

7 new COVID deaths as cases trend down

Jennifer Poole
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Public Health has announced seven additional deaths attributed to COVID in the last week in Mendocino County, for a pandemic total of 71, as new cases trend down. All seven press releases reporting the individual deaths noted: "The individual in question was not vaccinated."

On September 8 Public Health announced the 65th death, a 36-year-old Ukiah woman, and the 66th death, a 47-year-old Ukiah man. On September 12, Public Health announced the 67th death, a 43-year-old Covelo man; the 68th death, a 53-year-old Willits man; and the 69th death, a 69-year-old Ukiah man.

On September 13, Public Health announced the 70th death attributed to COVID in Mendocino County, a 94-year-old Ukiah woman, and the 71st, a 68-year-old Ukiah man.

"We send our condolences to ... family and friends," the press releases read. "At this time, Public Health asks all Mendocino County

More of COVID Over on Page 4

Fatal accident closes 101 south of Willits Sunday

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A fatal head-on collision closed Highway 101 in both directions Sunday morning just after 11 am, north of the weigh station on the grade.

As per the California Highway Patrol press release, the fatality was the male driver of a 2000 Acura Integra, age 29 of Covelo. For unknown reasons, the Acura driver crossed into oncoming traffic, hitting a 2009 Dodge Ram, driven by a woman from Olivehurst, California, age 29, who received major injuries. Three children, 9, 7 and 4 years old, received minor injuries in the crash.

Willits Police Department reported the highway open in one direction, as of 12:11 pm, then briefly closed again, then open southbound only at 12:39 pm.

Here are details from the CHP press release:

A 29 year old male (name withheld) was driving a 2000 Acura Integra, within the number one lane of US-

Read the rest of Accident Over on Page 11



Droplets were still clinging on to this iris leaf Friday morning after Thursday night's rain.

Photo by Maureen Jennison

Ready for Rain

Last week's quick overnight sprinkle on Thursday reminded us all of the wonderful smell of rain on parched earth, and left us with the longing for more rainfall soon. This weekend's forecast mentions a chance of rain on Saturday, which will hopefully stick around, if not increase, giving Willits a much-needed dampening. Regardless of rainfall, the weather is looking to also take a cooling trend with highs in the 70s towards the end of the week, a far cry from the 90s we've been experiencing. Fall is in the air, and is headed our way officially as the season changes, Wednesday, September 22.



At left: The Little Lake fire crew poses in front of the almost-completed firehouse. Above: Citizens and luminaries listen to Chief Wilkes tell of the history of the construction of the firehouse. Below: The staff of the Little Lake Fire District gathers for a group photo: Chief Chris Wilkes, Administrative Assistant Michelle Schnitzius, Deputy Chief John Thomen, and Training Chief Eric Alvarez.



Looking Forward

Dedication of new Little Lake Fire District firehouse raises \$10K for needed equipment while allowing the community to celebrate and remember

It was, in reality, two events, both at the same location and for some of the same reasons. The dedication of the brand new, soon-to-be-occupied Little Lake Fire District firehouse was produced on the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attack on New York City's World Trade Center. September 11 has become, in addition to the remembrance of those who lost their lives, a symbol of the resilience and resolve of the American spirit, as well as the bravery and honor of the first responders, many of whom lost their lives rushing in to save others without hesitancy or a thought to their own safety. It was a fitting tribute that the firehouse dedication shared time and space with this defining moment in U.S. history.

At 9 am on Saturday, September 11, the American Legion, post 174, raised the flag, and then lowered it to half-mast in respect to those who lost their lives in the attacks on American sovereignty at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the attempt on the Capitol building, which was foiled by the heroic actions of the passengers on flight 93.

"The U.S. Congress passed a public law, 10789, designating September 11 Patriots Day," said Veteran Bob Ireland. "We are gathered here to remember that terrorists took over 3,000 innocent lives while the police and firefighters selflessly gave their lives trying to save those victims. In the 1800s when a fireman lost his life, his comrades would ring the fire bell five times in a series of four sets. This has become a tradition. In remembrance of the firefighters who lost their lives in 9/11 and to honor our own firefighters who protect us today, Firefighter Chief Chris Wilkes will strike the 'Four Fives.'"

Over 200 attendees listened respectfully as Wilkes rang the "Willits



Many of the attendees pose for a photo in front of the apparatus bays. Photos by Mathew Caine

Supes vote 5-0 to rescind cannabis ordinance

Forrest Glyer
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The long and tumultuous journey of Mendocino County's Chapter 22.18 Commercial Cannabis Land Use Development Ordinance came to an abrupt end on Tuesday, as the board of supervisors unanimously voted to rescind the ordinance following substantial support in the county behind a referendum to overturn it.

The People's Referendum, Save Our Water Wildlife and Way of Life group ended up turning in 6,239 signatures according to County Clerk Katrina Bartolome, and after a month-long process she said the county had "verified" 4,198, and found 3,407 to be "sufficient," eclipsing the 3,397 needed for it to qualify. This forced the supervisors to decide whether to either repeal the 22.18 ordinance or send it out for a countywide vote.

While four out of five supervisors had voted repeatedly to approve the ordinance in recent months, on Tuesday they seemed to admit defeat by voting to rescind it rather than push it

Read the rest of Rescind Over on Page 11

School board hears COVID, other updates

Joanne Moore
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It's three weeks into the Willits Unified School District's in-school school year, and all is well, the board of trustees heard at their latest meeting on September 8: No COVID closures, a good budget report and outlook, and a student resource officer soon to come on board.

Superintendent Joe Aldridge began with a "COVID response update," referring the board to the district's COVID dashboard, which is prominently displayed on their website's homepage and updated weekly – willitsunified.com.

The dashboard shows whether cases are "COVID related ... [or] school related, where one person is giving it to another in the classroom," he explained, adding that, "knock on wood," there hadn't been any school-related cases.

Everyone " ... staff ... and also students and parents, ... they've been working really hard to be our partners in this," Aldridge said.

"They're doing a really

Read the rest of Updates Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters
from our readers

Thank you first responders

To the Editor:

I just want to start by saying THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all our wonderful first responders. We had a grass fire next door to our property. They were able to stop it at the property line and kept it from becoming a total disaster.

We are fortunate to have such GREAT women and men first responders in our community. Again, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.

Leo and Carol Cid, Willits

One of the very best

To the Editor:

I want to thank Mathew Caine for his write-up of the Claws for a Cause fundraiser at the Seabiscuit Ranch. We've had the pleasure of playing music for the Claws benefit every year.

We'd especially like to mention our drummer (since Mathew did not know who he is), long-time Willits resident Bruce Hutton. A band is nothing without a good drummer, and Bruce is one of the very best.

Bear Kamoroff, Ed Reinhart, Indiana Slim

News from KLLG Radio

KLLG Radio holds Pledge Drive on September 18

By Earlene Gleisner, for KLLG

For the health of our community, KLLG is cancelling its "Unmasked Ball Fundraiser" scheduled for October 9 and pushing it into the future.

We will however be running our Pledge Drive, this coming Saturday, September 18 from noon til 7 pm on KLLG at 97.9 LP FM. Greg and Malakai Schindel will be offering music and their special insights, with other special shows and offerings by Jeff Shipp (Remember the Revolution), Larry Sanders (Papa Joe), Liam (MacAmergin's Tales), Cheryl Abney, Big Jim (Riparian Roots), and other programmers.

Gifts for your donations will consist of CDs of your favorite shows and KLLG T-shirts, plus a standing ovation of gratitude for your generosity. Funds will be put to operating expenses and to look to our future intention to stream our shows for more to hear about the uniqueness of Willits.

