

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 370 **Thursday, September 10, 2020**

City OKs rezoning of Blosser Lane property

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
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At their August 26 meeting the Willits City Council approved the rezoning of 5.68 acres owned by the Willits Unified School District near Blosser Lane School from “industrial” to “residential medium density.”

As reported in the last issue of Willits Weekly, WUSD Superintendent Mark Westerburg said at a recent school board meeting that the rezoning could potentially enable them to sell the property and use the funds to “put a roof on Blosser and a

Read more of **Blosser**

Over on Page 4

Climate committee crawling forward

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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The Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee has met five times since last November, has submitted a declaration of climate emergency which was adopted by the board of supervisors, and is drafting a list of recommendations for the supervisors to consider as well as a baseline analysis of countywide greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the committee Chair Marie Jones, the committee has agreed to work as two sectors: an inland group and a coastal group. As of the committee's May meeting, the coastal group had prepared an

Read the rest of **Climate**

Over on Page 11

News on the COVID front

Mike A'Dair
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On August 28, California Governor Gavin Newsom introduced a new system to regulate how counties are allowed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a four-tiered system arranged in descending order, from bad conditions to good conditions. Counties are assigned to tiers based on their average daily case rate for a week's period and their percentage of testing positivity over the same prior week.

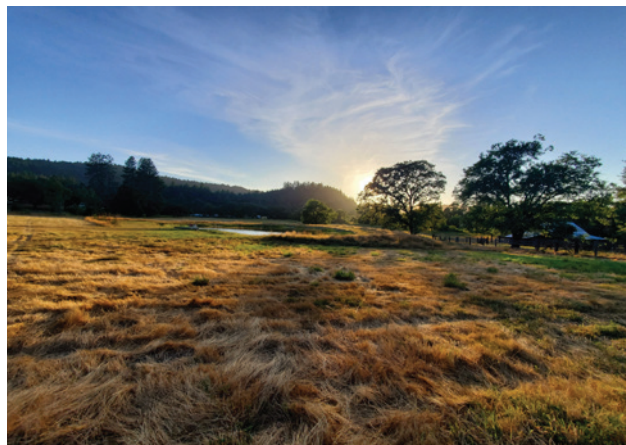
Mendocino County is listed in the highest, or “purple” tier, which means

Read the rest of **COVID**

Over on Page 11



Better smoke than fire ... but yikes



At top and above: Two photos of the same view – one during a normal summer day, the other during Willits' Mars-theme takeover on Tuesday, September 7.

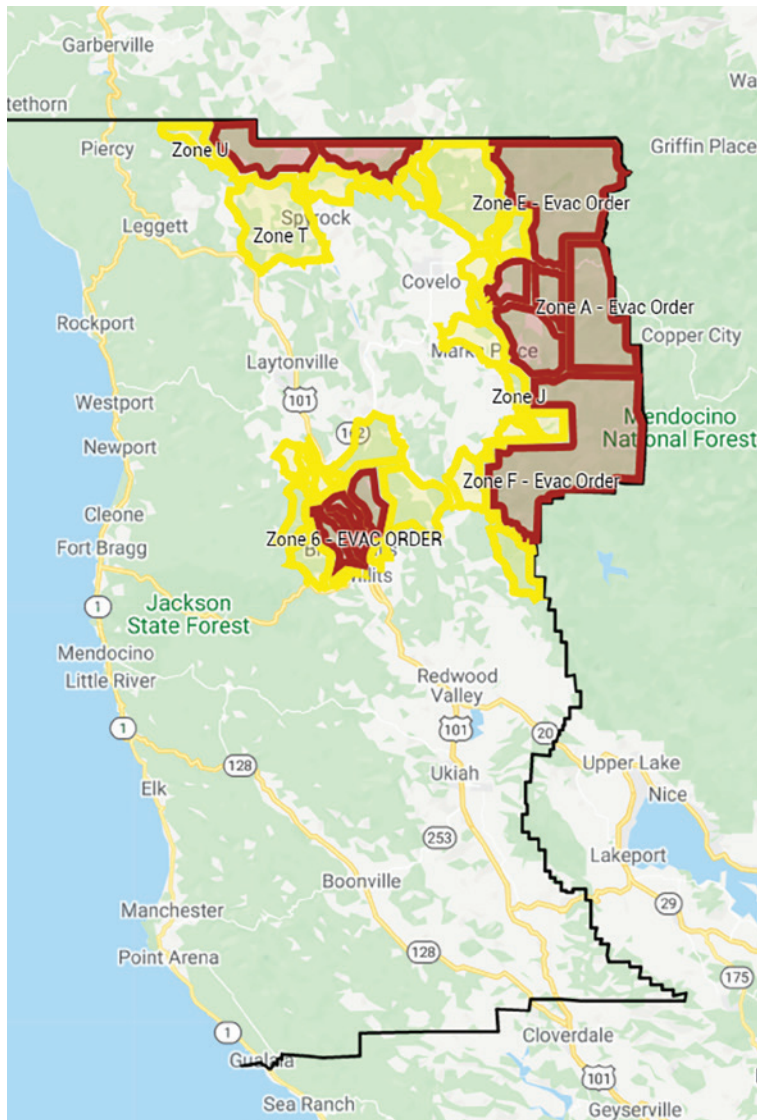
Photos by Maureen and Matthew Jennison

Willits and surrounding areas spent a very surreal day Tuesday when the sky turned shades from flaxen, to rich honey, to apricot, to pumpkin, to crimson, to mahogany, before darkening so heavily that streetlights turned on and 3 pm felt like bedtime.

Wednesday seemed to remain rather “dijon” in color throughout (is that somehow better?), and residents woke up to ash-covered cars and roads, heavy enough to leave snow-like tracks visible for some time.

As terrible as the air quality and smoke are, there are firefighters and first responders and essential workers out there in the thick of it, not being able to hide indoors. They're doing their best to keep things safe (and improving) for all of us. Please be patient, respectful and helpful, and hopefully we can all get back to a more normal way of living soon.

– Maureen Jennison



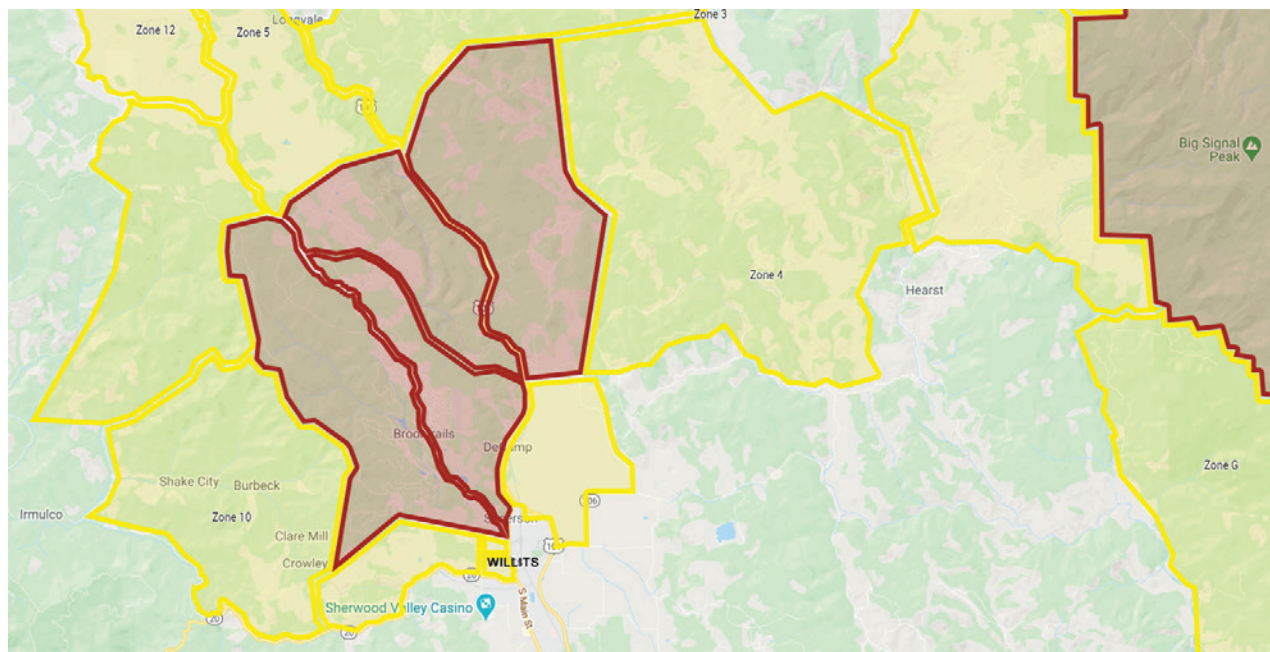
Ash from area fires blankets vehicles, above, and parking lots, below, Wednesday morning.



