

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Read the rest of
Testing
Over on Page 4

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Yes on Measure K

To the Editor:

Measure K on Willits residents' ballots seeks approval for a ¼ cent sales tax, "to prevent the elimination of police services; street and sports field maintenance; closing of city facilities; and loss of other essential city services."

No one loves to raise taxes. The City of Willits has been "tightening our belt" on expenses for years, already reducing staff from 49 to only 40 for all services. Staff is stretched thin. But expenses beyond our control, like health and liability insurance and retirement costs, have increased dramatically. City revenues, meanwhile, have been static at best, and might even get worse with economic uncertainties like the pandemic. We've been drawing down our reserves for three years in a row. Our budget is unsustainable.

The proposed ¼ cent sales tax increase amounts to only 7.5 cents on a \$10 purchase. All food and medicines are exempt from sales tax. For years, Willits' sales tax has been ½ to 1 cent lower than all surrounding jurisdictions; this would just put us at about the same level.

Sales taxes get spread to visitors and surrounding residents who shop, work, go to school, or play in town, benefiting from our city services. This tax is a way for them to contribute their share to covering city costs.

If Measure K does not pass, the City of Willits will be forced to close local government operations including police, street and park maintenance, community facilities, code enforcement, planning and building.

This emergency ordinance is for 10 years only. All money raised will stay in Willits. Measure K will ensure that we preserve local control and all essential services and programs in our community.

Please vote Yes on Measure K.

Madge Strong, Willits

McNeal for school board

To the Editor:

We need to vote November 3 for the Willits Unified School District School Board.

I plan on voting for Dianne McNeal. She has been very involved in the school district, since 1978. She has raised her family here and taught in the district for nearly 40 years.

She was an official for Others and the swim teams, Odyssey of the Mind coach, and a soccer coach assistant – to name just a few of her extracurricular responsibilities.

She was an excellent teacher, and now she would make an excellent board member. Vote for Dianne McNeal.

Paula Nuñez, Willits

No on Measure I

To the Editor:

Jennifer Nunez-Ward's letter made everything so clear, I felt confident that No on Measure I was a no-brainer. In the September 17 edition of the Willits Weekly, a letter was written by Scott Koller that struck me as absolutely brilliant! I had never heard anyone talk about re-structuring Brookside to save a great deal of money, save industrial land, and benefit so many needs at once. Then, on September 24, Dale Briggs wrote about financial accountability – another great letter.

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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Usually I never write my opinions about politics, but after all that has been written, I've decided to add some concrete, financial information showing how Willits Unified School District spends their money. The following list shows just a few examples that have happened, over the last 10 years, and can be easily fact-checked. (from 10 years, so that the last three superintendents and long-term board members can be held accountable.)

1. A huge water tank was built at the back of WHS, and is now going to be used to water the sports fields. This project was just completed, using a great deal of maintenance staff work hours, and supply money. (*That* was considered a priority, when that same time and money should have been used for repairing door openers, toilets, classroom sinks, etc. throughout the district.)
2. The huge weight room/Fitness Center, that wasn't necessary, especially given the list of structural issues requiring maintenance at WHS that would've cost about the same to repair.
3. The district office has been remodeled three times, requiring a lot of maintenance hours and money that would've been better spent on other district needs.
4. Some school sites have spent money and maintenance/custodial staff hours on painting classrooms instead of cleaning out rain gutters, or trimming up trees so that leaves/pine needles don't continue to cause so many roofing problems.
5. To ask (*again* and *again*) for more money (a bond), when the district's reserve account could cover the immediate facility repair needs, is wrong, and unduly burdens the community economically.

In conclusion, vote in the best interest of your children and your children's children. Don't keep them in debt until 2051. Vote No on Measure I.

Laurie Harris, Willits

Let's do cannabis right!

To the Editor:

[An open letter to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:] Speaking on behalf of friends and neighbors, we are seeking transparency and accountability in Cannabis Code Enforcement reporting. The Cannabis Enforcement webpage shows seven complaints for 2018, one complaint for 2019, and an annual summary for 2018. We request that the website be updated and relevant information posted online, so a complainant can follow the status of their complaint.

Humboldt growers are moving to Mendocino County because Mendocino County does not adequately enforce its cannabis ordinance. Humboldt County uses *active enforcement* based on evaluation of satellite images, followed up with field inspection.

Humboldt County cannabis enforcement brought in \$4,707,086 in under three years, to the county from enforcement actions. This amount paid the enforcement costs, injected money into the general fund, benefitted the environment, and aides legal growers.

The contrast with Mendocino County's weak enforcement of a *complaint-based* system is striking and fiscally irresponsible. Many citizens decline to complain about a cannabis neighbor due to fear of retaliation. Many others report no action taken on their filed complaint.

A majority of these complaints could be identified by active enforcement. It should not be the citizens obligation to enforce the law. Adopting Humboldt County's active enforcement model protects citizens from grower retaliation, adds protection to valuable environmental resources, and promotes legal growers.

Having Mendocino County serve as a magnet and haven for law-breaking growers from enforcement counties will further diminish our natural resources and continue to degrade the quality of life for residents. Clearly this county is in no position to increase the number of growers until the active enforcement model is adopted and initiated.

My personal experience with the Cannabis Code Enforcement Office is that I left three telephone messages over a period of three weeks before I received a call back. I requested to see the Cannabis Enforcement data for 2019 and 2020. As of this writing, it's been over a month since my first request, and still no data. What kind of public service is this?

The PBS [Planning and Building Services] report to the BOS in the September 22 BOS agenda lists the PBS priorities for the Planning Department for fiscal year 2020/2021. PBS priority No. 3 is to dramatically expand Cannabis into Phase III, despite the ongoing disasters of Phase 1 and II. Priority No. 11 is to "study" Code Enforcement staffing, use of satellite imagery, and increase administrative fines for violations to cover costs.

Please contact the CEO's Office, your district supervisor, and supervisorial candidates if you agree these priorities should be reversed. No cannabis expansion until active enforcement can cope with current conditions.

Dennis Slota, Willits

Illegal marijuana fueling growing crime problem

By Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall

September has been an extremely hard month for Mendocino County.

If the wildfires in our county being the worst in recorded history wasn't distressing enough, crimes like the one that occurred yesterday, September 27, also reflect some of the worst criminal activity our county has seen. [You can read the Sheriff's Office press release on this crime in this edition of Willits Weekly.]

These issues are causing me to reach out to the people of Mendocino County.

As we move forward towards the future I believe it is time we reexamine where Mendocino County is going with several of these issues.

Recently we learned of an incident where fire personnel have been threatened, intimidated and ordered by illegal marijuana growers to water their marijuana crops with water tenders, which have been dedicated to the fire suppression efforts.

There has also been theft of water supply systems that have been put in place to draw water for fire suppression efforts in the field, thus cutting response times to get more water to the fire lines.

Even more concerning to me, as we further investigate the kidnapping and robbery case which began on the Covello Road, we learned these men were planning on murdering deputies if they were discovered and detained.

These subjects were not residents of Mendocino County, coming from the state of Nevada and Riverside County, California. However, they were drawn here by the lure of easy money. Monies that are funding the problems we are experiencing now. We see this time and time again. People from outside of Mendocino County and well outside of the law are continually drawn here like a moth to a flame.

The suspects, in this case, were equipped with military-grade weapons, and body armor. They had planned to open fire on deputies with these weapons. Our brave men and women who serve Mendocino County aren't paid to be murdered. I will not stand by and allow this to happen.

I fear robberies, murder and constant threat to human life will become the new normal for Mendocino County if we don't try to address the problem now. I have grown weary of hearing marijuana is a victimless crime. If this were true, we would not be dealing with murders and robberies clearly tied to marijuana. We can clearly see criminals lured by greed, and greed, in turn, leads to a marked increase in violence.

Anything causing this much violence must be stopped.

I have grown weary of hearing the marijuana trade is providing an economic base for our county. I don't believe this. This falsehood is reflective in our county's general fund budget. The multibillion-dollar industry has provided us no financial benefit in taxes, however has continued the social degradation combined with damage to the environment. The violence has become too much for our county to carry. Now is the time to stop pretending the illegal marijuana trade is a good thing.

I can't count the number of calls we receive from residents in our rural areas who are tired of being intimidated and are tired of sheltering in their homes while armed subjects roam vast areas of the county protecting their crops. Gunfire is heard all night in the

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

Above, left: Lisa Davis shows off the grant confirmation letter she recently received from the Community Foundation of Mendocino. Above, right: Carrie Andrade shows how the individual stations at Salon 7 have been upgraded for safety and sanitation.

Below: Scoops received a \$5,000 grant as well as technical assistance from West Business Development Center. At bottom: Salon 707 is located at the Safeway Plaza.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Adapting to Change

Three Willits businesses awarded funds in second round of 'Business and Resiliency Grants'

In the time of COVID-19, it seems everything has changed for small businesses. Trying to keep up-to-date on restrictions, enforcing those restrictions, dealing with a reduction in customers and therefore money are all issues small business owners have to work through. The businesses that survive these trying times will be those that have the ability to innovate, to create a novel business plan.