A monthly online silent auction is also being organized to assist the station with its plans. If you are a business which would like to offer a gift certificate for your services or from your menu or have a special object you would like to donate, please send your information to auction@kllg.org. Acknowledgement of you and/or your business will be made over the air.

Anyone interested in volunteering time to help with these projects, becoming a programmer or engineer, or contributing in any fashion, please contact us through our website at www.KLLG.org

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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No Fall Book Sale this year

To the Editor:

Due to an "abundance of caution" the Friends of the Willits Library has decided to cancel our annual Fall Book Sale. Usually held at the Community Center, and because half the fun of the sale is the browsing and chatting with fellow book lovers, COVID makes this an event we can't afford, for public safety's sake.

We want readers to be safe and healthy. We invite you to come in – wearing a mask – and use our library. We have a free and a cheap shelf, as well as a terrific selection of DVDs and CDs and, of course books, to borrow. We are looking for ways we can offer our "extra" sale books to our community.

Look for a Spring Book Sale announcement – we hope in April. We treasure our readers. Books are both windows of discovery and a great way to escape these challenging times. Stay safe, friends.

Melinda Clarke, board member,
Friends of the Willits Library

WCT to hold auditions for Christmas classic

Submitted by Willits Community Theatre

Auditions are coming up for a December production of "It's a Wonderful Life," which was written by Joe Landry and which will be directed by Phaedra Swarengin.

Auditions will be held on Thursday, September 23 at 7 pm, on Saturday, September 25 at 4 pm and on Saturday, October 2 at 4 pm. All auditions will be held at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, at 37 West Van Lane.

This version of "It's a Wonderful Life" tells the same story as the 1946 movie, which has become a Christmas classic. But in this version, a group of actors performs the show as a live radio broadcast. So it's the same great story of "It's a Wonderful Life," only done as a radio show, with multiple actors doing multiple characters with multiple voices. Like the movie, the play is set in December 1946.

Since the play has roles for 50 people, casting for the show is fluid. Ideally, the director would like to cast five men and three women between the ages of 20 and 50; three men and one woman who are over 50; and one boy and one girl between the ages of 13 and 17. Rehearsals will begin in mid-October and the show will open December 3.

Two notes associated with "It's a Wonderful Life." First, because this is a live radio play, most of the lines in the play will be read and so there will little to no memorization. Secondly, due to COVID 19 concerns, all people who are cast in the play must be fully vaccinated. People who come to auditions will be asked to wear a facial covering.

Director Phaedra Swarengin has acted in the past for both the Willits Community Theatre and the Willits Shakespeare Company. Recently Swarengin has become re-involved with the Willits Community Theatre. In October 2020 she directed a videoed reading of the comedy "Death By Golf," and in the spring of 2021 she directed and produced both a radio and video version of Edgar Lee Masters' classic book, "The Spoon River Anthology."

For more information about "It's a Wonderful Life," please call the director at 391-5071. To read most of the script, go to playscripts.com/sample/1064. In order to read the script you will have to sign up with Playscripts and create a password.

Want faster internet? Take the county's Speed Test

Submitted by the County of Mendocino

September 10 – Mendocino County is pleased to announce our Broadband Speed Test Initiative. This initiative allows community members to test their current home internet speeds and the crowd-sourced data helps the county pursue funding to deploy better infrastructure and services in historically unserved and underserved areas.

This initiative will provide quality data of internet access countywide, with intentional focus on documenting unserved and underserved addresses, or regions where service is non-existent.

Current broadband availability data, which is self-reported by providers, is often inaccurate and results in flawed service claims. This speed test accurately reports internet speeds at a granular household level, allowing residents to verify their own service availability, without compromising personal information.

To enhance Mendocino County's grant opportunities for infrastructure funding and other means to improve internet access for all our communities, we need to document the actual level of broadband availability. Using this crowd-sourced Speed Test, we get the granular neighborhood data needed to help realize more than six years of planning.

Everyone in Mendocino County is invited to test their internet speeds, and together we can help close the digital divide in Mendocino County. Learn more and take the test today at <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/speedtest>.

Senior Center drive-through, walk-up lunches

Willits Senior Center has closed its indoor dining room, but is still serving drive-through and walk-up lunches, Monday through Friday, from 12 to 1 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$5 through December.

"We are also providing home-delivered meals to anyone who wants a safe food delivery option via our Meals on Wheels Program," center Director Richard Baker said, noting a 203% increase in demand for home-delivered meals during the pandemic.

Meals on Wheels

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Deb at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

Thursday, September 16: Chicken Pasta
Florentine, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, September 17: Spare Ribs, Baked Beans, Veggie, Cornbread

Monday, September 20: Beef Tips & Noodles, Veggie, Roll

Tuesday, September 21: Jamaican Jerk Chicken, Rice, Roll, Green Salad

Wednesday, September 22: Teriyaki Burger, Coleslaw

Thursday, September 23: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, September 24: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggie, Cranberry Sauce, Roll

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

A secret new company wants to ship coal through the North Coast

Submitted by the Office of Senator Mike McGuire

September 3 – The North Coast is facing one of the largest environmental threats in decades. A secret, clandestine operation – hiding behind an anonymous LLC out of Wyoming – wants to ship millions and millions of tons of coal from Montana, Utah and Wyoming through the Northern California counties of Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt.

The shadowy rail operation would utilize a portion of the now defunct North Coast rail route, which runs approximately 320 miles between Marin and Humboldt counties. The coal would then be loaded onto ships in Humboldt Bay, sold overseas, and burned.

"This toxic coal train would run through the heart of so many thriving communities and along the Russian and Eel rivers, which are the main source of drinking water for nearly one million residents," Senator Mike McGuire said. "These mighty waterways are also home to some of the most sensitive ecosystems on Earth, which include numerous endangered species."

The secrecy behind the toxic coal train is completely offensive, as well as the fact these bad actors have met behind closed doors with some local officials to try and make this toxic dream a reality. This anonymous group has also filed a request to kill the build-out of the Great Redwood Trail. The trail, which will be the longest contiguous rail-trail in America, would stretch from the bustling waters of San Francisco Bay to the fog-shrouded redwood shores of Humboldt Bay.

Senator McGuire has made significant progress on the Great Redwood Trail over the past several years. The trail system would meander through ancient redwoods, state and national wildlands, oak-studded golden hills, and along our incredible rivers. The Trail will also be an economic driver for the dozens of rural communities it runs through.

"California banned coal-fired power plants for good reason," Senator McGuire said. "Coal is the dirtiest and most damaging source of energy out there. It's the No. 1 cause of global warming, and it's the No. 1 contributor to our climate crisis. The people of the North Coast won't stand for this. We rallied against Big Oil to protect our coast from offshore drilling – and won. And we will win this fight against Big Coal."

"I'm here to promise that, no matter how many billions of dollars these coal barons throw at this project, we're going to stop this dangerous proposal and put a nail in the coffin of coal, and we will continue to move the Great Redwood Trail forward."

Senator McGuire is expected to make an announcement in the coming days about new legislation he'll be carrying to help stop Big Coal in their tracks.



Above, from left: Each rider receives a ticket for a ride on the train during the Roots of Motive Power Steam Up event. The train pulls into the loading area after making a lap around the loop. The silent auction had all kinds of goodies up for grabs to help support the Roots efforts. Below: The Roots yard had several pieces of machinery fired up and running for folks to see up close. At right: Bottles of Low Gap Whiskey glow in the afternoon sun. At right, below: Roots volunteers and Willy Englands, junior at left, and senior at right, flank Troy James in front of the Roots clubhouse.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



Photo by Matthew Jennison



Trains, Tractors & BBQ

Roots of Motive Power steams up for 39th annual festival

By Alexis England for Roots of Motive Power

This last weekend Roots of Motive Power celebrated their 39th annual Steam Festival. This event took place in Roots' large outdoor yard, the Mendocino County Museum, and the Recreation Grove.

