

# Willits Weekly

Online & Print

**Willits** **newspaper**

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 372 **Thursday, September 24, 2020**

## New COVID health order issued

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

Public Health Officer Andy Coren released a new public health order on Tuesday, September 22, which became effective at 6 pm that day.

This COVID-19 health order, which is the third that Coren has written since August 24, when he took over the position of the county's public health officer, is shorter and more concise than previous health orders, because it frequently refers the reader

Read the rest of **Order**  
Over on Page 11

## Brooktrails board 'meets' during evacuation

Barbara O'Reardon  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors earns an A+ for effort for meeting via Zoom at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 8, as all board members were scattered, away from their homes, due to Brooktrails being evacuated because of the Oak Fire.

There was discussion regarding the fire, although a detailed summation of the evacuation, response by firefighters, support personnel and police was expected at this week's board meeting.

Two items at the September 8 meeting were voted on and unanimously passed by the board.

Read the rest of **Brooktrails**  
Over on Page 11

## 7 arrested after armed robberies in Laytonville

By Lieutenant Quincy Cromer, for MCSO

On September 19 at approximately 4 pm, deputies from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to an armed robbery that occurred at the Black Oak Ranch in the 49000 block of North Highway 101 near Laytonville.

Law enforcement personnel from the Sheriff's Office Investigations Bureau, California Highway Patrol, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Mendocino County Inter-Agency SWAT

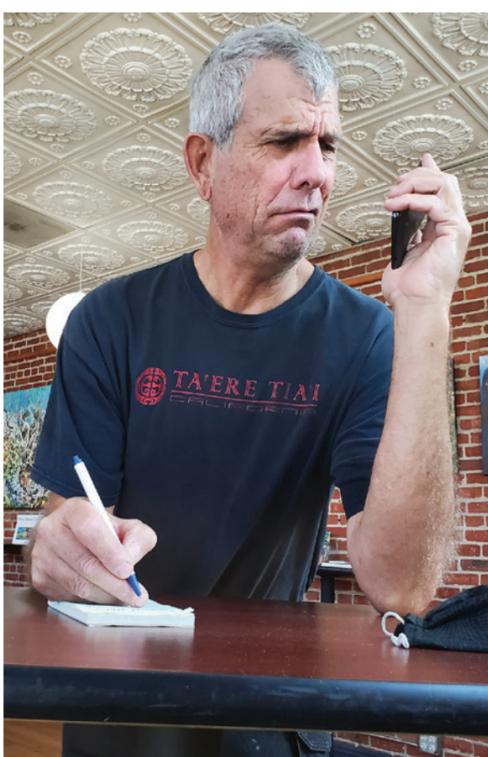
Read the rest of **Robberies**  
Over on Page 10



Above, from left: Brickhouse kitchen manager Vanessa Reimer takes an order from a customer at the counter. The new Square system at Brickhouse allows customers a new option – pay by card! Misha Zaied, Mann's grandson and barista at Brickhouse steams up a carafe on the new espresso machine. Below: Tom Mann is happy with the new digital way of doing business – including registering a phone number for Brickhouse Coffee so customers can call in orders and have them ready and waiting for pick up!



Photos by Maureen Jennison



At top: A selection of house-made goodies includes many gluten-free options among a variety of scruffins, muffins, breads and cookies. Above: Tom Mann hams around while demonstrating his abilities with the new-fangled technology at Brickhouse Coffee. Below, left and right: The menu for Brickhouse Coffee includes lots of delicious options for breakfast or lunch, including drinks, sandwiches, wraps, salads and much more. Below, center: The delicious Rainbow Salad with basil dressing. As always, hold the onions!

BREAKFAST	BAKED GOODS
Eggs can be cooked sunny side up, over easy, over medium, or scrambled (vegetarian or organic), local farm fresh egg for 1.00	Veggie Scuffin \$4 Bacon Scuffin \$4 Rugelach \$2 Mini Loaf \$2
<b>THE ORIGINAL</b> One egg and cheddar cheese on choice of English muffin or brioche bun 5.25	Assorted Flavors 1.50 Chocolate 2.25 Muffin 1.50 Muffin Case 4.00 Cinnamon 3.50
<b>BREAKFAST POPPER</b> One egg, scrambled bacon, pepper jack, cream cheese, and our house made jalapeno apple salsa on a brioche bun 8.50	<b>New York Style Bagels</b> Bagel w/ Cream Cheese 3.75 Bagel w/ Anchocho 4.25
<b>BREAKFAST SUPER VEGGIE</b> One egg, banana, avocado, tomatoes, cucumber, and onion, toasted sourdough apple on a brioche bun 9.25	<b>SALMON LOAF BAGEL</b> Cream Cheese, salmon, onion, and onion, capers, and dill on choice of bagel 2.25
<b>BIG BREAKFAST</b> Two eggs, your choice of bacon, sausage, or ham, cheddar cheese, tomato, red onion, and green on a brioche bun 10.50	<b>SUBSTITUTIONS</b> Bagel 1.50 Gluten Free Bread 2.00 Cinnamon 2.25 Diet Roll 1.00
<b>SUPER POPPER</b> One egg, scrambled bacon, pepper jack, jalapeno apple salsa, cream cheese, avocado, red onion, tomato, cucumber, and toasted sourdough apple on a brioche bun 11.50	<b>EXTRAS</b> Bacon, turkey, ham 2.00 Cinnamon 2.00 Egg or avocado 2.00 Cheese or cream cheese 2.00 Cucumber, tomato, onion, or green 2.00 Jalapeno apple salsa 2.00 French fries or onion 1.50 Fruit, 1 slice 1.50
<b>HAM &amp; CHEESE CROSSANT</b> 9.50	
<b>CARL'S BREAKFAST SALAD</b> Three eggs, your choice of bacon, sausage, or ham, cheddar cheese, tomato, red onion, and green, and leafy pepper, aged white cheddar and toasted sourdough or substitute wholegrain bread dressing or substitute wholegrain bread 9.50	



SANDWICHES	FLATBREAD WRAPS
<b>HAM &amp; GREEN APPLE</b> 8.75 Cherry tomato, with ham, sweet mustard, mayo, and green. Served hot!	<b>VEGGIE</b> 9.99 Hawaii, cheddar, avocado, tomato, red onion, cucumber, green, baked sourdough, and balsamic vinaigrette
<b>TURKEY &amp; BACON</b> 10.50 Cherry tomato, with turkey, sweet mustard, mayo, onion, red onion, and green. Served hot!	<b>TURKEY</b> 9.99 Ham, turkey, tomato, cucumber, and onion, green and balsamic vinaigrette
<b>LUNCH POPPER</b> 8.75 One egg with bacon, cheddar, toast mustard, mayo, onion, red onion, and green. Served hot!	<b>ITALIAN</b> 9.99 Ham, turkey, black olive, red leafy pepper, green and creamy basil dressing
<b>BARBECUE FUNGUS SALAD</b> 8.75 Cherry tomato, onion, and green. Served hot!	<b>Choice of Two:</b> 12.50 Cappuccino Cappuccino
<b>LUNCH SUPER VEGGIE</b> 8.75 One egg with bacon, cheddar, toast mustard, mayo, onion, red onion, and green. Served hot!	<b>FRESH SALADS</b> 12.50 With choice of dressing: ranch, vinaigrette, or balsamic vinaigrette
<b>ALL</b> 8.75 Sourdough with double the bacon, cheddar, tomato, onion, tomato, and green. Served hot!	<b>RAINBOW</b> 10.00 Mixed greens, and leafy pepper, cucumber, tomato, carrot, tomato, and onion, black olive, aged white cheddar, and toasted sourdough
<b>BLUED YOGURT CRISP</b> 9.75 Peanut, turkey, ham, bacon, mayo, or avocado. Cream cheese, pepper jack, cheddar or onion. With onion, toast mustard, tomato, and onion, and green or choice of bread	<b>SPINACH</b> 10.50 Baby spinach, bacon, hard-boiled egg, red leafy pepper, and cream. Black olive, aged white cheddar, and toasted sourdough
<b>RAMBLIN'</b> 9.50 Turkey and pepper jack	<b>COBB</b> 10.50 Mixed greens, turkey, ham, hard-boiled egg, aged white cheddar, tomato, cucumber, and red onion
<b>TURKEY &amp; PEPPER JACK</b> 9.50	<b>KIDS</b> 5.75
<b>TUNA CHEROKEE MELT</b> 9.50	<b>SOUP</b> 4.00 Mustard cream served with French's mustard Meat & Cheese Sandwich 5.75 Cup 7.00 • Bowl 10.50
<b>CALIFORNIA</b> 10.50 Turkey, ham, pepper jack, avocado	

## Time to Call

### Brickhouse breaks into digital age, adding phone and credit card capabilities to help customers order in advance

Sometimes, fate allows you to witness a special moment in time. This can take the form of say, the creation of the internet, discovering cave paintings, or when buttons starting appearing on clothing.

Maureen Jennison  
Graphics & Photographress  
maureen@willitsweekly.com

It can also appear in the form of a telephone. Not the original Alexander Graham Bell kind, no, this is more of a "Steve Jobs" tech advancement, but none the less, we, Willits, can rejoice to be a part of a great moment for one local business: Tom Mann of Brickhouse Coffee has acquired a phone for the restaurant, and even a credit card machine in store to take payments – and business is booming.

Don't get me wrong, I love a luxurious linger at Brickhouse, chatting with other customers, looking at the beautiful gallery of artwork coving the brick walls, watching the baristas work their magic behind the counter on my 12 oz. latte.

I also am a check-writing, stamp-using citizen. I've written many \$13 checks to Brickhouse when I was without cash in hand.... But sometimes, I want to call in my Breakfast Super Veggie (no onions and egg scrambled, please) and have it waiting for me when I show up, hand them my trusty debit card, and get on with my day. Now, this is possible and I, for one, am thrilled.

Knowing Mann for many years, I'd frequently poked and suggested that he make the leap, get a phone and credit card machine, even if that meant having to raise prices just a little – it would be fine! People would pay – the food IS that good, and darnit, that's why I keep pestering so much!

He would laugh, take my check, hand me my Rainbow Salad with basil dressing while telling me his concerns and worries about making the switch, and say he'd keep thinking about it. Even if my squeaking helped, it was his techno-savvy grandson Misha Zaied and kitchen manager Vanessa Reimer who finally tipped Mann over into the digital age and sealed the deal.

