

## County stuck in 'purple' **COVID** tier

## Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino County is a member of a small complement of California counties still remaining in the purple, or "widespread" tier of COVID-19 infections, according to Tuesday's updated tier assignments from the California Department of Public Health.

When Governor Gavin Newsom inaugurated his four-tiered "Blueprint for a Safe Economy" on August 28, Mendocino was one of 38 counties that were classified in the purple tier. At that time, nine counties were in the red or "substantial" tier, eight counties were in the orange or "moderate" tier, and three were in the yellow or "minimal" tier.

Now, seven weeks after the beginning of the blueprint, Mendocino County is one of just 10 counties that remain in the purple tier. The other purple counties are Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Sonoma, Monterey, Madera, Tulare, Imperial. Tehama and Glenn.

Read the rest of Let's get 'red' Over on Page 13



Above: Brooktrails Fire Department Captain Harry So holds bags of candy ready to be portioned out for Halloween. Coast Hardware has already donated \$100 worth of candy to the departments. Below: Little Lake Firefighters Association President Aaron Branscomb and Captain So smile with pumpkins to remind everyone of the upcoming Trunk or Treat events.

## **Frunk or Treat** Fire Department Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat Halloween Events

#### Submitted by the Brooktrails and Little Lake Fire Departments

Who: Both Brooktrails Fire Department and Little Lake Fire Protection District have been approved by the City of Willits and Brooktrails Community Services District to hold a Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat Halloween Event while taking the necessary COVID-19 precautions.

What: Fire Department hosted Drive-

Thru Trunk or Treat Event (COVID-19 Edition)

When: Halloween, 31st of October, from 5 to 8 pm (or when out of candy)

Where: Brooktrails Fire Department Drive-Thru will be held at 24860 Birch Street. Vehicles will enter from Birch Street and Sherwood Road and exit Brooktrails Drive and Sherwood Road. Little Lake Fire Protection District Drive-Thru will be held at 1575 Baechtel Road. Vehicles will enter from Baechtel Road and East Hill Road and exit Baechtel Road and Main Street.

Why: With COVID-19 and the recent wildfires so close to home, everyone's lives have been thrown into exhausting

Read the rest of Treats





# New police chief resigns

lookina

need

ANOTHER

publication

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Forrest Glyer Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

Alexis Blaylock has resigned as Willits chief of police after serving in the position for only about six weeks, having been sworn in on August 26.

In a "letter to the Willits community," Blaylock cited "roadblocks" to doing her job effectively as her primary reason for resigning.

"I had planned to stay long term and work to bring the Willits Police Department up to date in training, technology, and staffing in order to provide better service and make the community safer," she said. "Unfortunately, roadblocks to accomplishing these goals began to appear almost immediately" (see Page 2 for the full letter).

Blaylock came to Willits with 30 years of experience in law enforcement. including about 25 years in various positions at the San Diego Police Department.

She was the first female chief of police ever hired in Mendocino County according to Willits City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra.

Read the rest of Resigns Over on Page 4

## Pot equity program moves forward

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino County Cannabis Unit Program Manager Megan Dukett county's outlined the "Cannabis Local Equity Program" for the board of supervisors on Tuesday, and the board voted unanimously to approve the pending program.

According to Dukett, the cannabis unit will use the \$2.2 million which was awarded by the State of California in April of this year to fund the program.

Slightly more than \$1 million will go to fund direct grants to qualifying cannabis growers. Of that, \$700,000 will be earmarked to pay for cannabis unit fees, and \$224,526 will be earmarked to defray expenses associated with business development and the development of cooperatives.

The remainder will be used to defray program administrative costs, as is allowed under the equity program grant.

Dukett told the supervisors the state made some changes to

Read the rest of

Equity Over on Page 13



Dianne McNeal.



# Questions for the **Candidates**

Here are seven questions on Willits school board issues for the four candidates for Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees in the November 3 election. We're printing answers from incumbent Alex Bowlds and challengers Tracey Douglas, Bryan Mann, and Dianne McNeal. There are two seats up for election on the school board this year. Questions are by Willits Weekly's school reporter, Joanne Moore, and Willits Weekly editor, Jennifer Poole.

## WILLITS SCHOOL BOARD

#### Why do you want to be on the Willits Unified **School District board?**

Alex Bowlds: My motivation has been to improve education opportunities for the students in our public schools. The youth in our community must be provided with the skills they need to be successful after they leave our schools. Those that choose college need the academic foundation that will allow them to excel. Equally important are those that don't choose college. These students need vocational skills that will enable them to be competitive in any job market.

Tracey Douglas: Serving on the WUSD board would be a logical extension of my advocacy for public education. It would allow me to continue to positively impact the educational experiences of our children, as well as advocate for our district. Offering students a well-rounded,



Bryan Mann.



Tracey Douglas.

## Supes vote to expand Phase 3 pot grows

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

On a 4-1 vote, with Third District Supervisor John Haschak voting no, the board of supervisors on Tuesday finalized details on the county's Phase 3 cannabis cultivation program.

Phase 3, also called the "Non-Legacy phase," applies to those growers who cannot demonstrate that they were cultivating in Mendocino County prior to January 1, 2016. To date, the county has not issued any Phase 3 permits.

