

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013



**It's
Real Estate
Section
Thursday!**

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 374

Thursday, October 8, 2020

School board talks school funding

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

The Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees had two extra meetings in September in order to present, discuss, hear from the public about, and approve a state required planning document called the Learning Accountability and Attendance Plan, or LCAP.

The document details how the district will use supplemental funding from the federal government of about \$1.2 million intended for COVID-19 related needs.

It was presented to the board at a September 24 meeting, reported on in last week's Willits Weekly, and unanimously approved at the September 28 meeting.

The rest of the September 28 meeting time was taken up by a review and discussion of state Proposition 15, a review of the district's actual 2019-2020 school year revenue and spending (unaudited actuals), and projected budgets going forward.

Proposition 15, known as the California Schools and Local Communities Funding

Read the rest of
Funding
Over on Page 11

Board OKs hemp pilot program

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

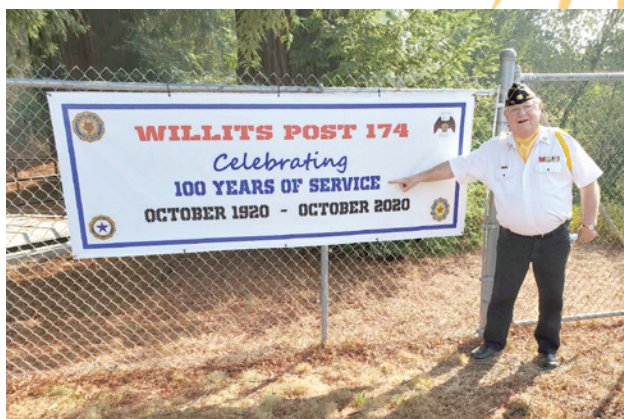
On a 3-2 vote on Tuesday, the board of supervisors approved a two-year pilot program for industrial hemp production.

Supervisors Dan Gjerde, Carre Brown and John McCowen voted to approve the program; supervisors John Haschak and Ted Williams voted against it. Both Haschak and Williams serve on the board's cannabis ad hoc committee.

The pilot program will allow a maximum total of five plots of industrial hemp in Mendocino County each year, for 2021 and 2022. Persons who wish to be allowed to grow industrial hemp in this pilot program must apply for a license by a request for proposals process, through the county's Department of Agriculture.

Industrial hemp is considered to be an agricultural crop by both the federal and state governments. In addition, it is considered to be a row and field crop by the county government. As such, production of industrial hemp would be permitted

Read more of
Program
Over on Page 8



Above, left: American Legion Post 174's Post Commander, Fred Branson, shows off the sign celebrating 100 years of service for the local group. Above, right: Legion adjutant and finance officer, Roger Ham, is proud to be a part of the 100 years of service. Below: American Legion members, Ham, left, second vice-commander John Frankum, center, and Branson, right pose in front of the Veterans Memorial Building near the intersection of Main Street and Sherwood Road on the north end of Willits.



A Century of Service

American Legion Post 174 celebrates 100 years of service on October 15

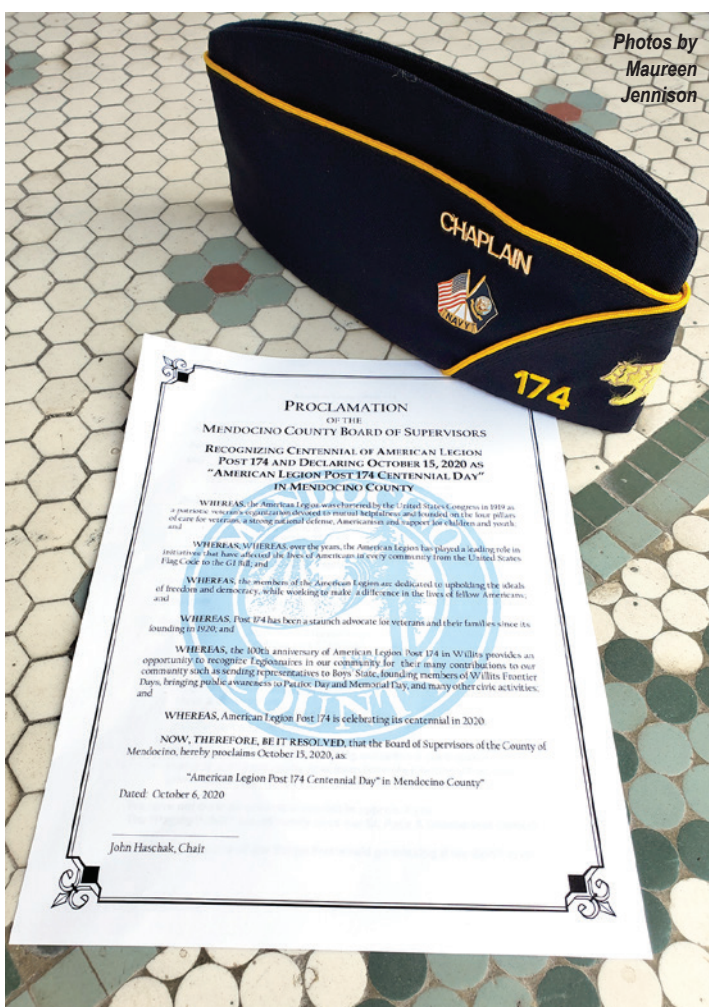
February through December, members of the American Legion Post 174 are hard at work, providing the Willits community with a roster of events in tribute veterans and more.

Everything from the Poppy Drive for Memorial Day, to Color Guard services, to veterans and first responder breakfasts, to flag collections, retirements and raisings, to Wreaths Across America, and more – all bear the stamp of the Legion. This October 15 marks 100 years of service for the Willits group.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors recognized the achievements of Post 174 with a special proclamation "recognizing the centennial of American Legion Post 174 and declaring October 15, 2020 as American Legion Post 174 Centennial Day in Mendocino County."

Post 174 is always looking for new members: Anyone who has served in the military or has family associated with the military is welcome to reach out to the group for membership, support and other resources. Contact Roger Ham, post adjutant, for more info at 456-9858.

– Maureen Jennison



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

Above: A proclamation given to the American Legion Post 174 of Willits by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to recognize the centennial achievement of Post 174. Below: John Frankum gives his best Vanna White presentation of the sign showcasing Post 174's upcoming anniversary, hanging on the gate by the Veterans Memorial Building.