Along with the ability to adapt to the changing playing field, it is always advantageous to have the support of nonprofit and community organizations that know the problems facing owners, and who have the means to provide an infusion of cash along with the expertise to utilize the money in an innovative and experiential manner.

Several such organizations have partnered in order to provide grants and knowledge to ensure the survival of the economic life of Mendocino County with a program of "Business and Resiliency Grants to micro-businesses in Mendocino County," as per literature from the West Business Development Center, one of the organizations involved in the program.

According to Alison de Grassi, director of marketing at the West Center: "I think it's great that we got some money to some Willits businesses. The Community Foundation of Mendocino County and Megan Barber Allende [president and CEO] provide the funds. When COVID happened, and everything got shut down, Mary Ann Petrillo, CEO of West Business Development Center, approached the Community Foundation, who at the time was concentrating on public health issues.

"She said, 'we really need to think about how this is going to affect small businesses.' That happened towards the end of March," said de Grassi. "They met and came up with a plan. The Community Foundation approached donors to create a fund to help small businesses.

"The difference between this kind of grant and other more normal grants is that this one is a two-fold grant. It not only gives businesses up to \$5,000, it also provides technical assistance that is provided by West Center. What that means is workshops, one-on-one counseling, Zoom meetings with a business advisor for mentoring. Those things, along with the money, help these small businesses to get through these challenging times."

The applicants go through a selection process in which they state how the funds will be used to transform their businesses to survive the rigors of the COVID-19 restrictions. These applications go through "the selection committee," explained de Grassi, "a group comprised of representatives from West Center, the Community Foundation, someone from EDFC [Economic Development Financing Corporation], the chambers of commerce, the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay, Phoenix Trent of Evolved Growth Strategies is the project manager."

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

Support Local Businesses

WILLITS We're all in this TOGETHER WILLITS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BEAK OF THE NEIGHBOORS

Willits CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Est. 1926

TO-GO ORDERS CALL 459-5702 DINE IN ON LOOSE CABOOSE PATIO FROM 5 - 8:30 PM

MAHI MAHI TACOS WITH RICE & BEANS - \$12.95

166 SOUTH MAIN ST Restaurant El Mexicano EST. 1982 10AM - 8:30PM MON - SAT

PAID POLITICAL AD

ELECT Tuesday, Nov. 3 Dianne McNeal WUSD School Board

Grand Opening

COUGAR'S CLOSET II MINI-STORAGE GOT A PLACE FOR YOUR THINGS!

LOCATION: 317 Robert Dr. • Willits, CA 95498 OFFICE: Lincoln Realty 1661-A S. Main St. • Willits, CA 707-259-0159 or 707-459-4599

Masks are Required WEAR A MASK. #MaskUpMendo

WHY MASK UP? Our county depends on your support. For businesses, it's the law—for their employees and their customers.

SELFIE GIVE-A-WAY 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-a-way in Mendocino County. GIVE-A-WAY will be held monthly.

For more information visit: www.visitmendocino.com/safemendocino

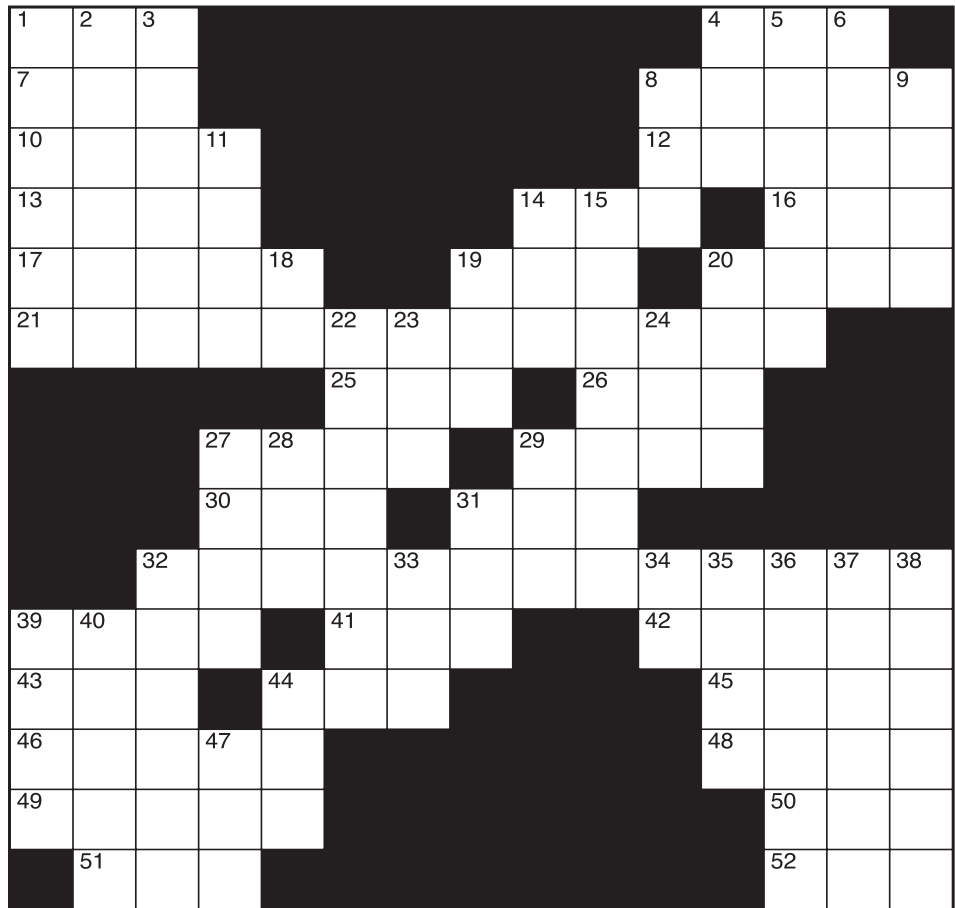
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APPLE	BURN	COOTIES	GERM	JETS
BABY	BUTTER	CRANKED	GIG	KEEPER
BALLAD	CAT	CUBE	GRODY	KICK
BASH	CHARIOT	DEUCE	HANG	KOOKIE
BIT	CLANKED	EYEBALL	HEP	LID
BLAST	CLYDE	FAR OUT	HORN	MOST
BREAD	COOKIN	FLICK	JACKETED	NEST



1. They look out for kids
4. Play
7. Water (French)
8. Prayer leader
10. Small constellation
12. ___ Carta: influential royal charter
13. Pressure unit
14. Extrasensory perception
16. A symbol of 'Aloha'
17. Portion of the small intestine
19. Psychedelic amphetamine
20. Very long period of time
21. British overseas territory
25. Cereal grain
26. Car mechanics group
27. Wish harm upon
29. At a specific prior time
30. Peyton's younger brother
31. UK firefighters' union
32. Carroll O'Connor's screen partner

39. Popular show honoring musicians
41. Basics
42. Honk
43. Trent Reznor's band
44. Patti Hearst's captors
45. Long-legged wading bird
46. Specialized biological grouping
48. A coin goes in it
49. Of the wind
50. One-time measure of length
51. A very large body of water
52. River in NE Scotland

1. Boston hoopster
2. A type of bribe
3. SE England county
4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
5. 'Hotel California' rockers
6. Italian province
8. Mischievous child
9. Popular street name

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!

Looking at disease statistics along racial lines, 602 of all cases are among people of Latinx descent; 163 among whites; 61

8 pm: Officers did a security check at Brown's Corner.

Looking at disease statistics along racial lines, 602 of all cases are among people of Latinx descent; 163 among whites; 61

A total of 26,626 tests have been done in this county. As of Tuesday evening, the results of 1,031 tests were pending.



AdventistHealth

members, especially when someone passed away. We did our best with using technology and connecting them via video calls. But it's not the same. That personal connection, human touch, being able to hug or touch is so important to not only what we do but also



Willits Weekly | October 1, 2020 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047



Thank goodness for the few cowboys and cowgirls we have left in our Willits area! These hard-working men and women, young and old, risked their necks to help us as well as other ranches in our valley. Here is a big **THANKS** to you all who did the work and those who supported them and us.



Happy Trails to you!

Christopher and Susan
Neary
SunnyBrook Ranch



At right: The crew of community volunteers takes a break from working: from left, David Swingle, who's also part of the council's communications committee; Jim Snipes, the council's treasurer; Christina Tipp, part of the communications committee and council Facebook manager; her husband, Kyle Tipp; volunteers Michael Sichley and Denise Mattos.