On May 4, 2017, when the board initiated its cannabis program, Phase 3 was scheduled to begin on January 1, 2020. The start date was later changed to July 1, 2020. Currently, the start date for Phase 3 is April 1, 2021.

The work that took place on Tuesday did not lock the regulations in place, but was more in the form of direction to staff, who will now begin work on writing an ordinance that will provide regulations for the county's Phase 3 cannabis program.

Read the rest of Expand Over on Page 13

Read the rest of Candidates

Over on Page 10

# What do **YOU think?**

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

#### Letter to the Willits community Yes on Measure K To the Editor:

For a brief six weeks, I was your chief of police. I will be voting for Measure K. The community of Willits welcomed me warmly. I had planned to stay long term and work to bring the Willits Police Department up to date in training, technology, and staffing in order to provide better service and make the community safer. Unfortunately, roadblocks to accomplishing these goals began to appear almost immediately.

I wish I could provide you the details of the past six weeks. However, my professional ethics and standards of confidentiality prevent me from doing so. Just know that I explored every angle before arriving to the conclusion that I would not be granted the ability to provide you, the people of Willits, the service you all deserve.

To the Willits community and all others who gave me their genuine support, I sincerely thank you.

Alexis Blaylock, former WPD chief

## Adopt-A-Family this holiday

## season

### To the Editor:

Each year for more than a guarter of a century our community has come together to help the children of Willits by giving essential items and other appropriate Christmas gifts.

Persons who wish to assist a single child can select a card from display trees located at various locations around town that will be placed in J.D. To the Editor: Redhouse, Safeway, and Les Schwab Tires.

These cards present the age, gender, need and wishes of one child.

Selection of a single child works for most program supporters, but others have voiced an interest in adopting an entire family. If you or your group wish to adopt a family, please contact me directly, and I can help match a family in need with you.

My name is Laura Sleeper, and I am coordinating the Willits Rotary Christmas Program. I ask that you contact me so that I may assist you in choosing a suitable family. My email is HR@ willitsunified.com and my phone contact is 707-354-1991. Leave a message if I am unable to speak to you, and I will return your call promptly.

In order to be efficient, we need to satisfy requests to Adopt-A-Family before our usual referral process begins in November. Please call (the earlier the better) if you want to discuss take the "school" out of the equation, and state adopting a family.

Thanks to each of you who have made the Willits Kids Christmas Program a success for over 30 vears. Local residents have responded with great compassion. Thank you in advance for your generosity and how our community exemplifies the Christmas spirit in giving to those less fortunate

## To the Editor:

As a former Willits City Council member, I am familiar with the budget struggles of the city of Willits and they are not new. During my time on the council (1999 – 2008) we struggled to pay police officers a living wage, keep the pool open in the summer, the parks mowed, and the streets, sidewalks and storm drains functional, if not beautiful

Sales tax is the biggest source of revenue for the city's general fund, which pays for most everything other than the water and sewer departments. The pandemic has resulted in a huge drop in sales tax revenue, along with sales tax leakage to Costco and online shopping. It is easy to point fingers and blame, but the council is doing the brave, necessary, responsible thing by bringing this measure to the voters. I want to thank the council for serving in this difficult and often thankless position

Disincorporation of the city would be a huge mistake and it would require enormous effort to re-incorporate in better times, if and when they

Vote for continued existence of an incorporated city. Vote yes on Measure K. Karen Oslund, Willits

Hard-pressed

Our communities are currently living through a global change. It has gone on for some years and shall clearly continue for many more years before all things start to fall into our new sustainable lives for the future.

Our city, Willits, whether we live in it or around it, has served and protected us with reserve funds for quite awhile. The need for a tax increase has been apparent for years. Fortunately a lot of sales tax revenue comes from visitors to our community.

The Willits Unified School District again is asking for a bond issue which "we" all pay for, for a roof and other needed repairs and maintenance. Currently we are paying taxes for a firehouse, mental health, and a voter-approved incremented gas tax increase.

I believe the community needs to find a way to the facts: that this building is a multi community emergency / evacuation center for hundreds of people from miles around. As such there should be funding to keep this center open and safe for

those times each year it is used. There should

## City of Willits statement on police chief resignation

I am sad to announce that Alexis Blaylock has resigned from her position as chief of police for the City of Willits for personal reasons. The city will not be issuing any further statements on this matter. Lt. Derek Hendry will be acting chief of police until an interim chief is hired. A full recruitment will begin in early 2021 for a permanent chief of police.

- Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra, city manager, City of Willits

## COLUMN | WUSD Report Card

## The truth about Measure I

## By Mark Westerburg, WUSD superintendent

When you vote in the upcoming election, you'll have the opportunity to decide whether Measure I should pass or fail. The only difference between this bond measure and the one last March is that Willits Unified School District has partnered with the local charter schools so they can raise funds for repairs at their facilities, too.

## Introduction

The WUSD Board of Trustees placed Measure I on the ballot because our school facilities need maintenance and repairs. Measure I would create a \$17 million fund for upkeep during the next 12 years, issued in four stages allowing the school board to reduce the burden on taxpayers should economic conditions change.

The measure would cost property owners a maximum of \$40 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) per year. Assessed value is determined by the Mendocino County Assessor and is listed on your property tax bill. If, for example, your house is assessed at \$250,000, your overall annual bill would be \$100 (that's about \$8 per month).