Supes move to support Sheriff's Office

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The board of supervisors on Tuesday voted unanimously to take initial steps to respond to a request made by Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall. In interviews on various local radio stations, and in a statement posted on Facebook on September 28 (reprinted in the October 1 edition of Willits Weekly), Kendall made the argument that the Sheriff's Office needs to hire a sizable influx of new deputies.

Kendall described the strain on his department due to growers of illegal cannabis and those trying to steal from them, including a recent incident with arrestees "equipped with military-grade weapons and body armor," who, Kendall said, planned to "open fire on deputies with these weapons," if they were "discovered and detained."

Next, Kendall said his department had not seen an appreciable increase in

Read the rest of
Support
Over on Page 11

County passes 1,000 COVID case milestone

Mike A'Dair
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Mendocino County's COVID-19 cumulative case load cruised past 1,000 as of Sunday's case number update, which notched 1,005 cumulative cases of the disease. After a large gain in Tuesday's update, the number of cumulative cases stands at 1,021.

Of those, 787 are from people who live in the Ukiah valley, and 633 are from people who are of Latinx descent. That means that 77 percent of all confirmed cases are among people who live in the Ukiah Valley, and 62 percent of all cases are among Latinx people.

During a board of supervisors meeting that was held on Tuesday, county Public Health Officer Andy Coren and Departmental Operations Center Manager Bekkie Emery told the supervisors the county is working hard with the Hispanic or Latinx community to control the spread of the disease.

Emery told the supes that the county has hired six bilingual employees

Read the rest of
Milestone
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Measure I vs. Proposition 15

To The Editor:

Recent conversations have revolved around Measure I and Proposition 15. Both claim to be for the schools, and folks are taking sides. This is what I see when looking into the language of each proposal.

Proposition 15: Increases property tax on commercial and industrial properties. How the money will be distributed (Ballotpedia.org): The ballot initiative to specific areas, rather than the general fund. First ... The revenue would be distributed to (A) the state to supplement decreases in revenue from the state's personal income tax deductions and (B) the counties to cover the costs of implementing the measure.

Second. 60 percent of the remaining funds would be distributed to local governments and special districts; 40 percent would be distributed to school districts and community colleges via a new LCAP fund. Revenue appropriated would be divided as follows: 11 percent for community colleges and 89 percent for public schools, charter schools and county offices of education. There would also be a requirement that schools and colleges receive an annual minimum of \$100 per full-time student (that is 89 percent of the remaining 40 percent).

That's a lot. So why the last line? Let's break it down. Proposition 15 estimates are, upon full implementation, between \$8 and 12.5 billion. California has 6.2 million students (California Department of Education). Recent editorials stated we, the WUSD, would receive \$1.5 million -- or \$1 million. WUSD has 1,520 students. Dividing \$1.5 million by 1,520 equals \$987 per full-time student. So, 6.2 million students times \$987 equals \$6.1 billion. Wow. That is almost all of the minimum estimated collection. Considering what the schools' piece of the pie is (look above at the distribution formula), this \$1.5 or \$1 million to the district is not going to happen.

If you look at the California budget issues going back many years, 70 percent of the general fund comes from personal income taxes (look above at the first bit of the pie). Personal income tax revenue was off by 40 percent in 2018-19. This is before COVID-19.

The \$100 per student really looks like the true number WUSD will realize, a total of \$152,000.

Also, when the property tax is raised on business, we all pay -- just about everything you buy will go up. So you will pay for this, not business.

Measure I: Raises \$17 million over 10 years to pay for repair of existing facilities of WUSD and charter schools. Up to \$40 per 100,000 on property taxes. The up to

\$40 can fluctuate depending on the conditions of the local economy. All of the money, 100 percent of the pie, stays local. When Proposition 15 and Measure I are put side by side, it is clear that the best choice for our schools is Measure I. A "Yes" vote for Measure I is the best choice.

Dan Green, Willits

Bowlds, Mann for school board

To The Editor:

I hope the community of voters within the Willits Unified School District boundaries will join me in supporting the candidacy of Alex Bowlds and Bryan Mann, who are both running for the school board. I really appreciate everyone who is willing to serve on the school board. There is nothing more important in our community than the children who reside here.

I am advocating for Alex's re-election to the school board as he has such a depth of knowledge to share. He has served on the school board through many school district administrations. During Alex's many years serving on the school board, he has worked successfully with a number of different superintendents and school board members.

Alex works tirelessly on behalf of the WUSD staff and students. Being a retired firefighter he understands the need for teamwork in any endeavor and brings that understanding to the school board.

During the time I have served on the school board, Alex has been the only member of the board who is not a retired educator, and I have really come to appreciate the need for such other perspectives on the board.

I support Bryan Mann's candidacy because he cares about kids. He is a person who has raised children, and his grandchildren will be students here. Except for one, all of the current school board members are retired educators. That is good to a degree, as retired educators bring a depth of experience with schools that is important. But retired educators shouldn't be the only people serving on a school board.

We need community members. Parents. Family members. Since I knew that two seats on the school board would be up for election, I have advocated to parents that I know to run, as families really need to be represented on the board.

Bryan Mann is the type of person I was hoping would run. He is a family man. He has been actively involved with youth sports for years. He has been an active supporter of youth in 4H and FFA. He really cares about kids. The school district really needs the perspective of parents and families on the school board.

The school board does not need two more retired educators, which the other two candidates are, as it leads to an imbalanced school board. Please join me in voting for Alex Bowlds and Bryan Mann.

Jeanne King, Willits

Yes on Measure I

To The Editor:

I am voting for Measure I because I support children and their education. This modest bond measure will raise about a million dollars per year through the sale of bonds. Our schools are in urgent need of repair. Our high school is 90 years old; Baechtel Grove and Brookside are 70 years old. Blosser Lane, our newest school, is 30 years old. All bond money will be spent on repairs which is much more cost-effective than new construction. No money will be spent on administration.

I calculate that my property tax bill will increase about \$120 per year. That's about \$10 per month, an affordable and reasonable price to pay to help upgrade our schools.

Some say that distance learning will reduce costs and the need for repairs. Nonsense. Maybe not this year but one day students will return to their schools. Some think that a former school bond measure was wasteful. Perhaps. But this bond measure is different. It will have strict independent oversight and is modest. It has been created by our local school board trustees who are local citizens trying to help our children get a good education.

Seventy-five percent of voters in Willits passed Measure A in 2013 to support libraries. We willingly taxed ourselves to support a public institution that we love. Now we need to put our money where are values are: our children and their future.