Read the rest of **Brickhouse**  
Over on Page 13

## Supes OK plan to improve pot program

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

On Tuesday, the board of supervisors voted unanimously to approve a 10-part directive which may prove to take significant steps toward making the county's cannabis program functional.

The package of directives came from the supes' ad hoc committee on cannabis matters, which includes Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams and Third District Supervisor John Haschak.

The 10th directive was to schedule a special

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

## City council supports homeless plan

Forrest Glycer  
Reporter  
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At their September 9 meeting, Willits City Council members expressed support for a wide-ranging plan to address homelessness in the county from the Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care, which has been tasked by the county to address the issue.

As explained by CoC co-chair and Ukiah Deputy City Manager Shannon Riley, the group is a "a collaborative of about 31 public agencies and non-profit organizations that serve the homeless population in Mendocino County" that meets monthly.

Two of the main goals of the plan laid out by Riley

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

## Supes approve wildfire planning documents

Mike A'Dair  
Reporter  
mike@willitsweekly.com

The board of supervisors unanimously approved a package of three wildfire and emergency planning documents at the board meeting on Tuesday.

The package consisted of a public outreach plan (40 pages), a wildfire vulnerability assessment (114 pages) and an emergency evacuation preparedness plan (162

Read the rest of **Wildfire**  
Over on Page 11

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Thank you

To the Editor:

It is hard to know where to begin to say thank you when so many wonderful people in this community helped and were kind during the Oak Fire.

I think I would have to begin with our firefighters who once again risked their lives to save ours and to protect our property. You are truly an amazing group of men and women. Thank you and God bless every one of you.

Thanks also to our peace officers who made sure that everyone got out safely and in a timely manner. As a member of CERT I totally agree with Chief Noyer's decision not to activate us, thus bringing more traffic into an area that was being evacuated. Instead, those of us who live in Brooktrails did as we were trained to do – see to our own family and neighbors and prepare to leave when told to.

Certainly Sherwood Firewise deserves a great deal of credit for the wonderful job they have done in increasing public awareness of the dangers of living in the wonderful place we do and how to be prepared for the inevitable. They have also greatly improved signage and encouraged creating defensible space.

Lastly, and forgive me if I've forgotten to mention anyone else, thank you to the wonderful folks at the Willits KOA. When we pulled in with an RV which obviously hadn't been used in quite a while all they asked was "are you from up the hill?" and when we said we were, they told us to pick any site we wanted and they'd talk to us in the morning.

They were gracious, kind, compassionate and supportive, and when my husband tried to give them a credit card they refused. Every staff member we met had a kind word and offered to help us. They certainly restored my faith in humanity in these troubled times.

Having grown up in New York City, this experience has made me realize without a doubt how much my husband and I have gained by living in a wonderful small town where everyone really believes in neighbors helping neighbors.

Margrete Arnold, Brooktrails

## Yes on Measure I

To the Editor:

To all the voters in the Willits Unified School District: What is Measure I? Measure I is a school bond measure structured such that it will enable the school district to sell bonds in a way that keeps the cost to the property owner as low as possible. It allows the district to gauge the economic health of the district before selling bonds that increase your property taxes. This way, the district can delay the sale of bonds until the economy rebounds.

Why do we need Measure I? WUSD has a large list of repair projects, and we simply don't have the funds to pay for them without impacting teacher and staff salaries, and essential programs. For example, Blosser Lane Elementary School is our newest campus at 30 years old. It is in desperate need of a \$400,000 roof. This is just one of many major projects that need to be completed before failure to make repairs results in unsafe facilities.

Isn't the money from the state enough? No! California simply doesn't prioritize public education like many other states. Depending upon which report you read, California ranks around 40th in per pupil spending among the 50 states. That is simply ridiculous when this state has an economy which when compared with other nations, would rank 5th in the world. WUSD is not alone with this problem.

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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## Brooktrails Fire gets equipment grant

Submitted by the Brooktrails Fire Department

The Brooktrails Township Fire Department is pleased to announce the receipt of a California Fire Foundation grant, awarded to upgrade communications equipment, including radios like those used to coordinate the highly successful emergency response on the recent Oak Fire.

The California Fire Foundation offers grant opportunities to fire departments, firefighter associations and community organizations serving the residents of California during tragic events such as wildfires, floods, and climate-caused disasters.

Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer says the funds will be used to upgrade mobile and portable radios in the apparatus used for wildland fires. "We need to be able to communicate with other allied agencies. With the constant changes in radio frequencies across the region and state, this award will allow us to do just that!"



The California Fire Foundation has teamed up with funding partners across the state to support wildfire prevention and relief through these grant programs. Grant funding priorities include:

- Community Outreach & Preparedness
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Specialized Firefighting Equipment
- Mitigation & Fuels Reduction
- First Responder Training
- Fire Prevention Education & Planning

Chief Noyer thanks the California Fire Foundation, its cooperators and donors. If you would like more information or want to donate to one of their important programs, please visit <https://www.cafirefoundation.org/>.

At right: Glenda Brown, who shops at the Thrift Shop at least twice a week, checks out the crafts area: "It's nice and clean here, and they have lots of usable things. I shop here first before I go to a retailer." Below: There are usually seasonal displays throughout the shop – you can tell Halloween's on its way. At bottom: Bobby Brumback is collecting materials for plated tote bags he custom makes for people: "I needed pink fabric, but I always end up with 30 other kinds, too," he laughs as his arms fill up.



Above: One can find children's clothes and toys for all sizes and ages at the Thrift Shop. Below: Employee Leslie Challenger, who's been with the shop for eight years, helps Don check out: "I like the Thrift Shop because all the money goes next door to the senior center. Everyone who comes here is happy. We seldom run into a cranky person. So it's a wonderful place to work," she shares.



## Assistance Needed

The Willits Harrah Senior Center, known for serving the community, is asking for help funding their vital programs

As with most businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Willits Harrah Senior Center is amongst those experiencing financial challenges. The non-profit organization serves senior citizens and often the community at large.

"We're very grateful and appreciative to the community for what they do for us and we feel we have a responsibility to give back to the community any time something like [COVID-19] happens," stated Richard Baker, Willits Senior Center director.

Giving back, and then some. Without the usual income streams from fundraisers and facility rentals, they have cut their income by over \$6,000 a month. There hasn't been the Chili Cook-off, or the Chicken or Pulled Pork Dinners, which each usually bring in \$1,000. Their Funding Raffle usually nets \$15,000. "When you total it all up, it's over \$24,000 of lost revenue," Baker said.

They've received monies from different sources during the pandemic. The Community Foundation of Mendocino County has provided funds for food costs since June. "And that's been a big help," said Baker. They've been given resources from Safeway's Nourishing Neighbors, Sparetime Supply, Rotary – who donated twice, other organizations, and private individuals.

Lost revenue combined with increased need for the senior center means they are running low on funds.

Read the rest of Assistance Over on Page 13



Above: Right inside the door as you walk in is the sign announcing special discounts. At right: The book section is sorted into categories, making browsing easier.

Photos by Ree Slocum

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459-3106

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ALL ARE WELCOME

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**JOHN FORD RANCH**  
RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

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## PG&E funds local fire safe councils in 28 counties

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has joined forces with local fire safe councils and other 501(c)(3) organizations across Northern and Central California to enhance the safety and preparedness of local communities in connection with the 2020 wildfire season.

PG&E is providing \$2.3 million to fund the organizations' projects across 28 counties to reduce the threat of wildfires and help keep communities safe. This includes a total of \$220,000 to fire safe councils in Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties.

"The safety of our customers and the communities we serve is PG&E's most important responsibility, and we are once again committed to supporting local wildfire prevention efforts in the North Coast. This collaboration among PG&E and local fire safe councils will help the communities we serve prevent and prepare for wildfires," said Carl Schoenhofer, senior manager of PG&E's Humboldt Division.

The Mendocino Fire Safe Council received \$75,000 to expand its chipper program.

"Thanks to this new PG&E funding, we have been able to hire the crews to run our chipper (which PG&E helped us purchase last year) and expand our reach by offering chipper days county-wide. For example, in the current two-week period we are bringing days of chipping service to residents of Anderson Valley, Fort Bragg, Albion, Redwood Valley and Covelo," said Scott Cratty, executive director of the Mendocino Fire Safe Council.

"We are leveraging PG&E's assistance to offer free chipping when local community groups organize themselves to do enough work to keep a chipper crew busy all day. In exchange we bring the crew and do the chipping work for free, which provides a substantial

Read the rest of PG&E Over on Page 4

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**Willits Weekly**  
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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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3		1	9	6		8		
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## 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!

## RESTAURANT WORD SEARCH

R C S H A R D U Y P W L S Y U N H T K F  
V E O G N S B F G E E F I W C U W A S D B  
H M H T W B F G E E F I W C U W A S D B  
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S Y R R N A F C A I P V M B E M P G N S  
N S B N N A F C A I P V M B E M P G N S  
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Y M T F V K U E H T C H A R G E B I D R  
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|---------|-------------|---------|------------|
| BAR     | DELIVERY    | MEAL    | RESTAURANT |
| BUSBOY  | DINING      | MENU    | SECTIONS   |
| CHARGE  | DISHWASHING | PARTY   | SERVER     |
| CHECK   | GRATUITY    | PLATING | SERVICE    |
| CHEF    | GUEST       | PREP    | TABLE      |
| COUNTER | HOUSE       | RECIPES | TAKEOUT    |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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54		55			56				57	58	59
60					61				62		
63					64				65		
66					67				68		

## CLUES ACROSS

- Emaciation
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
- Anatomical term
- Tropical starchy tuberous root
- Jewish calendar month
- Round Dutch cheese
- Western Pacific republic
- List of foods
- It can strike the ground
- Drenches
- Some are cole
- Squad
- Expresses emotion
- One point east of due south
- Satisfaction
- Holds nothing back
- Top of the body
- Not well-liked
- Did slowly
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Gland secretion
- Vital to existence
- Aristocratic young women
- Erik \_\_, composer
- Not young

## CLUES DOWN

- Not us
- Helper
- Bleat
- Type of chair
- Jr.'s father
- Necessary for certain beverages
- Hillside
- Dutch painter Gerrit \_\_
- Gave a new look
- Ancient Greek City
- Confidence trick
- Type of fund

# WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

September 14 to September 20

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **145 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

## Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

### September 14

12:42 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

8:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

10:41 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

### September 15

8:00 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

10:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:10 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

7:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Page Court.

8:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

### September 16

4:37 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of McKinley Street.

11:34 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 800 block of South Main Street.

1:12 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

10:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

### September 17

12:53 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

12:55 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

2:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

7:26 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

8:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

9:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

### September 18

9:00 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.

11:30 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:28 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of South Main Street.

2:39 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1200 block of South Main Street.

4:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 400 block of Grove Street.

6:56 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street.

7:47 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street.

8:55 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street.

### September 19

3:04 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Redwood Avenue and North Street.

3:25 am: JIMENEZ, Brandon Jonathan (23) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

2:37 pm: LEE, Patrick Bryan (36) of Fort Bragg was contacted near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation – felony).

4:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Baechtel Road and South Main Street.

11:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:52 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Monroe Street.

2:03 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

5:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Main Street.

6:06 pm: Officers responded to a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:54 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

8:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Sherwood Road.



The rest of **PG&E** From Page 2

savings for those community members relative to having to pay for that work or haul the brush they cut to a green waste facility," Scott continued. "This grant has helped us inspire communities throughout the county to work on their defensible space and to accomplish substantial fire fuel reduction work."

The Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council, with the Mattole Restoration Council, will use the \$70,000 grant to reduce hazardous fuels, primarily eucalyptus trees, along Humboldt County roads in the Petrolia area.

"Treatments include the use of a bucket truck for overhanging branches and local ground crews to both clean up and reduce roadside fuels," said Ali Freedlund, director for the Working Lands Human Communities Program at the Mattole Restoration Council. "Firewood will be processed and given to the elderly or low income and alter-abled," added Freedlund.

A \$75,000 grant to the Trinity County Fire Safe Council will enable the Trinity County Resource Conservation District to create shaded fuel breaks in the Mad River area and clear overgrowth along roadsides. In a new program, the organization will also be able to provide fuel reduction services on private land within 100 feet of PG&E

assets, for the first time in Southern Trinity County.

Since 2014, and including this year, PG&E will have provided \$17 million to local fire safe councils and 501(c)(3) organizations to fund more than 300 projects in Northern and Central California. Projects have included fuel reduction, shaded fuel breaks, emergency access and wood-chipping programs. This year, PG&E is providing funding to local councils and nonprofits to complete approximately 41 projects in 28 counties. Projects must be completed by November of this year.

## Community Wildfire Safety Program

In addition to partnering with local fire safe councils and 501(c)(3) organizations, PG&E is preparing for wildfires through its Community Wildfire Safety Program. The company launched the program in 2018 as an additional precautionary measure intended to reduce wildfire threats and strengthen communities for the future. Through the program, PG&E is bolstering wildfire prevention and emergency response efforts, putting in place new and enhanced safety measures, and doing more over the long term to harden its electric system to help reduce wildfire risks and to keep its customers safe.



## Bank on Wheels

### Humboldt County's Vocality Community Credit Union sets up mobile office at Rexall parking lot Mondays and Thursdays

There is a new bank in Willits, at least part of the time, and it is a credit union on wheels. Vocality Community Credit Union, which has its main office in Garberville, is setting up its mobile banking office and ATM in the parking lot at the old Rexall building, at Main and Mendocino streets.

The office will be open two days a week, Monday and Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm. Its features include: no minimum balance, no per-check charge, VISA debit card, free touch-tone phone access to accounts, and home banking access.

As a members-only credit union, Vocality is a non-profit institution which can put more of its assets back into the hands of its members, rather than into the hands of investors. This allows them to keep their loan fees low and their dividends higher.

When visiting the mobile office to set up an account and membership, one will probably encounter Member Services Representative Jahshua Vella, who handles most of the mobile services.

"I handle everything from account opening, loan processing, a lot of things that come up with the accounts," explained Vella. "Vocality Community Credit Union's main branch is in Garberville. This is our nomad branch. We have our primary banking services here."

"The main feature is the ATM," he continued. "That's where all our cash transactions are dealt with, cash in, cash out. You can do checks here as well, deposited into the ATM. For further services, we have the small office that we're in. We'll be opening accounts, and in the future, we'll be able to offer loan products here."

"We did our first instant-issue debit card today. For example, if you wanted to open an account with us and you did need some cash, I could get your checking set up, print you out a debit card from this machine and you could get cash out of the ATM. We don't handle any cash inside this office. We do accept checks in the office. We're going to keep rolling out new features with this van over time," he added.

One of the services that make this credit union different and able to service

Read the rest of **Vocality** Over on Page 13

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At top, left: Member Services Representatives Jesus Zazueta and Jahshua Vella welcome prospective members. At top, right: The Vocality ATM is not just available for cash withdrawals, it can also be used to deposit cash or checks. Above: Member Services Representatives Jahshua Vella and Jesus Zazueta can help clients set up a new account and answer questions. At left: The Vocality Community Credit Union mobile banking office is parked in the Rexall parking lot on Mondays and Thursdays.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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Earn Entries Sept 14 – 26

**START EARNING ENTRIES SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**FREE PLAY DRAWINGS**  
Thurs, Fri & Sat • Sept 24, 25 & 26  
5PM – 10PM  
2 names drawn each hour to win \$100 Free Play and a ticket into the Grand Prize drawing.

**GRAND PRIZE DRAWING 4 BIG WINNERS!**  
Saturday September 26 After 10PM

**EARN ENTRY TICKETS DAILY**  
SEPT 14–26 — 8AM – 10PM  
100 points = 1 entry ticket

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE 2020 CHEVY BLAZER  
2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE \$5,000 CASH  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE \$1,000 Free Play  
4<sup>TH</sup> PLACE \$500 Free Play

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Above: Gary Balmain, Jr., who delivers furniture as part of his duties at Willits Furniture, stands in front of the logo van. Below: Mike and Margie Smith of Willits Furniture are asking for help assisting their employee Gary Balmain, Jr., at right, who lost nearly everything in the Oak Fire.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

## Family Property

Willits Furniture driver Gary Balmain, Jr. loses 'nearly everything' in Oak Fire

Willits Furniture employee Gary Balmain, Jr., lost his home and family property in the Ryan Creek drainage to the Oak Fire.

Balmain was working that Monday, at Willits Furniture's Labor Day Sale, and it was a customer at the counter getting a text evacuation alert who first told him about "a big fire way up Third Gate."

"You need to leave," his boss Mike Smith said, and Balmain raced home to "gather up what I could ... what was irreplaceable ... photo albums, and my dogs," along with a few clothes. Otherwise, he lost everything, including \$1,000 worth of tools. "I was very proud of my tool collection," he said.

The entire property was burned: "A house we built ourselves, motor homes, trailers, boats," Balmain said. One of the three cats on the property survived and is recovering.

Mike and Margie Smith of Willits Furniture bought a trailer for Balmain, now temporarily parked on their property, "until they can pay for it, and move back onto their property," Margie Smith said. "My dad and his girlfriend," Balmain said, "are living in a little trailer on the property now."

The Smiths have also set up a benefit account at Savings Bank of Mendocino County in Willits.

"Those that would like to contribute financially," they said, "can do so by either going by the bank and depositing funds into Gary's account or going by Willits Furniture Center and dropping it off with us, and we will see to it that it gets deposited into Gary's account for you. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank those people who have already donated to Gary."



At right: The Oak Fire left very little of the house that the Hawleys were almost finished building.

Far right: Magic the dog explores the property. In the background is the ridge behind which the Oak Fire began. Outlet Creek is down in the valley.



Above, from left: Signs along the Hawleys' driveway state: "Expect Nothing. Accept Everything."

The foundation of the house is still sound and can be used to rebuild.

The fire created various pieces of "art" around the property, like this item found in front of a burned-out car.

At right: Quincy, Jen and Dave Hawley stand among the ashes of their property.

Below: The Hawleys lean against Dave's fire truck, which made it through the fire. They are going to be obtaining some used equipment and training from a local fire department to organize the neighbors into a crew.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At right: A shot of a helicopter water drop in the Lake Pillsbury area, taken from High Point Road.

At right, below: A U.S. Forest Service firefighter saw team hikes in to the Lake Pillsbury area.

Photos courtesy of U.S. Forest Service



## Wrongsville Fundraiser

Friends chip in for Hawley family, who lost their nearly finished home to the Oak Fire

Mathew Caine  
Features Writer  
mathew@willitsweekly.com

"When we clean this up there will be some pretty incredible views and a lot of usable flat space," said Dave Hawley, surveying what was once his off-the-grid paradise, known as Wrongsville, atop a ridge between Highway 101 and Outlet Creek. Now, the land, the house he shared with his wife, Jen, his son, Quincy, three dogs, two cats, and various friends, has been reduced to blackened remnants of the many years they spent constructing their Eden on top of the hill.

The Oak Fire was devastating. Hawley tried to save his home by cutting fire breaks and quickly reducing any combustible material near their home, which was almost completed after living for years in a yurt, but the fire would not be denied. It raced over the ridge from Big John's Road, over Outlet Creek and up the hill in a two-football-field width, swiftly destroying trees, wildlife, residences and anything in its path. Hawley worked until the house caught on fire, at which time he retreated down the hill toward Highway 101, barely outracing the flames.



The Hawleys have always shared and paid it forward throughout their tenure in Mendocino County. For the last 11 years, they have hosted a three-day private party on the land, filled with music, art, dance, lights, water slides, a pool, and lots and lots of friends.

The annual Fourth of July fest has been used "to help out friends who lost their houses to fires, and friends with cancer, people in need," explained Hawley. "Now it's our turn, I guess. We have the land. We still have our family. We have our health. We have our beautiful views. The community is still strong," he said, embodying the spirit of "Mendo Strong" that keeps people on the land, even after fires and floods.

The Hawleys, undaunted and with great optimism and love for the land, plan to refurbish the property, better and more sustainably than before. Jen, who holds a Master of Science in natural resources from Humboldt State, wants to utilize micro-remediation "which is basically using fungus to get rid of the toxins," she explained, "and also inoculate some of these trees to help start the decay process and at the same time, grow some mushrooms in the logs."

In order to help the family, which is much-loved by many of the area residents, an old friend, John Edmonds, has helped to set up a fundraising site for them, which at presstime, has raised over \$37,000 to help them with rent, land cleanup, and a start on rebuilding. On Facebook: Wrongsville Fundraiser for Dave, Jen & Quincy, www.facebook.com/donate/234639391301638/2122247237907007/. For those who wish to send a check: 315 South Main Street #2163, Willits, CA 95490.