Evacuation Map

At left: Mendocino County Sheriff's Office new online evacuation map, showing all fire evacuation orders (outlined in red) and evacuation warnings (outlined in yellow) in Mendocino County (outlined in black). To view the map, go to <https://tinyurl.com/MendoEvac>. You can zoom in very close on the online map, so that street names and other landmarks are easy to see, or you can zoom out to see the bigger picture.

Below: This view of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office evacuation map gives a closer look of the Oak Fire evacuation order and evacuation warning zones in Brooktrails, Willits and surrounding areas. It also shows the yellow warning zones from the August Complex Fire on the right side of the image, which were expanded Wednesday to butt right up against the eastern end of the Oak Fire warning zones.



Wednesday brings guarded optimism on Oak Fire

Jennifer Poole
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While anxious Willits and Brooktrails area residents waited under a red and ashy sky on Wednesday, and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office continued to expand county evacuation zones in other areas, local officials felt positive about the status of the Oak Fire.

The 7 pm CalFire update on Wednesday reported containment on the Oak Fire was up to 25 percent, from 10 percent containment that morning. The acreage numbers remained the same as they've been at 863 acres burned, with two structures reported destroyed, although that damage number is expected to change.

The smoke conditions were better Wednesday than on Tuesday, when the smoke kept increasing so much that by 3 pm, it looked literally as dark as night in Willits, with all the street lights on and crickets chirping as if the sun had set. Air quality numbers

Read the rest of **Fire**

Over on Page 10

Supes advance on public safety oversight board

Mike A'Dair
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On a unanimous vote during the September 1 meeting, the board of supervisors directed county counsel to prepare a written framework for the establishment and operation of a public safety oversight committee.

The vote did not create the advisory committee, but it authorized the creation of the framework by which the new Public Safety Advisory Board will be governed.

The supervisors approved the agenda item with little discussion.

According to the agenda summary, the committee is to consist of one county supervisor who will serve a one-year term on the committee; and five public members, one from each supervisorial district, who will be appointed by that district's supervisor and who will be approved by the entire board. These five members will also serve

Read the rest of **Oversight**

Over on Page 10

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and
thank you letters from our readers

Election concerns?

Volunteer

To the editor:

I worried: “How can every voter in the U.S. cast ballots that get counted, during COVID 19? Will the Post Office be overwhelmed with election mail? What about states that don’t offer voting by mail?” I personally want to do something about it, so I started looking for a way. Here’s what I found so far:

Four non-partisan organizations working to ensure all Americans have access to the vote:

Rock the Vote is a nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to building the political power of young people. <https://www.rockthevote.org>

Vote Riders helps voters in states with new ID requirements get current on registration. Their website shows a map of the states indicating where new ID rules are in effect. <https://www.voteriders.org>

Reclaim Our Vote supports voters of color in high voter-suppression states. <https://nationalvoter corps.org/naacp-phonebanks>

Election Protection: Lawyers and voting rights activists volunteer to ensure every voter’s voice is heard at the polls. <https://electionprotection.wetheaction.org>

There are also organizations to volunteer for that work in swing states to flip senate races or Electoral College results. Anyone can volunteer for or donate to a candidate, a party, or an organization.

Jennifer Nuñez-Ward, Willits

Now I’m not worried. Several of us in Round Valley are writing postcards, phone banking and text-banking. How about our friends in Laytonville and Willits? Opportunities abound!

Susan Barger, Round Valley

Vote No on Measure I

To the Editor:

This past March, the voters of Willits said “No” to Measure G, but the superintendent and four of the five board members ignored that. Now, on the November ballot, the same measure will appear *again* as Measure I. It will be a property tax on homeowners, agricultural lands, and small businesses, those of us who have already been hit hard economically.

Measure I says that if the economy is bad, the board can lower the tax charges, which are currently at \$40.00 per \$100,000 of accessed value, even to waiving the tax altogether. However, we are already in a bad economy, but it was still put on the ballot by the superintendent and those same four board members. Do you really think tax percentages will drop? They certainly won’t this year.

Some other reasons for voting “No on I”

include, but aren’t limited to:

1). People are already struggling financially. An additional \$80 to \$120 (or more) per year would be an unnecessary hardship. Unnecessary because:

2). The Willits Unified School District’s Reserve account has over \$1 million above the state’s Reserve account requirement. That means that of the over \$1.6 million that’s in the reserve, \$ 1 million could be spent on repairs before asking voters to pay more – especially when the first year of expected revenue from Measure I would only be about \$600,000.00 because the charter schools would receive about \$450,000.

3). The district has a Maintenance Department that can do the work targeted for Measure I and has plenty of time to do it. School has been out since March, and students will be doing virtual learning for the next few months at least. Also, the money being spent on both the failed Measure G and the upcoming Measure I (\$27,000 – for March and November) could’ve been used on some of those repairs.

4). Alternatively, a Yes on Proposition 15 vote would bring \$1.4 million into Willits USD, and come from big businesses and major corporations. This money would come from the closing of loopholes in Proposition 98. It would not affect homeowners, agricultural lands, or small businesses.

Please, vote No on Measure I.

Soroptimist International speaker

To the Editor:

The public is invited to join Soroptimist International of Willits next Tuesday, September 15th, for a Zoom speaker meeting with Annu Subramanian, Tuesday September 15, 2020 at noon, on Zoom! R.S.V.P. to siwillits@soroptimist.net for Zoom link.

Our speaker will be writer/educator Annu Subramanian joining us, from Albany, NY. Her topic will be: “Human Trafficking: A Rising Global Epidemic” and how women’s networking (or any community-based networking) can take essential steps to raise awareness.

Annu Subramanian is an educator, a writer of conscience, and a human-rights advocate from Albany, New York. She was chosen as a national finalist by Norman Mailer Center and National Council of Teachers of English in 2011 for her short story titled “So Fair and Very Lovely” and as an Educator of Excellence in 2011 by New York State English Council.

Using her novels as resources, Annu Subramanian conducts workshops on

“Teaching Humanity Through Literature” and speaks at various events to raise funds for grassroots movements, to promote women’s empowerment, and to address human-rights abuse. She is using “Another Heaven,” her second novel, to benefit victims of human trafficking. Proceeds from “Waiting For The Perfect Dawn” (her debut novel) benefit victims of domestic violence.

Vicky Ham, Soroptimist International, Willits

Local elections statements now posted

Submitted by the Mendocino County Elections Office

Candidate statements (“statements of qualifications”) for the November 3, 2020 election, plus the full text of measures, as they will appear in the sample ballot for local races, have been uploaded to the Elections Office website and are available to the public for viewing, according to Assessor-County Clerk Recorder Katrina Bartolomie.

Candidates who submitted candidate statements for the following jurisdictions: Fort Bragg Unified School District; Point Arena Schools; Ukiah Unified School District; Willits Unified School District; Supervisor, 1st District; Supervisor, 2nd District; City of Ukiah Council Members; City of Willits Council Members; Mendocino City Community Services District; Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District; and Potter Valley Irrigation District can be viewed at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/current-election-information>.

Measures Submitted to the Voters - Full Text of Measures: Measure I – Willits Unified School District; and Measure K – City of Willits can be viewed at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/vitals-fees/measures-on-the-ballot>.

