are you aware of any county or state organizations that have large rural

Martire said call volume was down about half, when compared with the previous two weeks. Kendall said his department had received 43 calls for service on COVID matters between August 1 and August 17; whereas on August 4, Kendall told the board that his department had received 65 calls for service on COVID enforcement between July 16 and August 3.

Local control

In the absence of both Doohan and Angelo, the board of supervisors took a somewhat more aggressive approach toward solving the county’s COVID problems. One problem the board vowed to work on is the state’s “one size fits all” approach to restrictions on businesses during the pandemic. The issue is the lack of any data which shows a connection between certain personal services industries which have been shut down by the health orders and any confirmed COVID-19 cases coming out of them.

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams asked Emery if she knew of any COVID-19 cases that have come from hair salons in this county. Emery said she did not know the answer to that question, but that she would get it for Williams. Williams also asked if Emery knew of any COVID cases that have come from visitors to this county. Emery did not know the answer to that question, either.

Haschak asked Emery for a report on where COVID-19 cases are coming from in this county. Emery said she would have that information to Haschak by August 20.

Third District Supervisor and board Chair John Haschak said that Williams had written a letter, to be sent to the California Department of Public Health, asking for a little more “local control” in restricting local businesses. The letter said there needed to be some data that shows that there is a connection between a given profession, or industry, and the disease; and that an industry, such as barbering or hair dressing, should not be shut down or be required to work “outside,” as is currently the case, when there is no data that shows that any cases of COVID-19 have been transmitted to local people from those businesses.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen told Haschak he had written a letter on the same topic and urged Haschak and Williams to send his letter, instead of theirs.

“I did draft a letter last night that has been uploaded to this agenda item,” McCowen said. “I believe it’s been uploaded at the bottom of all public correspondence. I would request that ... we defer the item until this afternoon.

“The board can have an opportunity to look over the letter that I’ve submitted, and perhaps we can discuss whether we wish to either send the letter, or send it as modified, or not send it at all,” McCowen said.

Haschak told McCowen that he and Williams would read McCowen’s letter and would consider whether to incorporate parts of it into Williams’ letter. Haschak said the board didn’t have time to come back for further discussion on the letters later in the day.

“I think this is going to be a quick process,” Haschak said. “Because we do understand that there is an urgency to it at this point, now that we are on the watch list.”

Williams explained why the letter which he had drafted previously had not yet been sent. “After our last meeting [which took place on August 4] we thought we were being put on the watch list immediately, within a day or so, and, of course, that didn’t happen,” Williams said. “It happened less than 24 hours ago.

“Arguing that the state had restricted us, when in fact, they hadn’t – we had restricted ourselves, preemptively, to try to maintain some local control for what we thought was coming – felt like too convoluted of an argument. I think we are in a better situation now that we are on the watch list, and, in fact, it is the state that’s restricting business,” Williams said.

McCowen again asked that his letter be considered and Haschak said he and Williams would read it.

The rest of **Virtual** *From Page 8*

care. It is intended to answer many of the challenges of health care in rural communities, spurred by today's immediate need to quickly expand hospital capacity. "For a rural community such as ours with limited beds, an additional 25 beds is significant. This innovative program will serve as another tool in our county's continued fight against COVID-19 and beyond."

After being admitted to his home, Carlson watched the Rapid Response Team set up his hospital. There was the same equipment you would expect in a typical hospital – a monitor, a blood pressure cuff, minus the hospital gown; and he could sleep in his own bed and recover with his family at his side.

"I'm not good with technology, but the team provided me with everything we needed," he says. "The process was seamless, and they were very patient with teaching us how to use the equipment."

Equipped with a tablet and devices such as a blood pressure monitor and scale that streamed his vital signs and other data from his home to the command center 20 miles away, Carlson and his team of providers and nurses managed his condition as he safely recovered at home. Throughout his five-day stay at the virtual hospital, physicians and nurses checked in on Carlson sometimes

as many as four times a day, or as needed. A field nurse visited his home once a day to administer medications and perform nursing care.

"At any time, if I had a question or needed to talk to a nurse, all I needed to do was press a button," he says. "It felt good to know that even though I was home, I had a team of professionals behind me."

Jill Bartolomie, MSN, RN, director for Adventist Health Hospital@Home for Mendocino County, shares that about 25 nurses and physicians monitor and connect with patients 24 / 7, answering questions about medications, signs, symptoms, medication side-effects, normal and abnormal findings and more.