They ran double header locomotives on Saturday with the Port of Olympia #2 (Baldwin Locomotive) and the Bluestone Mining #1 (Heisler Locomotive).

Sunday it was just the Heisler at the front of the consist giving train rides. There were quite a few tractors pushing dirt back in the pit, including the Bucyrus Erie 22B diesel shovel

and the Caterpillar D-8 2U.

Chris Baldo had his Little Willamette Steam Donkey onsite to power the Keystone Driller Company steam-powered well driller and a few of the other generators down there. Last year due to COVID, Roots did a small virtual show, but like most things in life the experience is much better in person.

The Early Day Gas Engines were over in the park and did not disappoint. There was even an apple cider maker on site from Cover's Apple Ranch. They pressed enough juice to hand it out at the BBQ and give out samples

through the weekend.

Roots does BBQ right, and this year was no different. With three different choices of meat and three salads, beans, bread, and cobbler, it's guaranteed you didn't walk away hungry. Thanks to the generous donations from this community, Roots of Motive Power was able to raise almost \$13,000 to help with operating costs for the year.

Roots continues to be thankful to the community and the people in it for their support over the last 39 years. We look forward to seeing you all next year for our 40th!



Above, left: Alexis England, Roots volunteer and event emcee, will serve as the club's next president – and first-ever female to hold the title. Above, right: Wendy Wilmes holds up two of the home-grown tomatoes from the large box she donated to the auction. Below, left: Sharon Short, left, smiles with Kathy Shuster at the Roots barbecue. Below, right: Happy riders disembark the train.



208 E. San Francisco Ave. (707) 459-6791

SPARETIME GARDEN CENTER

Garlic Bulbs Now Available (Supply Limited)

Monday - Saturday 8 am - 6 pm Sunday CLOSED

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Nancy Pettitt Martin

Nancy Pettitt Martin passed away at home with family beside her on August 16, 2021. Her creative, beautiful, and energetic presence was silenced by cancer. Nancy was born in 1948 in Berkeley, CA to George A. Pettitt and Eleanor Graves Pettitt. She earned a BA at UC Berkeley, an MFA at Chico State, and certification as a Master Cosmetologist. Nancy designed and painted public murals and displayed her artwork at galleries over the years. She taught herself to play drums and performed in numerous Northern California bands. She also channeled her creative talents into hair design, becoming a much sought-after beautician. A retrospective show of her artwork was held in 2019 at her church, the Center for Spiritual Living, where she performed and served coffee with a smile and wit for over 25 years.

Nancy was a generous spirit, making the world a more beautiful place through art, music, humor, and one head of hair at a time. She lived with passion and an open mind, seeking spiritual exploration. She is survived by her two sons, Zayah Kylee Pettitt-Wood and Kyle Robert Martin; her grandson, Sarmis Lycius Pettitt-Wood; her sister Jennifer Pettitt Anderson and family; and her loving partner, Scott Taylor.

Following the memorial service, a community celebration of Nancy's life will be held Sept. 18 starting at 3:30pm at Shady Oak Barrel House in Santa Rosa, open to all who loved her.

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

WATER QUALITY WORD SEARCH																										
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BACTERIA	ECOSYSTEM	NUTRIENTS	SALINITY
BIOMONITORING	EFFLUENT	OXYGEN	SEDIMENT
BRACKISH	FERTILIZER	PARTICLES	TREATMENT
CHEMICALS	HABITAT	POLLUTED	WASTE
DRAINAGE	IMPACT	RECLAIMED	WATER
ECOLOGICAL	IRRIGATION	RUNOFF	WILDLIFE

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	63	64						65						
								67						

CLUES ACROSS

- Religion native to some in China
- Nursemaids
- Coats a porous surface
- Garment of long cloth
- Containing a broader message
- University of Dayton
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Insane
- Bristlelike structures in invertebrates
- Taxi
- Trainee
- Comedian Carvey
- Some couples say it
- Belong to he
- High schoolers' test
- Young goat
- You drive on one
- Denotes a time long ago
- Space between two surfaces
- By and by
- A way to sell
- A line left by the passage of something
- Indicates near
- Where wrestlers compete

- Prosecutors
- Body part
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Indicates silence
- NFL's Newton
- Ancient Roman garments
- Drunkard
- Expression of satisfaction
- Thus
- Noisy viper
- Plants of a particular region
- Communicated with
- Latches a window
- Swarm with

CLUES DOWN

- Split pulses
- Brew
- Ask humbly
- Distinctive smells
- Digressions
- Partner to cheese
- Father of Araethyrea
- Made a cavity
- Tin
- Appetizer
- Presenting in detail
- Compound in guano and fish scales
- Cool!
- '___ than a doornail'
- Popular literary form ___ fi
- Be the most remarkable
- 'Final Fantasy' universe character
- Buffer solution
- Muslim physician using traditional remedies
- Fantastical planet
- S. American plant
- Domesticated animal
- The tops of mountains
- Expression of disapproval
- Skeletal muscle
- Game show host Sajak
- One's interests
- Identify the existence of
- Partner to 'oohead'
- Does not accept medical help (abbr.)
- Hammerin' Hank
- Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
- Elaborately draped garment
- Check
- Car mechanics group
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- Austrian river
- A command to list files

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

September 6 to September 12

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 114 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

September 6

10:20 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Main Street.

11:27 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

September 7

11:10 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of East Valley Street.

3:11 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and South Main Street.

September 8

2:04 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street.

September 9

No reportable incidents.

September 10

8:46 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:38 am: **MADDEN STEPHENS, Laroy Ryan** (38) of Willits was contacted near mile marker 47 of Highway 101 following a domestic disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 273.5 PC (Domestic Corporal Injury), 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on felony charges of domestic battery.

10:52 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

More of COVID | From Page 1

residents to exercise caution when placing themselves in situations that could expose them to COVID-19, especially considering the new more infectious Delta variant. Mendocino County Public Health asks that you follow all CDC and CDPH guidances at this time. Vaccination, masking and social distancing remain the best options for combating the COVID-19 virus."

Cases trending down

Mendocino County Public Health Officer Andy Coren, MD, told the board of supervisors Tuesday that although there was a continued down trend in new cases in the county, "hospitalization rates are still very high although they are decreasing very slowly as they follow the case data.... The staff is still exhausted in our hospitals and yet covering extra shifts. They've only received from the state one respiratory therapist, and that was less than they were hoping for."

As of Monday, Coren said, "we had 26 residents in our hospitals for COVID illnesses, plus 5 from out of town," with 5 county residents being treated out of county, and with 8 patients in county intensive care units. "We are seeing younger and sicker patients in the hospital," he said.

"This morning [Tuesday], we actually were informed that there are no staffed ICU beds in the county. Hopefully this will change with shifting around some patients, and if it doesn't our hospitals are registered with the state as having ICU shortages and alternate care sites which will allow emergency services to transport them to other counties expediently."

No mandate for bars, restaurants

Coren also told the board of supervisors Tuesday that after meeting with a group of protesting county business owners, he's decided to "strongly recommend" instead of to mandate policies requiring verification of vaccination status at local bars and restaurants.

At the August 31 board of supervisors

12:09 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

12:32 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of School Street.

5:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

8:12 pm: **MIRAVALLE, Jonathan Allenfloyd** (36) of Ukiah was contacted in the 300 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of assault with a deadly weapon.

8:23 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

8:47 pm: **MALDONADOMATA Jr., Rafael** (27) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of McKinley Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of parole to be held in custody and returned to prison.

9:25 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

September 11

6:43 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive and issued a warning.