Marc Komer, Willits

Community Thanksgiving drive-thru dinner

To The Editor:

Great news for Willits!

The Willits Food Bank will host the annual Community Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Due to COVID, the dinner will be a drive-thru event, although some are expected to walk-thru. There will be no seating inside or outside the Senior Center. The menu will be the same as in the past 30 years: turkey with all the trimmings, salad and pie, and a small bottled beverage, all packaged and ready in a to-go bag. Sorry, no hot beverages will be served. Meals may be picked up at the front entrance from 11 am to 3 pm at no cost. Our donation box will be available for those who wish to contribute.

Thanks to many helpers, including Senior Center Director Richard Baker and Parlin Fork Conservation Camp firefighters, we will be able to serve more than 500 meals on Thanksgiving Day. As always, the Parlin Fork workers will cook all the turkeys and pies and will bring them to the Senior Center, but this year the delivery will be on Wednesday, the day before the dinner, to ensure that the workers do not serve at the dinner, as designed by their supervisors.

Primary precautions will be followed in order to ensure everyone's safety from the COVID virus. Only staff and volunteers will be allowed inside the building. They must be free of virus symptoms, as determined by self-reporting and by taking forehead

temperatures, to be allowed inside. They must observe safety precautions during their work shift. Those interested in volunteering may call the food bank at 459-3333 to sign up.

Some donations have already been promised. Tom Allman plans to collect cash donations to buy all 36 turkeys that will be needed for the feast. Be on the lookout around town in late October for a man dressed as a turkey. Additional food and supplies are promised by others. If interested in helping with the costs of this annual event, please call the food bank or email wcsrav4@gmail.com for a list of needed items.

This special meal may be delivered to elders and those who are unable to come to pick up their meals. Please call the senior center at 459-6826 to sign up for delivery by Meals-On-Wheels within Willits city limits by Wednesday morning, November 25.

Looking forward to a memorable day with many good times,

Ruthanne Volz, executive director, Willits Community Services and Food Bank

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

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

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

Home Meal Delivery

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

Thursday, October 8: Pepperoni Pizza

Friday, October 9: Chicken Chili with Cornbread

Monday, October 12: Baked Chicken

Tuesday, October 13: Ground Beef Enchiladas

Wednesday, October 14: Ham & Swiss Melt on Rye

Thursday, October 15: Ground Sirloin with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Friday, October 16: Tater Tot Casserole

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

Sherwood Firewise October 8 Meeting

Submitted by Sherwood Firewise Communities

Join Sherwood Firewise at our monthly online meeting on Thursday, October 8th from 6 to 8 pm with presentations from Supervisor John Haschak, the Sherwood Firewise Communities team, and John Lemmer, Great California ShakeOut, on getting ready for earthquakes. You can email questions before the meeting to info@sherwoodfirewise.org or text via the Zoom Chat Room during the meeting.

This is National Disaster Preparedness Month, and we all need to learn more about what each individual, their household, neighborhood and community can do to prepare for emergencies, including fires and earthquakes. The current pandemic requires new supplies and procedures to be added to existing evacuation checklists and "Go Bags" such as washable facial coverings and hand sanitizers as well as consideration for safe locations to evacuate to where social distancing can be maintained.

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

To join using the Zoom platform:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625036304?pwd=dWVpYXpnSkwrQkwbXkdRRzd6T3E5dz09

Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304 Password: 918795

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



Above, left: The Agriculture Farm behind WHS is set up as the Incident Base for resupplying the fire crews. Above, right: Hoses are coiled and ready to be sent back to the cache for further testing and reassignment. At right: Katie Simcos of the California Conservation Corps, from Desert Hot Springs, enjoys her work on the supply team. At right, below: Ridgeline Wildland Support Services trailers line up to keep the firefighters fed three calorie-heavy meals a day.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Incident Base

WHS set up as firefighting support center with kitchens, tents and supplies

It takes an army to fight a major fire like the August Complex. And like an army, even though the public hears mostly about those on the front lines -- the firefighters, the ground crews, the air attack pilots, and others -- there are also many people involved behind the scenes in supplying, feeding and supporting the firefighting efforts.

Last Friday, October 2, a city began to accumulate behind Willits High School. The Agricultural Farm was taken over by those who make sure that supplies are available and ready to be shipped to the fire sites.

Behind the football field, a sizable catering and food-prep concern, with several semi-trucks and kitchens, took up residence, along with tents, portable toilets, everything needed to self-contain and provide three meals a day to those on the fire lines. On the football field itself, a tent city began to assemble, waiting for the main body of workers to arrive.

Mark Westerburg, superintendent of schools, was contacted by the U.S. Forest Service to see if they could set up in Willits in order to support fire crews working to the north and south.

"With the high school in distance learning," said Westerburg, "we are able to accommodate their needs. Without any hesitation, we are privileged to be able to help the firefighters save our state from the fires. The fire service will be here as long as needed and will scale up and down in size based on their needs."

Aaron Woods is the supply-unit leader. "Basically, this is the supply unit," said Woods. "I have all the stuff to support the firefighters out there. We have packaging for shipping the food out to the fire. I have hose. When they need any supplies up there, we send it up to them.

"We got here yesterday," Woods continued, "and pretty much all day long were just unloading trucks. I haven't been up to the fire. I was up at Stonyford, northeast of Clearlake, and I've been here. I have my own little world that I deal with.

"There are other fires in the state that are competing for supplies," Woods explained. "Normally, I would have two or three other people helping me to run this, and I'd be

Read the rest of Base Over on Page 9



At top: Aaron Woods, supply-unit leader, works hard to keep the firefighters supplied. Above: Coolers are stacked and ready to be sent to the front lines. Below: Aaron Woods, gets a load of supplies for the truck.

At left, from top: The hoses are laid out for inspection after returning from the fire sites. The beginnings of a tent city are set up on the WHS football field. A sign points the way to the Incident Base, a support center for nearby firefighting efforts, behind Willits High School.