If you have any questions, or need assistance, please call our office at 707-234-6819 or email our office at mvcvotes@mendocinocounty.org

Sherwood Firewise online meeting to discuss Brooktrails evacuation

Posted by Sherwood Firewise Communities

Please join Sherwood Firewise at our next monthly online meeting on Thursday, September 10 from 6 to 8 pm with presentations from Supervisor John Haschak and the Sherwood Firewise Communities team with evacuation updates.

You can email questions before the meeting to info@sherwoodfirewise.org or use chat to send questions during the meeting.

The plan was to learn about what each individual, their household, neighborhood and community can do to prepare for emergencies, including evacuations. Because of the current pandemic, new supplies and procedures need to be added to existing evacuation checklists and “Go Bags,” such as washable facial coverings and hand sanitizers as well as consideration of safe locations to evacuate to where social distancing can be maintained. Updates will be provided on Sherwood Firewise vegetation management and emergency access routes improvement projects.

The reality is we were evacuated. Discuss evacuation experiences at the meeting.

The Zoom meeting online offers viewing of presenter materials but can also be attended by telephone for those that want to join with audio only.

To Join Using the Zoom Platform:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625036304?pwd=dWVpYXpnSkwrQkxkbXRRZd6T3E5dz09>

Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304 Password: 918795

OR

To Join by Telephone: (audio only or for audio while viewing meeting on computer without mic or speaker.) Call: 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304 Password: 918795

For more information on Sherwood Firewise Communities, visit www.sherwoodfirewise.org/ or check their page on Facebook, www.facebook.com/sherwoodfirewise.

Program can help low-income seniors with defensible space

Posted by the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

The Defensible Space Low Income Program helps low-income seniors and physically disabled persons adhere to defensible space regulations. If you are physically and financially unable to maintain the state-mandated 100 feet of defensible space around your home, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council’s Defensible Space Low Income Program may help.

DSLIP services may include:

- Brush and tree trimming/thinning.
- Raking of dead leaves and pine needles.
- Chipping of removed vegetation (potentially). Chips are left onsite.
- On-site education about effective defensible space.
- Initial 4 to 8 hours of defensible space clean-up depending on property needs.
- Performed by professional contractors who are insured.

Guidelines:

- Must be over 65 or have a medical physical disability making it impossible for you to do the clean-up work yourself.
- Must be deemed financially unable to hire a contractor.

- One-person household: Income is less than \$2,842 (monthly) or \$34,100 (annually)

- Two-person household: Income is less than \$3,246 (monthly) or \$38,950 (annually)

Please find the link to the online form to sign up for the DSLIP program here: <https://firesafemendocino.org/defensible-space-assistance-program/>. If you do not have internet access, please call the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council at 707-462-3662 to sign up.

Notes:

- This program is funding-dependent, and services are offered on a first-come, first-served basis as program funds are available and as efficient scheduling of contractors permits.
- Dead tree removal is not included in this service.

This program is offered by the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council. Funding is currently provided by a grant from Pacific Gas & Electric. Current funding extends only through November 2020, so be quick. However, if you qualify and your work cannot be funded with current grant resources, we will keep your application in file for future potential opportunities.



Harvesting Security

Local auctioneer Rachel Britten is new owner of the Mendocino Grain Project

“You have to love it or you wouldn’t be crazy enough to do this,” said Rachel Britten, new owner of the Mendocino Grain Project. “I don’t usually wear shorts in the field, but it’s Saturday. I feel if I dress like it’s the weekend and work, it feels more like it’s still a Saturday.”

So says one of the hardest working persons in Mendocino County. Britten, known to many in Mendocino as an auctioneer, presiding over many events, fundraisers, and farm auctions, has just embarked on the project of a lifetime, taking over the Grain Project business from Doug Mosel.

“Doug Mosel started it in 2009 as a response to some of the work that the Anderson Valley Food Shed Group was doing, also WELL and the Little Lake Grange, trying to identify weaknesses in the local food system,” explained Britten.

“One of the things that was identified was staple crops and grains. Doug grew up a farm boy in Nebraska. He had a multitude of other careers but he was the one to step up to this challenge. He started the Grain Project with the intention of producing grain that would be locally available.

Having completed her stint working for John Jeavons of Ecology Action, author and founder of the modern biointensive-gardening movement, helping to run one of his teaching and research gardens at the Golden Rule, Britten heard that Mosel was looking for someone to take over the business. She had been attending Mosel’s Grain School at the School of Adaptive Agriculture, where his aim was to teach the next generation of farmers in the latest methods.

“That started my relationship with Doug,” explained Britten. “Originally, what I said to Doug was, ‘I’ll help you find your successor.’ He said he needed someone with some machine familiarity and with some agriculture background. (Having grown up in Iowa, Britten was familiar with the

Read the rest of **Grain** Over on Page 10



Above: Rouge de Bordeaux wheat is one of the grains grown by the Mendocino Grain Project. Above, right: Rachel Britten loves the process and science of growing wheat and other grains.



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459-3106

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Photo by Maureen Jennison

CALIFORNIA COASTAL
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EL LUGAR
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PROTECT
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Coastal
Cleanup
Month

in September 2020

Submitted by the Mendocino Land Trust

Big changes are coming to this year's Coastal Cleanup Day. For one thing, it now lasts all month! Instead of the usual one-day extravaganza, the Coastal Cleanup will now span all of September, with an emphasis on each Saturday morning from 9am to noon.

This year's participants are encouraged to pick up trash within their own neighborhoods and nearby wildlands and watercourses in order to prevent refuse from eventually running off into our ocean.

While we're sad to see the old event go, this new format also brings opportunities. Mendocino Land Trust is excited to announce our first-ever Coastal Cleanup photo contest. Whoever submits a winning photograph of you and your bubble cleaning up trash will be awarded a free MLT tote bag.

There will be three separate prizes: the Staff Choice Award, the People's Choice Award, and the Weirdest Trash Award. Use the Instagram hashtag #MLTphotocontest2020 or email info@mendocinolandtrust.org to enter your photograph for a chance to win.

Household groups or individuals are encouraged to participate in the Coastal Cleanup by using the Clean Swell app, which can be found on the Ocean Conservancies website at: <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/cleanswell/>.

This app allows individuals to record the items they collect and contribute their work to a global database that tracks trash density and composition in coastal areas around the world. Alternatively, participants can mail in trusty data cards in either English or Spanish.

Please note that trash will not be picked up or collected by a third party, so it is your responsibility to ensure that any waste you collect is properly disposed of.

We also want to emphasize that there are risks to participating in this event, especially given the ongoing pandemic. If you choose to participate, please exercise caution by using protective equipment (including gloves and pickers), maintaining social distance, and being extremely cautious with waste that is likely to be contaminated such as PPE or cigarette butts.

The Coastal Commission has compiled a helpful list of safety guidelines, "Guidance for Neighborhood Cleanups" at <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/Guidance.pdf> that should be followed carefully.

For more information and the latest updates, keep an eye on the Coastal Cleanup page of our website, <http://www.mendocinolandtrust.org/about-us/news/big-changes-to-coastal-cleanup/>.



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Online Improv

Mendocino's Hit & Run Theater holds virtual "Under House Arrest! IV" comedy show on Saturday, September 19

Submitted by Hit & Run Theater

Hit & Run Theater is an improvisational and comedy theater group headquartered in the town of Mendocino. Active since 1979, the group has produced over 20 comedy revues and numerous improvisational comedy shows.

On September 19, the group will host "Under House Arrest! IV" – but this time, with an online showing. The performance will be available to watch from 6 to 7:15 pm on Zoom, where the first 100 attendees will be able to access the show via: <https://tinyurl.com/y3mj8r9o>. If the 100 cap is reached, the show will also be available to be watched through the group's YouTube link: <http://www.thesnapsessions.com/youtube>

OBITUARY |

Jerry Brooks

Gerald "Jerry" LeRoy Brooks, Sr. was loved by many, and passed away August 8, 2020 at the age of 83. Jerry leaves behind a brother Joe Brooks, a son Gerold "Sonny" L. Brooks, Jr., a stepson Jack Shannon, a stepdaughter Reba Shannon, and four step-grandchildren, Robert Lee, Robert Dale, Michael, and Eric. He survived his wife, Minona Brooks, who passed away March 14, 2019.