10:02 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

10:30 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

11:27 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Robert Drive.

7:33 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of South Main Street.

September 12

4:52 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of South Main Street.



Laroy Ryan Madden Stephens of Willits.



Rafael Maldonado Mata, Jr. of Willits.

Quilty Pleasures Quilt Show
announces results

By Jody McGeen for Long Valley Quilters

It was a very warm and smokey weekend, but that didn't stop quilt lovers from attending this year's show (August 28 and 29) behind the Fat Quail Quilt Shop in Laytonville! The annual Quilty Pleasures show is sponsored by Long Valley Quilters.

Everyone wore masks and practiced safe distancing while admiring the beautiful quilts and voting for their favorites. Raffle ticket sales for the Opportunity Quilt and Raffle Baskets made sure that we are again able to award scholarships to deserving graduating seniors from Laytonville High the year. Thank you to all! Now for the results:

Ribbon Winners: People's Choice: Lindsey Hassen; Quilt You'd Most Like to Sleep Under: Tish Warren; Most Playful: Sherry Keys; Best Use of Color: Deb Kvaka; Best Wall Hanging: Lynn Schardt; and Best Quilter: Lynn Schardt.

Raffle Winners: Opportunity Quilt: Tera Wood; Raffle Baskets: Sandy Fulmer, Yvonne Nielsen, Dorothy Asbury, Marianne Mulheren, Jean Muller, Heather Martin, Debbie Bowles, and Bernadette Willoughby.

This year we had an amazing group of volunteers made up of family and friends from near and far. We could not have done this without you: Beth Hogan, Val Nordeman, Paula Mulligan, Carlyn Woodhouse, Lynn Schardt, Pat, Linda, Ava, Dave and Davey Bowles, Dan Kvaka, and many, many more. We also thank Niki Walden and many others at Healthy Start. Again, thank you to all.

At this point I would remind everyone of next year's date, but ... we are thinking of moving the date from the end of August in May due to the heat. When a decision is made we will announce it to all, so start your sewing machines now for your next entry. Looking forward to seeing everyone in 2022!

This beautiful quilt by Lindsey Hassen was the People's Choice award winner at the August Quilty Pleasures show in Laytonville.



Happy 88th Birthday,
Mary Kanne!

About 40 friends and family gathered in Rec Grove Park to celebrate Mary Kanne's birthday. The idea for having a party at the park sprang from a birthday group Kanne was involved in pre-pandemic. The women involved would get together and have lunch



at one of the favored restaurants in town to celebrate the current birthday girl. Birthday group member Linda Beebe and Kanne's daughter, Wendy Wilmes, planned the party and invited guests to the outside, COVID-safe gathering.

— Ree Slocum

A group of about 40 family and friends are singing happy birthday to Mary Kanne, center. She is surrounded by her children, Jeff Wilmes, left, Wendy Wilmes, and Douglas Halcrow, right.

Photo by Ree Slocum

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Above, left: Roots board member Chris Baldo applies ink to volunteer Bobbie Yokum's experimental print of a bear. Above, right: Emmett is carefully carving details in his poplar tree for this year's steam printing. Below: This print was made in 2019 by professional printmaker Rik Olson. According to Baldo, Olson always has a steam roller in his prints. Baldo applies matting on top of high-quality print paper with a carved-and-inked linoleum underneath to be printed. Bobbie Yokum says, "It worked!" after seeing the second print of her bear.



More people arrive in the afternoon to take part in the printmaking.

Rolling Art

Roots of Motive Power uses their Kelly-Springfield Steam Road Roller to turn linoleum carvings into prints for artists of all ages

Last Sunday, 12 tons of the Kelly-Springfield Steam Road Roller rolled its way from the Roots shed, across Commercial Street and into Rec Grove for Steam Printing in the Park. It was one of the special activities during the 39th Roots of Motive Power Steam Festival over the weekend.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"This year we're doing street printing with the Kelly-Springfield instead of the Buffalo-Springfield. It's got more weight to it. They're essentially the same thing, though," said Chris Baldo, one of Roots' board members. "The Kelly-Springfield merged with the Buffalo Roller Company and it made the Buffalo-Springfield, which made the rock band's name, too," he laughed. They do differ in that the Kelly is a three-wheel roller and the Buffalo is a two-wheel tandem roller.

Engineer Joe Smith, along with apprentice engineers Ed Kimball and William England, manned and wrestled the refurbished, 100-year-old Kelly into place on a cement pad amongst the tree-shaded space.

The Kelly-Springfield was originally built in 1921. It

was rusty with parts missing when Roots acquired it. Part of what Roots of Motive power does is restore steam machines, all with volunteer effort. They usually work every Wednesday night, year-round. "The Kelly took 1 1/2 years. A big project," Baldo shared.

Back to Sunday: people, young and old, gathered at the site in the morning to design and carve their creations into linoleum to have them printed by the renovated steam roller.

The process of making the black-and-white-inked prints started with people getting a blank and smooth piece of linoleum. They transferred a design onto the blank by tracing or drawing. By using different types of carving tools, they carved out lines, or spaces where they wanted them white. After the design was carved, they took the linoleum to Baldo for inking. Baldo placed it on the board in front of the steam-powered road roller, making sure someone with very clean

Read the rest of
Printing | Over on Page 9



Above, left: Amy from Nevada City drove over for the event. She seems happy about the print she made on Sunday. Above, right: Prints made by children and adults are laid out to dry.

Soroptimist online Third Tuesday Speaker Series invites all

Soroptimist International of Willits invites you to Zoom with us for our Third Tuesday Speaker Series. This month, Tuesday, September 21, at noon, features speaker Vicki Ham, Founder Region governor-elect, and member of Soroptimist International of Willits.

This is a FREE event, and everyone, everywhere, is welcome! RSVP to: SiWillits@Soroptimist.net for NEW Zoom link.

About Vicki: "After living in the Bay Area for over 30 years, working in the accounting field, I retired to Willits in 2008. I was invited to a membership meeting for the Willits Soroptimist club later that year. I loved the mission and joined on the spot.

"That fall, I attended a region District Meeting and got a chance to see the bigger picture for Soroptimist, beyond the local club, and I knew that



I had joined the right organization for me. I did not aspire to moving on into region leadership at that time, but within a few years I decided to run for the region board. I didn't win, but was later appointed Region treasurer, a position I held for five and a half years. Last year, I ran for Founder Region governor-elect, won, and will hold the position until May 2022 when I become governor for the region for a two-year term.

I plan to talk about the Soroptimist mission, how we have been affected by the pandemic during this current biennium, and what is currently happening within our region.

— Soroptimist
International of Willits

Vicki Ham, member of the local Soroptimist International of Willits, and Founder Region governor-elect is this month's featured speaker.



Football, Fleece & Fair Food

Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show to be held this weekend in Boonville



Above, right: The dairy goats are always curious to see what's happening outside the pen at the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show.

At left: One of the iconic Boonville fair images: rows and rows of apples.

Below: Beautiful blooms are always on display in the Floriculture building. At bottom: The wool and fiber festival is full of information and demonstrations for handling yarn, wool and fleeces.



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

It's time to head to the fair, the Boonville fair, that is, which will be held this coming weekend in Anderson Valley. This event is the actual Mendocino County Fair and also hosts a series of other fun activities for those looking for additional entertainment: football, concerts, rodeo, parade, car show, wool show, petting zoo, sheep dog trials, magicians, wine tasting, and even bubble gum blowing contests.