"Our nurses have a direct connection with patients, much like they would if they were recovering in one of our brick-and-mortar departments," Bartolomie explains. "If a patient needs something in the hospital, they press their call light and someone answers immediately. The same concept holds true for a patient being cared for at home. Especially during this pandemic, through this program, we are able to keep our patients safe, and more importantly, take care of them in a location where they are more comfortable."

Adventist Health Hospital@Home represents innovative thinking that will provide a flexible tool for managing waves of potential COVID-19 outbreaks in nine Adventist Health service areas over the next year. This new model also holds the promise of long-term improvements for

patients and their care, since the virtual hospital model will reshape the way acute care is delivered to the system's communities. Similar services piloted across the country have demonstrated improvements in safety and quality, including reduced readmissions, fall risk, and length of stay.

"This concept allows us to deliver high-tech, complex hospital care to a patient's home. Our clinicians can infuse medications, perform X-rays and place central lines in the home. The technology platform enables physicians to provide care with the highest degree of compassion, and patients are more comfortable being treated at their homes," explains Debbie Marks, MD, emergency physician at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley.

To Carlson, what was the most valuable was being able to receive hospital care with his family at his side, especially during the pandemic. "That was my initial apprehension about staying at the hospital. I knew my children wouldn't be able to see me. I have a special-needs child and being away from me would have been very challenging for him. Being able to recover, surrounded by my family, without me having to worry about them has been a blessing, and I think it really helped me get better faster."

More information about Adventist Health's virtual hospital is available at www.AdventistHealth.org/VirtualHospital.

See the TIME Magazine story about our virtual hospital here: www.time.com/5876549/telehealth-hospitals-covid/

Below: The Willits tract of the 2020 Census is at 62 percent responding, a bit higher than the 52.2 percent rate countywide.

Region		Self Response Rate per USCB updated 8/13/2020					
Census Tract #	Cities/Towns	State Total	County Total	Tract Total	Tract Internet	Tract 2010 Final	Difference Current Rate to Final Rate
101	Dos Rios, Covelo, Round Valley	65.1	52.2	25.2	12.1	38.3	13.1
102	Westport, Branscomb, Piercy, Leggett, Laytonville			28.6	15.6	32.8	6.2
103	Cleone, Unincorporated East Fort Bragg			58.9	47.6	62.4	3.5
104	Fort Bragg			62.2	49.5	64.3	2.1
105	Fort Bragg			62.7	47	68.7	6.0
106.01	Unincorporated SW Willits			55.6	20.8	63.3	7.7
106.02	Brooktrails, Northspur			57	22.3	59.9	2.9
107	Willits			62.9	48.5	68.5	5.6
108.01	Redwood Valley			56.6	46.4	63.5	6.9
108.02	Potter Valley			47.8	18.2	53.6	5.8
109	Greenfield Ranch, Calpella			55.9	23	66.9	11
110.01	Little River, Albion, Elk			43.4	30.7	27.8	-15.6
110.03	Caspar, Unincorporated East Fort Bragg			56.1	45.8	61.3	5.2
110.04	Mendocino, Unincorporated Areas			47	37.2	33.4	-13.6
111.02	Manchester, Point Arena, Gualala			35.9	27.9	9.1	-26.8
112	Comptche, Navarro, Philo, Boonville			39.7	27.6	28.3	-11.4
113	Unincorporated West Ukiah			58.1	48.4	68.7	10.6
114	Ukiah			71.2	59.9	81.4	10.2
115.01	Ukiah			68.7	54.6	77.5	10.8
115.02	Ukiah			54.1	41.1	70.5	16.4
116	Ukiah			50.6	22.3	66.6	16
117	Talmage, Unincorporated East Ukiah			62.3	52.2	64.1	1.8
118	Yorkville, Hopland			41.8	21.1	39.3	-2.5

The rest of **Census** *From Page 3*

Federal census enumerators will be going door-to-door with masks and social distancing to visit those who have not filled in their forms, to try and help them do so.

In addition to the money the county will receive, an accurate count will allow for the proper influence in Congress through the number of U.S. representatives who can be elected from the area. None of the nine answers given by the responder will be shared by any other government or law enforcement agencies. This is a chance to have an influence in the future of the county.

There is still time to complete this simple task and ensure that the county obtains the funds it needs for public services. There are three ways to respond: 1. Online at www.my2020census.gov. 2. By phone at 844-330-2020 (844-468-2020 for Spanish). 3. By mail if you have received a paper form.

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.

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3 Marcela Drive, Suite C, Willits
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