Jerry enjoyed the outdoors and going to the casino. He was also known for his stories about his time working on the Skunk Train as an engineer. He worked for the Skunk Train for 30 years. While working on the Skunk Train, a song was written about him jumping off the train and breaking his back. The song is called "Engineer Brooks"; it was written by Greg Schindel and can be found on YouTube.

Jerry wrote two books, and he also was a very good painter. This wonderful man was a pillar of this community, and he will be greatly missed.



HIT & RUN UNDER HOUSE ARREST! IV

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 6PM ON ZOOM!

PLEASE CLICK THIS LINK TO "ATTEND" ZOOM SHOW

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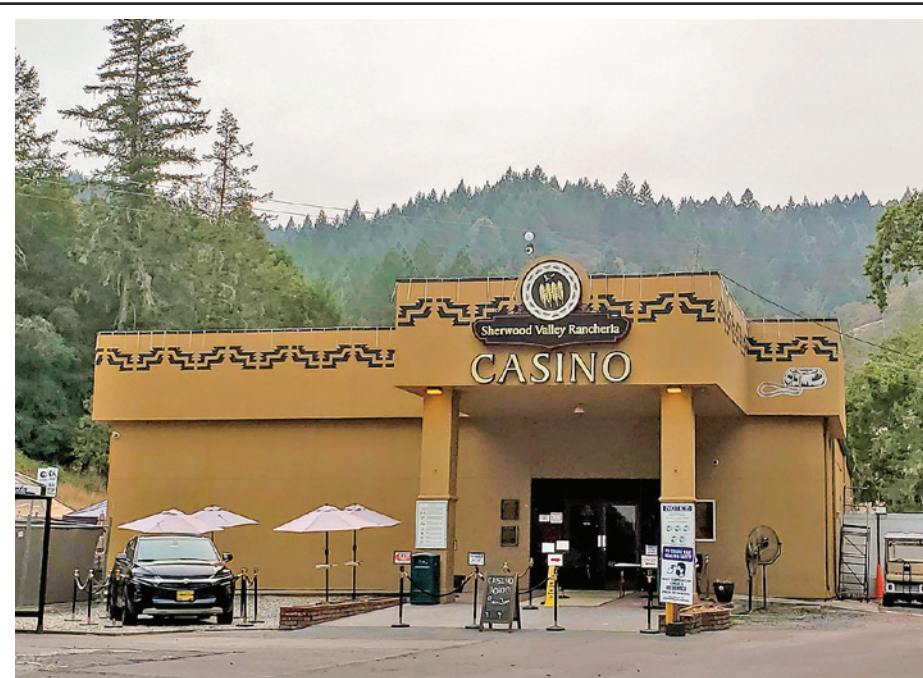
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The rest of Blosser | From Page 4

comments saying he didn't think it would be problematic to have the residential homes there.

"We're the neighbors to Bruce's industry as well, I don't want you to forget that," he said. "And so we're pretty aware of the noise and the sound and all that, and to be honest with you it's not much of an issue - it virtually is no issue, I've never heard anybody even say anything about it in five years that there's a single noise or a problem. And his business works during the day when we're in session."

"We just dropped in cannabis cultivation a rock's throw from Baechtel [Baechtel Grove Middle School on Magnolia Street]" he noted. "Is that going to create a smell over at Baechtel? Is that a good use for that property right next to the middle school? Now, I didn't get involved in that because I figured it was his property and he's entitled to have what businesses he wants on it. So I'm just asking for the same."

In the end the resolution passed 3-1 with Councilmember Greta Kanne voting against, and Mayor Gerry Gonzalez abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

After Gonzalez consulted with City Attorney Jim Lance, he decided that he would abstain since he has worked as a part-time substitute teacher at Blosser Lane, and is on the board of the Willits Kids Club, which would be affected by the rezoning.

The motion from Councilmember Saprina Rodriguez which was approved included a 35-foot easement on the west side of the property for emergency access to the Kids Club and Blosser Lane School.

Elections drop box at City Hall

Councilmember Madge Strong said she had inquired with the county election officials and they will be putting a drop-off box at Willits City Hall for people to drop their mail-in ballots at for the November election, any time after they have received them and filled them out. "And people are assured that it goes right to the elections," she said. "I'm really pleased about that."

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Preview Sept. 18, 2020 8:00 AM - 6:00PM

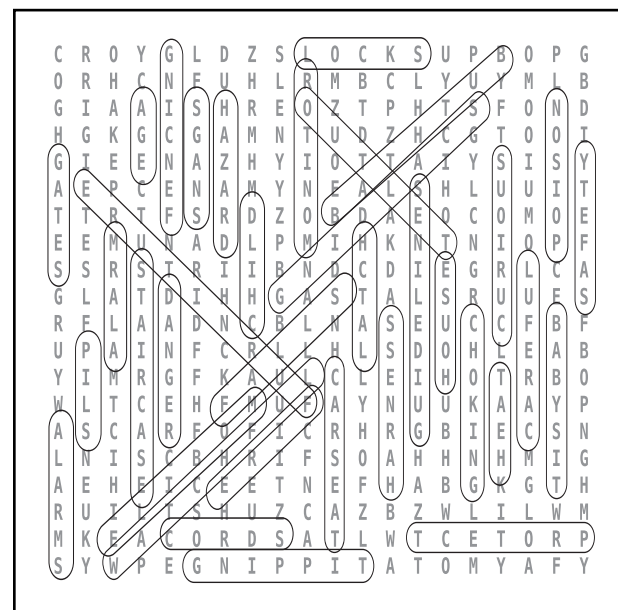
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For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
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EOE

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, September 10: BLTs

Friday, September 11: Chile Relleno Casserole

Monday, September 14: Ground Beef Tacos

Tuesday, September 15: Kielbasa, Peppers and Onions

Wednesday, September 16: Ortega Chicken

Thursday, September 17: Cobb Salad

Friday, September 18: Fish Sandwich

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

Death Notice

Edna Talman, 100, former Brooktrails resident, has died in Canada, where she moved to be with her son. She was born June 3, 1920, and passed August 17, 2020. Edna will be remembered by her Brooktrails friends as an avid quilter. She was also a member of the Knitwits social knitting group.

LEGALS

WW286

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0430

The following company is doing business as Coldwell Banker Mendocino Realty Referrals, 1460 South Main Street, Willits CA 95490 / mailing address: P.O. Box 188, Willits CA 95490.

Registered owner: LiveInMendo, Inc., 1460 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 N/A.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on August 31, 2020

/s/ Tara M. Moratti, President, LiveInMendo, Inc.

Publication dates: 09/10, 09/17, 09/24, 10/01/2020

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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

Office for Rent

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RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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Farmers Market Help Wanted

The Mendocino County Farmers Market Association is looking to hire a Market Manager for the Willits Market. This is an independent contractor position with pay based off of Market earnings. If interested, please email Julie, at gmmcfarm.com.

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

Virtual Spiritual Exploration

To learn more about classes and topics that may interest you visit: <https://www.meetup.com/Lake-Mendocino-Counties-Spiritual-Explorers/> Join us on Zoom or via telephone Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8 pm, September 2 through October 28, 2020. Questions? Call (952) 999-2288.

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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.

Wanted: Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers

As demand for home-delivered meals has increased due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, the Willits Senior Center is looking for a few more Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers: the job takes about 3.5 hours to complete. If you're interested in joining the team, call Deb Holcomb at 459-6826.

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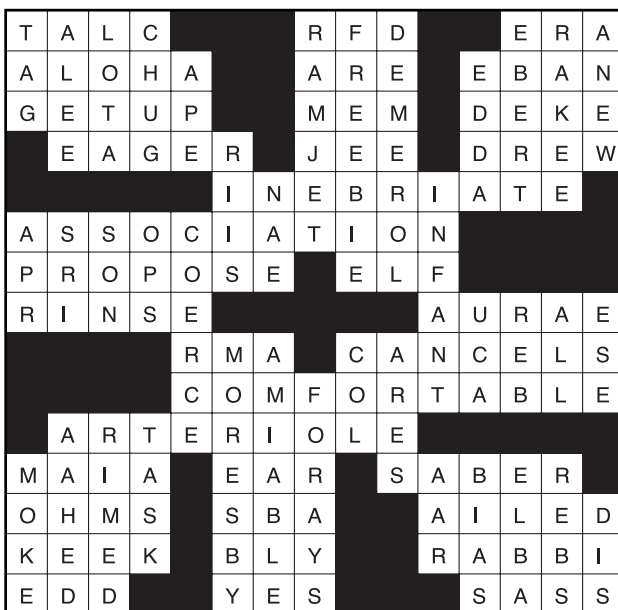
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operation of farm equipment.] It would be helpful if they knew this community. Who could this person be? At some point, like John Jeavons says, 'Tag, you're it.'"