Gates open at 9 am, buildings open at 10 am and close at 10 pm, carnival closes at midnight, and the fair gates close at 1 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Visit on Friday to see the Boer goat judging at 8 am; the open sheep show and the junior dog show at 10 am; the open horse show at 11 am; bean spitting contest at 2 pm; the junior swine show at 3 pm; Godfrey the magician at 4 pm; the Apple Bowl football game at 5 pm; the open swine show at 7 pm; the concert and dance with Huckleberry Road at 8 pm; and the Circle of Champions at 7:30 pm.

On Saturday, you can watch the 4-H and FFA showmanship for sheep and poultry and the beef show at 9 am; the fiber demonstrations, rabbit show and rabbit showmanship starting at 10 am; the junior dairy cattle show and shearing demonstrations starting at 1 pm; 4-H and FFA Round Robin and the bubble gum blowing contest starting at 3 pm; a cutting exchange in the Floriculture building starts at 4 pm; wine tasting is from 5 to 9 pm in the Ag building; the CCPRA rodeo starts at 8 pm; and will be followed by the concert and dance with Dean Titus and the Coyote Cowboys.

Check out the final day of activities on Sunday including an 8:30 am church service; the sheep dog trials and classic car show at 10 am; the parade at noon;

the freaky fruit contest at 1:30 pm; the second half of the CCPRA rodeo at 2 pm; the tortilla tossing contest at 3 pm; the cutest show on earth at 5 pm; and end the night with the dance and concert with Mariachi Tarasco at 6:30 pm.

Tickets to enter the fair are \$10 adults; \$8 for juniors aged 13 to 18; \$6 for children 7 to 12; and young ones under the age of 6 are admitted for free. On Friday, seniors 65 and older are able to enter the fair for \$6, and also on Friday, children under the age of 12 are welcome to enter for free. Tickets for the carnival are \$40 for unlimited rides daily and are valid until 6 pm.

Anyone interested in attending should be aware that, according to the fair's Facebook page: "We do NOT require proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test to attend the 2021 Mendocino County Fair. We do encourage our community to consider the advisements recommended by the Public Health Department for your benefit and the benefit of our community:

- Wear a mask when required: Masks will be required indoors, masks and hand sanitizer will be at every entrance.
- Practice frequent hand washing: Hand wash stations will be placed around the grounds.
- Practice social distancing when possible.
- If you don't feel well or have a temperature, please stay home. You can enjoy the fair next year."

For a complete list of events and additional information, visit contact the Boonville fair website: <https://mendocountyfair.com/county-fair/>; their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/boonvillefair/>; or call 707-895-3011

— Maureen Jennison

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church

290 S. Lenore Ave.
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10:00 a.m. - Worship
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

803 Coast Street
Willits, CA 95490
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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ALL ARE WELCOME
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25 Hazel Street, Willits
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10 a.m.
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For appointments call:
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St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

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Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
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10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
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St. John Lutheran Church

Karl Bliese, Pastor
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Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
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following the service.
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24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714
Saturdays: Meeting place
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Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
<https://willits7adventistchurch.org>
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If you want to be included in this column please call:
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april@willitsweekly.com

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The rest of
Firehouse From Page 1

Town Bell," which itself is steeped in tradition, having originally sat atop a pole at the corner of Wood and School Streets and announced the noon hour as well as alerted the volunteer fire fighters to the need for their services.

The solemn ceremony of remembrance and appreciation included the singing of the national anthem by Nicole Aguilar and addresses by Supervisor John Haschak and Mayor Madge Strong, who presented the town with a proclamation from the City Council declaring 9/11 as Patriot Day. The chaplain of post 174 also offered a prayer and post 174 Adjutant Roger Ham gave a speech about the heroic efforts of the first responders.

Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer also spoke and finally Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, who choked up as he remembered those who willingly gave their lives in service on 9/11, quoted Jeff Parness of New York: "We're not about what happened on 9/11. We're about what happened on 9/12," referring to the American resolve to not "forgive or forget."

Following the solemn 9/11 remembrance ceremony, the attention became focused on the dedication of the new Little Lake Fire District Firehouse #54. The crowd migrated to the space in front of the huge doors of the apparatus bay, where the fire trucks will be housed. Several chairs were set up for luminaries, firefighters (current and past), and speakers.

The large crowd of onlookers stood and listened as Tony Madrigal, president of the board of directors, introduced the speakers who ruminated on the history of the district, the trials and tribulations involved in finally obtaining the much-needed facility, and the appreciation of all those involved in envisioning and helping bring the project to fruition.

Words were offered by Aaron Branscomb, president of the Firefighters Association, and Willits City Manager Brian Bender. Most spoke of their appreciation of the efforts of all involved to create and steward the construction of the new facility.

Finally, Chief Wilkes, who, sadly, was to retire from his years of brilliant service on this day, came up to the

dais to speak about the history of the fire department and the machinations involved in bringing this new building to the people of Willits.

He spoke about Chief Jeff Smith, "who served our department and community flawlessly for 22 years. He had the drive, vision, fortitude, and most of all, the gift of dealing with people in order to mold the future of your fire district. He saw the future needs for apparatus and the infrastructure we would need to be productive first responders. The bottom line is he really knew how to best protect this community."

The new building was to be dedicated to Chief Smith for his stewardship of the department, his vision of the future requirements in order for the department to run efficiently in order to protect the people of Willits, and his steadfast refusal to allow the vision to not be realized. Chief Smith's portrait is to hang prominently in the lobby once the department actually moves in sometime in October. His son, Chad Smith, and grandson, Marek, honored his memory by using the rescue instrument known as the Jaws of Life to cut through the bright yellow fire hose, which was standing in for the traditional ribbon.

Once the ceremonies were completed, the public was invited in to the apparatus bay to view items in the silent auction, see the history of the fire department in photo albums provided by the district, and take tours of the firehouse. Lunches, cooked by the Lions Club, were served in the park across from the firehouse. A live auction, presided over by Tom Allman and firefighter Tyler Yadon, and featuring several donated items including a beautiful firefighter-themed quilt by Robyn Lucier, brought in an appreciable amount of funds in order to help equip the firehouse with furniture and other needed equipment.

All in all, the event, organized by a committee of Willits Rotarians, members of the board of the fire district, Chief Wilkes, and others was a huge success, both attracting many of the citizens of Little Lake Valley and bringing in over \$10,000 to help equip the facility. As Chief Wilkes reminded the people of Willits, it is their firehouse and it will serve them for many years to come.



At top, left: In the apparatus bay, attendees can view the history of the fire department, as others wait to take a tour of the new facility. At top, right: Joe Burke, father of Shane Burke, a chief at the old station, carved this Smokey as a gift for the new station.



Above, from left: Chief Chris Wilkes rings the traditional "Four Fives" in honor of fallen comrades and first responders on 9/11. Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes and his cousin, Brian Wilkes from Murphys, pose for a photo. Chad Smith, son of Jeff Smith - to whom the firehouse is dedicated, and his son, Marek, cut the ribbon, which is actually a fire hose, with the Jaws of Life.

At right: Celebration organizer Jolene Carrillo and fire volunteer Tyler Yadon display the quilt by Robin Lucier during the live auction.



Below, left: The Ridgewood Fire Crew are now part of the Little Lake Fire District. Below, right: Training Chief Eric Alvarez, Deputy Chief John Thomen, Chief Chris Wilkes, Brooktrails Chief Jon Noyer, and Veteran John Frankum listen respectfully to the prayer.

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The rest of
Printing

From Page 6

hands handled the high-quality white paper, which they carefully laid over the inked linoleum. A few mats covered those. Then people stood out of the way as the steam roller slowly rolled over their small prints.

Everyone who made a print intently watched as their art was being made real by a seemingly ancient, 12-ton machine squashing the materials while spouting hot steam and water.

Volunteer and many-time participant Bobbie Yokum carved a bear on a clear rubber material brought by Baldo for experimenting. "It's made to put over a picture and carve it out. That way you don't have to transfer the picture on [the rubber material]. We'll see what happens," Yokum said.