At far right: If you live in the Ridgewood Park area, look for the LISTOS Disaster Ready Guide with WRRFSC label in your mailbox. When you open the guide, you'll find the informative WRRFSC letter, REN sign-up, survey and invitation to the October 11 Zoom meeting.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape Bible Church
290 S. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Where love is first and the Bible is central.
Sunday Services:
9:15 a.m. - Bible Class, adult & children
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
Info? 707-459-1905
www.agapebiblechurch.com

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
707-303-5456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jernigan
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
•Sound of Soul events
•Membership Discourses
•Spiritual Discussions
•ECK Light & Sound Services
More information?
Call 707-456-9934
www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service &
Children's Church - 11 a.m.
Mid-week Bible Studies
Potluck every 2nd Sunday
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

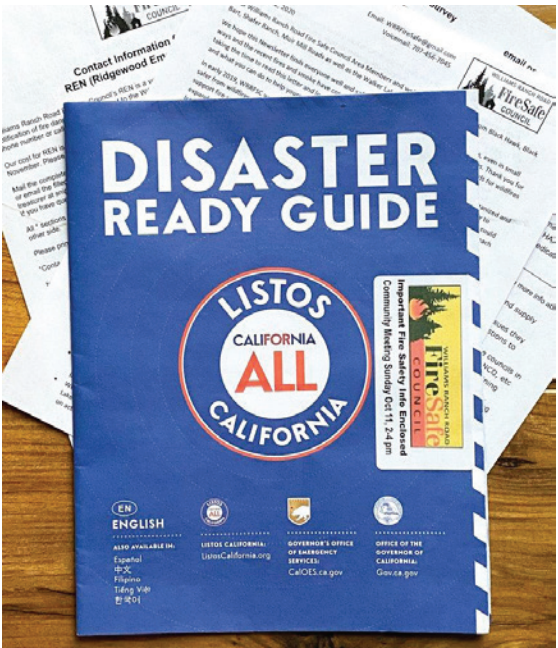
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252
Sunday Mass outside:
8:00 a.m. English
9:00 a.m. Spanish
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-3066
Church Services/Communion
& Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

St. John Lutheran Church
Karl Bliese, Pastor
Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
Bible Study/Sunday School
following the service.
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
707-459-5714
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
4th Sabbath of every month
family potluck at the school.
22751 Bray Road, Willits

Willits United Methodist
A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com



Photos by Ree Slocum

Wildfire Ready

Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council expands to help greater Ridgewood Park area prepare for disaster

Wildfires and their smoke have been on everyone's mind with the recent Oak Fire north of Sherwood Road near Willits. The ongoing, ever-growing August Fire that started in the Mendocino National Forest now appears to have taken first place as the largest fire in California history. And the newer Glass Fire in Napa and Sonoma counties is growing rapidly. The yearly fires are a concern, and efforts toward mitigating their effects are ever-present and do-able.

Ree Slocum
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council area is located south of Willits and west of Highway 101 at the top of the grade and the end of Black Bart and Black Hawk Roads. It includes all of Williams Ranch Road and the spur roads. The volunteer organization has been working hard for the past year and a half to get their own homes, properties and neighborhoods more fire-safe. Before COVID-19 they had two WRRFSC meetings at White Deer Lodge.

Willits Weekly reporter Ree Slocum has been part of the Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council from its inception in early spring 2019. She wrote this article about WRRFSC's recent activities and their informational outreach into the Ridgewood Park subdivision.



Playful Ruby

Ruby (formerly known as Ella) is back for another shot at love! Due to no fault of her own Ruby was surrendered when the other dog in the home no longer liked her, and for her safety she was brought back to us so we can find her a safe place to call home.

Ruby likes other dogs and loves people! One of her favorite pastimes is to play with the water hose. This simple task brings the sweet girl so much joy. She is also a huge fan of toys. She loves to play fetch as well. She gets so excited she will give you kisses with her toys in her mouth to show you her appreciation. This girl has it all. She is funny, loyal, caring, active, and just loves and respects people and other animals. Give us a call to meet the sweetest girl in the world!

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. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsmc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsmc.org. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumane.org to learn more.

Handsome Gene

This handsome fella is Gene. He is the wise old man of the office currently but would love to be in a home with sunny windows, snug pillows, and laps to nap on. Gene knows how to live the good life and would choose to be home in your arms instead of hanging with us. This handsome senior is around 10 years old and has been with us since September of 2019. He is ready to go home today and start his new forever with you!

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

meeting during the summer of 2020. The hope was that everyone interested would attend and join to become more fire-safe along the Black Bart and Black Hawk Road corridors, including Walker Lake, Muir Mill, and Shafer Ranch roads and Ridgewood Ranch.

WRRFSC secured a grant from NCO/EPIC to do just that, but the pandemic put the brakes on those plans. The chair and co-chair of the group were informed by the EPIC administrator that, because of safety reasons, there couldn't be in-person meetings. It put a temporary stop to the momentum toward any outreach meetings for a few months until they could figure out how to take interactive, hands-on, in-person meetings and tailor them for something virtual.

Instead the group turned their energy toward the work needing to be done at their homes, in the council committees, and in the immediate council neighborhoods.

Amongst other things, the communications committee researched, tested and established a one-call communications network called REN - Ridgewood Emergency Network. The network has the capacity to contact hundreds of people simultaneously by phone, text and email with warnings, evacuation notices, and updates. The service is gaining membership in the area.

The preparation committee did many things. They worked with people in the neighborhoods to clear worrisome brush and trees around homes and roads, talked about home hardening and home ignition zones with neighbors. They encouraged people to help neighbors and new fire trails were opened.

The financing and grant committee secured several

Read the rest of Council Over on Page 14

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsmc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsmc.org. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumane.org to learn more.

Loving Joey

Joey is a neutered male, mixed-breed beagle, 4 years old and 33 pounds. He knows "Sit," and in many ways he is an easygoing guy who is always aware of what's happening around him. Joey is very clear that he is not a hugger, so we believe a home with adults might suit him best.

Joey is livin' it up in foster and is described as a sweet and loving dog. His foster family agrees his ideal home would be a mellow home with a guardian who understands his quirks. Joey is housetrained and loves to swim. We think Joey would do best in a home with no other animals.

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.mendocinoshelter.com. For information about adoptions please call 707-467-6453.



October is first-ever national Pedestrian Safety Month

Submitted by U.S. Department of Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has designated October as the first-ever national Pedestrian Safety Month. The agency is making pedestrian safety the focus of October as part of its continuing efforts to improve safety for vulnerable road users.

"With this designation of October as Pedestrian Safety Month, the department is affirming its commitment to working closely with our state and local partners to make our roads safer for pedestrians," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

"At some point in the day, we are all pedestrians especially right now, when everyone wants to get outside for some fresh air," said NHTSA Deputy Administrator James Owens. "Everyone has a role to play in ensuring pedestrian safety. We must keep working to reduce pedestrian deaths from traffic crashes and this first-ever Pedestrian Safety Month will help save lives in communities across the country."

"At the Federal Highway Administration, we partner with states and local communities to implement innovations in pedestrian safety by promoting proven safety countermeasures," said Federal Highway Administrator Nicole R. Nason. "Collaboration will be key as we all work toward the shared goal of reducing the number of fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. We must work together to make our roads safer for our most vulnerable road users - pedestrians."

Each week of the month, NHTSA will highlight dangerous driving behaviors that put pedestrians at risk, as well as ways to improve pedestrian safety. NHTSA has developed resources to help states and local communities identify, address and improve pedestrian safety, including a data visualization tool, safety tips, and social media graphics and messaging. Please visit www.trafficssafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/pedestrian-safety/ everyone-pedestrian for pedestrian safety resources and safety tips.

NHTSA and the Federal Highway Administration also held a live webinar on September 29 to discuss Pedestrian Safety Month, along with representatives from the Governors Highway Safety Association, the Florida Department of Transportation, the Michigan State Police, and America Walks. To visit the webinar's virtual Pedestrian Safety Booth, go to www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov/pedestrian_safety_virtual_booth/.

Earlier this summer, the department brought together safety advocates and stakeholders for the USDOT Summit on Pedestrian Safety, a multi-event series focused on reducing pedestrian fatalities and improving pedestrian access.

NHTSA will soon be conducting its third National Survey on Bicyclist and Pedestrian Attitudes and Behaviors, which will help inform and guide future policy and countermeasure decisions. This survey studies how much people are walking and biking, and their understanding of and opinions on traffic laws, infrastructure, and safety.



OBITUARY |

Teddy Dalton

Teddy Steven Dalton of Willits passed away September 12, 2020, while hospitalized in San Francisco.

Born October 5, 1952 to Rufus William Dalton and Joyce "Flippin" Dalton, he was their first child. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Lilibeth "Hernandez" Dalton; two children: Ryan and Karen; five grandchildren; brothers: John, Anthony and Joseph; and sister, Karen Dalton.

Teddy proudly served eight years in the U.S. Navy, from June 16, 1973. He was a good mechanic; he enjoyed fishing; and especially loved walking on the beach with his beloved wife, "Beth."

Teddy was a good friend to many, a man strong in his faith who enjoyed attending his church as often as his health allowed. He will be missed and remembered by all of us that were blessed to know and love him.

A graveside service will be at 9 am on October 5, 2020 at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Road, Dixon, California. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

BY THE NUMBERS

53%

THE CHILD PEDESTRIAN DEATH RATE IS DOWN 53% SINCE 1995

44%

THE CHILD PEDESTRIAN INJURY RATE IS DOWN 44% SINCE 1995

34%

INJURY RATES FOR KIDS 5-9 WERE DOWN 34% IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS

Most at risk are TEENS

In the last five years, injuries among 16-19 year olds increased 25% over the previous five years

Could digital devices be a cause?