"We'll be OK," said Hawley. "We're not leaving anytime soon."



## Mendocino National Forest's fire updates on social media

The U.S. Forest Service - Mendocino National Forest page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MendocinoNF) has been actively posting updates about the August Complex fire, from the various different areas the fire is affecting. Updates include official fire status information, in English and in Spanish, but also photos and videos, regular fire weather updates from Incident Meteorologist Ben Bartos, maps, and more.

Twitter users can find similar - if not quite as frequently updated - content at https://twitter.com/mendocinof.

This week, there's a time-lapse video of control burn operations around Lake Pillsbury firefighters performed on Monday, an attempt "to remove flammable vegetation ahead of the advancing wildfire to increase protection of homes and other values." An eerie nighttime photo shows nighttime firing operations in the same area on Sunday evening.

You can learn more about the Mendocino National Forest - including reading a news feed of all recent fire updates - at www.fs.usda.gov/mendocino.

- Jennifer Poole



Above, left and right: A Forest Service fire engine grabs water from a "pumpkin," the orange water container, to work the August Complex. The self-supporting pumpkins are easily refillable by water tenders.

Photos courtesy of U.S. Army North



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Take a selfie with this sign using #MaskUpMendo (look for our sticker on social media), tag a friend and be entered to win a weekend get-away in Mendocino County. GIVE-A-WAY will be held monthly.

For more information visit:  
[www.visitmendocino.com/safemendocino](http://www.visitmendocino.com/safemendocino)

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**Menu - Sept. Week 4**  
Thursday, Sept. 24 Spinach Lasagna  
Friday, Sept. 25 Turkey Dinner

**Menu - Oct. Week 1**  
Monday, Sept. 28 Steak Sandwich  
Tuesday, Sept. 29 Turkey ala King  
Wednesday, Sept. 30 Chicken Philly  
Thursday, Oct. 1 Lemon Chicken Pasta  
Friday, Oct. 2 Steamed Lemon Dill Tilapia

Accepting donations to aid us in feeding seniors Sheltering in Place - Please Visit -  
[www.willitsseniorcenter.com](http://www.willitsseniorcenter.com)

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Above, from left: Cornflowers (bachelor's buttons) make a great addition to any fall planting. They like cool weather, and bees love the flowers. Corn poppies, or Flanders Field poppies, are the wild poppy of Europe. They feed bees and beneficials, and loosen the soil with their taproots, and don't mind growing in a field of other plants. Breadseed poppies are bold plants that bloom in mid-spring and make poppyseeds for pastries, oil, or cooking. They should be planted now for the most flowers and the biggest seed pods. California poppies will grow and bloom without irrigation, although they bloom longer if water continues. They should be planted now in well-drained, even gravelly soil. If you have clay soil, work in compost and pea gravel, and plant on a low mound.

At right, top: Agricultural mustard is a favorite in vineyards, where it blooms early, loosens heavy soil, and adds sulfur, an important nutrient for preventing disease.

At right, middle: Tansy is fast-growing, very hardy, and is a mild-flavored favorite for winter salads. It provides the spoon-shaped leaves in commercial salad mixes.

At bottom, from left: Vetch is a great winter cover, alone or with wheat. It smothers weeds, adds nitrogen, and is easy to cut in spring. The flowers feed bees and beneficial insects. Get it started right away, as it likes to sprout in warm soil. Napa cabbage is a favorite fall vegetable. It is mild, juicy, and has crunch that makes it great for salad or stir-fry. Crispum clover is a favorite cover crop because of its handsome red flowers. It is an annual, so it works well for winter cover in vegetable beds. However, if you want the flowers, bear in mind it doesn't bloom until late spring. Mache is small and unassuming, but it is the hardest of all greens, unfazed by subzero temperatures. The flavor is very mild and sweet. Plant a big bed now for adding to salads all winter.

Photos by Jamie Chevalier



COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

## September: Choosing and using cover crops

Cover crops are a confusing topic for most gardeners, and no wonder. Everyone can see that soil will wash away and get full of weeds if left bare over the winter. But most books expect you to plow cover crops under. To many of us, that doesn't sound doable. But new research shows that soil-building comes more easily: from roots.

Of course, the top growth is important; preventing weeds alone is a huge benefit. But out of sight, the roots do much more. Like opening passages for oxygen, feeding earthworms – and dying.

When the tops are cut, the roots die and turn to compost right there in the soil – compost that you don't have to haul, turn or shovel. And we aren't talking small amounts here. Winter rye makes 380 miles of roots per plant. The most fertile soils in the world are grasslands, where the roots grow and die in the soil year after year.

Turns out that the buffalo enriched the soil in an unexpected way – "pulse grazing." They chewed the tops off, and the roots died back. The animals migrated away, the tops grew back, and the cycle repeated.

Read the rest of **Garden** | Over on Page 9

## LEGAL NOTICES

WW286  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2020-F0430  
The following company is doing business as Coldwell Banker Meno 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

WW288  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2020-F0461  
The following company is doing business as Ek Creek General Engineering, 30660 N HWY 101, Willits, CA 95490 / mailing address: 30660 N HWY 101, Willits, CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Kara Garman, 30660 N HWY 101, Willits, CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 15, 2020.  
/s/ Kara Garman  
Publication dates: 09/24, 10/01, 10/08 and 10/15/2020

WW287  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GRACE GERALDINE WESTON aka GERALDINE WESTON CASE NO. SCUK CVPB 20-27416**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate of both of: GRACE GERALDINE WESTON aka GERALDINE WESTON A Petition for Probate has been filed by RANDY WESTON in the Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino. The Petition for Probate requests that RANDY WESTON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: October 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. 5 of the Mendocino County Superior Court, located at 100 N. State Street, Ukiah, California 95482.  
If you object to granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner: ALEXANDER C. RICH, ESQ., CARTER RICH PC, 716 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490. Telephone: 707-456-9210  
Publication Dates: September 17, 24 and October 1, 2020

The rest of **Garden** | From Page 8

In your garden, you are the buffalo!

The size of the root system depends on when you plant. It's best to sow cover crops 2 to 4 weeks before your first fall frost. In Willits, that is from now 'til the end of the month.

Don't be surprised if your cover crops don't get tall – they'll be busy underground. In tests, crimson clover that was only 2 inches tall by November nevertheless had roots 12 inches deep, with many nitrogen nodules already fertilizing the soil. All winter, those roots hold the soil, and add tons of organic matter to the garden.

But what about the plants now in the garden?

This time of year, there are three kinds of plants in your garden. So grab a pencil or some stakes, go outside, and sort them out:

1. Plants that will go much of the winter (kale, new plantings of lettuce, chard)
2. Plants that are pretty much finished (mostly-harvested bush beans, old lettuce)
3. Plants that are still producing but will die when frost hits (tomatoes, squash, peppers)

The No. 1 areas just need some mulch to go all winter. The kale, etc. are their own cover.

The No. 2 areas should go to the compost. Tear them out and plant cover crops now. Don't wait for that last lingering bean or it will be too late and you'll have a weedy, compacted mess next spring.

The No. 3 areas should be "undersown": You scatter the cover crop seed around and under the existing plants, then cultivate enough to cover it, or scatter some light mulch to cover.

What to plant? Let nature be your guide. Meadows and prairies have a mixture of grasses, legumes, flowers and tap-rooted plants. The famously fertile topsoils of the Midwest were built by such plant communities. Use that soil-building synergy in your garden. Mix them all, or choose which functions are most important to you.

- A grass like wheat, rye, or barley. These have huge root systems.
- A legume, like vetch or clover. These take nitrogen from the air and enrich your soil with it.
- A tap-rooted plant like poppy, chard, radish or mustard, to improve water absorption, bring minerals to the surface, and open the way for crop roots.
- Some flowers to keep beneficial insects around – alyssum, calendula, arugula, poppies, cilantro and chervil work well.
- Agricultural mustard to inhibit fungal diseases like fusarium, and add sulfur, an important nutrient for healthy plant growth.

Be clear in your mind which are permanent plantings and which areas (like vegetable beds) change crops often. Cover crops for vegetable gardens and other annually planted areas should be annuals like wheat, peas, crimson clover, rye, poppies, and vetch. If you are planting in a public area (like the front yard) a legume mix, or a clover/poppy mix (both available at Quail Seeds) are decorative alternatives.

The perennial cover crops (or forage crops) like alfalfa, red clover, white clover, trefoil and comfrey should be kept out of the vegetable beds. But they can be an effective and inexpensive alternative for permanent plantings like orchards, paths, and groundcover.

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in Alaska and California and taught gardening in schools, as well as living in a remote cabin and commercial fishing. She wrote the *Bountiful Gardens* catalog from 2009 to 2017, and is now the proprietor of Quail Seeds, [www.quailseeds.com](http://www.quailseeds.com).



### Current Job Openings:

- Administrative Secretary
  - Corrections Deputy
  - Community Health Services Specialist I/II – Bilingual
  - Department Analyst I/II
  - Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
  - Eligibility Specialist Supervisor – Fort Bragg
  - Legal Secretary I/II
  - Program Administrator
  - Social Worker Assistant II
  - Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D
  - Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C
- For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources)  
EOE

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

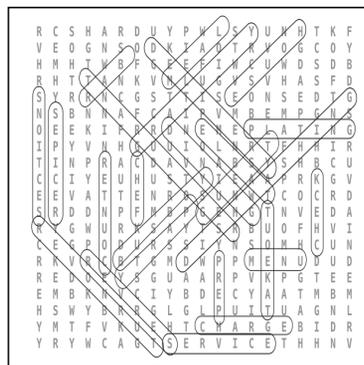
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(707) 467-7642  
104 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits, CA  
Email: [cmccluskey.paralegal@gmail.com](mailto:cmccluskey.paralegal@gmail.com)  
I am not an attorney. I cannot give you legal advice or represent you in court. Mendocino County Registration No. LDA-14, Expires 10/01/2021

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## CLASSIFIEDS

**Computer Help**  
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email [ucearball@gmail.com](mailto:ucearball@gmail.com)

**Truck Driver Wanted**  
Bouthillier's Construction is looking for an experienced Class A truck driver. To include: End-dump, transfer, water truck, dump truck, etc. Start date: ASAP. Call Jamie: 707-459-4041 or 707-272-2772

**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.

**Virtual Spiritual Exploration**  
To learn more about classes and topics that may interest you visit: <https://www.meetup.com/Lake-Mendocino-Countries-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.