Since Baldo was checking the inking to see how much to spread, he used Yokum's bear carving first. They ended up doing two because the first run had too much ink. Of the second one, Yokum smiled her answer.

Another participant was Suzanne Farris who said, "I've done a lot of printmaking. But this is fun. It's in the moment. You're here. Got to make a design and decide what you're going to do. And seeing how it comes together with the steam roller on top is a lot of fun." She created a very detailed print in memory of Jill Peacock, another printmaker who passed away in May of this year.

People showed up by themselves, with friends, or in families. Designs were varied in complexity. Some of the young folks found they liked making stars and comets since they stood out more than the more complex cuts others were crafting.

All in all, people enjoyed themselves. Some liked the spontaneity of creating something new just for this event. Other folks enjoyed watching the magic created by the interface of human creativity with the wonder of the workings of a steam machine.

The next Steam Road Roller event is the 18th Roadworks Steamroller Festival scheduled for Sunday, September 26, 11 am to 4 pm in San Francisco. Go to the San Francisco Center for the Book's website and click on events: www.sfbcc.org. Roots will have their Buffalo-Springfield steamroller rolling prints for professional print artists as well as others.

To learn more about Roots of Motive Power, visit www.rootsofmotivepower.com or their Facebook page for current activities and trainings.



Above: The Kelly Steam Roller rolls over the mats once and backs up at the Steam Printing event.

Photo by Ree Slocum

LEGAL NOTICES

WW 335



City of Willits Groundwater Resiliency Improvement Project: Revised Draft Initial Study Available for Public Review & Comment

Revisions to the Draft Initial Study and Environmental Checklist for the Groundwater Resiliency Improvement Project are complete. The Study and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration are available for review on the City's website: <https://cityofwillits.org/147/Engineering>. The Study will be open to public comment from September 10th - October 11, 2021.

The City will be accepting public comments on the Study until 5:00 pm on October 11, 2021. Comments can be submitted to the attention of Andrea Trincado Slater, Project Manager, at engineering@cityofwillits.org.

Publication Dates: September 16, 23, 30, 2021



Current Job Openings:

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Big Sale

Agape Thrift Store Big 50% Off Sale, Saturday, September 25, from 9 am to 3 pm, 354 North Main Street; 707-510-1600. 50% off total purchase price.

Bookkeeper wanted

Part-time bookkeeper for nonprofit Willits office. Good with the public. Must be compassionate with those less fortunate. Excellent office and computer skills. County COVID guidelines compliance is required. Apply to 229 E. San Francisco Street, Willits. Call with questions: 707-459-3333.

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 uicearhail@gmail.com

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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.

Furniture for Sale

Antique armchairs, dressers, big dog houses, large oak desk with chair, treadle sewing machine, and more misc. Can text photos: 707-367-2862

Garage Sale

Gigantic Garage sale, rain or shine, Fri & Sat, Sept 17th & 18th, 9am - 3pm, 140 Mill Creek Drive, Willits. Tools, furniture, household items, toys, clothing, bedding, puzzles, books, etc.

Giant Estate Sale

Giant Estate Sale: Saturday, September 18, 9 am to 3 pm. 12 Monroe St. Farmhouse décor, household, Halloween, statuary, garden, good jewelry/clothing, crafts, antique furniture, recreational/camping and oddities! Don't miss out on the fun and savings!

CLASSIFIEDS

Gleaners Update

Willits Grateful Gleaners harvest fruit to share with people in need. If you have extra or if you are willing to help, call (707) 367-7391.

Help Wanted

Small engine repair/equipment maintenance: \$16-\$20/hr DOE; full-time; additional benefits; business location is in Covelo; if interested, please send resume with contact info to: mandmfeedgm@gmail.com

Help Wanted

Office Assistant III: City of Willits: Salary: \$39,73.16 to 53,433.84 annually DOQ/DOE. Performs specified clerical and analytical duties in support of City Departments, with an emphasis on Community Development (Planning, Building and Code Enforcement functions). Under close supervision, incumbents perform the more routine office administrative duties while learning planning, building, and code enforcement concepts and City policies and procedures. Incumbents' work is observed and reviewed during performance and upon completion. As experience is gained, there is more diversity in assignments and greater independence of action within established guidelines. Tasks include, but are not limited to: responds to telephone inquiries, greets customers and visitors of the departments; maintains communications with customers regarding permits; customer service, both in person and on the phone; word processing and other office machines/ computer equipment; and other duties as assigned. Application Deadline: Thursday, Friday Sept 20, 2021, by 4:00 P.M. Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org

Help Wanted

Merchandise Processor /Stocker. \$14.50 Hour. Part Time (24 hours weekly) Send resume to wsdirector@willitsseniorecenter.com. Please include 3 references or pick up application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd. at 459-6826 for more information.

Help Wanted

Outreach Worker. Earn as you learn. \$15/Hour. 32 Hours Weekly. Send resume to wsdirector@willitsseniorecenter.com (please include 3 references) or pick up job application at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, or call Richard Baker at 459-6826 for more information

Help Wanted

Community Service Officer I (CSO I): City of Willits: Salary: \$39,73.16 to 53,433.84 annually DOQ/DOE. Under general supervision, a CSO I performs a wide variety of technical tasks to ensure a safe and humane environment for the prisoners as well as the Willits Police Department Staff. The CSO I will be responsible for the management and day to day operations of the property and evidence room. It is necessary to work a variety of shift assignments including day, swing, and graveyard shifts, weekends, and holidays. High School Diploma or equivalent; Successful completion of an STC certified Corrections Officer core course or ability to successfully complete the course within 18 months of employment in the position; Completion of a POST or STC certified 832 PC course or ability to complete the course within 180 days of employment in the position; any combination equivalent to one (1) year experience in public contact work environment, preferably in a law enforcement agency. Possession of a valid CA driver's license, excellent physical condition; free from any disqualifying conditions cited in the document "Medical Screening Manual for California Law Enforcement" published by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training; Achieve an acceptable rating in the City's psychological evaluation prior to initial hiring. Vision: Both eyes corrected to 20/20 or 20/40 uncorrected. Application Deadline: Friday, September 20, 2021, by 4:00 P.M. Contact Karen Stevenson at (707) 459-7176 or email kstevenson@cityofwillits.org

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/tip"

Volunteers needed

Volunteers needed at Willits Food Bank! Office help and Warehouse help. Must be compassionate about hungry and underprivileged people. Must be vaccinated against COVID and follow County guidelines. Call 707-459-3333 or visit 229 East San Francisco Street, across from Sparetime Supply.



Above: This sashimi variety box looks like a work of art. Below, left: A variety of bento boxes, or premade lunches, offer a variety of ingredients. Below, right: This petite green salad is available on the full menu. At bottom: Premade sushi by Hatake Farm Kitchen is for sale at Mariposa and it usually sells out.

Photos by Muto Ryo



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Situated behind Shanachie Pub, the "ghost" restaurant, Hatake Farm Kitchen, can deliver or arrange for pickup. At right: Ryo prepares over 30 of these prepackaged sushi and bento boxes daily for Mariposa Market.



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Mon.-Thurs.: 4:30 & 7:30pm

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(R)

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Sat./Sun.: 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 5:30 & 8:00pm

CRY MACHO

(PG13)

1 hr 44 mins

Fri.: 5:15 & 7:45pm

Sat./Sun.: 2:45, 5:15 & 7:45pm

Mon.-Thurs.: 5:15 & 7:45pm

The rest of Rescind | From Page 1

into what would have likely been a heated and expensive campaign in the county.