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.agapebilechurch.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 Brunau

St. John Lutheran Church
Karl Biese, 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
If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Lunar crater
7. Upstate NY airport (abbr.)
10. Fruit
12. Seventh avatar of Vishnu
13. Organism that grows without air
14. Heals
15. A book has one
16. Open
17. Twitch
18. Plant of the mint family
19. Soon
21. Witch
22. Long, mournful complaint
27. Killer clown film
28. Keeps us occupied
33. Influential lawyer
34. Formation of concepts
36. Insecticide
37. Swiss river
38. Actress Lucy
39. Unit of g-force

40. Can repel attackers
41. Essential oil used as perfume
44. Cut into small pieces
45. Mexican agricultural worker
48. Best pitchers
49. Benign tumors
50. Danish krone
51. Looms above

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a map of
2. Cain and ___
3. Dried-up
4. Corporate exec (abbr.)
5. Trading floor hand gesture
6. Strongly alkaline solution
7. Yemen capital
8. Military leader (abbr.)
9. Maintains possession of
10. Afternoon show
11. Imaginary being
12. Rearrange

14. Holy person or sage
17. ___ Mahal
18. Backbone
20. Brooklyn hoopster
23. Intervened
24. Extremely angry
25. Indicates position
26. Chinese surname
29. Potato state
30. When you think you'll get there
31. ___ Falls
32. Bullfighters
35. Born of
36. Small fishes
38. 'Father of chemical warfare'
40. Waste matter
41. Skin disease
42. Scandinavian mythological god
43. ___ and haws
44. Villain
45. Tell on
46. Difficulty
47. Not old

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

September 28 to October 4

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **196 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

September 28

6:22 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
12:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 300 block of North Main Street.
3:03 pm: WOOLSEY, Timothy Lee (58) of Covelo was contacted in the 300 block of North Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.
3:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1600 block of South Main Street.
4:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Spruce Street.
7:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
7:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

September 29

1:04 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
9:22 am: ELIAS, Bryan Ernesto (23) of Vallejo was contacted in the 23000 block of East Side Road. He was arrested pursuant to 459 PC (Burglary) and 594 PC (Vandalism).
10:26 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of North Street.
10:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
September 30
7:38 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
8:37 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
9:21 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 600 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.
9:42 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 300 block of South Main Street.
1:57 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Main Street.
4:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
11:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street.
October 1
4:16 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
8:22 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.
8:25 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
9:49 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.
11:29 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of South Main Street.
6:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 500 block of South Main Street.
7:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main Street.
October 2
11:40 am: YADON, David James (49) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Central Street and Monroe Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and failure to appear.
4:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of North Street and Wood Street.
6:08 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.
11:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1200 block of Locust Street.
October 3
12:29 am: WOOD, Kelly Christeen (46) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).
2:47 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 600 block of East Commercial Street.
2:50 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 500 block of Railroad Avenue.
3:32 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Redwood Avenue.
8:54 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of North Main Street.
10:39 am: SHAUL, Dominic Matthew (19) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of touching of intimate parts of another against their will.
5:16 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
5:34 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of School Street.
6:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
October 4
9:29 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of East Hill Road and Sanhedrin Circle.
5:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.
6:33 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Pearl Street and issued a warning.
8:06 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of West Highway 20 and Blosser Lane.
9:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.



Women Helping Women

Willits P.E.O. holds Sunday driveway sale to raise scholarship money for WHS student

"P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) is one of the oldest women's organizations in North America. What started as a bond of friendship among seven young women in 1869, has grown to almost 6,000 local chapters with more than 225,000 members in the United States and Canada," explains the P.E.O. website. "A legacy passed down through generations of women, P.E.O. has deep roots in local communities and our influence reaches to all corners of the globe."
In accordance with the mission of the organization, women from the Willits Chapter XO of the P.E.O. Sisterhood put together a last-minute driveway sale on Sunday on Northbrook Way. "This was a quickie idea to get the group together," said member Barbara O'Reardon. "It's been great to get together because we haven't been able to, you know. But today, this is special and we're trying to raise a little bit of money for a scholarship for a girl graduating from [Willits] high school this year."
The Willits P.E.O. usually has fundraisers like their Mexican dinner at El Mexicano in Willits or sponsorship of



Above: This colorful, year-round net wreath made by Adrienne Arant was one of the handmade goods for sale Saturday.

Above, right: Joanne Lanz, a member from Ukiah, explains the structure of the international P.E.O. organization.

At right: There were goodies for sale like P.E.O. rose petal jam, pumpkin salsa, carrot cake, and apple pie jams, as well as dishcloths and facial coverings.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Above, left: A sampling of the current Willits P.E.O. members hangs out in the shade at Saturday's Driveway Sale on Northbrook Way. Above: Josie Rivera purchased a doorknob hanger painted with the words, "My Guardian Angel," made by Mrs. Combest. Below: Della Bennett heads the scholarship committee, is an avid seamstress, and makes masks for sale that fit the seasons. "It's wonderful to see some of the women we've given scholarships to working professional jobs in the community," she said.



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Above: Retired ER nurse Rochelle Harn, with her daughter, Yvonne Mayshark.
Photo courtesy of Yvonne Mayshark



Above: The Oak Fire's unsparing destruction is evident in the remains of the family automobiles. Below: The burned trailer is also evidence that the Oak Fire was unrelenting in its destruction. At right: Rochelle Harn surveys the remains of a cabin she was hoping to move into.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Oak Fire Loss

Retired ER nurse Rochelle Harn's trailers, possessions and unfinished cabin burned in the fire that scorched her property

Michael Schuette got lucky. His well-insured barn burned in the Oak Fire, less than 10 yards from his beautiful house, which was left untouched. He will be able to rebuild it as a garage and work area, better than before. Not all his neighbors fared as well. Just up the drive, off Highway 101 north of town, near Ryan Creek Road, it was a scene of selective devastation.

Nature has a way of choosing its victims in a seemingly random manner. The lands owned by retired Howard Hospital emergency room nurse Rochelle Harn were pretty well scorched, with the exception of the house occupied by her son and granddaughter, which escaped unscathed.

Harn had created a virtual paradise amongst the pines and oaks. In addition to her son's house, there were several other buildings of various types, a cabin that Harn had been working on reconditioning for her eventual occupancy, a couple trailers, one in which she had been living, one belonging to a friend. There was also a rather large (40-foot by 25-foot) storage building. All of these were reduced to burnt pieces of metal by the fire which tore through the area.

She was on the property when the Oak Fire came through. "My daughter got Nixle before I did, because there is no cell service here," recounted Harn. "She called me and told me about the Nixle posting. The ash was coming down. We could feel that it was getting bad.

"I had one dog that didn't want to get into the car," Harn continued. "He kept running away. We had to keep throwing a stick to get him in the car. We had gotten the cats and the other two dogs already. It

was terrifying thinking I couldn't get my dog." She eventually was able to coax the dog into the car.

Having the heart of a caring nurse, Harn's concerns were not only for herself. She felt badly for her friend. "I was allowing an old friend to stay in his trailer on the property," she shared. "He got his trailer up eight hours before the evacuation. He lost everything that he brought up here from the Santa Cruz Mountains."