**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 another Meals on Wheels volunteer driver and a substitute driver: the job takes about 3.5 hours to complete. If you're interested in joining the team, call Deb Holcomb at 459-6826.

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

**Mendocino Counts!**  
\$5 Help Your Community - the 2020 Census brings our federal tax dollars home. Deadline for the 2020 Census is September 30. Fill your form out online at: [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) or call 1-844-330-2020

**Office for Rent**  
Office space, 140 sq ft, with waiting room. A/C, off street parking. Utilities included. \$240/mo. Call: 707-354-2473.

**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.oakvline.net/tp>

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board meeting to discuss and finalize the proposed Phase 3 zoning table and permitting model. The board selected October 13 for those talks.

The ninth directive was to direct the executive office to add securing an extension of the drop-dead date for the state’s provisional cultivation license to the county’s legislative platform for state enactment. Under current state law, provisional licenses are to become defunct on January 1, 2022.

The eighth directive is to direct the Department of Planning and Building to generate notices of correction and to establish priorities for processing cultivation permit applications.

The seventh directive told the Cannabis Unit Program Manager Megan Dukett to prepare a plan on how to use the county’s Equity Grant and to prepare to make a presentation of her plan to the supervisors.

The sixth directive told Planning and Building to do one of two things concerning staffing of the cannabis unit: either to develop a staffing plan which will enable the department to complete the processing of the 882 outstanding cannabis permit applications within six months, or to put out a request for proposals for an outside contractor to do that work, if it proves to be unfeasible for Planning staff to do that work.

A very straightforward table was included among the board’s supporting materials for this item, item 6B. The table at least partly calculated the number of new staff that will likely be necessary for county staff to process the 882 permit applications that currently are floating in limbo.

The table states first that a typical planner can give 1,560 hours of work per year, assuming that that person is working at 75 percent efficiency.

Then the table offers a range of how many hours of work it will take to process the entire portfolio of 882 applications. If it takes 20 hours per application, it will take 17,640 hours to do the whole backlog. If it takes 30 hours, it will take 26,460 hours. If it takes 40 hours per application, it will take 35,280 hours to process the entire backlog, and if each application takes 50 hours to process, it will take 44,100 hours to do all of them.

Finally, the table estimates how many hours of effective work can be accomplished with ‘x number’ of planners: Four planners can do 6,240 hours per year; eight can do 12,480 hours per year; 10 can do 15,600 hours per year.

In order to do the minimum number of hours that would be required if each file required 20 hours, the county would need to hire 12 new planners, who could be expected to do 18,720 hours of effective work in a year.

If each file took 40 hours to process, the county would have to hire 24 planners. According to the table, those planners would be able to work effectively for 37,440 hours in a year, which would be more than enough to process the 882 applications, the required time for which is 35,280 hours.

The table did not include a recommendation on how many new planners the department should hire.

The fifth directive told Planning and Building staff to develop a Cannabis Cultivation Guide and to maintain that guide on the county’s website.

The fourth directive told

Planning to enter into an interagency agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a biologist to assist with the Sensitive Species and Habitat Review process, which is an element of the state’s oversight of the county’s cannabis program.

The third directive instructs Planning and Building to implement cost recovery for staff time associated with cannabis cultivation development discussions which go beyond the scope of the existing application.

The second directive told the executive office and the Planning department to engage with the county’s information services in order to develop a fully digital application submission portal which would be capable to instantaneously generating accurate status reports for staff, applicants and the public.

The first directive in the committee’s 10-part plan asked County Counsel Christian Curtis to render a legal opinion “on whether the county has already met the requirements of CEQA [the California Environmental Quality Act] in regards to cannabis cultivation permitting and whether the state’s demand for an “Appendix G” is a legally supported county obligation.”

Curtis spoke at length on that matter. He told the supervisors he thought the state is out of line to require the county to do the work required to meet the state’s Appendix G process.

Curtis first recapitulated the basic situation with regard to the county’s approach to CEQA. “When the county does its CEQA review, when it creates a ministerial permit program, the CEQA essentially gets done on the front end,” Curtis explained.... “Because the county did not create a discretionary permit system, in which it would have the ability to impose mitigations or environmental restrictions on a site-by-site basis, there isn’t a requirement for additional environmental review, at the time that individual permits are issued, the idea being that essentially CEQA doesn’t require you to conduct environmental review, and so you’re not going to be able to do anything to address the environmental issues that you find.”

“The ministerial permit system is designed so that, once you meet the requirements of the system, the entitlement is by right, [which means] it’s not something that the county can then condition by taking additional measures, or by somehow requiring things other than what is set forth in the ordinance,” Curtis explained.

“What the state is trying to do is essentially to generate documentation showing site-specific CEQA review, for the state’s permits to be able to go forward. But the county system simply doesn’t do that because the CEQA is all done on the front end.

“So then the state either needs to acknowledge that the county is the lead agency and then rely on the CEQA that was done there, or, if the state believes that there was an error, or that the environmental review needs to be done on a site-specific basis, it’s really something that needs to be done by the state. It’s not something that the county is required to do for the state,” Curtis said.

After speaking, Curtis asked the supervisors if they wanted a written legal opinion. The supervisors said no, what Curtis had said was sufficient.

are to “make homelessness rare” in the county, and to “make homelessness brief and one-time” for those who experience it.

The other two main goals are to “improve community and policy-maker engagement around homelessness,” and “to improve the CoC’s capacity to govern itself.”

Riley said that it is urgent that the county address the issue since homelessness is such a problem in Mendocino, and also because those counties that have a homelessness plan could “be eligible for the huge buckets of money that are coming our direction” from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“A strategic plan is needed for a number of obvious reasons,” said Riley. “As you may be aware the homelessness system in Mendocino County is fragmented. Coordination between the service providers is not necessarily ideal.”

To achieve making homelessness rare in the county, Riley outlined a number of strategies.

“We’re going to identify and support programs in the county who provide effective homelessness prevention services,” she said. “We’re going to continue to identify and support programs within the county that also provide effective homelessness diversion services, provide expansion of meaningful mental health and substance abuse treatment options to address housing barriers, and finally review and evaluate the overall system volume needs on a regular basis for continuous program improvement.”

Riley emphasized that she and others, such as CoC co-chair Dan McIntire, will be doing their best to make sure that real progress is being made on the homelessness issue.

“Dan and I have been adamant throughout this process that we don’t want this to be a document that sits on the shelf,” she said. “We’ve created action steps to ensure that we’ll be checking in with this plan, checking in with the progress and monitoring it regularly.”

“And remember that with each one of these strategies there’s a series of action steps, and people or organizations identified to help make those happen. These strategic steps are pretty lofty, we acknowledge that.”

Riley did also acknowledge that some of their plan was based on strategies urged by Robert Marbut, Jr., a rather controversial figure. A December 4, 2019 LA Times article described Marbut as “a consultant known for urging cities to stop ‘enabling’ homeless people, in part by blocking charities from handing out food,” who “has been tapped to lead the agency that coordinates the federal government’s response to homelessness.”

At the meeting, Riley described Marbut’s findings as “extremely polarizing,” and said they were “not widely accepted by the homeless service providers, which resulted in the CoC not adopting or endorsing it and not having a lot of faith in it.”

However, she added that his study “was widely endorsed by the County of Mendocino as well as all the jurisdictions in the county,” and said that when residents of the county were asked on an issue-by-issue basis, the “vast majority” supported his findings.

“They didn’t necessarily like the way they were phrased sometimes,” said Riley, “they didn’t necessarily believe in the methodology that was used to get there, but there was agreement about moving forward on most of these recommendations.”

She said that in the end about 85 percent of the Marbut report recommendations were incorporated into the CoC plan.

team also responded to assist with this incident.

After law enforcement personnel arrived at the scene and met with the numerous victims, an investigation ensued where the following information was learned. On September 17, Tyler Bagliere, a 28-year-old from San Jose, and his father, Louis Bagliere, a 73-year-old from San Jose, went to the rural property near Laytonville with two male adults, later identified as Lathiaro White, a 26-year-old from Oakland, and Anthony Watson, a 30-year-old from San Jose.

These subjects were armed with firearms and held a number of victims who were at the property at gun point while demanding money. A firearm was discharged at or near the victims during this incident. The suspects later left the property after stealing approximately 20 pounds of marijuana, and stated they would return in two days.

On September 19, Tyler Bagliere returned to the above property with three male adults who were later identified as Christopher Stewert, a 30-year-old male from San Jose, Deangelo Villalona, a 25-year-old male from San Jose, and another unidentified adult male.

Stewert and Villalona were armed with a firearm on this date and the unidentified suspect discharged a firearm at or near the victims while demanding payment from them. The victims at the scene were identified as a 37-year-old male from Redwood City, a 66-year-old male from Fremont, a 34-year-old male from San Rafael, a 31-year-old female from San Rafael, and a 6-year-old female from San Rafael.

The victims were held at gunpoint for several hours. The victims were interviewed during this investigation, and it was determined they were not injured during the robbery on September 17 or 19. Evidence was located at the scene of the robberies that corroborated the victims’ statements regarding the incidents.

During the continuing investigation, law enforcement personnel stopped a van that was attempting to leave the area. Louis Bagliere, Lathiaro White and Anthony Watson were located in the van along with multiple assault rifles equipped with large-capacity magazines and a loaded handgun.

The following suspects were arrested for the listed charges in relation to this investigation:

Tyler Bagliere: Armed robbery in concert, assault with a deadly weapon, felony child endangerment, and criminal threats.

Lathiaro White: Armed robbery in concert, assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats, discharge of a firearm at an inhabited dwelling, and being armed with a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Anthony Watson: Armed robbery in concert, assault with a deadly

**COLUMN | Medicare Notes**

## Get your flu shot this fall – it’s important!

**By Seema Verma, administrator, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

Getting vaccinated for the flu this fall is more important than ever. Not only will a flu shot help keep you and your family healthy, it can help reduce the strain on our health care system and keep hospital beds and other medical resources available for people with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

This is no ordinary flu season; it’s a flu season amid a pandemic. With two dangerous viruses going around at once, it’s time for us to protect our communities by getting the vaccine we already have: the flu vaccine.