Britten said she could identify with what Mosel said about farming: that it's "a calling." "It does feel like that," she said. "It was a little scary. It's a stretch of my skill set. I had enough background to be dangerous," said Britten. "I had been around combines a lot, but I wasn't an independent operator. There's a lot of moving parts and a lot that can go wrong."

"Part of our business acquisition agreement," she continued, "is that Doug is going to work with me for a full year. I'm basically an apprentice, but a stressed-out one because I'm invested in the outcome of the business."

"What I will own is the farming equipment," Britten said. "When wheat comes out of the field, it's not ready to be milled into flour yet. It has to go through one more cleaning process. That's a fair amount of infrastructure. That's a piece of the puzzle that I own now." Part of her purchase was a milling facility which gets used for her own wheat as well as for others.

The land that she leases is about 29 acres total, but only 18 acres are planted with grain currently, as the land needs to be conditioned in-between plantings. The combine machine cuts off the tops of the wheat. The stalks that remain are mulched on the spot and utilized to add organic matter back into the soil. This method allows Britten to farm without the use of third-party fertilizers.

As she has only a short-term lease, it is not currently feasible to invest the necessary funds to obtain an organic certification, even though her methods and materials are free of the use of chemicals or genetically modified organisms. Her milling plant is certified organic and is able to process organic crops from other farmers.

"As we change," said Britten, "our understanding of the difference of ecological and factory agriculture is in a way, biology. What are the living components of the soil? The way to facilitate the living part of the soil is by keeping the living roots in that soil as much as you can."

"Historic practice would be to follow the field," she explained, "which means to just let it sit and maybe till it a couple times to manage weeds. That has a negative impact on the biology because microbes like to live around roots. By keeping something living in the soil year-round, we are promoting biological health of the soil. Carbon is also beneficial to have in the soil, which can come from living matter. I'm definitely on the learning curve of figuring out ecologically how to manage this system."

Currently, the Mendocino Grain Project is growing wheat varieties called Rouge de Bordeaux and Red Fire that are excellent for bread baking. Britten also has Sonora, which has been used in tortillas for centuries.

For those with gluten sensitivities, she grows Khoresan, an ancient grain which dates back to the Fertile Crescent, even older than heirloom varieties, predating biological engineering. She also has rye planted.

Britten has plans for expansion utilizing a website with pickup dates, as well as diversifying her crops to include such staples as dry beans. She wants to keep the business within Mendocino County.

She currently sells to Mariposa Market, the Ukiah Co-op, Elliot's Bread, and others. For inquiries and to purchase her grains: 707-841-1256, rachel@mendocinograin.net. To learn more about the Mendocino Grain Project, check out their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MendocinoGrainProject.

"The constant feedback I get is that it's been really hard for the families. Interacting on the screen is not the same as meeting in person. We haven't been doing any distance learning but we've been sending messages to the families, just to keep in touch."

Luckily, things are beginning to open up and the riding center is able to continue in a modified manner. "We're now able to have students who can ride and have a head walker," explained Holzhauer. "We can have a volunteer head walker and keep social distance. [Normally, there can be one or two side walkers who watch the clients on the animals and a head walker who leads.]

"Everyone is still masked up as much as they can be, depending on the individual. Now we're going to be doing a training for parents or individuals in their social bubble, so they can be able to help in the lessons."

"Usually, we like the parents to take a time of respite," she said, "when they're here and the student is engaged in their lessons. Until things change with COVID, we're going to work on incorporating more family dynamic into the program, which is great. It's just new and different." Sometimes, adversity creates new opportunities to learn and discover new avenues to helping the clients.

"The biggest challenge we've had," she shared, "is that it takes time to get back to where we were and find out how to do everything safely to the same caliber. That's the challenge. But we're doing it."

"Our volunteer team has been affected by the pandemic because we have a lot of people who are seniors. A lot of our people have stayed but a lot have decided that they should take a break from volunteering because of the health concerns. With all these changes, everyone is trying to figure things out. We have a policy at the barn that we can always change our plan. We're really utilizing that policy."

One of their biggest current challenges is financial. They have had to curtail plans for the near future for their new ramp with which to aid students in mounting the horses, and they will not be able to complete the covering of their arena, which was paid for through the efforts of several fundraisers, the Willits Rotary, and others.

The Claws for a Cause fundraiser, which annually raises tens of thousands of dollars, and includes a steak and lobster dinner, and an auction of some amazing gifts, was not able to be produced this year.

However, there will be a "Virtual Claws for a Cause" November 6 through 8 – three days of online auctions with some of the usual valuable and fun gifts, as well as a live auction on the third day with auctioneer Rachel Britten calling the event. The auction items will be available for viewing a few days prior to the actual silent and live auctions.

One prize will be a dinner certificate for four – 1.5 pounds live Maine lobster with clam chowder delivered to the winner's home. Other items include a two-night stay at Redwood Cottage in Mendocino for two, and an antique saddle originally owned by Charles S. Howard and associated with the racehorse, Noor, who was Seabiscuit's stablemate, and who beat Triple Crown-winner Citation four times.

Further information will be forthcoming as details become available. Please consider participating to help fund the necessary and worthy Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. Not to mention, it is going to be a lot of fun. People can donate auction items by contacting Erin Holzhauer at 707-391-3873 or board president Diane Cannon at 707-489-8372. The auction will be held at: <https://strc.ejoinme.org/claws4acause>.

were at the top end of the "hazardous" scale Tuesday, with everybody advised to remain indoors as much as possible.

But the heavy layer of smoke blocking the sun also created lower temperatures, and with winds staying calm or low, the Oak Fire hasn't grown as much as feared might be possible. And the worst-case scenario – increased winds changing direction and blowing the fire back into Brooktrails or into Willits proper, didn't materialize.

Although firefighters don't like the smoky conditions either, as Willits Fire Chief Chris Wilkes said: "When that smoke inversion layer came across yesterday, it was a huge benefit to us." The "basically stagnant air" and cooler conditions, "with relative humidity up a little bit," he said, helped lay down the fire, and "gave ground crews time to put in some really good work."

"We had a serious fire moving to the east away from Brooktrails," Wilkes said, "and although I'm sorry for those who have lost homes and had property damage, it was a minimal amount of what it could've been, and basically we got it stopped at 101."

There was a 30 acre spot fire that jumped to the east side of Highway 101 north of town Monday afternoon, but firefighters made quick work of that. The highway has been closed in both directions since then. Late-breaking news: the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Facebook page announced around 9:15 pm on Wednesday night that "Highway 101 is open."

Not that the fight against the Oak Fire is over by any means, Wilkes emphasized: "Mother Nature could decide something else could happen, and then we'll be off to the races again."

Willits City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra also posted about "Better news today on the Oak Fire," on the City of Willits Facebook page Wednesday morning.

"While we are absolutely hating our air quality," she wrote, "we are giving lots of thanks for this inversion layer that is pressing smoke and ash from the Mendocino National Forest Fire into us.... This has assisted our firefighting crews tremendously in controlling the spread of this fire. Significant fire breaks have been created to the north of Brooktrails and tree felling is happening on 101 to control the danger there to our north. The lines are holding and the crews are expecting progress today. We hope that today we turn a corner on this."

The entire Brooktrails Township was already – successfully – evacuated on Monday, first the side of the township closest to the fire, and then the rest. The Oak Fire started Labor Day afternoon at 12:16 pm, at Big John Road and Skyview Road, according to CalFire. Looking at the map, that intersection is accessed via Third Gate Road, off Sherwood Road above Brooktrails, but the actual location where the fires started is down much closer to town, only a couple miles west up the hill from Creekside Cabins on Highway 101.