"Watching this cannabis referendum [debate] on both sides behave in a way that's detrimental to our community, I have no desire to place this item on the ballot," said Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren, who had previously voted to approve the ordinance.

TPR organizers and volunteers began working to gather signatures immediately after Chapter 22.18 was passed on June 22, having only a month to collect them.

In addition to the referendum effort, hundreds of letters and public comments flooded into the board opposed to the ordinance during the last year, especially to the expansion of cultivation of up to 10% of parcel size.

At this point the county will now have to move forward with their previous ordinance 10A17 to try and get applicants in compliance with county and state regulations, and perhaps make some alterations to the ordinance.

The mood of some of the supervisors seemed somber in the midst of the decision, having given a hefty amount of hours deliberating and crafting the ordinance only to see it undone.

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams said plainly, "I think it's essentially game over for cannabis in Mendocino County."

"If we put 22.18 on the ballot, there's nobody to get out there and explain it in a campaign," he said. "I think we're going to spend a lot of money to reach the same result. [This] means we're forced to open 10A17 Phase 3, which I think will be detrimental to our environment and to cultivators. Most of them won't be able to get their state license."

Board Chair Dan Gjerde agreed that the ordinance would likely get voted down in an election.

"I don't see the point in people spending their time and energy on what I think is a foregone conclusion," he said. "I think the voters of Mendocino County have said that they really believe that 'small is beautiful,' and maybe it is, but small may be bankrupt as well. So we'll just see what happens, but I think going forward we will endeavor as much as we can to improve the old ordinance in perhaps a way where a few people will get state licenses."

"Small Is Beautiful" was a reference to a different referendum effort whose supporters sought to just overturn the "10% rule" of the 22.18 ordinance, but weren't able to collect enough signatures in time.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak, the only supervisor to continuously oppose Chapter 22.18, agreed that county residents had made it clear they did not want the kind of expansion the ordinance contained.

"I think it comes down to the vision that people have for this county," he said. "I think you're right in saying 'small is beautiful,' it's a philosophy in our county.... And I think that we have an obligation to making sure that whoever wants to get through the program gets through, and we focus on that. We make the 10A17 work as much as possible. And if it's not economically possible for people, then there's some things that I think we can do to help, but ultimately it's not the county's responsibility to pick and choose the winners and losers."

County Counsel Christian Curtis said that if the board wants to make major changes to the environmental regulations of 10A17 it would take possibly "years of environmental review," while "starting over from scratch" with a new ordinance would require a full environmental impact report, which is "likely to be a multi-year process."

He also warned the board that attempting any new ordinance or changes to the current ordinance which went against what was stated in The People's Referendum could potentially be challenged legally.

"If the ordinance is repealed by the board ... the board is prohibited from reenacting the same ordinance," said Curtis. "And there is some ambiguity as to what exactly the scope of that would be.... I'd also just note that the prohibition on reenacting the ordinance is phrased in terms of reenacting an ordinance with the same essential features."

TPR Steering Committee member Kate Marianchild called in to the board meeting to comment, and encouraged supervisors to move forward with additional environmental protections, some of which had been outlined in 22.18.

She said that supporters of the referendum would not challenge any changes that "were more protective for the environment." Some of the changes she mentioned TPR supporters would like to see included banning water trucking for cannabis farms, prohibiting the use of products "that damage

agricultural soils," and requiring hydrological studies for new cannabis permits.

"Based on [our attorney's] advice, we wish to reassure the board that you can safely amend Chapter 10A17 or create a new ordinance to address [those issues]," she said, "without threat of a lawsuit being brought by the proponents of [TPR]. Our referendum did not oppose those elements in [Chapter 22.18]. We enthusiastically support such improvements to county cannabis code."

She also said they were "open to the discussion of" transitioning from the current ministerial permit process to more use of discretionary land use permits which Chapter 22.18 would have implemented. Many believe the discretionary permit process would allow for county staff to more easily help county permit applicants get their state licenses.

"The proponents of TPR also recognize the urgent need of Phase 1 growers to complete the county permitting and state licensing processes," said Marianchild. "We have no desire to delay the implementation of those elements for the permitting of Phase 1 growers, and we join the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance in calling for them either as amendments to Chapter 10A17 or through the creation of a new ordinance.

"We want to begin that process now, and we would like to avoid the delay and expense of a campaign that would serve only to test local resolve against externally funded propaganda," she continued. "As long as the substantive goals of the referendum are honored, the referendum proponents have no desire to delay or stand in the way of moving forward to address ongoing issues in an open and collaborative way."

MCA Executive Director Michael Katz called in to say that he was appreciative of TPRs support of moving towards discretionary permits, and urged the board to act quickly to help current applicants.

"We have heard a lot of talk from the board today about the failure of existing operators and adding more restrictions to 10A17, but not a lot of talk about how to protect those existing operators," said Katz. "The truth is that if it winds up being 'game over' for the cannabis industry in Mendocino as Supervisor Williams suggests, it will be because of the failure to act effectively at this time."

Katz pointed to the fact that the county has access to \$18 million in state grant funding which is intended to help cannabis operators in the county achieve state licenses.

"The families and employees of over 700 small cannabis businesses are looking to your leadership to protect their livelihoods and their significant investment into lawfully operating a cannabis business in the regulated market," he said. "It is well beyond time to change the narrative that our existing license operators are doomed to failure. We must stabilize our permitted cannabis community."

Willits cannabis business owner Ron Edwards, who frequently gives public comments at board meetings, did not mince words in expressing his frustration with the board.

"This has been another frustrating effort in trying to participate in government," he said. "I have been involved in this since the beginning. And I and other members of the community have pleaded with you, have brought you information time and time again around cannabis, and it seemed to just be rejected."

"You got the correspondence, you got letters ahead of time, that it was quite clear where the public was going with this referendum vote," he continued. "Yet you steadily went forward with where you wanted to go. And I am just confused, as I'm sure most of us are, of the thinking that got us here."

Ellen Drell, also a TPR steering committee member, tried to strike a more peaceful tone in her public comments.

"Lots of effort have brought us to this point and we appreciate the hundreds of hours you have spent addressing cannabis cultivation and its regulation," she said to the board. "And it's my strong feeling that it has not been wasted effort. We now know there's widespread opposition to expansion. We know the county needs a thorough analysis of its water resources. We know we need to take into account changed climate conditions. We need a well-thought-out regulatory program which we support, and I'm happy it's underway."

"And we know that it's very difficult to make good land use decisions without an EIR and getting the public's pulse and ultimately the public's buy-in," she continued. "And there is no question that the elements of 22.18 that did address people's concerns around water, hoop houses, soils, etc., can and must be incorporated into either 10A17 or a new ordinance."

The rest of Updates | From Page 1

great job of taking this seriously and working really hard with us. Even if they don't necessarily agree with the policies that we have in place, they're following them and being courteous about that," he said. "I really appreciate that."

Willits Teachers Association president Tessa Ford agreed.

"I've been hearing from people on every campus that there is been tremendous networking supporting of each other," she said. "We are working so hard to do this right; so that we can stay open; so that our kids can stay in school."

"We do have students who are quarantining. We do have classes where multiple positive tests have occurred, but have not reached the magic number of three positive tests," she continued. "If we do hit that magic number ... then the class has to close for two weeks. So we're trying really hard to avoid that disruption."

And maybe "we're not getting the three because parents aren't testing their kids. They're just keeping them home and saying that they're sick," she speculated.

"It's working really well because of the effort that everybody's putting in," agreed trustee Jeanne King, who had some first-hand experience to offer.

"My grandchild is in second grade. A student went home sick, and it turned out that he tested positive for COVID. And the class got a request that they don't come to school until nine o'clock the next day in order that they could all be tested before the class resumed," she said. "And it went without a hitch. And the class resumed because nobody else was sick ... that I know of."