A flu shot won’t protect you against COVID-19, but it has many other important benefits (visit: [www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/vaccine-benefits.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/vaccine-benefits.htm) for more information). Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization and death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there’s no evidence that a flu vaccination increases your risk of getting sick from a coronavirus, like the one that causes COVID-19.

Those at high risk for flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people 65 years and older, and people with certain chronic health conditions. Anyone who is 6 months old or older should get a yearly flu vaccine.

The CDC recommends getting vaccinated in September or October, but a flu shot anytime during the flu season can help protect you.

Flu season in North America rarely begins before early October and usually lasts from December to March. In the past two years, the peak activity has occurred around mid-to-late February. Your body needs two weeks after a shot to develop a protective response to the influenza virus, so your best bet is to get vaccinated before the flu rate begins to climb.

Workplaces and other settings that usually provide flu shots may not do so this season because of the challenges of maintaining social distancing. For more information on where you can get a flu vaccine, visit [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org).

When going to get a Read the rest of **Medicare** | *Over on Page 13*

weapon, criminal threats, discharge of a firearm at an inhabited dwelling, and being armed with a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Christopher Stewert: Armed robbery in concert, assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats, discharge of a firearm at an inhabited dwelling, and being armed with a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Deangelo Villalona: Armed robbery in concert, assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats, discharge of a firearm at an inhabited dwelling, and being armed with a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Louis Bagliere: Armed robbery in concert and criminal threats.

Louis Bagliere was cited and released during this investigation due to pre-existing medical conditions. Investigators with the Sheriff’s Office requested a bail enhancement on the other arrested suspects, which was granted for a no-bail status. Tyler Bagliere, White, Watson, Stewert, and Villalona were transported to the Mendocino County Jail, where they were ultimately held on a no-bail status.

There was another unidentified adult male suspect who was not originally apprehended during this investigation. The outstanding suspect was described in a “be on the lookout” announcement as a black male adult, approximately 20 to 30 years old, short / thin build, and possibly armed with a firearm. The suspect fled the area of the scene on foot.

On September 20 at approximately 12:45 pm, a Sheriff’s Office deputy received information from citizens in the area of the 50400 block of North Highway 101 near Laytonville. The deputy was informed that citizens in the area located and detained a black male adult fitting the description of the outstanding suspect. Deputies responded and detained the suspect.

Sheriff’s Office detectives responded, and following additional investigation, the subject was identified as the outstanding wanted suspect from this ongoing investigation. The suspect was identified as David Lee Edmonds, a 50-year-old male from San Jose. Edmonds was taken to Howard Memorial Hospital for a medical clearance and later transported to the Mendocino County Jail where he was booked for armed robbery in concert, assault with a deadly weapon, felony child endangerment, and being armed during the commission of a felony. Edmonds is to be held at the Mendocino County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

There are no other outstanding suspects being sought in the Laytonville area relating to this incident. Anyone with information related to this incident is requested to call the Sheriff’s Office Communications Center at 707-463-4086 or can remain anonymous by calling the WeTip system at 800-782-7463.

pages). The reports were prepared by Category 5 Professional Consultants. Category 5’s Robert Newman presented the plan to the supervisors.

The public outreach plan adopts CalFire’s “Ready Set Go” plan for all of the county’s fire agencies. It recommends that the county use bulletin boards placed in prominent locations throughout the county for posting public safety and evacuation information and that the county create a new public safety announcement system to inform the public about wildfire safety. The public outreach plan recommends that the county develop a new public information plan.

The public outreach plan suggests that the county use Zoom to inform the public about the county’s evacuation plans.

The Wildfire Vulnerability Assessment concluded that five communities are the most vulnerable in the county. They are: Brooktrails, the City of Ukiah, neighborhoods to the east of Fort Bragg, the community on the Albion-Navarro Ridge, and Willits.

When Supervisor Carre Brown told Newman that she had received numerous complaints from her constituents that no community in the First District made the “most vulnerable” list, in spite of the fact that parts of the First District burned both in 2017 and in 2018, Sheriff’s Office Lieutenant Shannon Barney jumped into the conversation to explain that the Wildfire Vulnerability Assessment was just the beginning of the process.

“The adoption of this plan is the beginning of our work on this, not the end,” Barney said. “We have a lot of technology to do. We have a lot of honing to do on it, and mapping. This is a start.

“The plan is to find those areas that we think are the most high-risk and the most vulnerable, and to develop plans for them. And then when those are done, we will move out until we have a plan for the county as a whole,” Barney said.

Newman also described the Emergency Evacuation Preparedness Plan. He said that plan provided a quick guide to emergency evacuations, an overview of emergency evacuations, an outline of planning areas, evacuation management, considerations and guidelines, area-specific evacuation zones, and recommendations on how to deal with post-evacuation issues.

He said the evacuation preparedness plan offered 34 recommendations on topics including emergency alerting systems, codes and ordinances, roads, streets and naming issues, access and egress, transportation assets, transportation agreements, vegetation management, incident command posts, and public outreach.

After Newman had made his presentation, Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams said he liked the reports but that he wanted a budget and a plan for implantation of the recommendations. He moved that the county accept and file the Wildfire Vulnerability Plan and the Public Outreach Plan and adopt the Emergency Evacuation Plan as Appendix A to the existing Mendocino County Emergency Operations Plan.

To that motion he added additional language directing the county’s Office of Emergency Services to come back with a budget and a timeline for implementation of the recommendations.

During discussion of the item, Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde threw a little dampener on Williams’ relentless desire to take action.

“Many of the problems that are identified in this plan were created over decades,” Gjerde said. “And not every problem is going to resolved, even in a couple decades....”

“The truth is, we’ve all lived through a society that is eager to externalize costs, taking advantage of an undervalued piece of property because it has almost no services, and then, years – decades! – later, people recognize that it has a lack of services, and immediately the cry is to resolve those lack of services, with ‘instant gratification’ time-frames.

“It’s just not possible to undo all the errors that were made in the past in a year or two,” Gjerde said. “It will take decades to undo the mistakes of the past.”

Resolution 2020-7 was approved, establishing the annual tax appropriations limit for fiscal year 2020-21.

The board discussed the impacts from the administrative strategies for fish flow releases to Willits Creek. The board provided direction to General Manager Tamara Alaniz and Counsel Christopher Neary to prepare for filing a temporary use change petition in case of future water supply needs related to drought and physical barriers to fish passage.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. The Brooktrails board generally meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm. Visit [www.btcsd.org/township-board](http://www.btcsd.org/township-board) to learn more about the board, and to find upcoming and recent board agendas. Each agenda includes a link and instructions for the public to attend the meeting remotely.

to policies which have been adopted by the state. So instead of having page after page of exemptions and qualifications, the new health order just includes the website for the state’s guidance on this or that topic. As a result, this current health order is just 11 pages long. By comparison, the previous health order was 29 pages long.

Coren’s new health order articulates what can be done and what cannot be done, based on California’s “Blueprint for a Safer Economy” which was put forward by Governor Gavin Newsom on August 28. The new health order articulates the rules based on the fact that Mendocino County remains in the Tier 1 category, a level at which COVID infection is characterized as “widespread.”

Nevertheless, the new health order does dispense with certain restrictions which were imposed by previous health officer Noemi Doohan which went beyond the strict interpretation of the state’s guidelines.

For example, the new health order dispenses with the previous requirement that lodging establishments must keep 25 percent of their rooms vacant. Under the new health order, lodging establishments can go to 100 percent occupancy.

The new health order dispenses with the previous requirement that wineries, tasting rooms and restaurants that sell alcohol must cease selling alcohol at 8 pm. However, the new health order continues with state policy that, because Mendocino County remains in Tier 1, the state still requires restaurants, wineries and tasting rooms in this county to operate outdoors only and requires that alcohol may only be sold when purchased in the same transaction as a meal.

### COVID-19 numbers

The county’s remarkable but brief run of days in which the daily COVID-19 case count was low has apparently ended. On September 18, the county confirmed 11 new cases; on September 19, it announced 16 new cases; on September 20, the county registered only two new cases; on September 21 it registered 24 new cases; and on September 22, the county announced 12 new cases.

Coren said a considerable portion of those new cases have come from Ken Fowler Auto Center in Ukiah, which had a recent outbreak of 20 cases among its employees.

As of the county’s data dashboard for Tuesday, September 22, since the first case that was confirmed in the county on March 19, the county has confirmed a total of 887 cases of the disease. Of that number, 778 have been released from isolation.

The county currently has 91 confirmed active cases of COVID-19. Of that number, 84 are being kept in isolation; five are in local hospitals and two are in intensive care units in the county. A total of 18 people in this county have died from the disease.

The Department of Public Health has confirmed an average daily new case rate of six. The county has a testing positivity rate of 3.32 percent, meaning out of every 100 tests taken over

the past week, with a seven-day lag period, 3.32 of those tests were positive for the coronavirus. The doubling rate, which is the number of days that it will take for the county’s total cumulative case count to double, is now 38 days.

Although the county’s Department of Public Health is following state guidance in calculating the daily case rate using a seven-day lag period, the New York Times is reporting more current data. For several months now, that newspaper’s website has been ranking counties in each state based on their average daily count of new cases. per 100,000 people, for the previous seven days.

Using that data, as of September 23, Mendocino County was ranked ninth (that is, ninth worst) out of California’s 58 counties for daily cases rate per 100,000 people. According to the New York Times data, the county has had 79 new cases in the seven days from September 16 through September 22.

Looking at the county dashboard’s regional statistics, as of September 22, 697 cases reside in the Ukiah valley; 74 are from the north coast; 74 live the north county; 31 are from the south county; and 11 are from the south coast.

A total of 25,474 tests have been done in this county. As of Tuesday evening, the results of 1,019 tests were pending.

### August Complex fire update

On September 22, the supervisors received a brief update on the August Complex fire from Sheriff Matt Kendall. Kendall said he was told on Tuesday morning that the August Complex fire had burned 878,368 acres and that the western zone of that fire had burned 95,168 acres. Kendall said that the fire was 35 percent contained.

He said that the southern portion of the fire, around Lake Pillsbury in Lake County, was a concern, but that it was getting “buttoned up.” He said that CalFire had requested 125 California National Guard personnel be sent to help fight the fire, and that they had arrived in the county on Monday. They are working on the north and west zones of the fire.