After evacuating the property, Harn ended up at the Golden Rule Trailer Park at the house of a woman she had never met. "She never met me before, and she was leaving to Maine [to avoid the smoke]. Our daughters know each other. This woman never met me before, and she has let me into her home," Harn said through tears.

"I know there are a lot of people who have lost more than I have, and I have been so blessed. This community is amazing."

Harn is very appreciative for all the help she has been given so far and very concerned for all of the others who have lost their homes. "I want to talk about how wonderful everyone has been," said Harn.

"I started and finished my career at the Adventist Howard Hospital. They have reached out to me and offered me help. I need to get some written estimates, which are difficult right now. Everybody is busy. My son works at Flow Kana, and they have been so good to me. They started a drive for me to get little things on my list I'm putting together of my needs. Things like an outdoor camping shower."

Harn's daughter, Yvonne Mayshark, who herself lost her home to fire in Redwood Valley in 2017, started a GoFundMe to help her mom get back on her feet. She is asking \$20,000 with which Harn is

considering purchasing a tiny home to place on the property. The electric lines are still up and mostly functional, and there is water.

"We also have a well," Harn continued. "Last year our creek ran dry, but we also have a couple of little tiny streams that are still running. The reason I bought this property is because it is rich with water. I still have water, but my tanks are all gone. They will have to be replaced."

"I always felt like I was going to be OK," said Harn. "I never felt that this was anything but lost things. Nobody got hurt. All the things that are really important to me, my family, I have good neighbors. I feel bad for my son. He had everything here to open a martial arts studio, all the equipment, all the bags, all the pads." Harn always is more concerned with others than for herself.

Harn's daughter, stated on the GoFundMe page: "My mom has spent her entire life helping others. She has worked over three decades as an emergency room nurse. Anyone who knows her, knows that she is full of compassion and gratitude. It pains me to see my mother in retirement, having to start her life over from scratch.

"Any donations made will help Rochelle to rebuild her life. Immediately, she is in need of clothing, toiletries, bedding, furniture and money for temporary housing. Long term goals include permanent housing and toxic-waste clean-up of burned materials on her property. Any donation, small or large, is greatly appreciated."

To donate to the GoFundMe for Rochelle Harn, please go to: www.gofundme.com/f/rochelle-harn-fire-recovery-fund.

Primary care providers share why getting a flu shot is more important than ever

Submitted by Cici Winiger, communications manager for Adventist Health

Every year, influenza causes thousands of deaths and hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations in the U.S. During last year's flu season, the Centers for Disease Control estimates the flu caused up to 18 million clinic visits, more than 410,000 hospitalizations, and more than 24,000 deaths.

October is the unofficial start of flu season, creating an overlap of COVID-19 and influenza this winter. You may have many questions about what this means to you and your family. Now more than ever, experts are emphasizing the need for getting the flu shot to avoid having a perfect storm of the flu and COVID-19, since each brings its own list of symptoms and serious complications.

Primary care providers from Adventist Health are answering your most common questions about COVID-19 and the flu:

What is the difference between influenza (flu) and COVID-19?

Flu and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Because some of the 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.



Judson Howe, financial officer for Adventist Health in Mendocino County, gets his annual flu shot.

Both COVID-19 and flu can have varying degrees of signs and symptoms, ranging from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe symptoms. Common symptoms that COVID-19 and flu share include: Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, runny nose, muscle pain or body aches and headaches. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults. A major difference for COVID-19 may include change in or loss of taste or smell.

Is it possible to get COVID-19 and flu at the same time?

"We're still dealing with COVID-19, even as our cases overall

Read the rest of Vaccine | Over on Page 8

Thanks to all of you for asking and the answer is YES!
SCHOOL PHOTOS WILL HAPPEN!

Stay tuned to
facebook.com/mphotographress or @mphotographress on Instagram
for dates and times in October and November 2020!

Mpho•tog•ra•phress
photography by maureen moore

Madame LaPurr

Meet the beautiful Madam LaPurr!! Miss Madam is a senior girl who was found wandering on her own. We believe she is around 12 years old. We would love to get her into her forever home for her to spend her golden years in. Miss Madam is a very sweet gal who LOVES to talk. She seems to always have a story to share with you. She is cat-social as well and wouldn't mind sharing her home with a friend. If you would love to make this girl yours, you may fill an application out at mendohumansociety.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. 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.mendohumansociety.com to learn more.



Pretty Princess

Meet Princess!! This beautiful McNab and Border Collie mix is about 3.5 years old. Princess came to as an owner surrender when her family was unable to provide her the home they felt she deserved. Which is why we are here! Princess has lived in a home with kiddos and another dog; in fact Princess is fantastic with both.

As with most extremely smart breeds, Princess would love and needs a home to keep her mind active and her cute self on the go. Dogs like her love, want, and need jobs. Princess is on the hunt for the perfect home. Could this be with you? If so we would love to chat with you! You may apply to make Princess your new love at www.mendohumansociety.com.

At right: Willits advocate Shannon DeMuth is the featured speaker at this month's Soroptimist Third Tuesday Speaker Series, held online via Zoom.

'Dream Big'

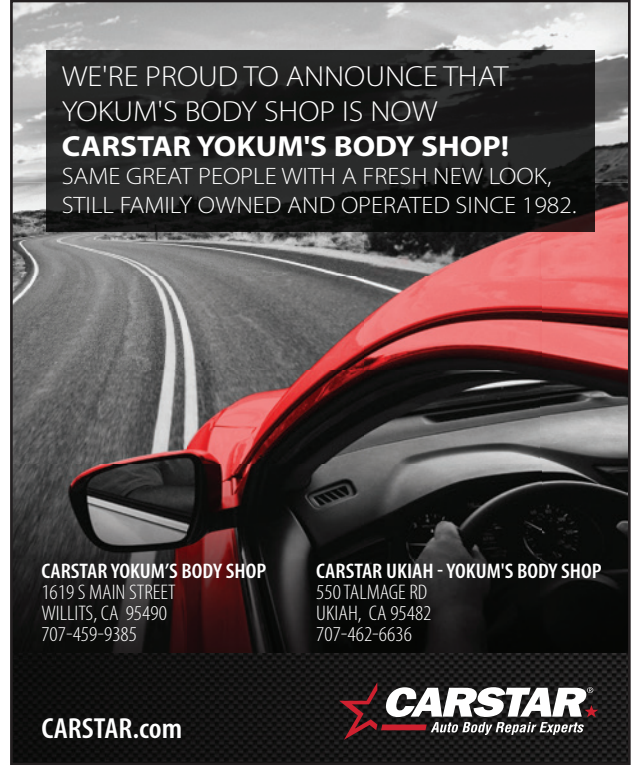
Soroptimists' virtual speaker series features local advocate Shannon DeMuth

Soroptimist International of Willits invites the public to their Third Tuesday Zoom Speaker Series, on Tuesday, October 20 at noon. This month's featured speaker will be Willits resident Shannon DeMuth, who was awarded the Soroptimists' "Live Your Dream" award in March of 2015, a \$750 scholarship. To attend, please RSVP to swillits@soroptimist.net for Zoom link.