75% of 12-17 year olds owned cell phones in 2009, up from 45% in 2004

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for dates and times in October and November 2020!

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photography by maureen moore

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Senior Center Members - \$7.00
Non-Members - \$8.00

Menu - Oct. Week 1
Thursday, Oct. 1
Lemon Chicken Pasta
Friday, Oct. 2
Steamed Lemon Dill Tilapia

Menu - Oct. Week 2
Monday, Oct. 5
Chicken Sloppy Joe
Tuesday, Oct. 6
Broccoli & Cheese Baked Potato
Wednesday, Oct. 7
Meat Loaf
Thursday, Oct. 8
Pepperoni Pizza
Friday, Oct. 9
Chicken Chili with Cornbread

Accepting donations to aid us in feeding seniors Sheltering in Place
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Nut N Chews, Soft Centers, Milk, Dark and Assorted. 1 lb. boxes.
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Water Update

Willits reservoirs look low, but have about 150 days of water remaining – and there’s a backup plan

Water is life. It is a vital element for all species on the planet. The residents of the Little Lake Valley rely on water to replenish their bodies, which are 50 to 75 percent comprised of this substance. Water gives the valley its lush green look and feeds the internal systems of all plant and animal life. It is a necessity that water is provided to each household, farm and ranch in the Willits area.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

In times of drought, a phenomenon which is occurring more and more frequently with the advent of climate change, water becomes more scarce and difficult to come by. Currently the two Willits reservoirs, Centennial and Morris, have been seeing a lowering of levels to a point that is concerning but not yet distressing.

According to Sean Payne, chief plant operator for the City of Willits, there is an estimated 150 day supply of water remaining in the two reservoirs, an amount that should be able to provide the city well until the rainy season.

If not, there are plans in the works to tap the “water table under the valley,” according to Payne, and pump water into the reservoirs. The city has dug artesian wells to test the quality of the water at several depths and locations.

The Centennial Reservoir, just off Highway 101, below the CalFire station, has a capacity of 635 acre feet, according to a 2016 Willits Weekly article written by former city council member Ron Orenstein. Its water supply comes from “captured runoff from the upper reaches of the Davis Creek watershed,” Orenstein wrote.

“Water from the Centennial Reservoir is released into the Morris Reservoir, which has a maximum capacity of 726 acre feet. One acre foot of water will cover one acre of land one foot deep.”

Water that has made its way to the reservoirs needs to be purified in order to be potable to the residents. Operator Payne explained the process: “We do a conventional treatment process. We pump it out of the reservoir. There are five major steps to purification, coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

“As the water is pumped up from the lake, ferric chloride gets injected into the pipe, which through a chemical-electrical reaction, forms ‘flocs,’ in our clarification unit, which is all the stuff in the water that’s not water, making it bind together into floc, which is a concentration of particles and contaminants.

“That settles out in our clarification basin,” continued Payne. “That clarified water gets pumped into our plant, filtered. The larger floc settles out and whatever’s left over gets run through another clarification and filter system. That gives us the ability to segregate the

At right:
A sign
marks the
road to the
Centennial
Reservoir
and the
Willits
water
treatment
plant.



At left:
One of the
two Willits
reservoirs,
Centennial
is showing
a lack of
water.
Below:
Mud and
sand
are seen
where
water
should be.

Photos by
Mathew
Caine



Read the rest of
Water | Over on Page 11

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During the Chevrolet Tahoe pursuit, a deputy responding to assist the sergeant was able to conduct a traffic stop on the Toyota Tacoma. The deputy identified the driver as being Jesus Estevan Vargas, Jr., a 41-year-old male from Moreno Valley, and a subsequent investigation resulted in his arrest in connection with the reported armed robbery.

During the establishment of the search perimeter, the sergeant learned of a possible exit point to the east along Highway 101. The sergeant took position at this eastern location to intercept the Chevrolet Tahoe.

A short time later, a few gunshots were heard and then a person was heard screaming. Sometime thereafter, law enforcement personnel on the search perimeter were contacted by two adult males. Deputies learned the adult males had been kidnapped during the armed robbery and had been bound by zip-ties and their heads covered by some type of material.

They reported the Chevrolet Tahoe had become disabled on the dirt road and one of the adult male victims was shot in the back while trying to escape. The adult victims reported the two suspects fled on foot, were armed with assault style rifles, and clothed in body armor.

The adult male victim with the gunshot wound to the back of his shoulder was transported by air ambulance to an out-of-county hospital for medical treatment.

Based upon the circumstances of the situation, a request was made for the Mendocino County Multi-Agency SWAT team, who later arrived on scene. The SWAT team utilized the armored Citizen Rescue Vehicle and drove to the area of the disabled Chevrolet Tahoe. At the same time, H-14 (CHP helicopter) began providing aerial assistance to the SWAT team.

As H-14 conducted overflight operations, they were able to locate one of the suspects in the wooden

PAID POLITICAL AD

**Re-elect
MADGE STRONG
for WILLITS CITY COUNCIL**

Photo by Ree Slocum

**Forward-Looking;
Practical; Experienced**

On City Council the past 8 years, I've worked for the well-being of our community through many challenges: the impacts of the Bypass, legalization of cannabis, budget and land use decisions.

I am endorsed by 3rd District Supervisor John Haschak, Democratic Party of Mendocino County and Mendo Women's Political Coalition.

Among my roles as a Council person:

- * Mayor in 2018;
- * Member of Finance Committee;
- * Ad Hoc Committee on our successful commercial cannabis ordinance;
- * Chair of the County Solid Waste Agency;
- * Member of Economic Development & Financing Corporation.

My background in government and non-profit organizations includes:

- 30 years as a professional land use, environmental and economic planner, including 7 years with the California Coastal Commission
- 14 years on the board of WELL (Willits Economic Localization); Past board member of Bay Chapter Sierra Club
- Member, supporter and volunteer with Phoenix Hospice, Little Lake Grange, and many other local groups

My priorities for the next 4 years:

- * With passage of Measure K, balance the budget, improve police service & parks;
- * Update General Plan & Zoning, promote housing & economic development;
- * Develop a City energy plan, possible solarization at the sewage plant.

I also urge support for Measure K, a ½ cent sales tax to keep our City solvent while providing police & other services.

For questions or to donate, contact me at mstronga@willitsonline.com or 459-1493.

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The rest of
Arrests | From Page 1

Jr. (41, from Moreno Valley, California) and Roy Ha (27, from Las Vegas) have been booked into the Mendocino County Jail in lieu of \$2,500,00 bail and one adult male is under guarded watch at an out-of-county hospital after receiving life-saving surgery from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

On September 27 at approximately 10:02 am, a CalFire law enforcement prevention officer contacted an adult male on Highway 162 approximately 0.5 miles from the intersection of Highway 101. Upon contact the adult male reported being the victim of an armed robbery, which had occurred approximately 20 minutes prior to the contact.

The adult male advised there had been three or four suspects armed with assault-weapon style rifles and being dressed in body armor. The suspects had potentially fled southbound on Highway 101 in a black Chevrolet Tahoe and gray Toyota Tacoma.

This information was broadcast by radio to on-duty personnel with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, and Ukiah Police Department.

A Sheriff's Office sergeant was on routine patrol on Highway 20 east of Potter Valley when he saw two vehicles matching the suspect vehicle descriptions. He attempted a traffic stop on the black Chevrolet Tahoe, which failed to stop and instead accelerated to speeds over 100 MPH. A vehicle pursuit was initiated with the assistance of the California Highway Patrol.

The Chevrolet Tahoe continued several miles eastbound on Highway 20 before making a U-turn and headed westbound on Highway 20 for a short time before turning onto a rural parcel of property near mile-post marker 41, which was on the east side of the highway.

The Chevrolet Tahoe continued along a poor-conditioned dirt road, which led up into the wooded hillside. Fearing an ambush, the patrol sergeant discontinued the pursuit and began to establish a search perimeter.

During the Chevrolet Tahoe pursuit, a deputy responding to assist the sergeant was able to conduct a traffic stop on the Toyota Tacoma. The deputy identified the driver as being Jesus Estevan Vargas, Jr., a 41-year-old male from Moreno Valley, and a subsequent investigation resulted in his arrest in connection with the reported armed robbery.

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Supporting the non-profits who care for our community

Submitted by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County

“With COVID-19 orders in place, we have to entirely reconfigure how we do our program,” shared one local non-profit when applying for funding from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County's new Non-Profit Relief grant program. When the shelter-in-place order was issued in March, organizations countywide were forced to shutter their doors and shift to a whole new method of delivering services, with little time to prepare. As the pandemic has stretched into months, non-profit organizations are finding the demand increasing while the challenges of remote and strategic workarounds continue.