Every other school district in Mendocino County has an active bond measure, because this is how school districts are able to keep school facilities safe and in good repair.

## This is not like the 2010 bond

I've recently had questions about how Measure I is different from the bond measure passed in 2010. It differs dramatically in amount, structure, and purpose.

In 2010, taxpayers passed a \$43 million general obligation bond that included building new facilities, which required substantial fees for architects, engineers, state inspections, oversight by the state, and projects so large that local contractors could not do them. The bond was structured to pay all the funds up front, it did not give the board enough fiscal oversight, and it was based on optimistic assumptions about local property values.

In contrast, Measure I is focused entirely on maintenance and repair projects that are well within the scope of local contractors. The bond is based on conservative property value projections and would be issued in four stages over 12 years. Measure I includes strict fiscal accountability provisions to ensure that all funds are spent as voters intend, including a detailed project list, a citizens' oversight committee, and independent audits. We will not borrow more than we can pay off, and if the economy shifts, the school board will be able to lower the tax burden if necessary.

In 2010, taxpayers were only assessed on \$14 million of the \$43 million, and with that money the school district was able to get a new music room at Baechtel Grove Middle School, remodel part of the Willits High School library, create two Career Technical Education rooms, add pavement to Brookside Elementary, add a water tower at the high school football field, and install solar panels at four school sites.

However, many projects were left undone including infrastructure

Measure I Over on Page 10 Read the rest of



# **Giving Back**

LEEF Organics donates \$25,000 to the Little Lake Fire District to be used for new safety equipment

Just a few years ago it would have been unthinkable. But social mores and laws have changed over time, and now businesses that would have been outlawed in the past are thriving and providing employment and taxes.

One such business Mathew Caine LEEF Organics, who, with the help and consultation of

the Little Lake Fire Protection District Chief Chris Wilkes, have created a thriving cannabis and CBD processing plant and distribution center in an industrial park area of Lenore Street.

During the building process, LEEF relied heavily on Chief Wilkes, acting as the local fire marshal, in order to make sure their plans conscientiously met all safety and environmental standards.

One of Wilkes' requirements was a combustible gas indicator, "a meter that measures for flammable gasses," explained Wilkes. "I wanted to put one of these on every initial rig, that way our guys would be safe. They [LEEF] understood that they needed that to keep their people and our people safe; that we could check for these flammable gasses if we had to enter the building.

"These units are fairly pricey. They asked why we don't already have that equipment. We have one already, but not multiples that we can put on all our duty rigs. We have to share it now. Now, if we need it, we have to come back and get it.

"The folks at LEEF," said Wilkes, "realized that

"I'm going to take the rest of the money," he said, "and replace wildland turnout gear [the outfits that are worn fighting wildland fires] that has gotten destroyed over this season so far. We go through a lot of wildland gear that gets ripped and gets holes. They get burn marks and other wear. I'm going to

use the extra money to replenish our wildland stock and not have to take the money out of the direct budget. It's a very big deal for us.'

LEEF presented Chief Wilkes with a check for \$25,000 the company raised in order to help the Little Lake Fire Protection District purchase the needed gas meters and wildland turnouts, in appreciation of all the help and support they were given in their building process and for the continuing work that Little Lake Fire is doing to keep the area safe during the recent spate of fires.

The \$25,000 was raised from LEEF donating 100 percent of web sales from the month of September - see the "Shop Now" button at their website: www. thelabprc.com/leef-organics.

As LEEF CEO Micah Anderson and LEEF Lab Director Gary Vandenberghe pulled up to the Baechtel Street substation for the presentation, Little Lake Fire's water tender No. 5493 was getting a scrub down. The truck had just returned from the Glass Fire in Sonoma County, one of three fires that the Willits strike team had been assigned to, starting with the local Oak Fire. This was the first time they had been off-duty since the Oak Fire on September

7, having been to the August Complex fire as well.

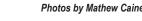
Above, left: LEEF Organics CEO Micah Anderson signs the \$25,000 check to the Little Lake Fire District. Above, right: LEEF CEO Micah Anderson, Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, and LEEF Director Gary Vandenberghe smile for the camera after the presentation of the \$25,000 check. Below: LEEF Organics CEO Micah Anderson shows the T-shirt that he presented to Fire Chief Chris Wilkes.





Above: Little Lake Fire District Chief Chris Wilkes accepts a T-shirt and cap from LEEF's Gary Vandenberghe and Micah Anderson.

Below: Water tender 5493 gets a bath after coming home from its third fire.





Marcy Barry, Alexis Rutherford England, and Laura Sleeper, Willits

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047 willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor / willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen (Moore) Jennison, art director and photographress / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047

Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com Mathew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer /

mathew@willitsweekly.com Forrest Glyer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Zack Cinek, reporter / zack@willitsweekly.com

Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / joanne@willitsweekly.com

Ree Slocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com

Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com

Holly Madrigal, features writer / willitsweekly@gmail.com Danya Davis, features writer / police log / danya@willitsweekly.com

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707- 972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

Jackie Cobbs, features copy editor

Justin Stephens, webmaste

Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com be funding for the building to be brought up to standards for a manageable emergency shelter with adequate roof, bathroom, child care, and health and safety areas.