"I am a mother, a foster mom, a teen mentor and advocate," Shannon DeMuth writes. "I am a caregiver and Hospice caregiver going on 37 years. I am the founder of Community Crossroads of Mendocino County, providing homeless outreach and advocacy to our vulnerable populations.

"Challenging myself to jump in to college and academia as a high school dropout was the best decision I ever made," DeMuth continues. "I graduated in 2016 from Mendocino College with an Associate Degree in Human Service and Social Work. I went on to Sonoma State University where I received my Bachelors Degree in Psychology in 2019. I am now in a Masters program working towards my MA in Couples and Family Therapy (MFT) set for completion in 2021."

Visit "Soroptimist International Willits" on Facebook to keep up with the Willits chapter.



Masks are Required

#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

This campaign brought to you by:

With the participation of the cities of: Gualala, Point Arena, Fort Bragg, Ukiah and Willits. Mendocino WineGrowers Inc., EDFC and the Workforce Alliance

Come get your October Rewards & enter to win...

3X ENTRIES ON TUESDAYS
200 POINTS = 3 ENTRY TICKETS



ONE UGLY MUDDER

2020 Jeep Gladiator Giveaway*

Earn Entries Daily for Weekend Drawings

Oct 1 – December 26

200 points = 1 entry ticket

WEEKEND DRAWINGS
Sat & Sun
5PM – 10PM

Two winners each hour will receive **\$100 Free Play** and an entry into the Grand Prize drawing on December 26.

* Jeep provided by Thurston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and customized by DC Customs.

SENIOR THURSDAYS NOON – 5PM

It's Super Seniors Day and guests age 55+ who earn 75 points that day will receive **\$15 in Free Play** and a **50% Off** meal coupon to the Creekside Café.



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Non-transferable. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Player's Club Members are required to present their postcard with valid I.D. and Player's Club Card. Management reserves the right to cancel or modify any promotion at any time without notice. For complete rules and details please visit the Player's Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

The rest of
Support
From Page 1

the number of sheriff's deputies in more than half a century.

"While other departments have grown at a staggering pace," Kendall wrote, "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," the sheriff wrote.

In response, Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams and Third District supervisor John Haschak, who together serve on the county's cannabis ad hoc, proposed a plan to collect information that will help the board make a reasonable decision in support of the sheriff's plea.

The plan was approved unanimously.

The plan asks for a historical review of staffing trends in the Sheriff's Office; an overview of the current staffing situation; a report on current criminal activities and where in the county these activities are occurring; and "an operation, staffing and fiscal plan associated with the sheriff's operations."

In addition, the ad hoc committee's action plan requested that county staff write a declaration of local emergency and that the board of supervisors affirm its commitment to protect affected communities and law enforcement officers.

When Williams asked Sheriff Kendall how many deputies he thought he needed and how much they would cost, Kendall said he imagined it would be in the area of 10 new deputies, at a cost of \$2.2 million.

Williams said it was likely that money would be provided by the county, but noted it would mean that cuts would have to be made elsewhere.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen said he understood that the county had recently received a \$24 million settlement from PG&E, in relation to the 2017 Redwood Fire. McCowen said he thought the needed money could come from the PG&E money.

Kendall said he could provide the supervisors with the information they are requesting within two weeks.

Supes move to augment poll workers

The supes voted unanimously to approve a resolution creating a Mendocino County Employee Poll Worker Program, which is designed to encourage county employees to work as poll workers in the upcoming and in future elections.

The new program will make it possible for county employees who work as poll workers to receive their regular pay for hours worked as poll workers, plus their poll worker's stipend.

According to county Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolomie, strict COVID-19 protocols will be in place, including masks, social distancing, and plexiglass shields that will be placed between the poll workers and the public.

Bartolomie said that a poll worker is needed at a drop-off location in Covelo, and two workers are needed in Hopland. She said that polling places in Willits and in Brooktrails are fully staffed, and currently have a waiting list for volunteers.

CalFire to report on fuel reduction program

The board voted 5-0 to direct county CEO Carmel Angelo to invite CalFire personnel to attend a virtual meeting in the future to explain its proposed fuel reduction plans and programs in preparation for the 2021 fire year.

The agenda item stated that the board's November 17 meeting was being considered as the date for such a CalFire presentation.

The rest of
Milestone
From Page 1

who will be directed to do contact tracing. Emery also said that the community group North Coast Opportunities has contracted with the county to assist in outreach and community education, and that NCO is working with several Latinx community groups in that regard.

Emery noted that OptumServe has agreed to change its hours of operation to better serve the needs of the Latinx community. Beginning last Sunday, the free COVID-19 testing facility located at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah is now open Sunday through Thursdays each week, from 7 am to 7 pm.

Coren told the supervisors there has been an outbreak of COVID at Native American reservations in Covelo/Round Valley and in Point Arena/Manchester. Coren did not provide numbers, but county Public Information Officer Sarah Dukett told Willits Weekly that in Round Valley 22 cases of the disease have been confirmed since September 14. Dukett said the Public Health team is planning to have a testing event in Round Valley in the next few days.

One of the main discussion points during Tuesday's board meeting concerned whether the county will, or will not, adopt a "promotores de salud" community outreach model. "Promotores de salud" is a Spanish phrase that means, in English, "health promoters" and can be more reasonably translated as "community health workers." The CDC states that the term effectively means "lay health workers."

According to a 2013 article by Deanne K. Hilfinger Messias and her team of authors, called, "Promotores de Salud: Roles, Responsibilities and Contributions," the promotores de salud system has been very effective at improving public health in the Hispanic community for years.

"By delivering culturally tailored health education and disseminating information about health and social resources to Hispanics and their families, promotores serve as bridges between their communities and the formal health care system," the article stated.