We at the Community Foundation have long been champions of the network of nonprofit organizations that provide critical services throughout Mendocino County. As we began to develop our COVID-19 response, we understood that supporting the non-profits would be a crucial element in helping our communities to get through this crisis. We have since launched the COVID-19 Non-Profit Relief Program, which includes opportunities for organizations to connect and collaborate, as well as multiple funding tracks to help them adapt to the new normal.

We have heard from our non-profit partners that their funding streams are drying up, while the demand for their services continues. “We have had our doors closed with no income except for donations,” shared one non-profit. “Our reserve is getting seriously depleted.” The issue is widespread, and with the support of our donors, we have now launched two new grant programs with a goal of providing \$500,000 in funding to support the non-profit sector this fiscal year.

In addition to our annual Community Enrichment Grant Program, we are also running the Non-Profit Relief grant program designed to assist any Mendocino County non-profit experiencing operational hardships as a result of the pandemic, as well as the COVID-19 Safety-Net grant program

Savings Bank launches #BanksNeverAskThat anti-phishing campaign

Submitted by Savings Bank of Mendocino County

Savings Bank of Mendocino County with banks across the nation and the American Bankers Association are simultaneously launching the #BanksNeverAskThat campaign on October 1, to mark the beginning of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. This first-of-its-kind, industry-wide campaign is designed to educate consumers about the persistent threat of phishing scams. The FTC estimates that consumers lost 1.9 billion to phishing schemes in 2019.

To combat phishing, the #BanksNeverAskThat campaign provides tips to empower consumers to identify bogus bank communications. It's not just phone calls from suspicious numbers. It's also emails and text messages masked to look like they're from your bank asking for sensitive information like passwords and Social Security numbers.

If you're contacted by phone, email or text and are asked for your account number, username, password or Social Security number, that's not your bank!

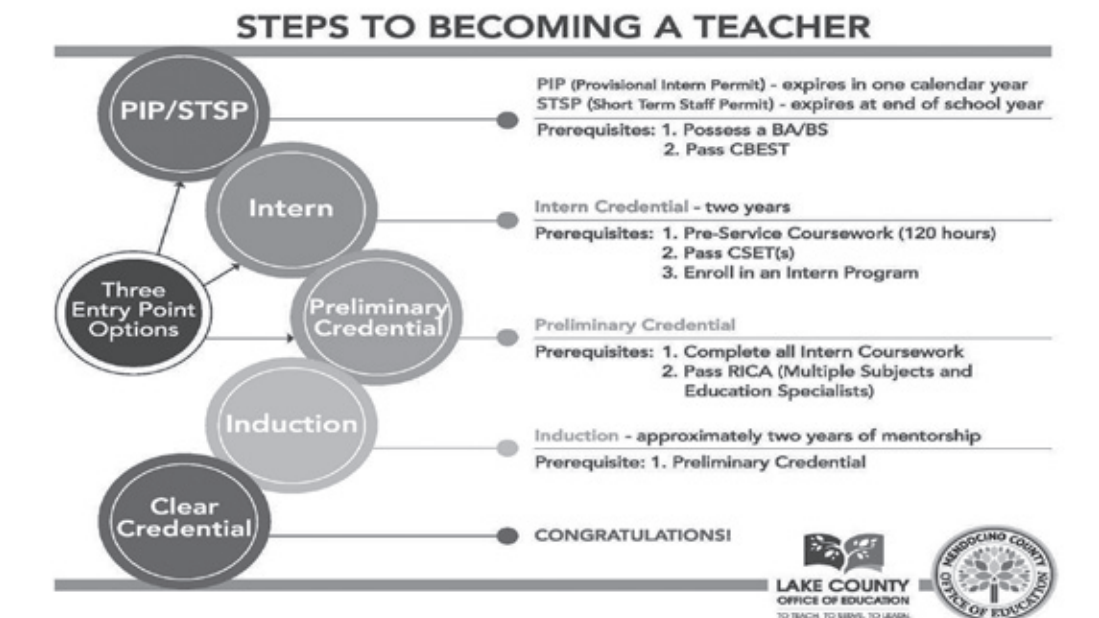
Watch out for emails with misspelled words, poor grammar, or that ask you to click a link or provide personal information. The sender may claim to be someone from your bank, but it's a scam.

MCOE invites would-be teachers to explore internship program

Submitted by Mendocino County Office of Education

The Mendocino County Office of Education and Lake County Office of Education invite those interested in exploring a teaching career to attend one of the upcoming information sessions via Zoom: October 5, 6, 12, 14 or 19 from 5 to 7 pm. MCOE and LCOE have collaborated to bring the “Be A Teacher” intern program to Lake and Mendocino counties, allowing teacher-interns to work full-time while pursuing their teaching credential. Register online at [TLCCinfo2020.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tlccinfo2020).

In this two-year state-accredited intern program, interns are employed as teachers during the day and attend credential classes approximately two days a week in the evening, while receiving ongoing coaching from an on-site mentor, course



Board of Supervisors that day, when they filed and adopted the reports under the Fire Operations and Emergency Evacuation Plan, dealing with public outreach data and wildfire assessment.

"I made two substantial comments," Orth said, first, "that Brooktrails will be coming forward with an agenda request to remove the direction to the director of transportation to basically hold the second access project until we identified all of the costs and financing of such a project.

"I made them aware that we were going to challenge that and asked them to rescind that so the project can move forward as Brooktrails (at this time) does not have the transportation power and tax dollars to accomplish that."

Also, Orth said, he commented as a member of the Local Agency Formation Commission, and said "part of my report includes that I will have to turn again for my seat on the LAFCO board, and I will be requesting nomination by the Brooktrails board."

Orth continued: "Meanwhile, LAFCO is reviewing Mendocino County Service Area 3 – and as part of that, working with the two fire associations, the chiefs and the districts. We are asking for the fire authority to be taken up by the county, whereas they are already expending funds through [Proposition 172] as well as now the campground TOT tax is dedicated to fire services."

Also discussed at that Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting, Orth reported, was coming up with "a description of a fire warden / chief position to head up that agency – as the assessment studies point in that direction. The one authority that's

presstime – 3.7 million acres of California forestland go up in flames, in a summer of fire that is not over yet.

The discussion began with a question posed by Fifth District representative Jennifer Mayne, who asked whether the committee should undertake writing a strategic plan.

Committee Chair Marie Jones spoke strongly against the idea. She referred to a strategic plan that she had written for the City of Fort Bragg. She said that she had spent five months working on the plan, had talked to scores of people and had come up with some ingenious ways of helping Fort Bragg both produce much of its own energy and save about \$200,000 a year in energy costs. Jones said that city staff filed the plan away on its shelves and that the city had implemented none of its recommendations.

"I truly think that for us to do a strategic plan would be a waste of our time," Jones said.

Mayne then tried to clarify her suggestion. "I think what I meant to say was that we need a strategic plan for our group. Maybe we don't go to the level of a strategic plan for the county. Maybe we push for a strategic plan for our group," she said.

She went on to say that she felt that what was needed was mass action, or mass education leading to mass action. "What we need is some suggestions for what people can do," Mayne said.

With that, Fourth District representative Michael Potts typed in a few words on his computer and soon told the group that he had just typed in the sentence, "What can I do to combat climate change?" and had come up with 270,000 entries.

"I'm not sure that our job is education," said Potts, who is an educator. "I would love to see somebody else work on how we can sweeten up the front end. I think for us, we've had this discussion before, and I think we already have a plan, which is, one, that we do the low-hanging fruit, which is what I'm working on, and two, we do a baseline analysis, which John Nickerson is working on and three, we do some kind of a basic plan."

The phrase 'low-hanging fruit' refers to a group of recommendations that are alternately called the First Principles and the First Recommendations. This is a list comprised of what are, for climate activists, fairly basic and obvious recommendations, which are due to be presented to the board of supervisors soon.

Included in this list are recommendations that prescribed burning be adopted as a widespread practice in the county's forests; that safe egress routes be planned for the county's wildlife; that the county make sustained efforts to streamline its permit process so as to facilitate quicker adoption of renewable energy technologies; that the county government should widely subscribe to Sonoma Clean Power's "Evergreen" energy program, which is comprised of 100 percent renewable energy; that the county should enact laws regulating the idling of cars; that the county ought to install electric vehicle charging stations at all county points of presence; and that the county ought to enact a moratorium on permits for drive-through restaurants, coffee kiosks and similar establishments, so as to get people to park their cars and drive less.

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

Potts said that the coastal contingent of the climate committee had met four times with supervisors Dan Gjerde and Ted Williams since July, and is

lacking in the county," Orth continued, "due to the nature of the fire emergencies that we all face, is for this qualified fire professional to be in place."

General Manager Tamara Alaniz commented that at the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting that Director Orth attended they also discussed the proposed hazardous vegetation and rubbish abatement ordinance.

"They did not take action on that item," Alaniz said. "They are going to make some changes. and that will be coming back at a later date."

Brooktrails Fire Chief Noyer spoke and thanked the Brooktrails community, the Brooktrails board of directors, and the surrounding community for the recent outpouring of support responding to the Oak Fire north of Brooktrails.