Officially, CalFire has the cause of Oak Fire still "under investigation," but locals reported on social media that they'd heard an explosion, which some identified as a propane tank exploding.

Willits High School was quickly set up as a Red Cross evacuation center, for people and for domestic and livestock animals, with Baechtel Grove Middle School also available for evacuees. The Willits Horsemen and the Seabiscuit Ranch offered evacuation quarters for horses.

According to Willits City Manager Garrabrant-Sierra, "There are 4,375 people under an evacuation order [from the Oak Fire] and 2,275 under a warning, which includes the west side of Willits."

Fire Chief Wilkes commented on how smoothly the Brooktrails evacuation, something locals have been concerned about for decades, had gone.

"This is an event," he said, "that certainly throughout our careers, we always sort of worried about and planned on, really. We know there's issues with evacuations and fire behavior and fuels and the wildland urban interface in the Brooktrails areas and surrounding Willits area."

Work done over recent years to help get ready for a fire emergency showed its value over the last few days, Wilkes said, including CalFire's vegetation removal project on the FirCo Road, allowing emergency responders to access Brooktrails that way, up from their staging area at the old Louisiana-Pacific mill north of town, instead of up Sherwood Road.

"I'm really proud of all the first responding agencies, they've all responded really well," he said. "We had plans, but you don't really know how well it's gonna work." Initial evacuations from Brooktrails, he said, "were started by Chief Noyer [Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer]; he pulled the trigger early, he did a really good job, but you can pull the trigger all you want and you might not get the right response" from the people you're asking to evacuate.

The Sheriff's Office responded "extremely well" to help with that, he said, "and Willits Police Department sent their units up right away. They pulled off the evacuation of Brooktrails."

In general, Wilkes said, "I think, this fire, for me, it seemed like everybody was on the same page, and that's a really good feeling when things are going like that." He also wanted to thank Willits Public Works, PG&E, and Caltrans for their assistance.

Solid air support on Monday – before the heavy smoke made it not feasible to fly – also helped. Especially the last hour or so on Monday, the air

attack was coming hot and heavy, with almost a constant rotation overhead. Air support included some of the big birds from out of the area like the DC-10 VLAT ("very large air tanker") and some C130 military aircraft.

"We had big air resources on Monday," Wilkes said. The Oak Fire was on a "no divert" status for air resources, because of the threat to public safety and how the fire could have affected Brooktrails. "Kudos to CalFire air attack to make that decision, and keep those resources here," he said.

No official timeline has been given to lift the evacuation orders in Brooktrails or to reopen the highway, but Chief Wilkes said both were high priorities. "At our cooperators meeting this morning, we had two absolute priorities, both equal, not one before the other, to open up Highway 101 and repopulate Brooktrails. I would say, without giving any timeframes ... every action is being taken right now to meet those two priorities."

Expanded evacuation warnings issued today for areas northeast of town brought the "yellow zone" (evacuation warning zones are in yellow) right up against the evacuation warning zones from the August Complex Fire to the east (see the evacuation map on the front page).

"I think it's fair to say that the August Complex is going to be a major problem," Wilkes said. "I don't feel like we're getting a lot of data on that. It hasn't impacted our district yet, but as the fire is getting close to 450,000 acres, I think things are getting geared up."

New evacuation notices and orders up in Covelo and the surrounding area on Wednesday were also spurred by the growth of the August Complex Fire to the east. North of Covelo, the new evacuation zones also extended west as far as Spyrock and only a few miles east of Piercy on Highway 101.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office issued an evacuation warning Wednesday afternoon that includes Garberville "and areas west of Bell Springs Road to U.S. Highway 101 from Alderpoint Road to the Mendocino-Trinity county line." These evacuations are due to the fast-moving Hopkins Fire, which was considered part of the August Complex, but was changed to its own command on Wednesday.

To see all the Mendocino County evacuation maps, visit <https://tinyurl.com/MendoEvac>. You can zoom in very close on this online map, so that street names are easy to see, or you can zoom out to see the bigger picture.

For any questions about fire evacuations, call the Mendocino County Call Center at 707-234-6052, and they will try to help you. Mendocino County Search & Rescue has been ferrying Brooktrails evacuees back home temporarily to pick up or leave food for their pets, and you can get a request in for that service by calling the Call Center.

one-year terms. The county sheriff, or his designee, will also be a member of the committee.

The goal of the committee to foster inter-agency co-operation, ensure that complaints are appropriately dealt with for county employees, receive concerns about public safety from the community, review current law and policies for compliance, review redacted reports which have been presented to the Use of Force Review Board. The Public Safety Advisory Board is to provide objective and independent evaluation of such reports.

The PSAB will also nominate a public member to the Use of Force Review Board and it will "work to achieve greater outreach into the community about trainings done, trainings required and trainings needed."

According to the staff report, the PSAB will not be authorized to change decisions made by Sheriff's Office or any other county department, decide policy for Sheriff's Office, impose discipline on any employee of the Sheriff's Office or the county; conduct its own investigations; or interfere with the work of the Sheriff's Office; and, finally, it cannot compel by subpoena the production of any document or witness related to any action taken by the Sheriff's Office or by any county department.

Supervisor John Haschak did have a few words of praise for the group that worked over the past two months to reach a broad agreement on formation and the powers of the board.

"In a time where we don't have a crisis at hand, in terms of a George Floyd situation, we were able to take this to be proactive and work in collaboration with Sheriff Kendall, to take this proposal, which would create greater transparency, which would create citizen involvement, which could be a conduit for communication between law enforcement and the community, and also, to try to break down some of these barriers that we have between difference agencies, such as law enforcement and mental health and substance abuse, and different agencies," Haschak said.

Sheriff Matt Kendall expressed support for the formation of the advisory board, although with the caveat that he believed the scope of the oversight should extend further than just law enforcement.

"This is something that is pointed at law enforcement," Sheriff Kendall said. "I think the discussion needs to go deeper and include everyone who serves the public. Eventually, I think we are going to get there."

COVID-19 is considered "widespread" here.

The average daily cases rate means the average number of new cases occurring daily over a seven-day period, with a seven-day lag time, per 100,000 people. Numbers are calculated weekly, on the Tuesday of each week. Counties with populations over 100,000 will multiply this average number by a case rate adjustment factor. However, counties with a population of under 100,000, like Mendocino County, do not use the adjustment factor.

As an example, for Mendocino County, for September 8, the daily case rate would be the average number of cases from August 25 through September 1. That number is 8.86.

The calculation for testing positivity is the number of positive tests over a seven-day period divided by the total number of tests conducted over that same week. As with the average daily case rate, the numbers are calculated from the positive tests recorded and the total number of tests done in the prior week.

If results for the average number of new cases and testing positivity would put a county in different tiers, the county would go into the more restrictive tier.

To advance to a lower (less restrictive) tier, a county must have been in the current tier for a minimum of three weeks and must meet the criteria in both measures for the prior two consecutive weeks. If the county's case rate and positivity percentage has fallen into those of a more restrictive tier for two consecutive weeks, the county reverts to the more restrictive tier.

Counties may only or move down or up one tier at a time.

Tier 1, the "widespread" tier, where Mendocino County is currently, is represented by the color purple. For this tier, the average rate of new cases is greater than seven each day and the testing positivity rate is greater than 8 percent.

Tier 2, titled the "substantial" tier, is represented by the color red. Its criteria includes an average daily rate of new cases of between 4 and 7 for the target weeks, and a positivity ratio of between 5 and 8 percent.

Tier 3, called the "moderate" level, is represented by an orange-yellow color. To qualify for this tier, counties must have an average daily case rate of between 1 and 3.9 and a testing positivity rate of between 2 and 4.9 percent.

Tier 4, called the "minimal" level, is represented by the color yellow. Its parameters include an average daily new case rate of less than 1 and a testing positivity rate of 2.