Emery said that several key influencers in the Hispanic community, including Adventist Health Community Outreach Director Roseanne Ibarra, have advised the county that the promotores de salud model would be very effective within the Latinx community.

When Second District Supervisor John McCowen asked if the six new hires would be working according to the promotores model, Dr. Coren said they would not. "We are training them in contact tracing, but we will be moving them toward the promotores de salud model," Coren said.

Director of the Health and Human Services Agency Tammy Moss Chandler clarified that, although the county's Department of Public Health "likes" the

From Page 1

promotores model, the county does not have a structure which allows its employees to work in it.

"We are trying to move that way," Chandler said.

Later in the meeting, McCowen asked Chandler if the county would welcome a community group to come forward with a proposal to implement a promotores program in this county. Chandler said that such a proposal would be welcome.

Still later in the meeting, McCowen asked board Chair John Haschak if Haschak would be interested in working with McCowen on Haschak's one-person Latinx community ad hoc. The purpose of that ad hoc is to find ways to expand outreach into the Latinx community, especially regarding COVID-19.

McCowen said that he wanted to find a Latinx community group willing to implement a promotores-type program here, and thought that such an objective properly would come under the purview of Haschak's committee. Haschak told McCowen that his ad hoc had that covered.

McCowen then asked county CEO Carmel Angelo if he could assist her in finding ways to secure additional assistance to the county's Native American tribes. Angelo declined McCowen's offer.

McCowen then went back to Haschak, and repeated his request, and Haschak agreed to work with McCowen.

"I appreciate your offer of help and I'll take you up on that," Haschak said.

COVID-19 update

Since the first case that was confirmed in the county on March 19, the county has confirmed a total of 1,021 cases of the disease. Of that number, 891 have been released from isolation.

As of Tuesday evening, the county has 109 confirmed active cases of COVID-19 in the county. Of that number, 104 are being kept in isolation, four are in local hospitals, and one is in an intensive care unit, either in, or out of, the county. Twenty-one people in this county have died from the disease.

The Department of Public Health has determined that the average daily rate of new COVID cases is 10. The county has a testing positivity rate of 3.78 percent. Therefore, the county remains in the purple tier, in which the prevalence of COVID-19 is called widespread.

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective, 787 cases reside in the Ukiah valley; 95 are from the north county; 81 live in the north coast; 40 are from the south county; and 18 are from the south coast.

Looking at disease statistics along racial lines, 693 of all cases are among people of Latinx descent; 171 are among whites; 74 are among American Indians; three are among Blacks, three are among Asians; 128 are categorized as "unreported"; and nine are classified as "other."

A total of 27,778 tests have been done in this county. As of Wednesday evening, the results of 1,072 tests were pending.

The rest of
Funding
From Page 1

Act, would raise taxes on commercial and industrial properties and provide funding for schools and community services.

The Willits Teachers Association has endorsed the measure, and association president and third-grade teacher Tessa Ford provided an introduction to the board, after which fourth-grade teacher Dawn McClelland showed an informative student-made power point presentation.

Board president Alex Bowlds noted the board could not take a position on the proposition because the item had not been placed on the agenda as an action item, but, he said: "We can make our positions individually known."

Later in the meeting, the board agreed it would decide whether to endorse the proposition at their October 14 meeting.

Ford and McClelland made the case for support of Proposition 15 with facts about California's current education funding, the laws that got us here, and how the ballot measure would work.

California is the world's fifth-largest economy, and it ranks 39th in per pupil funding in the nation; in recent years California spent more than \$2,500 less per student than the national average.

In the 1970s, California schools were considered among the best, with local property taxes making up 60 percent of the funding.

Then, in 1978, Proposition 13 was passed, "slashing property taxes by an average of 60 percent," and school funding fell below the national average.

Subsequent laws have shifted education funding largely to the state. But the portion of the state budget going to schools rises and falls with the ups and downs of the state economy.

Increases in sales taxes and personal income taxes "for very high earners" have helped some, but funding is still "below the national average."

Proposition 15, Ford and McClelland explained, would "fix the Proposition 13 corporate tax loophole while protecting homeowners, small businesses valued at under \$3 million, and agricultural land."

They estimated the funding for Willits Unified to be a bit over \$1 million annually.

The board weighed in.

President Bowlds explained he would "probably vote for it ... [but] was disappointed in the way it was written.

"I'd love it if Proposition 15 was not in bed with a whole bunch of different agencies trying to get money," he said. "I'd rather the vast majority went to K-12 and community colleges.

"Look at our budget of about \$20 million.... We're only looking at a 5 percent increase ... which isn't a whole lot of money and not going to raise us a whole lot above that [39th place]," he continued. "I'm much more in favor of our state reapportioning the money we've already got and quit wasting it on pet projects."

Trustee Paula Nunez appreciated that if "it should pass it would be more of a guarantee of funds every year ... [and] the burden especially now needs to start on the backs of the people who have been shirking

The rest of
Program
From Page 8

between outdoor cannabis fields. Research has shown that pollen can travel much further than 10 miles, but the amount of pollen transported decreases logarithmically with increasing distance from the source. Therefore, the risk of pollination should be negligible beyond 10 miles from a pollen source."

"This proposal does not include a minimum distance requirement," Nelson continued. "In fact, as a practical matter, it would be difficult to impose a distance that is sufficient to protect against pollen drift.

Nelson also added concerns about the county's presumption that it would be possible to identify all of the male hemp plants.

"The largely held belief that cannabis is a dioecious plant

species (having separate male and female plants) is not botanically accurate. The Canadian Hemp Trade Association states that "Hemp can be either of the dioecious type or monoecious type.... Prior to flowering, the sex of the plant is indistinguishable except for some general trends in growth habit."

"Large hemp fields raise the risk of male cross-over infestation," Nelson continued. "The county's proposal for a hemp pilot program calls for frequent inspections. At the point that these actually occur, we strongly urge you to contract with a knowledgeable cannabis cultivator to carry out these

that responsibility for the past 40 years."

California School Employees Association president Dan Green added the results of research he did to the conversation.

"If businesses have their taxes raised, they raise the price on consumers," he said.

He explained that proceeds would be first distributed to the state to "supplement decreases in revenue from state personal income tax ... \$22 billion [projected] for next years," he said. After that, "40 percent of the remainder is distributed [for local education agencies].

He did some math and concluded that \$1 million coming to the district would equal "\$657 per pupil."