As such, funding options should be available. We have elected olicials that have brought

> our community wonderful grants and funding. Is there ... county emergency funds? State emergency funds? Climate change funds, fire preparedness funding, or Homeland Security? FEMA? PG&E fire grant, protective power outages fund, cooling area funds. Adventist Health triage and personal care grant? And mental health mobile stall.

Many people have sullered these years; and many more will these next years. Many will be looking for work, and many may lose their jobs and homes. PG&E does not say when protective power shutols will end. Our hearts want to give. Our family economy is hard-pressed.

David Pollin, Willits



Willits Weekly | October 15, 2020 **Pg. 2** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

Last day to respond to the census Submitted by Paloma Patterson, project manager

The Mendocino Counts committee and the Community Foundation have received notice that self-response and field data collection operations for the 2020 Census will conclude Thursday, October 15.

For those that want to help with any last-minute efforts, please see the information below. Feel free to share via social media.

· Internet self-response will be available across the nation through October 15, 2020 through 11:59 pm Hawaii Standard Time which is 2:59 am Friday morning October 16, California time. Visit my2020Census.gov to respond.

• Phone response will be available for its regularly scheduled time on October 15, from 7 am to 2 am Eastern Time. English: 844-330-2020; Spanish: 844-468-2020

• Paper responses must be postmarked by October 15, 2020.

• Nonresponse Follow-up: Census takers will continue resolving nonresponding addresses through the end of the day on October 15, 2020.

Thank you for all of your help in making Mendocino Count!

we don't have the excess money for that sort of equipment. The last time we had any kind of budgetary increase, other than money for the firehouse, was in 2003. As infrastructure grows and we have different needs, it's hard to finance those things."

Wilkes continued, "Without me or anyone else asking, with the fires we've had and the devastation that's gone on around here, and the need of the fire district, LEEF put together this campaign to help us. It's fantastic. It will enable us to buy those meters that we badly need, which is three more, so we'll have four.

According to LEEF's Anderson, the fundraising was fairly easy as people wanted to support the efforts of the fire department. "We wanted to do this fundraiser for the Little Lake Fire District. We've done fundraisers in the past and, honestly, it's never gone this well. We raised \$25,000. It went so

well, we are going to do it again this month for the police department." LEEF desires to be an integral part of the well-being of the community in which the founders have lived for many years.

"I really wish all facilities, regardless of what they are, whatever is going in, were as easy to work with as was LEEF Labs," said Fire Chief Wilkes.



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# Willits Weekly's **Puzzle Page**

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT							
<b>POLICE LOG</b>							
October 5 to October 11 By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly							
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Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a hit-and-run

disturbance in the 200 block of School

disturbance near the intersection of Willow

Creekside Drive.

12:59 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive. Lane and Baechtel Road. 1:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft

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vehicle collision investigation. He was South Main Street and issued a citation. arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear. 7:22 pm: Officers responded to a report 2.58 pm: Officers responded to a report of ssault in the 1100 block of South

Street.



# **Healthy Eating**

Adventist Health hosts plant-based online cooking classes for general health or to help with illnesses like diabetes, COVID-19, and breast cancer

Dietician and Certified Diabetes Educator Anna Herby has been inspired to work with people wanting to eat more healthfully in order to lose weight, improve overall health, or heal from life-threatening illnesses.

Herby teaches a series of classes that are resourced from the Food for Life program created by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, founded and headed by Dr. Neal Barnard. Herby's "Foods to Combat COVID-19" is "designed to help participants use a plant-based diet to fight hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and obesity - which are among the conditions that can make COVID-19 more severe and deadly, states the Food for Life website.

"Foods to Combat COVID-19" is broadcast live via Zoom over the internet with 15 online participants and six in the conference room at Adventist Health Ree Slocum Howard Memorial Hospital as taste testers of the prepared dishes.

On Tuesday, October 6, Willits Weekly visited one of the classes. willitsweeklv@amail.com

Herby was busy collecting necessities for the live broadcast as well as setting up a tiny kitchen and ingredients for recipes on one of the tables in the conference room.

Features Writer

As she set up, Herby talked about getting her master's degree in nutrition. "I got so excited about everything I was learning," she said. Nutrition is the foundation of health. We should all think about it, more especially the role that it plays in diabetes, heart disease basically, what everyone is dealing with can go back to what we are eating."

People began arriving in the conference room, finding their seats while following COVID-19 protocols. Others were appearing in Zoom on the projected screen.

Bev, who's been diagnosed with cancer and is new to eating a plant-based diet, took Herby's Food for Life class first. She

said, "I loved the class! But I couldn't Read the rest of Over on Page 9 Cooking figure out how to make the food taste



Above, left: Attendees of Anna Herby's "Foods to Combat COVID-19" classes are online behind her, with five attendees in the room as taste testers. Above, right: The plump, fruity pancakes cook all the way through fairly quickly. Below, left: Lemon zest is added to the Lemon-Berry Pancake batter for a zing of flavor. Below, right: One of the class participants helps Herby plate the Lemon-Berry Pancakes as Herby cooks more. At bottom: Each pancake was topped with blueberries and a bit of syrup. One taster said she thought the oat flour pancakes with blueberries were sweet enough for her tastes. Photos by Ree Slocur