New shelter-in-place order

The first shelter-in-place public health order from Mendocino County's new Public Health Officer Andy Coren, MD was issued and became effective on Tuesday, September 8. The health order retains most of Dr. Noemi Doohan's final health order, except that Coren took steps to align this current health order with recent changes in guidance that were undertaken by the state.

As a result, the new health order removes the previous requirement that hotel and motel rooms be vacant for 24 hours in between guests.

For gatherings, Coren has removed the cap of 50 persons and instead has determined that there will be no hard cap. Rather, any permitted gathering, such as weddings,

funerals, memorials, and political protests, is limited to that number which allows participants to socially distance to the required 6 feet.

Coren removed the prohibition on the use of commercial wedding venues and commercial event centers for outdoor religious or cultural ceremonies, including those mentioned above. These events can now take place at wedding and event centers, provided that all COVID-19 protocols are followed.

However, Coren emphasized that traditional ancillary events often associated with the above-mentioned cultural ceremonies, such as parties, celebrations and receptions, remain prohibited.

In addition, places of worship and places where religious and cultural ceremonies are held are now being asked to maintain a sign-in sheet, with names and contact information for all guests, and to maintain that sign-in sheet for at least 14 days.

In the event that there is a COVID-19 outbreak as a result of that particular gathering, the sign-in sheet will be given to county public health workers upon request to assist them in contact tracing and case investigation.

Latest COVID-19 numbers

Since the first positive COVID-19 case announced in the county on March 19, the county has confirmed a total of 777 cases of the disease. Of that number, 673 have been released from isolation.

As of Tuesday evening, September 8, Mendocino County has 87 confirmed active cases of COVID-19. Of that number, 81 are being kept in isolation; three are in local hospitals, and three are in an intensive care unit in the county. Seventeen people in this county have died from the disease.

From August 25 to September 1, Mendocino County Public Health has confirmed an average daily new case rate of 8.86. The county has a testing positivity rate of 3.13. Therefore, the county remains in the purple tier, in which the prevalence of COVID-19 is called widespread.

Looking at disease statistics along racial lines, 508 of all cases are among people of Latinx descent; 120 among whites; 40 among American Indians; three among Blacks, two among Asians; 96 are categorized as "unreported"; and eight are classified as "other."

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective, 606 cases reside in the Ukiah Valley; 65 are from the north coast; 64 live in the north county; 31 are from the south county; and 11 are from the south coast.

Of the total number of 777 cases, 425 were female and 352 were male, meaning 54.7 percent of the people who have contracted COVID-19 in this county were female.

Looking at the disease as broken up into age cohorts: 18 cases have been among people between the ages of 0 and 5; 39 cases between ages of 6 and 12; 65 people between the ages of 13 and 18; 275 people between the ages of 19 and 34; 191 people between the ages of 35 and 49; 117 people between the ages of 50 and 64; and 72 cases are among people who are 65 or older.

A total of 23,627 tests have been done in this county. As of Tuesday evening, the results of 1,420 tests were pending.

extensive list of recommendations to be submitted to the supervisors.

Included in this list were recommendations that prescribed burning be adopted as a widespread practice in the county's forests; that safe egress routes be planned for the county's wildlife; that the county make sustained efforts to streamline its permit process so as to facilitate quicker adoption of renewable energy technologies; that the county government should widely subscribe to Sonoma Clean Power's "Evergreen" energy program, which is comprised of 100 percent renewable energy.

Other recommendations include that the county should enact laws regulating the idling of cars; that the county ought to install electric vehicle charging stations at all county points of presence; and that the county ought to enact a moratorium on permits for drive-through restaurants, coffee kiosks and similar establishments, so as to get people to park their cars and drive less.

The list also included a recommendation that the county enact an oak woodland protection policy and that it seriously explore either public banking or that it divest from "private banks that invest without considering climate implications."

These recommendations have not yet been presented to the board of supervisors.

The inland sub-committee has undertaken a task of evaluating the county's carbon footprint. To do that, it is in the planning phase of a study on the county's greenhouse gas emissions. According to a table that was included as an appendix in the minutes of the May 15 meeting, the "baseline committee" thinks that by getting greenhouse gas emissions information for six sectors of the Mendocino County economy and environment, it ought to be able to estimate what this county is adding to the earth's atmosphere.

The six areas are transportation, energy use, natural and working lands, urban forests, water treatment and sewer treatment, and agriculture. For each of these areas, the subcommittee has an idea of how to get the information. For transportation, the Mendocino Council of Governments has already done a study but the data would have to be updated. For the energy use sector, an organization called Ascent Environmental could do the study for \$36,000.

To estimate the greenhouse gas output for natural and working lands, the group would also have to take into account the "carbon sink" factor of the county's 1.3 million acres of forest lands. Committee member John Nickerson has said that it would likely cost \$35,000 to do a study of the carbon retention factor of the county's forests.

The greenhouse gas quotient for agriculture is already being worked on by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District.

Ex-logger and retired sustainable forestry consultant Walter Smith recently left the committee but continues to work on the baseline subcommittee. He said that work on the report is slowly moving forward.

"We are trying to figure out how we can do it as

Forest Service temporarily closes all National Forests in California

Posted by USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region

Due to unprecedented and historic fire conditions throughout the state, the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region announced on September 9 a temporary closure of an additional 10 National Forests, effective 5 pm that day, meaning all 18 National Forests in California are now closed.

These additional forests include the Eldorado National Forest, Klamath National Forest, Lassen National Forest, Mendocino National Forest, Modoc National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest, Plumas National Forest, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Tahoe National Forest, and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. This decision will be re-evaluated daily as conditions change.

We had closed eight National Forests on Monday evening, September 7. Explosive growth of fires throughout California during the day and late evening of September 8 led to this updated decision.

"The number of large fires and extreme fire behavior we are seeing across the state is historic," said Regional Forester Randy Moore. "These temporary closures are necessary to protect the public and our firefighters, and we will keep them in place until conditions improve and we are confident that National Forest visitors can recreate safely. I ask all Californians and visitors to take these closures and evacuations seriously for their own safety and to allow our firefighters to focus on the mission of safely suppressing these fires."

The Forest Service thanks our partners and the public for their cooperation and understanding of this monumental fire threat. It is critical that all Californians and National Forest visitors follow these important closures and restrictions for their own safety and the safety of our firefighters. Citizens with specific questions within their area may call their local forests for more information.

The Forest Service manages 18 National Forests in the Pacific Southwest Region, which encompasses over 20 million acres across California, and assists forest landowners in California, Hawaii and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands. National forests supply 50 percent of the water in California and form the watershed of most major aqueducts and more than 2,400 reservoirs throughout the state.

For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/R5

cheaply as possible, by doing what we can as volunteers and by farming out the difficult work to professionals," Smith said. When told that the forestry study and the energy study would together cost in the neighborhood of \$70,000, Smith pointed out that there are organizations out there that will give grants for this kind of work.

"We have to get the county to apply for this kind of grant," he said. "That should be possible, based on the fact that the supervisors did actually adopt a resolution saying that there is a climate emergency and that the county needs to act."

Smith is referring to resolution 20-093, a resolution "endorsing the declaration of a climate emergency," which was adopted by the board of supervisors on July 21, 2020. The resolution declares, in part:

"WHEREAS, in order to avoid irreversible, catastrophic climate change impacts, we cannot only focus on reducing emissions but must also dramatically increase and enable meaningful carbon sequestration while preparing communities now for significant ecological and economic impacts due to climate change; and

"WHEREAS, marginalized communities worldwide – such as people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, the unhoused – are already disproportionately affected by climate change and must benefit from a just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

"WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, Mendocino County and the State of California demonstrated a remarkable capacity to protect human health in the face of a crisis, based on early and preventative actions in response to evidence and warnings issued by scientists; and

"WHEREAS, we must apply those lessons by heeding to scientific expertise, planning for the future and asking residents to make sacrifices in order to protect our communities from the similarly devastating effects of climate change; and

"WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino must do everything in its power to encourage a swift conversion to an ecologically, socially, and financially sustainable economy...."

Jones said that the committee's energy has dissipated a bit since March, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Mendocino County.

"The county is focusing on the effects of climate change instead of on what's causing climate change," Jones said. "In that respect, they're kind of like everybody else. Maybe it's human nature. It's depressing, and sad," Jones said.