Kendall said that the biggest concern that he had heard about from fire personnel was wind, particularly if the area receives “Red Flag Warning” type winds while the fire is still burning. “We are watching that like a hawk,” Kendall said. Speaking of the fire as a whole, Kendall said: “We’re not out of the woods yet. We’re looking really good for Mendocino County, but we’re simply not out of the woods yet.”

CalFire’s Wednesday, September 23 evening update reported that the August Complex West zone fire has burned 103,780 acres, spans approximately 195 miles of fire line, and is 45 percent contained “with more than 2,000 firefighters battling the fire from the air and the ground.”

The August Complex West fire is the section affecting areas east, northeast and southeast of Willits. Total acres burned in all three zones of the monster August Complex fire is 860,118 acres as of Wednesday evening.

do with your own personal spending.

It feels just like yesterday when we passed the last bond measure for the Willits school district. It was proposed to be a good bond measure that was going to repair and upgrade the schools and also provide safeguards for the taxpayers which didn’t occur. It was a bad bond measure with bad advice. I wonder if they have even made a payment on that bond. I attended a board meeting, along with other concerned citizens where they discussed the problems with the bonds and the false data used to justify the bonds being sold. Well here we go again. I’m sure all involved have good intentions, but are the taxpayers of Willits just a checkbook for the Willits Unified School District?

This year the school district is starting out the school year with distant instruction and could end up doing it all year. Don’t forget what happened last school year. I would think that with most children at home the cost to maintain schools would drop dramatically. The need for power, maintenance, normal wear and tear, buses, adjusted lunch program, etc. would reduce operating expenses. However, this does not seem to be a factor for the board. I suspect this money will be squandered away just like the last bond. Then the need will arise for yet another bond.

It would seem that we all have to make sacrifices with this turmoil we are experiencing this year and into the future, but government does not seem have the same requirements. They just put forth tax measures and scare/shame us with the sky is falling if we don’t approve them. Where are their sacrifices? When will they take spending of taxpayer dollars seriously and with conviction? If we continue to pass their tax increase proposals I suspect they never will. All taxpayers will continue to be affected by government mismanagement regardless if you’re a homeowner or renter with these ongoing increases lasting for decades to come. Ultimately, you will have to make more sacrifices if these measures pass. Please vote wisely.

Dale A. Briggs, Willits

### Services offered during power outages

To the Editor:

PG&E power shutoffs are inevitable; although they cause a major disruption in our daily lives they are not considered, “emergencies.” Due to the current Mendocino County Department of Public Health restrictions on crowd size, as a result of COVID-19, we are not allowed to have people seek refuge at the senior center.

I want to clarify what services we will be providing during power outages. Free bottled water (while supplies last), lunches via drive thru pick up Monday through Friday from 12 to 1 pm (Lunches, \$7).

We will also offer free wifi access and the option of arranging by phone to drop off your cell phone/mobile device to be charged and picked up via drive thru.

We intend to open our doors to the community during future power outages; precisely what services we can provide when the next power outage occurs will be determined by the Public Health guidelines in place at the time of the power outage. I will keep everyone informed as more information becomes available.

Richard Baker, director, Willits Seniors Center

### KLLG Radio notes

To the Editor:

Were you listening? Jeff Shipp, programmer for KLLG, manned the radio station on Monday, September 7, when fire struck in Brooktrails. KLLG staff was concerned that a power outage might result from this incident. The emergency generator was put into place so that there would be an informative voice over the air at the top of each hour. Because there was no power outage, the emergency protocol was discontinued at midnight, and KLLG returned to its regular programming. Many thanks for Jeff for his presence at the mike.

On Wednesdays at 10 am, KLLG will show the first broadcast of the writing portion of Earlene Gleisner’s new, “Authors Spotlight.” “Life is a story, and each of us has our own story to tell. Based on my seminar, “Writing For A Change,” each program will help you exercise your writing muscle by responding to prompts. If you send your three-minute writing response to the different writing challenges, I will read your work over the air at the next airing.

If you have already written and published a book, on any subject, contact me at [reiki@mcn.org](mailto:reiki@mcn.org) to be part of the rotating excerpts from your book and an interview over KLLG, 97.9, FM, Willits Hometown Radio.

Earlene Gleisner, for KLLG Radui, Willits

## 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.

**Monday, September 28:** Steak Sandwich

**Tuesday, September 29:** Turkey ala King

**Wednesday, September 30:** Chicken Philly

**Thursday, October 1:** Lemon Chicken Pasta

**Friday, October**



OBITUARY |

## Michael Mayer

Michael Ray Mayer of Willits passed away on August 14, 2020 at the age of 59. He was born to Donald and Donna Mayer March 19, 1961 in Chico. He served in the U.S. Army 1980 to 1984. A truck driver, he also worked in maintenance and landscaping. He loved fishing, water sports, and music.

Michael was preceded in death by his father, Don Mayer; brother, Danny Mayer; and granddaughter, Mackenzie Mayer. Surviving him are his mother, Donna McEntire; sisters: Kelly Carter and Kim Ellis; daughter, Crystal Mayer; sons: Blake Mayer and Michael Mayer, Jr.; and four grandchildren.

"Dad, not a day passes by that you don't cross our minds. Not all of you departed when you left our earth behind. In our hearts there is a place that only you can hold, filled with loving memories more priceless than gold. We know you still hear us, Dad, so please know this is true, that everything we are today is all because of you. We love you, Dad."

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



At top, left: Jeff Shipp takes the opportunity to pose with his candidate. At top, right: Third District Supervisor John Haschak gets information from Joe Wildman at the Democratic Headquarters van. Above: Joe Wildman holds up a Biden-Harris lawn sign which is available for a donation. At left: Candace Luna made sure to take the opportunity to register to vote.

Photos by Mathew Caine



## Mobile HQ

### Democratic Party van set to be at Willits Farmers Market on Thursdays in October

"This is the Democratic headquarters for Mendocino County," said Joe Wildman on Thursday at the Willits Farmers Market. "We usually open an office in Ukiah, but with the pandemic, we decided we didn't really need to be brick and mortar. We don't want a situation where people crowd in to a physical location. So, we said 'why don't we take the van and go out. So, I'm going to Covelo tomorrow and Point Arena, Saturday. We're going all over the county and bringing the headquarters to the community.'"

The Democratic Party Mobile Headquarters van can be found on Thursdays at the Willits Farmers Market at the Rexall parking lot. The van is chock-full of Democratic Party support materials.

"I have Biden, Harris yard signs," Wildman continued. "I have Jim Wood, of the assembly and Jared Hoffman, of the house, paraphernalia. McGuire isn't running this year but I have one of his signs in case he walks by. I have voter registration cards, sign-ups to join the Democratic Club. I have buttons and magnets and stickers and pins. If you want a Biden sign, come on down. I have about 200 left."

"The signs and the magnetic bumper stickers cost us about \$6 each," he added, "so we're taking donations. We shelled out \$4-to-5,000, so we hope to get it back through the sale of signs."

People can also register to vote, no matter which party they are affiliated with, at the mobile van. The Democratic Party mobile HQ is set to attend the Willits Farmers Market on Thursdays in October. You can see the full mobile van itinerary and learn more about the Mendocino County Democratic Party at <https://mendodems.org/>.

California voters can register online at [www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov](http://www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov) through October 19. Voter registration forms are accepted by mail if they are postmarked by October 19, or hand-delivered to the local voter office by October 19.

Conditional voter registration is also accepted in California up until, and including, Election Day, November 3, with registration details being vetted before conditional ballots are counted.

Mathew Caine  
Features Writer  
[mathew@willitsweekly.com](mailto:mathew@willitsweekly.com)

The rest of Assistance |

From Page 3

"It's difficult to replace that lost money. We're not in dire straits right now, but we could use more funding," Baker said.

Because of COVID-19, the center had to close their dining room. "So, what we did is open up a walk-up or drive-through lunch, and that's been very successful. There's a lot of need. It's for everyone," Baker said.

The center charges \$5 per lunch for the walk-up or drive-in lunches. They're available five days a week to anyone. They sign up for the lunch and can drive or walk up to get it from healthy people who are fully masked and gloved.

The center's Meals-on-Wheels program delivers lunch for \$5.50 per day. "Usually our Meals-on-Wheels have age restrictions and qualifications. We've waived those because we know there's a need."

In order to get either delivered lunches or ones you pick up, call the center to sign up: 459-6826.

To illustrate the need and costs involved with these valuable services, Baker reported that from March to August in 2019 they served 9,758 meals. In the same months this year, they've served 11,846 meals. "An increase of over 2,000 meals. Which is really good," the director said, the irony being, "We lose money with our meals. So, the more we serve, the more we lose."

How can community members help?

One way is to become a member. It's \$30 per year (\$25 if you sign up and have the newsletter sent digitally), and includes all types of benefits.

With your membership, if you're a senior 65 or older and have wood heat, you can sign up and supplement your wood stack by picking up 50 pieces of free firewood once every two weeks. This offer starts around the first of November and lasts until the wood in the center's wood shed is depleted.

The newsletter is a good way to keep up with activities at the senior center. There are also interesting articles, recipes, puzzles, and monthly notices of specials and coupons for the Thrift Shop and other businesses, and lots more.

Then there's the Thrift Shop. "It's an integral part of the money we get every year," Baker explained. "If we didn't have the Thrift Shop, we wouldn't be able to open the doors to the senior center because it brings in a considerable amount of money."

By making purchases from the Thrift Shop's vast collection of well-selected items, one is making a donation while finding something they need or want. Many shoppers are regulars and said they like the prices.

The other side of that is making donations of items to the Thrift Shop. Clothes, books, furniture, or other things in "good condition," Baker emphasized, are all welcome. Be careful to make sure electrical devices work or give clothing that's in good condition without tears or stains, etc. Dealing with the trash generated from broken, stained, or unusable objects creates more trash and adds to the center's overhead.

Other ways to help are through volunteering. Administrative Coordinator Deb Holcomb said: "I still could use another driver for the Meals-on-Wheels truck. And I don't have a sub. I have two people who will be leaving in November." The senior center needs one person for three hours one day a week and a sub for when someone's sick or on vacation.

"It's very rewarding. People are very appreciative of getting the meals, and there's a very immediate and strong connection between the driver and clients," Baker said. He assures people that everything in the truck is sanitized and the driver wears a protective mask and gloves when delivering, keeping the driver and recipient safe.