"We had to evacuate Brooktrails for the first time in my history of 20 years, and it went well, in my opinion," Chief Noyer said. "There are always things that we can work on. The fact that the public 'got it done' without any incidents was astonishing. Everybody stepped up from the utility department, General Manager Alaniz, everybody involved. I just want to thank all who were involved. I think you all get the gist of my gratitude!"

Thanks were voiced by the entire board for all of the efforts by everyone, and Chief Noyer also expressed great thanks to the Willits Police Department for all of their work patrolling Brooktrails neighborhoods throughout the evacuation period, night and day, assuring that residential properties were kept safe from looting, etc. "They did an outstanding job," he said.

contemplating having a special subcommittee meeting with those two county supervisors plus department heads from the county's Department of Planning and Building Services and General Services, to determine if any or some or all of these recommendations are realistic and implementable. "We want to see if our recommendations are possible," Potts said.

Potts's mention of the baseline study refers to a study contemplated by First District Climate Committee representative Nickerson and former climate committee member Walter Smith, which is to analyze six sectors of the county's economy and to calculate the county's output (or, in some case, absorption) of greenhouse gases.

The baseline study would assess the carbon footprint for transportation, energy use, natural and working lands, urban forests, water treatment and sewer treatment, and agriculture. "Urban forests" is a term that means the tree cover that exists in cities.

At the September 18 meeting, Nickerson said that, so far, his subcommittee has only been able to get good information on urban forests.

Nickerson apologized for not having a written report in hand but gave a verbal summary of the findings of the subcommittee. He said that the size and density of the urban forest of Ukiah had remained pretty steady over the past 15 years, moving from 29 percent tree cover to 30 percent.

Tree cover in the Willits/ Brooktrails area had declined slightly, moving from an average of 53 percent tree cover in 2005 to 51 percent in 2020. Fort Bragg had added the most tree cover of the county's three largest cities, going from 35 percent tree cover to 42 percent.

In terms of the carbon footprint that results from these changes, the City of Ukiah removed 17,000 tons of carbon from the atmosphere over the past 15 years. Over the same period, Willits and Brooktrails have added 13,000 tons of carbon to the atmosphere, and Fort Bragg had sequestered 59,000 tons of carbon from the planet's atmosphere.

Nickerson said that, altogether, over the past 15 years, the urban forests of the three major cities in the county had absorbed 63,000 tons of carbon from the air, an average of 4,000 tons a year.

Nickerson said that the county's Resource Conservation District is planning to do a study on the carbon footprint of the county's agricultural lands. Jones said that she and Smith will draft a proposal to form a grant-writing ad hoc committee to look for funding to support the committee's work.

Jones summarized the question that the committee was grappling with. "How does our small group of people impact our county?" she asked.

As the meeting was winding down, the committee reviewed its current status. It has lost two key members, Fifth District representative Patrick Hentschel and Third District representative Smith, although Smith continues to work on the baseline report subcommittee.

Second District representative Jade Swor has dropped out of the committee, as has Smith's replacement, Alicia Hardy. Jones acknowledged that some committee members have not attended a meeting since last November, when the committee had its first meeting.

Jones suggested that the committee meet monthly, instead of bi-monthly, and that suggestion was agreed to. She also proposed that the committee discuss how the committee will move forward at its next meeting, scheduled for Friday, October 16.

on defining the scope of the business plan, the committee decided to turn the business plan project over to Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director Jenine Miller and Measure B Project Manager Alyson Bailey.

"Miller is going to come up with a scope of what kind of services we should be providing with Measure B funds," said Williams. "And Alyson is going to figure out what they will cost."

At this point it is unclear how closely the business plan will follow a paper that was prepared by Bailey and which was presented to the Measure B Committee in July. That plan, called "Operational Costs for Proposed Residential Treatment Facility and Psychiatric Health Facility / Psychiatric Hospital" provided a cost analysis to build and operate a crisis residential treatment facility, a psychiatric health facility, and a regional training center.

The report did not analyze staffing costs for the Measure B administrative wing, or include a projection of costs for facility maintenance. The report also did not provide any clear analysis of whether revenues collected from the first five years of the Measure B tax would be sufficient to fund the construction of the facilities and the provision of services that would be provided in those facilities.

Using the data found in Bailey's report, this reporter determined that the county could build and operate a PHF, a CRTF, and a training center, and pay its Measure B project manager staff, for a total of \$34.85 million. Because Measure B is expected to take in \$38.9 million over its first five years, that calculation indicates that the program should have \$4 million in its account after the currently planned Measure B projects are built.

According to Williams, the July document included several large arithmetic errors. "It appears that the \$500,000 grant that we are supposed to get from the California Health Facilities Financing Authority was counted twice," Williams said. "And it looks to me that somehow \$4.5 million became \$9 million, which means that there is a \$4.5 million error."

Third District Supervisor John Haschak, who, along with Williams, attended the September 23 virtual meeting as part of the board's ad hoc committee, confirmed the attitude of the committee.

"We got something from the project manager that we didn't think was sufficient," Haschak said, referring to the July document. "So we're trying to figure out how do we get a business plan that will meet our goal of understanding what our long-term fiscal commitment is on Measure B."

Haschak said that he and Fifth District Supervisor Williams have talked with each other over the past week in order to draw up a list of desirables for a business plan. "We want it to adhere to GAAP," Haschak said, referring to "generally accepted accounting principles," which express the standards and best practices for the accounting and bookkeeping industry. "We want the numbers to be footnoted, showing where they came from and what they mean."

In a phone call, Williams added that he believes the role of the Measure B Committee has been misconstrued by the county. "The board of supervisors is taking the position that it cannot act on the Measure B project without the blessing and without the approval of the committee," Williams said.

"That isn't my reading. I think that there is nothing to prohibit the board of supervisors from taking a leadership role in the affairs of Measure B, to set policy, and to take ownership of this project. I think we ought to do that, and I think that the public expects us to do it."

According to the relevant section of the November 2017 ballot measure, which is Section 5.180.040, D, one of the "specific purposes" of Measure B is to: "Create a politically independent 'Mental Health Treatment Act' Citizen's Oversight Committee which shall review the independent annual audit of expenditures and the performance management plan for compliance with the specific purpose of this ordinance. This committee shall also provide recommendations to the board of supervisors on the implementation of this ordinance."

No recording of meeting

Because of an oversight, this meeting was reportedly not recorded by the county's Information Services staff. As a result, this account of the proceedings of the meeting was assembled from interviews with supervisors Haschak and Williams, and Measure B Project Manager Bailey.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION

Signing your mail ballot return envelope

Submitted by the Mendocino County Elections Office

Mendocino County ballots will be mailed to every active registered voter on Monday, October 5, 2020. In preparation of every registered voter receiving their ballot, we thought we would answer a couple questions we've had regarding signing your mail ballot return envelope.

According to Assessor Clerk Recorder, Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolome, with each election we receive questions from our voters about their signatures. Two of the main questions we are asked are – does the voter have to sign their mail ballot return envelope exactly as they are registered; and what do they do if their signature has changed?

If you think your signature has changed a lot, you should re-register. We take into consideration that our signatures change as we age, but the style normally is very similar. We look at the signature style = we do not require your ballot envelope be signed exactly as the signature we have on file, nor does your signature have to be exactly as you are registered.

For example – if you're registered as "Katherine Elizabeth Simpson," what would your legal signature be – how do you normally sign your name? There are several ways you could sign your ballot envelope: You could sign your full name or you could sign Katherine E Simpson; Kathy Simpson; K E Simpson; K Simpson; as long as your signature style is the same, we will accept the signed ballot envelope.

If you now have a squiggly signature, we suggest you sign your squiggly signature you now sign every day, and right above or below that signature, sign your name as it appears on your mail label. It's extremely hard to check a signature that we can't make out when the signature we have in our database for you is a neat, spelled-out, legible signature. By signing both ways it helps us decipher the signature on your ballot envelope.

Another way is to look at your driver's license signature – does your normal signature look like the signature on your driver's license? If you've registered online or through DMV, you most likely had to attach the signature on file with DMV to your registration form.

We check every signature on every mail-in ballot envelope. If there is a problem we will make every attempt possible to contact you to cure your signature.

Please call or email the Elections Office if you have any questions. Our number is 707-234-6819; or email us at mcvotes@mendocinocounty.org

LEGAL NOTICES

WW286 Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0430
The following company is doing business as Coldwell Banker Mendo 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 Elk 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 September 1, 2020.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 15, 2020.

/s/ Kara Garman

Publication dates: 09/24, 10/01, 10/8 and 10/15/2020

WW287

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GRACE GERALDINE WESTON aka GERALDINE WESTON CASE NO. SCUC CVPB 20-27416

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate or 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.: E 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, 715 E. Main St., Willits, CA 95490. Telephone: 707-456-9210.

Publication Dates: September 17, 24 and October 1, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

WW289 Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0439
The following company is doing business as Bigfoot Fab, 4800 Hearst Willits Road, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Tony Gera, 4800 Hearst Willits Road, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 1, 2020.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 2, 2020.

/s/ Tony Gera

Publication dates: 10/01, 10/8, 10/15 and 10/22/2020

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contaminants, to settle them out, which is the sedimentation portion of the process.