The next meeting of the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee is scheduled for September 18 from 3 to 5 pm. Because of COVID-19, the meeting will be virtual.

The link to the online Zoom meeting should be posted soon at the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee page on the County of Mendocino website at www.mendocinocounty.org/community/mendocino-county-climate-action-advisory-committee

JDSF Road Closure

Submitted by Mike Power, forest manager

Jackson Demonstration State Forest has closed Road 200 as of September 1, for maintenance and bridge replacement work. The road is expected to be reopen by November 15. For additional information, including a map of JDSF, please contact our office (802 North Main Street, Fort Bragg; 707-964-5674) or visit www.fire.ca.gov or https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/1557/jdsf_base_map.pdf.

California Statewide Fire Summary September 9

Submitted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Yesterday, and overnight, wind conditions allowed many fires to grow significantly with extreme fire behavior. While containment on many of last month's lightning fires grows closer, several new wildfires ignited and were fanned by strong gusty winds.

Today approximately 14,000 firefighters are battling 28 major wildfires across California. The newest fire, the Willow Fire in Yuba County, broke out late last evening near the community of Dobbins, forcing evacuations. The Bear Fire, which is part of the North Complex, spread rapidly yesterday due to Red Flag conditions and moved towards multiple communities east of Oroville, and forced more evacuations.

This year, wildfires have now burned over 2.5 million acres in California. There have been 8 fatalities and over 3,700 structures destroyed.

While Red Flag Warnings remain in effect across much of the state, winds are expected to weaken on Wednesday. Wind gusts are possible up to 55 mph in mountain and foothill areas. Minimum humidity will be mainly in the single digits and teens through Wednesday and will likely increase Thursday. Tomorrow, wind conditions improve, and seasonal temperatures and dry conditions will persist into the weekend.

Do you have a plan for all your family should a wildfire strike near you? Don't forget everyone, including your four-legged family members! Have a plan in place for your pets, and have go bag ready for them to keep with yours. To learn ways to be prepared and protect everyone in your family, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

You can read these daily fire reports from CalFire by visiting <https://www.fire.ca.gov/daily-wildfire-report>

Celebrate
Recovery
Month with
RockSteadyFest's
Virtual Music
Concerts

Submitted by
RockSteadyFest

RockSteadyFest is coming to you live to celebrate National Recovery Month 2020 through a Virtual Music Concert on Facebook and YouTube from September 17 through 26. September's annual Recovery Month is meant "to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders and celebrate the people who recover."

"We believe that music and art are the best way to handle stress and loneliness during these hard times," says RockSteadyFest Director Jeffrey Trotter, "and we want to remind everyone that they are not alone."

RockSteadyFest's unique musical experience can be found on the RockSteadyFest and the Tomales Bay Youth Center FB pages, and Marin TV Channel 30.

The Thursday, September 17 event, from 7 to 10 pm, features local poets and comedians, including Gene Ptack, poet, actor, and retired schoolteacher; Adriana Marchione, teacher, filmmaker, speaker and recovery coach; Danielle Vantress-Salk, artist, poet, and mom; and Joe Clocek, Bay Area comedian that will knock your socks off!

The Saturday, September 19 event, from 7 to 10 pm, features Marin County musicians Chris Holbrook, guitarist, singer, songwriter, and artist; John and Camilla Ford, local folk duo; Mark Karan, guitarist extraordinaire; Darren Nelson, guitarist, singer, songwriter; and boogy woogy pianist Wendy DeWitt and Kurt Harwood, a great duo to close the evening.

The Friday, September 25 free Youth Concert, 7 to 10 pm, celebrates youth and young adult musicians including Angel Amador, solo guitar player, student, and local favorite; Josh McGuinness of San Rafael; and Susan Zelinsky and family. See the schedule at www.rocksteadyfest.org

The final Saturday, September 26, 7 to 10 pm, features Bay Area musicians Kevin Griffin, author of "One Breath at a Time: Buddhism and the Twelve Steps," and a musician; Fordham Murdy aka the Reverend Freakchild, citizen of the universe and musician; and Cole and Nikki Tate, great rock music duo to end our night with some great energy!

RockSteadyFest is working under the umbrella of Shakespeare at Stinson, a California 501C3 non-profit corporation, EIN 91-1928035. Contributions can be made at www.rocksteadyfest.org.

RockSteadFest presents A Virtual Free Concert Series LIVE on Facebook and YouTube September 2020

EPIC YOUTH
CONCERT
Friday, Sept 25
at 7pm

Thursday, September 17, 7pm

Poets and Comedians Danielle Vantress-Salk, Joe Clocek,
Adrianna Marconi, Gene Ptack and Friend

Saturday, September 19, 7pm

Marin County Musicians Chris Holbrook, John and Camellia Ford,
Mark Karan, Darren Nelson, Wendy DeWitt and Kurt Harwood

Saturday, September 26, 7pm

Bay Area Musicians Kevin Griffin, Fordham Murdy
AKA the Reverend Freakchild, Cole and Nikki Tate

www.rocksteadyfest.org facebook.com/rocksteadyfest 415-578-0125

OUR
PARTNERS



Dolly and Spanky

Meet our new friends Dolly and Spanky. Dolly is a 6-year-old small mixed-breed gal, and Spanky is a 13-year-old senior male. Dolly and Spanky were surrendered to us last week due to their previous owner becoming ill, and not being able to care for them any longer.



Photo by Michael Surman Photography

Dolly and Spanky have lived with other dogs, cats, and small children. We are still getting to know these cuties, but would love to find them a forever home to spend their golden years. We would love for them to stay together but not required. Once we take care of their dental work, they will be available for adoption. You can apply to love Dolly and Spanky or donate towards their medical care at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

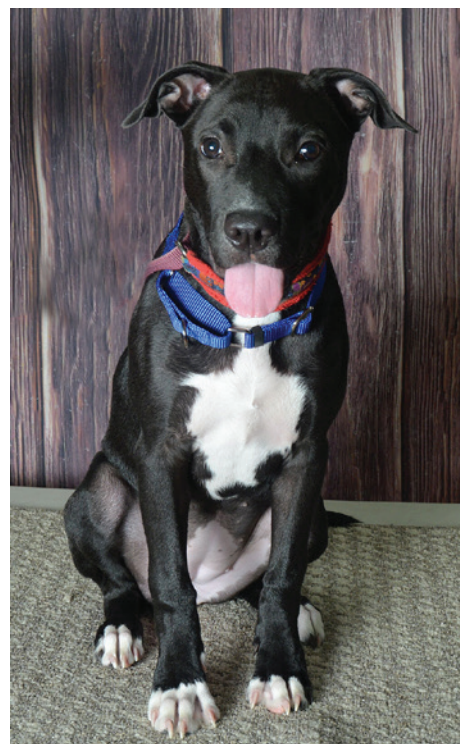
The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering: Call 707-485-0123 for information or any questions. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats,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

Handsome Parker

Meet our handsome feline friend Parker. Parker is an 8-year-old male looking for his forever home. This handsome hunk weighs in at 14 pounds. Parker came to us in December 2018 as an owner surrender. That's almost two years with us! He is more than ready to go to his forever home with you!



Parker loves to sunbathe, get love, and lounge around. Parker has lived with dogs and was OK with one. However, if he had a say, he would prefer not to live with one. He is cat-social: His best friend here is Molly, if you are looking for double the love! Parker is neutered, micro-chipped, and current on vaccines. You may apply to love Parker at www.mendohumanesociety.com.



Happy Peach

Peach is a young, happy, female mixed-breed dog, eager and excited to meet new people and sniff the world around her. A couch potato she is not! This good-looking girl is on the move, exploring her environment and scoping out new toys. Peach will benefit from a puppy training class, and guardians who will teach her how to be a well-mannered and loved member of the family. Peach is 5 months old and a delightful 36 pounds. Questions? Email the shelter's adoption coordinator at campbella@co.mendocino.ca.us

To see our canine and feline guests, and for information about our services, programs, events, and updates about COVID-19 and the shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. For information about adoptions please call 707-467-6453.

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