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## CLUES ACROSS

1. Battered corners: dog-\_\_ 6. <u>Mater: one's school</u> 10. National capital 14. Frogs and toads order 15. Bathrooms (French) 17. Praise 19. Witch 20. Consume 21. Pork and lamb are two types 22. Rocky peak 23. Women's undergarments 24. From end to end 26. Bed sheets 29. South Sudanese king 31. Dislike immensely 32. Diving seabird 34. Breathe noisily 35. Full of roots 37. Inside 38. Small island in a river 39. Tear into pieces

40. 'CSI' actor George

43. Derogatory term for

a country native

45. Pike and pickerel genus

46. Important in respiration

and other biochemical

41. Make less dense

reactions (abbr.) 23. Make a bleating sound 47. Belgian city 24. The kids love him 49. 'The Joy Luck Club' author 25. Female condition prior 50. Essence of 'Aloha' to menstrual period 53. Suggestions 27. Founder of Sikhism 57. One who overindulges 28. Sudanese swamp 58. Expression 29. He/she can help with 59. Maize dough your finances 60. Make into leather 30. Part of the human body 61. British noblemen 31. Mortar trough 33. Greek island 35. Change pagination CLUES DOWN 36. Queens hip hop group 1. One of two or more people 37. Precursor to the EU or things 39. A way to go on 2. Small, deerlike water buffalo 42. Slender marine fish 3. Part of a ladder 43. Georgetown's mascot 4. Unit of work 44. Farm state 5. Patriotic women 46. Military leader (abbr.) 6. Fragrant essential oil 47. Russian river 7. Aggressive, uncouth man 48. Teams' best pitchers 8. One thousandth of an inch 49. In a more positive way 9. Brisk and cheerful readiness 50. Long French river 10. Serving no practical 51. Reactive structures purpose in organic chemistry 11. Prevent from going forward 52. Distinctive practices 12. Camera part 13. Former CIA 53. Male gypsy 16. Colorless, odorless gas 54. When you hope to get there 18. Long division of time 55. Men's fashion accessory 22. Atomic #73 56. Journalist Tarbell

	Main Street.	threats in the 100 block of East Commercial
	7:48 pm: Officers responded to a	Street.
_	disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.	5:02 pm: MILER, Eldon Gregory (44) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block
	October 8	of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a
	10:19 am: Officers initiated a burglary	Restraining Order).
	investigation in the 200 block of School Street.	7:37 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Barbara
-	3:02 pm: Officers responded to a report	Lane.

#### The rest of From Page 1 Resigns

Blaylock thanked the community of Willits who she said "welcomed me warmly," and added that she couldn't go into specifics about why she resigned due to "professional ethics and standards of confidentiality."

"I wish I could provide you the details of the past six weeks," she said. "Just know that I explored every angle before arriving to the conclusion that I would not be granted the ability to provide you, Alexis the people of Willits, the service you all deserve." Blaylock.

In a brief email to Willits Weekly, she added, "I cannot express how sad I am about this. It truly was an impossible situation."

In an October 12 City of Willits press release, Garrabrant-Sierra said only that Blaylock had resigned for "personal reasons," and that "the city will not be issuing any further statements on this matter" (see Page 2 for full press release).

In an email response to Willits Weekly, Garrabrant-Sierra said she couldn't comment on any of the specific remarks in Blaylock's letter.

The press release stated that WPD's Lt. Derek Hendry will be acting chief of police for Willits until an

interim chief can be hired, and that a full recruitment effort for a permanent chief will begin in early 2021.

The hiring of Blaylock came after Gregory Allen had served as interim police chief for Willits since early March this year. Allen was hired following the retirement of Scott Warnock who had been working as the permanent chief since April of 2017, pausing for a time due to health issues.

At the August 26 Willits City Council meeting both Blaylock and Garrabrant-Sierra spoke enthusiastically about her becoming the new chief, with the city manager praising Blaylock's "incredibly impressive background."

The City of Willits is currently making a push to pass Measure K in the upcoming election, a 3/4 cent citywide sales tax increase which city officials say will allow them to better fund the police department as well as other important city services.

## **Cash incentives for new home development** Advanced Energy Build

The Advanced Energy Build program from SCP offers cash incentives up to \$4,500 per unit for high-performance home development.

## Keep on buildin' on.

# SYRCL'S WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL WHERE ACTIVISM GETS INSPIRED

## **Enchanted Pumpkin Path**

## on hiatus

Over 30 years, the Enchanted Pumpkin Path has grown into a beloved community tradition - offering young children in our community a safe, fun alternative to trickor-treating on Halloween. Adults too often enjoy watching familiar stories come to life and mingling with friends and neighbors in the Smoky Cauldron Café or playing games.

This year the Waldorf School of Mendocino County is sad to announce that current Mendocino County shelterin-place guidelines preclude all possibility of safely hosting any version of this magical event. We wish families in our county good health and look forward to next autumn when we can once again welcome the larger community to share the experience of the Enchanted Pumpkin Path.

- The Waldorf School of Mendocino County

# Willits man missing

#### Below: James Andrew Submitted by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Whetstone, 69, of Willits

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is actively investigating the reported disappearance of James Andrew Whetstone.

Valley Road in Willits.

that is not his usual behavior.