"We use Trident filtration systems, which forces the water up through plastic beads, which clarifies some of the bigger material. Then the water flows down into our gravity anthracite filtration system. The clarified water gets chlorinated and sent to our 1.5 million gallon clear well, where it gets some contact time before it is sent out into the distribution system," concluded Payne.

The "contact time" gives the chlorine time to kill any of various contaminants such as Giardia intestinalis, Giardia lamblia, or Giardia duodenalis, microscopic parasites that come from feces in the water or soil.

Although Mendocino County is classified as being in "moderate drought" status on drought monitoring maps, the Little Lake Valley will have water for some time to come, either from the reservoirs or from the plentiful water table underneath.

we need you to be part of the team so that when the wave does hit, we will be able to handle it. And we can save lives."

Adventist Health Howard Memorial is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides care in hospitals, clinics, home care agencies, hospice agencies and joint-venture retirement centers in both rural and urban communities. Our compassionate and talented team of 35,000 includes associates, medical staff physicians, allied health professionals and volunteers driven in pursuit of one mission: living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. Together, we are transforming the American healthcare experience with an innovative, yet timeless, whole-person focus on physical, mental, spiritual and social healing.



Current Job Openings:
Administrative Secretary
Applications Developer/Analyst I/II – Extra-Help
Corrections Deputy
Department Analyst I/II
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
Eligibility Specialist Supervisor – Fort Bragg
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
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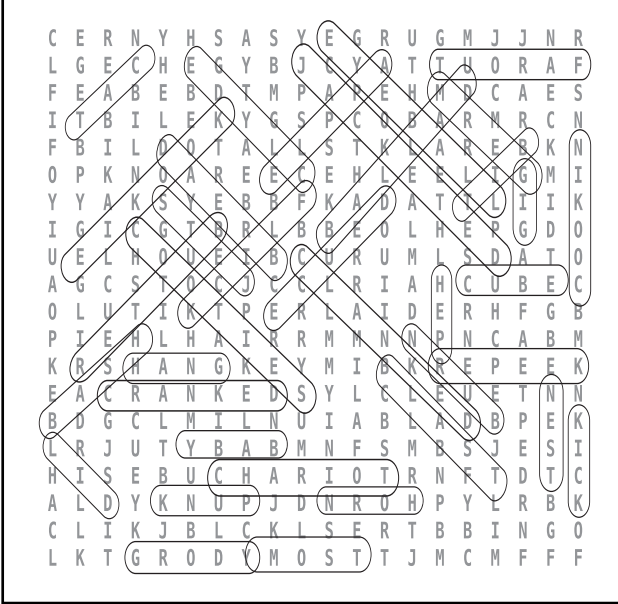
(707) 467-7642
104 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits, CA
Email: cmccluskey.paralegal@gmail.com

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At left: Ukiah artist Mimi Booth holds a ceramic vessel that she created. Above, left and right: Unnamed ceramic vessels by Mimi Booth. At left, below: "Indian 5" by P. Ethan Castro, a contemporary Native American artist.



October Show

WCA invites the public to view the West represented in ceramic vessels and mixed-media abstract expressionism

Submitted by the Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts presents Mimi Booth's ceramics and P. Ethan Castro's paintings in October. The two Ukiah artists will be showing their work at the WCA starting October 2.

Booth's ceramics have been inspired by adventures throughout the Southwest. She is seeking to understand each landscape, including the results of human impact, by viewing them through her camera lens. Focused on paying tribute to a place, she is informed by the shapes, patterns and textures that intrigue her.

This body of work, inspired by Western landscapes, melds her enthusiasm for ceramic art, photography, and off-road treks. A connection with clay has sparked her curiosity, creating a strong interest in the formation of our earth. Imbedded in every vessel are interpretations of a location and a sense of awe.

P. Ethan Castro is a self-taught contemporary Native American artist in mixed-media abstract expressionism working with oil, acrylic, pen and ink, graphite and encaustic

on many foundations and substrates. He was born and raised in Ukiah, and is a Wailaki descendant of the North Fork Eel River Territory and registered on the Round Valley Indian Reservation located in Covelo.

Castro's body of work for this show includes his stylized Indians, along with paintings of social comments and abstract paintings. It is a proud time to be a young, free Native American artist beginning to create works that would combine Indians and the rest of the world within one composition of activism and art.

"I often mock the 'Indian,' cultural profiling or perceptions (often false), incorporating situations that otherwise may not coincide to the other," said Castro of his work.

Booth and Castro will be showing their work at the Willits Center for the Arts, Friday, October 2 through October 25. The Willits Photography Club will also be showing in the upstairs gallery. The WCA, located at 71 East Commercial Street, is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 am until 5 pm. Check out their website, www.willitscenterforthearts.org, or call 459-1726 for more information.



Above: Abstract expressionist artist P. Ethan Castro. Below, "Indian 2" (left) and "Indian 1" (right) by P. Ethan Castro, a contemporary Native American artist. At bottom: "Merge with Caution" by artist P. Ethan Castro.



This bug-themed kids literacy kit available to borrow from the Mendocino County Library includes books, interactive toys, a laminated song sheet, and a music CD.

The rest of

Grants

From Page 3

The second round of grants has recently been awarded. Twenty-six businesses throughout the county were selected, three from the Willits area; Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli, Salon 707, and Shamrock Artisan Goat Cheese. Previous area winners in the first round that happened in July were Main Street Music and Video, and Loose Caboose restaurant.

Lisa Davis, owner of Scoops, heard about the grant from Jill Persico, of Loose Caboose. "It was quite a process but by the time you get through the application, you're even more excited because you have the possibility that you could get this \$5,000 grant.

"In our application," said Davis, "we told them about how COVID had affected our business and the changes that that presented because of the self-service type food that we had before, that we are no longer able to serve. We went to Kemmy's Pies to see how we could team up together, having their pies and savories here at Scoops. We then knew that we had to offer outside dining, which was out-of-pocket, but we tied that in, in our application, as well as the changes we wanted to make inside."

Salon 707 has been a Willits fixture for many years and was taken over about two years ago by Carrie Andrade.

"With the money, we are going to make sure all the stations are up-to-date and prepared to be able to be sanitized," said Andrade. "We are going to make it more convenient to keep our clients safe and healthy.

"There's always a lot to be done," continued Andrade, "but since we've been shut down and went through a big lull, and with things breaking down, and the added sanitation requirements, it's hard to keep up financially with upkeep and regular maintenance.

"We're trying to address seating," Andrade said. "We can't have group seating anymore. Sometimes we have older clients who have caregivers, so it's important to have some socially distanced seating. We were shut down for about three months the first time and a month the second time. I'm looking forward to the meetings and consulting with West Company that comes with the grant. The networking is an advantage as well."

The county of Mendocino, as a community, supports its small businesses. Within that community, there are innovative organizations which help find a way to aid those businesses through challenging times. West Business Development Center, the Community Foundation of Mendocino, Economic Development Financing Corporation, and others will often join their areas of expertise to provide innovative programs to aid those businesses willing to go the extra mile.

"Our hope," said Project Manager Phoenix Trent, "is that these grants will go a long way toward building resilience and innovation in our community as local small businesses work to evolve and adapt during these challenging times."

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The rest of

Problem

From Page 2

rural areas within our county. It is being used as a constant warning to anyone who would venture out of their homes in the evening and night.

The Round Valley area is approximately 19 square miles. Our best estimation is there are over 1 million marijuana plants cultivated in Round Valley every year. Round Valley is approximately 0.5 percent of the total landmass of Mendocino County. This is completely out of hand.

The market has been so saturated we can't possibly expect the legal market could support this much marijuana. My estimation is less than 1 percent of the marijuana produced in Mendocino County is for the legal market.

I continue to support legal marijuana cultivation in Mendocino County as the laws are clear in California. I applaud those who strive to build this emerging market. We owe it to the folks working in this emergent industry to protect them as well.

The people involved in the illegal market must be dealt with in order to provide safety for our county. This industry has run wild with little to no enforcement against those who will continue to murder, rob and intimidate. We must take a hard look at the systems in place, we must look with honesty and recognize these systems aren't working.

Recent changes in legislation, with little to no planning to deal with the consequences, are placing all rural counties at risk. While the state fails to address the illegal marijuana problem, we are tasked with unfunded mandates, which take away from the work we should be doing.

Simply changing the law does not stop people from being victimized. We are in a strange time where we have forgotten about the rights of our victims, and the good people in our communities. It is clear everyone knows their rights, however, many have forgotten their responsibilities.

I will be taking a much harder line on those who choose to work in the black market. The future of our county is dependent on the decisions we make today.

Staffing and personnel have always been an issue for Mendocino County. While other departments have grown at a staggering pace, the Sheriff's Office has the same number of patrol personnel that we had when I was born, 51 years ago. This has to be dealt with. The safety of our citizens demands it.

I am asking all residents of Mendocino County to stand with me and with our board of supervisors to give this problem top priority. Our board of supervisors has shown time and time again they support public safety.