During public comment, local physician Mills Matheson offered some fruits of his research and his best advice to the board.

"I've been practicing medicine in Willits for 47 years," he began. "I have a special interest in COVID in the school because I have two grandsons in the Willits' schools; a 9 year old at Blosser [and] ... a senior at the high school."

"Our society is in the midst of a great experiment," he continued. "Can we keep schools open without making the COVID pandemic a lot worse?"

"Since we're now dealing with the Delta variant we have very little scientific data to guide us. Most of the data we have is based on the Alpha variant, which is very very different, very weaker," he said.

"Different school districts have different COVID mitigations," he explained. "For example, most of California school districts are using a modified quarantine, but Los Angeles and San Francisco did not modify their quarantines. In Los Angeles, the whole class goes home for two weeks if just one student tests positive for COVID."

"I think now that the best thing that the school district can do is to closely monitor the schools for COVID transmission and quickly modify our mitigations if we run into a problem," he said. "In the future, we may need more testing. We may need a stricter quarantine. We may need to upgrade the quality of the masks the kids are wearing. For now, I think we just need to closely monitor."

And also, said WUSD board president Alex Bowlds:

"Please, if you haven't been vaccinated, please consider getting vaccinated. It's the safest thing you can do currently, for yourself and your community."

Speaking of safety, the board also approved a three-year agreement with the city of Willits for the city police department to "provide a school resources officer program in the school district," with the district shouldering 75 percent of the cost of the officer.

The officer will be a police department employee, have a wide range of responsibilities in creating and maintaining a safe environment for students and staff, and will "serve primarily at the high school and Baechtel Grove."

"The SRO is not there to enforce rules," explained Aldridge. "That's up to the administration. That's up to staff."

"So if this person notices an infraction on the school property, they could just bring that person forward to the administration to deal with the situation," he continued. "We don't want them to have that adversarial role."

Aldridge anticipated that he, high school principal Michael Colvig, and Baechtel Grove Middle School principal Maria de los Angeles Munguia would meet with "the SRO candidate ... to make sure that we feel comfortable with the candidate that's being put forward by the police department."

Feeling comfortable might also be an apt description of fiscal services director Nikki Agenbroad's presentation of the 2020/2021 "unaudited actuals" – the not yet formally audited annual statement reporting financial activities reflecting the final year-end closing from the previous June.

"We did not deficit spend, which is good," she said.

The actual numbers showed incoming at a bit under \$23.5 million and outgoing at a bit over \$21.2 million.

Looking forward she anticipated "the budget for the current year a little into deficit, but very close to balanced."

The rest of COVID | From Page 4

The Willits Unified School District COVID dashboard has been updated with data from the third week of school in Willits. For the week of September 7 to 10 (no school on September 6), a total of 5 cases of COVID were confirmed, all deemed "community-based." There were 2 cases at Blosser Lane Elementary, 3 cases at Baechtel Grove Middle School, and 1 case at Willits High School. To see the data, updated weekly, visit <https://www.willitsunified.com/o/wusd/page/wusd-covid-dashboard>.

Vaccination information

Dr. Coren also updated the board Tuesday on current vaccination numbers. He reported seeing "a modest increase in vaccine demand" in Mendocino County. As of September 14, 104,122 total doses of vaccines have been given out.

Coren said 78.1 percent of the county population eligible for vaccination are at least partially vaccinated, and 65.5 percent of the total population are fully vaccinated. "This exceeds the state average," he said.

In addition to offering vaccines every Friday at the Ukiah Fairgrounds, Coren said, Public Health would be starting new clinics this week at Public Health locations in Willits and Fort Bragg. As per the COVID page on the Mendocino County site, Public Health will be offering all vaccines Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 4:15 pm, at the county building at 474 East Valley Street in Willits. Sign up at myturm.ca.gov or walk ups are welcome.

The rest of Accident | From Page 1

101 northbound at approximately 70 mph. A 29 year old female (name withheld) was driving a 2009 Dodge Ram, within the number one lane of US-101 southbound at approximately 70 mph," the CHP reports.

For unknown reasons, the male driver allowed the Acura to cross over the double yellow lines dividing the north and southbound lanes, directly towards the Dodge. Subsequently, the left front of the Acura impacted the left front of the Dodge, causing the Dodge to impact a guardrail and overturn. The Acura came to rest on its wheels within the number two lane of US-101 southbound.

The Dodge came to rest on its roof within the number two lane of US-101 southbound, south of the Acura. The driver and passengers of the Dodge were assisted out of my vehicle by medical personnel.

The driver of the Dodge sustained major injuries and was transported to Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital. The passengers of the Dodge suffered minor injuries and were transported to Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital.

Due to the intrusion into the Acura, the driver suffered fatal injuries and was declared deceased at 11:08 am by medical personnel, requiring extrication from the Acura.

The cause of this collision is still under investigation. Alcohol and/or drugs are not determined to be factors at this time. The identities of all involved parties are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Any person with information pertaining to this incident is asked to contact the California Highway Patrol's Ukiah Area Office at 707-467-4420.

Willits Weekly

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Slick the Defender

Slick is an intense boy! He's a protector, hustler, and ranch keeper. He's people friendly, but will guard most likely once he establishes his pack and terrain, at least he'll alert and

make someone think twice. Not a dog for the faint of heart or inexperienced. Slick is male-dominant and needs a low-stimulation environment to succeed in living with another dog, but with space and a female dog, he can get along just fine. Someone who lives in a rural situation who wants a smart, quick, alert, challenging companion – here's Slick!

If you would like more info about Slick, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

Modest Malani

Let me introduce you to this adorable, bashful, overload of cuteness, Malani. She is 2.5 years old and came to us as a transfer from Clearlake Animal Control. Malani has been living in a foster home, so we have had the chance to learn a little about her. On site this sweetie is shy, withdrawn and shut down. In a home she is loveable, will be your shadow, and is more engaged. Her foster mom states, "Miss Malani is a

tiny little girl with a lot of love to give. She is searching for her soul mate to spend the rest of her life with!" Malani is the best lap-warmer and would love nothing more than a forever lap of her own. Are you Malani's forever lap? Apply today at www.mendohumanesociety.com.



com. The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Currently we are open by appointment only on Wednesday through Friday, and open to the public Saturday through Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, no appointment needed on the weekends! You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumanesociety.com, our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Gentle Huckle

Huckle came in with his sister, Berry, and both are very friendly. Huckle is a fairly curious and gentle goat, and he would love to be a part of your family. Huckle is 1 year old.

For more info about Huckle or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events and updates about COVID-19 and the inland 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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MEMORIAL |

Sally Gearhart

Everyone is welcome to a Public Memorial Celebration for Sally Miller Gearhart (1931 - 2021), on Sunday, September 19, at noon, at Willits Recreation Grove Park (across from the library). No food or drink. Bring chairs (some provided) or blanket.

Masks required.

MENDOCINO COUNTY FAIR & APPLE SHOW
SEPT. 17TH - 19TH, 2021

OPEN 9 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY!

FRIDAY, 9/17:
10 am: Wool & Fiber Show
2 pm: Bean Spitting Contest
5 pm: Apple Bowl - Football
8 pm: Dance - Huckleberry Road

SATURDAY, 9/18:
9 am: Beef Show
1 pm: Cutest Show on Earth
8 pm: CCPRA Rodeo
9:30 pm: Dance - Dean Titus & the Coyote Cowboys

SUNDAY, 9/19:
10 am: Sheep Dog Trials
10 am: Vintage Car Show
Noon: Parade
2 pm: CCPRA Rodeo
6:30 pm: Dance - Mariachi Tarasco

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