He did some more math that spread projected proceeds from the proposition over all California's school districts, and concluded that "the math doesn't add up" to being enough money for that amount per pupil.

"It doesn't look like we're going to get that much money," he said, noting that the proposition did guarantee a minimum of \$100 per student.

"If Measure I passes [authorizing the sale of \$17 million in local school bonds], at least we know that money comes here," he said.

Trustee Jeanne King said she would not vote for the proposition and pointed out that the burden of the tax would "most likely [be passed] on to consumers ... and small businesses in California that don't own their own buildings," pointing out that most of them have leases that require them to pay any increases in taxes.

"And although agricultural land may not be taxed, buildings on that land can be taxed ... like dairies and processing plants for grapes and pears in Mendocino County," she said.

Superintendent Mark Westerburg pointed out that a favorable vote on Measure I would be an assurance that "you're going to get your money's worth ... [but] I'll take a million if they'll give it to us for sure."

A million would definitely be helpful as state funding is decreasing in these uncertain economic times, and deferrals, or delays in receipt, of allocated funding are expected for the foreseeable future.

But, at least for the near future, "the reality is, we think we are going to be able to weather the deferrals," said Westerburg.

His comment came in the context of the presentation of the district's current financial status presented to the board by Director of Fiscal Services Nikki Agenbroad.

She explained to the board that there had been a projected deficit for this school year that we "knew we needed to work on and did."

The result was "estimated reductions incorporated into that budget of well over a million dollars."

Still, she warned, the district would likely experience "cash flow issues this year" due to state deferred funding.

"I believe, had we not taken action to bring that in line ... in terms of cash flow we would have been in a very bad way this year," she said.

"We're closing out the books a little bit to the good," said Agenbroad.

inspections. The stakes are too high, and the task is extremely difficult to assign it to anyone not familiar with cannabis cultivars."

Monique Ramirez, a spokeswoman for the Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group, urged the supervisors to scuttle the pilot program. "As

much as we support a thriving hemp economy, our rural landscape does not support this type of cultivation, especially when it stands to jeopardize our cannabis community," Ramirez wrote.

"We would like the board to take a bold step in banning hemp cultivation in our county. We can look to other states, such as Oregon, and it is clear that cross-contamination of the two types of crops is a reality, and many farms face seeded product as a result. We can't take that chance with our legacy-producing region," Ramirez wrote.

Haschak said he thought the pilot program, as envisioned by Ag Commissioner Donnelly, had some flaws, and he urged the board to postpone a vote on the program until the flaws were worked out. Williams asked his colleagues if they had determined what the county would do if there were cross-pollination of a neighboring grower's cannabis crop. No other supervisor was able to answer Williams' question.

In the end, the first reading of the new ordinance was approved on a 3-2 vote, with Haschak and Williams voting no.



Mail ballots went out October 5

Submitted by the Mendocino County Elections Office

Mail ballots (aka Vote By Mail or Absentee ballots) were mailed to all active registered voters in Mendocino County on Monday, October 5, and are available now in the County Clerk's Office, for the Statewide (Presidential) General Election, to be held on November 3, 2020, according to Katrina Bartolomie, Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder.

The County Clerk's Office is located in Room 1020 of the County Administration Building located at 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah. The normal delivery is five to seven days, if you do not receive your ballot within one week, please call our office at 707-234-6819 for a replacement ballot.

Sample ballots (local voter information booklets) were mailed by our vendor and should have arrived in your homes last week. If you do not receive your Sample Ballot by the end of this week (Friday, October 9), please call our office so we can send you one.

According to the Secretary of State's office, the State Voter Information Guides that include information on the statewide propositions have been delayed, but should be arriving later this week.

If you would like to view the State Voter Information Guide online, please visit: <https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>

Registrar Bartolomie would like to remind voters who wish to vote in the November 3, 2020 election, that the last day to register to vote to receive a regular ballot in the mail is October 19, 2020. Please call our office for a Voter Registration card or go to: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> to register to vote online.

For additional information please contact the Election / County Clerk's Office by calling 707 234-6819.

Now open for voting

Local voters can drop off their mail-in ballots at Willits City Hall

An official ballot drop box for the November 3, 2020 election is now open for voting at Willits City Hall.

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The drop box is outside the main door at 111 East Commercial Street, with a big "Vote By Mail Ballot Drop-Off Here" sign in red, white and blue. Don't forget to sign your mail-in ballot return envelope.

Mail-in ballots were sent out to registered voters in Mendocino County on Monday, October 5, and the ballot drop box went up that same day. As of Tuesday morning, no ballots had yet been dropped off at the Willits box, said Cathy Moorhead, deputy city manager for the City of Willits. Moorhead will retrieve the ballots from the box twice a day, then store them in the vault at City Hall. A representative from the Mendocino County Elections Office will visit daily, to pick up the ballots from the vault.

All mail-in ballots received at the county Elections Office before Election Day are vetted and counted in advance, and included with results released after the polls close on Election Day.

"Everybody should vote, please," Moorhead said. "This is a big year."

"Yes," agreed Willits City Manager Stephanie Garbrant-Sierra. "We have some important things on the ballot this year. Measure K is important to the city."

Measure K, on the ballot for residents of the City of Willits, would add a ¼ cent sales tax to transactions inside city limits for 10 years, before sunseting. According to the "Impartial Analysis by City Attorney, City of Willits," printed in the Mendocino County Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlet, "the City Finance Director estimates that the tax will generate \$1 million annually to the general fund."

According to the analysis: "As a 'general tax,' the revenue generated by Measure K will be deposited in the City of Willits general fund. The ballot question for the measure states that the new tax is to be used for funding essential city services including police, parks, street maintenance, sports field maintenance, and for other city facilities. As a 'general tax,' the City of Willits would be able to use tax proceeds for any legal governmental purpose without restriction."

Also, "because Measure K is a 'general tax,' the analysis continues, "it will be approved if a simple majority (50 percent + 1) of voters vote in favor of it. If approved, Measure K would become effective in 2021 and remain in effect for 10 years. The tax would expire at the end of the 10-year period unless it is reauthorized by a majority of the voters at a future election that occurs prior to the expiration of the tax."

To read the full text of Measure K, check your Sample Ballot pamphlet or visit www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=37302.



At top, left: Willits City Manager Stephanie Garbrant-Sierra, left, and Deputy City Manager Cathy Moorhead stand next to the official November 3, 2020 election ballot drop-off box outside Willits City Hall. Above: The drop-off box is ready to receive ballots.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

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Erica Baumker, PNP
Se Habla Español

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