He was last seen on October 9, 2020 at 8:30 am

He is believed to have either walked away or

received a ride from someone in a vehicle, although

He is described as a 69-year-old male, standing

He was last seen wearing a gray jacket, blue

Anyone with information about James Andrew Whetstone's current whereabouts is urged to

jeans [or black sweatpants, as per his daughter]

at the family residence located in the 1500 block of



MCSO Case# 2020-25082

4086.



Starring in the comedic murder mystery, "Death by Golf," from left, Simantha Karp, Tony Rydell, Kathy Vellis and Jeff Shipp all liven up the action and usher in the scary fun for a perfect spook-night entertainment.

Photo by Phaedra Swearengin

mounts and the nutty violence intensifies, a suspicious attorney all convene with competing Ashley the newlywed slips into an increasing

hysteria, while Muriel the attorney discovers the strength, gets around to fine-tuning his stroke. The resulting combination of innocent frolic and for murder and just as many laughs - for perfectly

is presented as a staged reading in two acts.





## **Willits High School Boosters** Annual Trip-Tip "Drive Through" **Dinner for 4**.



: \$60.00 Dinner inclu whole Tri-tip, BBQ Beans, Caesar Salad, Fresh Loaf Of Emandal Bread, 4 cookies nd a flower from Flowers By Annette. See any Boosters Officer or Membe Covid Health & Safety Measures will be in practice. Pick up ve through at the WHS Ag Farm



Edith Marie Nixon, 86, of Covelo passed away peacefully September 28, 2020 in Covelo.

She was born September 14. 1934, to Morton High and Ruth M. Lathrop High in Riverside, California She married David L. Nixon on September 4, 1953, in Eagle Rock, California.

Edith worked at manufacturing jewelry early on and was a soda jerk at Currie's Ice Cream in Los Angeles for a few years. She was an LVN (licensed vocational nurse) in Los Angeles for a while and was a member of the Music Teachers Association of Pasadena, as a piano teacher. Most of all, she was a

## **Online Wild & Scenic Film Festival** on October 16 features 14 short films

#### Submitted by the Mendocino Land Trust

The Mendocino Land Trust is proud to again host the Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Friday, October 16 at 7 pm. The festival, now in its 18th year, features a collection of films which speak to environmental concerns and celebrate our planet and its natural resources.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's festival will be entirely virtual, with an online presentation of all films and an interactive chatroom on October 16. All 14 films will also be available to ticket-buyers for online viewing at any time through October 20. For those living near Fort Bragg

## Ecology Action and John Jeavons Present: A "Three Saturdays" Zoom Workshop **On Backyard Biointensive Gardening**



Learn to grow healthy food and fertile soil from **the author of** *"How to Grow More Vegetables"* growbiointensive.org/workshop.html



and Mendocino, there will be a dinner-and-a-movie option that includes two meals prepared by Cucina Verona, a bottle of wine, and admission to the event. Tickets can be purchased online at

www.gudio.com/event/mlt. The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is held the third week of January in Nevada City, a five-day event features more than 150 films and welcomes over 100 quest speakers, celebrities and activists who bring a human face to the environmental

movement. The Mendocino Land Trust's event will feature a curated selection of 14 of the top short films from this year's festival, which are together titled "Saving Places." The selections explore the need to preserve our wild places - from the coast and mountains to the desert and alpine meadows - and offer solutions for making that happen. The festival will also include several shorts produced by the Mendocino Land Trust, highlighting projects and individuals that exemplify the mission of the organization. Among MLT's video offerings will be a never-before-seen film spotlighting the much-anticipated Noyo River Redwoods project. The total run time for the festival is around two hours.

During the October 16 live event, there will be an interactive chat session with Conrad Kramer, newly hired executive director of the Land Trust.

The festival is a natural extension of Mendocino Land Trust's work to inspire people to act on behalf of the environment. Formed in 1976, the Land Trust is dedicated to providing public access to the coast and protecting the Mendocino County region's farmlands and forests, wildlife habitat, open space, scenic vistas and watersheds. Visit https://www.mendocinolandtrust.org/ to learn more



Halloween fun from Willits

Community Theatre

is missina.

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

For some lively fun and entertainment. for Saturday, October 31. Directed by drama-veteran

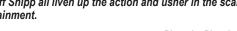
hilarious spoof unfolds when an escaped convict,

an anxious bride, a scheming new husband, and agendas at scrappy Grandpa's house. The lively combination of uproarious comedy

murderer's evil agenda, and Grandpa, drawing upon an unexpected hidden reserve of inner deadly consequences serves up a million reasons spooky Halloween entertainment.

"Death by Golf" by playwright Gregg Kreutz Online streaming of the show will be available on Saturday, October 31 only, from 9 am to midnight. Advance tickets are \$5 and available through the

WCT website at www.wctperformingartscenter.org/ eticketpurchase.





## Nov. 7, 14 and 21, 2020

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedo • 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 Worship Service &

SPIRITUAL

PATHWAYS

1 1 1 2 P

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 WELČOME

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.

Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. Children's Church - 11 a.m. Mid-week Bible Studies Potluck every 2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday



scary in-home Halloween Willits Community Theatre will present the hit murder comedy, "Death by Golf,"

Kathy Vellis.

online streaming Phaedra Swearengin, this

and mortifying murder mystery revolves around the

uncanny resemblance between an escaped convict

played by Garrett Moore, and a recent bridegroom

also played by Moore. A somewhat frantic newlywed,

played by Simantha Karp, is driven desperately to

figure out who is the real murderer. She is sometimes

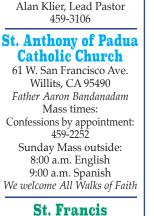
helped and sometimes hindered by her golf-fanatic

grandfather, played by Jeff Shipp, and a serious-

minded and mysterious visiting attorney, played by

Little does everyone realize, the stakes are higher

than any of them can even imagine. As the suspense



**Episcopal Church** 

1 North Main Street, Willits

707-459-3066 Church Services / Communior

& 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.

## **Can't pay the bills** because of COVID-19?



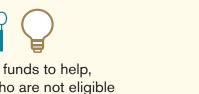
We've got special funds to help, even for people who are not eligible for government stimulus checks.

For details, visit www.ncoinc.org or call 707-621-8817 to leave us a confidential message.

TO-GO ORDERS CALL 459-5702

WITH RICE & BEANS - \$12.95

Restaurant El Mexicano





**OPPORTUNITIES** 

WE INVEST IN PEOPLE

THROUGH COMMUNITY

ACTION.

WILLITS WELL hosts 'Building Resilience' Zoom circle

#### WELL (Willits Economic Localization) is hosting a virtual event: "Building Resilience in Times of Uncertainty and Stress." This will be a 1-hour free community event in a "virtual circle" via Zoom, with moderators Paul Jacobson and Claudia Wenning. Sunday, October 18, at 4 pm. To participate, here's

the Zoom link: https://

tinyurl.com/y39pabom

Grab your mask, gloves, a hat and some water to team up with Leopold Collective to pick up trash around Willits.

Malits Beautification



When? Friday October 16th (4:00pm-6:00pm) Where? Meet @ Adventist Health Howard Memorial parking lot Why? To do our part and keep Willits looking beautiful.

wonderful wife and mother

She was a member of the Covelo New Life Community Church, the United Foursquare Women, and the Assemblies of God Missionettes program (teacher)

Edith enjoyed many hobbies and interests like designing and making dresses guilting, making puppets, and giving birthday parties. She also devoted much of her time to teaching Sunday school and teaching and organizing the Assemblies of God Missionettes program in Freemont, Newark, and Covelo. Her main interest was reading and memorizing the Bible.

She was preceded in death by her son David Eugene Nixon and her sister Ruth High-Nixon.

She is survived by David Leon Nixon, her husband for 67 years, who met her in grammar school; her daughter Robin M. Nixon; and her sister, Ellen Snyder. A memorial service via Zoom on the internet is planned for some time in the future.

Memorial contributions may be made to the New Life Community Church, P.O. Box 157 Covelo, CA 95428, or to Dorris Place Elementary School Music Program (LAUSD), 2225 Dorris Place, Los Angeles, CA 90031.

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





WE'RE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT DINE IN ON LOOOSE CABOOSE PATIO FROM 5 - 8:30 PM Meeting ID: 825 OKUM'S BODY SHOP IS NOW 2830 2905 - Passcode: MAHI MAHI TACOS **CARSTAR YOKUM'S BODY SHOP!** 144013 SAME GREAT PEOPLE WITH A FRESH NEW LOOK, TILL FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1982. pho-tog-ra-phress photography by maureen jennison CARSTAR YOKUM'<mark>s Body sh</mark>oi CARSTAR UKIAH - YOKUM'S BODY SHOP 707-459-5859 VILLITS, CA 95490 UKIAH, CA 95482 AM - 8:30F 07-459-9385 707-462-6636 **Environmental Restoration - Ponds** MON - SAT Septic & Water Systems - Site Development www.mphotographress.com | 707-972-7047 CARSTAR Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery



CARSTAR.com

Willits Weekly | October 15, 2020 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 7



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. hildren's Sunday School - 10:45 a.n

459-2855 Facebook: www.facebook.com f you want to be included ir

this column please call: April Tweddell (707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.com

SOUT

MAIN ST





# **Genius Loci**

Oak Fire victim remembers the beautifully situated home that he was caretaker of for over 20 years

"I heard an explosion and felt my house rock. Bigger than a shotgun blast. It was a loud noise. I thought it had to be a propane explosion," explained Tim Gregory. "By the time I ran out of the house and down across the driveway to the other drive, my neighbor was running down saying: 'It's too big. We can't control it. We're leaving. We're getting the animals. We're leaving. Call 911.

"I called 911 and was apparently the second caller," he said. "Somebody had seen

Mathew Caine Features Write

something and had called it in already. I asked 911 if I had permission to leave. Did they need me to stay on the phone? The neighbors left, and I couldn't get my truck started. I had to jump start it from my Subaru, which I then placed where I thought it would survive. It did.'

This was the beginnings of the Oak Fire, which began on September 7 around noon, just below the confluence of Big John, Skyview, and Third Gate roads. Before it was contained, the fire had burned over 1,100 acres and had caused the evacuation of around 3,200 people in Brooktrails and areas north.

Fifty-six structures were burned by the swiftly moving fire, including several dwellings, amongst which was the idyllic home of Tim Gregory where he had lived for over 20 years, caretaking the property, and enjoying the solitude of the remote aerie with occasional visits from artistic, aesthetic friends and family. It was a place where he could breathe fresh air, enjoy the views, the sounds of the wind through the trees, commune with the wildlife, and just be.