There are many ways to support the Harrah Senior Center. Please consider lending a hand in any way that works for you.

To make a monetary donation, you can write a check to WSI (Willits Seniors, Inc.), and mail it to 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits or go to their website: [www.willitsseniorcenter.com](http://www.willitsseniorcenter.com) and look for the "Donate" button.

To donate cut and split firewood, contact Richard Baker at 459-6826.

For information about medical equipment loans, firewood or volunteering, contact Deb Holcomb at 459-6826.

The rest of Vocality |

From Page 5

the particular needs of the community is their ability to offer banking services to the cannabis industry, which is not available through traditional banks due to federal rules.

"We are at the forefront of cannabis banking," said Vella. "We offer bank accounts to legal cannabis businesses. It's a new program we've been working on. We've had a lot of early success with it. I like to think of us as pioneers for this new legal industry and it's a service that we look forward to sharing with these communities. We've had a lot of positive response from the industry."

Another service that makes Vocality unique is its ability to go where it is needed in times of disaster. It has the ability to service those who have been affected by the fires plaguing the state, whether due to evacuation or those who have lost their homes.

Additionally, it can service first responders who are away from their home stations. "This van is part of our disaster-relief program," said Vella. "Currently with Garberville being under evacuation warning, this is our first response for our field of membership. If they were to need banking services in times of crisis and they're not able to reach our main branch in Garberville, we have this unit that we can deploy to make our services accessible."

Currently, the van is serving Shelter Cove, on Humboldt County's Lost Coast, and Willits. Chrystine Elstad, vice president of member services, explained why they chose Willits:

"We were looking to serve other rural communities that were underserved," Elstad said. "We identified this as an area that wasn't served well by a credit union. We were looking for a hub-type of location that we could set up for a few days, versus opening for five days a week in one location. This is a pretty central location that allows us to head out to the lakes and other rural communities that could use banking services."

"There are three pieces to this," she continued. "This is a branch that allows us to go out and serve communities on a regular basis. It also allows us to go to events whenever we are allowed to do events again. The third piece is disaster recovery. We are able to set up this mobile unit wherever it is needed during a disaster. We sped up the process as Garberville is under evacuation warning."

Vocality was formed in 1980 as Community Credit Union of Southern Humboldt. They decided to rebrand as they were expanding into other parts of Northern California's rural counties. They currently have assets totaling \$144.37 million and provide banking services to more than 7,000 members. Vocality believes in giving back to the communities they serve through charitable donations through their Charitable for a Cause program.

"To Willits, thanks for having us," declared Vella. "We love to be here. It's a beautiful city. We look forward to getting to know everybody."

## Sweet Copper

Meet our newest addition, Copper. This stunning hound dog, about 2.5 years old and who weighs about 45 pounds, is just the sweetest! He came to us as an owner surrender, so we were able to learn a little about our friend Copper. He is house-broken and dog-social. He lived in a home with four other dogs and visited homes with other dogs as well.



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. Call 707-485-0123 or email [dogteam@hsmc.org](mailto:dogteam@hsmc.org) 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](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com) to learn more.

## Playful Brook

Meet Brook! Brook is a 3-year-old female cat looking for her forever home. Brook came to us in July of 2019 as a stray. Brook is a very playful girl who can live with other cats with proper introduction. Brook is FIV positive so she will be indoor only. Brook is spayed, microchipped, and current on vaccines. Please apply to love Brook at [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com).

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. Call 707-485-0123 or

The rest of Medicare |

From Page 10

everyday preventive actions (for a list, visit: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html)) and follow the CDC's recommendations for running essential errands (guidelines at: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html)). Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or health department if they are following CDC's vaccination pandemic guidance. Any vaccination location following CDC's guidance should be a safe place for you to get a flu vaccine.

Medicare Part B covers one flu shot per flu season per beneficiary. You pay nothing for a flu shot if your doctor or other qualified health care provider accepts Medicare payment for giving the shot.

If you have a child over 6 months old who qualifies for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, you may also qualify for a flu vaccination at no cost to you.

What's the difference between flu and COVID-19?

Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they're caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV-2) and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses. Because some symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis.

It is possible to have flu and COVID-19 at the same time. Health experts are still studying how common this can be.

While it's not possible to say with certainty what will happen in the fall and winter, CDC believes it's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading.

CDC has developed a test that will check for A and B type seasonal flu viruses and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This test will be used by U.S. public health laboratories. Testing for these viruses at the same time will give public health officials important information about how flu and COVID-19 are spreading and what preventive steps should be taken.

So please protect yourself, your family, and your community by getting a flu shot this fall.

Seema Verma is administrator of the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227).

The rest of Brickhouse |

From Page 1

"They really made the digital transition so easy," said Mann. "They were just like, hey, we can order the parts and it can be here tomorrow. We can get it set up, it's not a big deal. Ever since, it's been going great. People are calling in and placing orders, and adding to that the credit card capability, and it was just like everyone told me it could be."

"I am still writing our orders on the paper pads, however," Mann laughed. "I still get flak for that."

What's topping the order list? Their Breakfast Popper, Mann said. The Popper features one egg, smoked bacon, pepper jack cream cheese and house-made jalapeno apple relish on a brioche bun. Another is the Turkey Wrap featuring havarti cheese, tomato, cucumber, red onion, greens and balsamic vinaigrette. Mann noted their soup selections also are always big sellers, and to be on the lookout for menu additions soon.

House-made goods, lots of organic options, and working with other local and small businesses are cornerstones of Brickhouse. The house-made humus is the Israeli family recipe of Tom's wife, Sara, and the house-made gluten-free goodies like scruffins, muffins, cookies and more that dot the pastry cases sell out fast, Mann noted – sometimes before 10 am. Brickhouse buys from Willits' Mariposa Market, Ukiah's Schat's Bakery, Healdsburg's Costeaux French Bakery, Petaluma's Clover dairy products, and Santa Rosa's Bella Rosa coffee.

Mann noted his excitement to have Vane-

sa Reimer, the Brickhouse kitchen manager who is formally trained at culinary school and a food safety certified professional, on staff at the restaurant to work with the crew, keep them on their cleaning and professional game, create new recipes, and help solve problems with the house-made items. "We get to ask her, 'why is the muffin not rising like it should,' and she has the answer, and fixes it!" exclaimed Mann.

Mann also expressed his appreciation to the City of Willits for helping Brickhouse navigate the requirements to offer outside seating during the restaurant indoor shutdown.

"They have been enormously cooperative to help make the changes happen," said Mann. "They have been very generous with us!"

If you have time, stop by and have a bite to eat on the outdoor tables, or if you're on more of a schedule, call in an order to Brickhouse's new number: 707-680-0188, and get some of the delicious options offered at one of Willits' wonderful eateries.

Brickhouse is open from 7 am to 3 pm Monday through Saturday and is located at 3 South Main Street, on the southeast corner of the Main Street and Commercial Street intersection. Check them out at Facebook at [www.facebook.com/brickhousewillits/](http://www.facebook.com/brickhousewillits/) where they also post specials, funny photo compilations, and full copies of their complete menu.

email [catteam@hsmc.org](mailto:catteam@hsmc.org) 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](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com) to learn more.

## Shy Noyo

Noyo is 1.5 years old and a svelte 55 pounds. Noyo's guardian had to surrender her to the shelter, so we have lots of information about her. According to her previous guardian, Noyo is very affectionate but also timid. We have to agree with that, but although she is shy, she often initiates attention and pets and gives kisses! Noyo is also described as protective of her guardian and wary of new people until she gets to know them.

Noyo enjoys going for car rides and likes to sleep with a soft blanket and a pillow (but of course!) A calm environment would be perfect for this very sweet dog. We recommend older children in Noyo's new home, due to her timid nature around new people.

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](http://www.mendoanimalshelter.com). For information about adoptions please call 707-467-6453.



Playful Brook



Shy Noyo

## Made for more rhythm



### Open, Safe and Ready for you.

You were made for more. More movement. More fun. More time with family. And that's why we offer more renowned surgeons and cardiac electrophysiologists who are sought out by patients across the country. They are on the forefront of new breakthrough procedures for atrial fibrillation including the Hybrid Maze, a proven technique available at few locations in the nation. This innovative, minimally invasive procedure has achieved a success rate as high as 95 percent. Better outcomes are important, because when your heart is healthy, you're always ready for more.



Adventist Heart & Vascular Institute

RSVP for our AFIB webinar in Mendocino County at [AdventistHeart.org](http://AdventistHeart.org), or call 888-529-9018.



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# WIN BARRY'S RIDE 2020 CHEVY BLAZER

## SAT. SEPTEMBER 26

Car, Cash & Free Play Giveaway  
Earn Entries Sept 14 – 26

Winner is responsible for any taxes, fees and licensing. Non-transferable. See Player's Club Booth for complete details.

### START EARNING ENTRIES SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

#### FREE PLAY DRAWINGS

Thurs, Fri & Sat • Sept 24, 25 & 26  
5PM – 10PM

2 names drawn each hour to win \$100 Free Play and a ticket into the Grand Prize drawing.

#### EARN ENTRY TICKETS DAILY

SEPT 14-26 — 8AM – 10PM

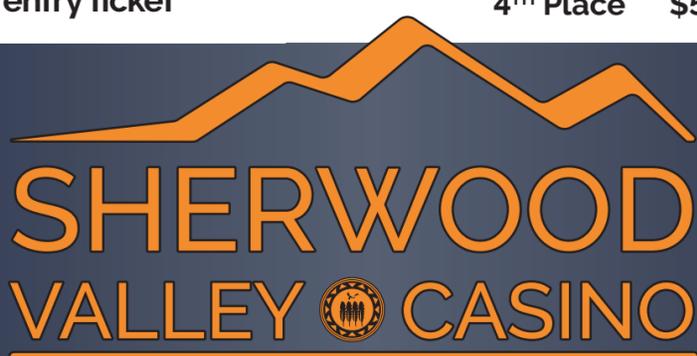
100 points = 1 entry ticket

#### GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

### 4 BIG WINNERS!

Saturday September 26 After 10PM

1 <sup>ST</sup> PLACE	2020 CHEVY BLAZER
2 <sup>ND</sup> Place	\$5,000 CASH
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4 <sup>TH</sup> Place	\$500 Free Play



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