We all need to stand together to secure the personnel needed to truly combat this problem. We simply need the support of our communities to say enough is enough.

I will be moving more personnel into the Detectives Bureau as well as the Marijuana Enforcement Unit; however, these personnel will leave a void in the patrol force if we don't begin some growth in our numbers.

Mendocino County has always been resilient and strong, our pioneering spirit is unmatched. We can deal with this problem if we have the support of our communities.

I know our board of supervisors agrees with me that all Mendocino County residents deserve a better quality of life. I'm asking each of you to contact your supervisor by reaching out to them on social media, #StrongerTogether, or in other ways. Let them know you stand with us in wanting all of us to live in a safer community.

P.E.O.

Saturday Driveway Sale

Submitted by Willits P.E.O., Chapter XO

Members of the Willits P.E.O., Chapter XO, are having a driveway sale on Saturday, October 3, from 11 am to 2 pm at 63 Northbrook Way in Willits. P.E.O., Philanthropic Educational Organization, is one of the oldest women's organizations in North America.

There will be special homemade crafts, food items and tenderly used items.

Social distancing with masks will be observed. Funds raised will go towards scholarships that help women achieve their highest aspirations.

We look forward to seeing you Saturday, and thank you for your support.

The rest of

School

From Page 1

The state's new LCAP is focused on how best to proceed with distance education for all involved, and also to be ready for some form of on-site teaching when that becomes possible.

Willits Unified's plan was developed with "input from lots of people ... with lots of good ideas," said Superintendent Mark Westerburg. "We got input from everybody you can imagine."

It was also the subject of a public hearing held by the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees on September 24; the board then unanimously approved the plan at a September 28 meeting.

The plan addresses the allocation of close to \$1.4 million of extra funding the district will receive because of the pandemic, most of which must be spent before December.

The amount is based on the district's percentage of "at risk" students ... those eligible for free and reduced meals, homeless, in foster care, or English learners.

Westerburg explained that the extra funding was "kind of a supplement" that offsets a reduction in regular state funding.

"This is part of our funding, not a grant, not an add-on," he said. "It's part of the state's funding plan this year."

As such, the district's new LCAP contains "priorities and funding choices that intentionally reflect far more than [the extra] money will cover," he said. "It's a laundry list of ideas ... more ideas than we have funds for.

"The goal is to accomplish almost everything on this list that we can ... use this [extra] funding first ... and then use other sources that we have."

The plan begins with a brief "description of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the [district] and its community," and includes the following information.

"Willits [has] a student population of approximately 1,500 students. [Its] demographics include 30 percent Hispanic, 10 percent Native American, 2 percent other and 58 percent Caucasian, with 70-plus percent of ... families qualifying for the federal free/reduced lunch program.

"WUSD has struggled for several years trying to improve test scores and with the implementation of distance learning since March 15, 2020, our students have suffered greatly. It has dramatically affected our EL (English learner) students and students with special needs due to even lower success online.

"With a 50 percent disengagement rate, limited internet access due to mountainous region and limited hardware, these huge problems have crippled the district."

Board president Alex Bowlds asked Westerburg to "take us step by step" through the plan.

"The start of the plan is an overview of the district," he began. "It's really designed to deal with distance learning and then on-site learning and then some general things you have to do just because of COVID ... for example, nursing services, testing."

It's "addressed to deal with at-risk students, English learners, foster students. So the first part is broken into groups like that and services that would be useful for them."

Another "part is about in-person learning ... fairly short because we don't know when that's going to be," he said. "The assumption is, when we go back into onsite learning, we'll be in A, B groups, A, B days

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 Baechteld Road. All Senior Center meals are currently \$5.

Home Meal Delivery

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

Thursday, October 1: Lemon Chicken Pasta

Friday, October 2: Steamed Lemon Dill Tilapia

Monday, October 5: Chicken Sloppy Joe

Tuesday, October 6: Broccoli & Cheese Baked Potato

Wednesday, October 7: Meat Loaf

Thursday, October 8: Pepperoni Pizza

Friday, October 9: Chicken Chili with Cornbread

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

... and some type of hybrid ... not everybody back at the same time."

And "there's a support section about parent engagement and nutrition."

After Westerburg's summary, the focus of the meeting shifted to Willits Unified's real-life current greatest challenge and the subject of most of the meeting's discussion: internet connectivity.

Sherwood School teacher Lisa Bowles told the board that she had "reached out to others for comments, and there's a lot of internet issues ... devices and services, that's the bottom line.

"As a teacher you can really see who has internet access that is functional," she said. "Part of that is because of the landscape where we live."

She also commented that, "Mark [Westerburg] has been great" helping people with problems getting online.

"We have to figure out how to get Internet access to the people who don't have it," said Westerburg.

"I keep telling folks, when someone has Internet access problems, call me," he said. "I'm dealing with them right away ... that day. It's important that we get them on line."

"There's only three networks in Willits: US Cellular, AT&T, and Verizon," he said. "I have all three of those devices when I go to someone's house, and I check them to see which works best.... I've been to some way out places.

"I just need parents to call me ... I'll get them a device," he said.

The district office number is 707-459-5314.

"It really depends on where you're at," he continued. "I was with T-Mobile all day on the phone. I'm trying to get additional devices, but they're just like Chromebooks. You can't just run out and buy a hotspot ... They're not there. They're not available."

There is an alternative though.

"I've been using phones. You turn a phone into a hotspot," he said. "If I can get a bunch of old phones or even new phones that are cheap ... they all do hot spotting.

"I take the phone, and I make it a hot spot, and I tell the parent to just plug it in.... I have the time set so it doesn't go off. You just plug it in, and leave it, and connect to it, and you'll be fine.

"If you know people who have old iPhones they're not using ... or Samsung ... if they're willing to give those to the school, I can put them on an account," he said.

He emphasized that the district "had put significant funding in [the plan] to deal with parent home Internet ... \$50,000 to do that."

That money though, he stressed, could be used to provide devices. It could not be used to pay parents' Internet service bills.

The plan, Westerburg said more than once, is also a "work in progress."

The last page of the plan itself repeats that and adds that it "will have many changes as we move through the year."

So, it's never too late for input.

The plan is available online at the district's website, www.willitsunified.com. Click on "Explore," then "School Board," "Board Agendas," then find the plan in the "Current Agenda" or "Archived Agendas" folder depending on when the search is conducted.

We're online and in print

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The rest of
Council *From Page 6*

rants. The latest was for roadside clearing along problem areas with a series of “Chipper Days” where landowners could add their brush and limbs to be chipped. A majority of the chips were used to stabilize the sides of a new fire trail for fire equipment ingress or egress for evacuations.

In mid-August, the WRRFSC chair and co-chair, along with tremendous support from the steering committee, began compiling a letter to the greater Ridgewood Park subdivision. From EPIC they received over 800 valuable LISTOS California Disaster Ready Guides, a 5-step guide for emergency preparedness. The letter, along with the REN sign-up pages and a survey were inserted in the guide and mailed to residences in the Ridgewood Park subdivision and surrounding area. Look for them in your mailbox.

It was decided to use the Zoom platform for the outreach meeting on October 11. CalFire, Little Lake Fire, and Supervisors John Haschak and Ted Williams have been invited to speak at the meeting with Q&A after each speaker. There will be presentations from the committee spokespeople, and an introduction to REN. A presentation about the LISTOS Guide will be included.

The comradery and working toward common goals has helped to cement

the relationships between people in the WRRFSC neighborhoods. “It makes me feel more hopeful if something happens,” said community volunteer Colleen Sichley. “When we’re working together, different people bring different skill sets, so we’ve been very productive. And it’s fun!”

The Zoom meeting for the Ridgewood Park area, including Muir Mill and Shafer Ranch roads and Ridgewood Ranch, is set for Sunday, October 11 from 2 to 4 pm. Please email us to sign up: WRRFireSafe@gmail.com. The Zoom address for tablet or computer (you’ll be able to see the presentation): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87058647491>. To call in with a cell or landline (listen only): 669-900-9128, meeting ID: 870 5864 7491.

To learn more about local fire safe councils, visit <https://firesafemendocino.org> or visit their Facebook page: “Mendocino County Fire Safe Council.”

Go to “Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council” on Facebook to learn more, look for fire updates, and see more about the meeting on October 11. Email wrrfiresafe@gmail.com with questions.

For further information about LISTOS California’s people-centered preparedness, go to www.listocalifornia.org.

Visit www.ncoinc.org to read more about EPIC and their other non-profit programs.



Above, left: This view of the WRRFSC area looking west shows open grassland with canyons, wooded areas, and residences sprinkled around.

Above: Workers gather for a photo after trimming trees for another landowner: from left, Christina and Kyle Tipp, WRRFSC chair Eric Hart, David Swingle, Lance Parker, Osa, and Willits Weekly’s Ree Slocum.

At left: Lance Parker, who is part of the preparedness committee and headed Chipper Days in the WRRFSC area, volunteers time to trim trees on a fire trail.

Photos by Ree Slocum

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Erica Baumker, PNP
Se Habla Español

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