But paradise always comes with a price. Danger is a byproduct of the remote location in the trees, and the risk of fire is a constant reminder of the transient nature of man's use of the land. One careless match, one campfire left burning, a spark from a catalytic converter, or an accidental propane explosion in a drought-laden hot and windy hillside can set off a series of fiery events that will affect the lives and property of thousands of humans as well as change the face of the landscape and erase years of work and art.

"Genius loci' is a concept of 'the spirit of the place," mused Gregory as he sat with this Willits Weekly reporter, in the place that had for so long been his home. "The component of architecture, it's an aesthetic of whether a building knows where it is or not in the landscape. When you learn that earlier in life and you look around at what is the spirit of this place, where to place a sculpture or whatever.... I love this place because it had and has a very antique genius loci and the buildings were put in here in a way that knew where they were in this landscape. Those rocks, that slope.

Above, left: Tim Gregory takes a last look at was once his view. Above, right: Ground zero, where the Oak Fire began, is only a few yards from Gregory's home. Below, left: The bell remains but no one is there to hear it. Below, right: A scarred peak next to Tim Gregory's home towers above the scorched landscape. At bottom: The only building remaining on the property is the outhouse, to the benefit of the cleanup workers







# **LEGAL NOTICES**

WW288	WW289
Fictitious Business Name Statement	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 N/A. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 15, 2020. /s/ Kara Garman Publication dates: 09/24, 10/01, 10/8 and 10/15/2020	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



**Current Job Openings:** 

Accountant Account Specialist II Code Enforcement Officer I Corrections Deputy Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II **Director of Cultural Services** Eligibility Specialist II/III Employment and Training Worker I/II -Willits Real Property Appraiser III Social Worker I/II/III/IV A-D

Social Worker Supervisor I/II A-C Vocational Assistant

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/ <u>human-resources</u> EOE

Marc Komer Legal Document Assistant

#### From Page 5 Cooking

really good and couldn't figure out how to prepare meals. I knew I needed more instruction.

Fortunately, Herby's next class was "Foods to Combat COVID-19," which includes a cooking class and a book full of recipes titled, "21-Day Weight Loss Kickstart: Boost Metabolism, Lower Cholesterol, and Dramatically Improve Your Health," by Neal D. Barnard, MD. Bev later said: "I've learned a lot, and I realize there's a lot I don't know. It's been a really good learning experience." Once people were settled in, online and in the room,

Herby began the class by saying that today they were going to make three dishes: Lemon-Berry Pancakes, White-Bean Dip, and Quinoa Salad. All the dishes are high in fiber

She then asked participants how last week's 40 grams of fiber challenge went for them. The review was mixed. Some struggled to eat more of a plant- and fiber-based diet and less of the sugars, fats, and animal products. Others stuck with the diet and lost more weight, noticing how good they felt as their symptoms subsided.

"We've been eating more salads," one person said, "I've been using chickpeas, micro-greens, and different things I'm remembering to put in salads to make them taste better. I love nuts in a salad, too!"

"I didn't do any of the recipes this week," admitted another. "I kind of got unconscious about things I was eating. But I did go out to dinner and ordered a plant-based meal. No cheese, no meat, no dairy, and that was good for me. I have made some changes.'

Another added: "I lost 40 pounds by simply eating a plant-based diet. I definitely feel better. I enjoy feeling healthier and lighter!"

Herby is understanding and accepting around the struggles people have as they learn about food choices, lifestyle changes, and their health. She knows it isn't easy and is encouraging about the accomplishments people make as she continues providing information and recipes that make the class more relevant, interesting and fun.

There was a 15-minute video by Dr. Barnard about cholesterol. He talked about buildup of cholesterol in the arteries, creating heart attacks, strokes, leg clots, erectile dysfunction in men, and lower back pain. In clinical studies, Barnard has seen reversals of blockages by people who avoid animal fats and products, keep oils to a minimum, and eat a vegetarian diet with an emphasis on oats, barley, and soy products. He claims that with those dietary changes, most people lowered their cholesterol by 40 percent in four weeks.

Next Herby described the recipe for Gluten Free Lemon-Berry Pancakes. It uses oat flour for fiber, oats for texture and fiber, ground chia seeds (a binder instead of eggs), with lemon zest, lemon juice, nut milk of your choice, and berries. As the pancakes were cooking, Herby asked how it smelled and one person quickly answered, "It smells like 'good'!'

Herby interviewed the taste testers so online folks could get a sense of the food. Most said they enjoyed the texture, natural flavor, and sweetness of the flour and fruits. At least one person thought it would make a good dessert.

After the cooking was done, Herby announced that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and that she will be presenting "Let's Beat Breast Cancer," an online cooking class. The free class is being broadcast

# CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help **RV/Trailer Space** for Rent Need help with your computer? Space for RV's and Macintosh, Android and Trailers \$425 per IOS devices. Repairs, month, includes water configuration and & garbage. Close to tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Safeway in Willits. Call Liam 459-2470 or email Tony (707) 510-5895. uicearbhaill@gmail.com See at "http://www. oaknvine.net/tp"

Cottage for Sale In town, a 2-bedroom cottage for sale. Il be back to help you \$178,000. Call 459-9228. with your Alterations and Sewing Needs

Stay Safe

when it is safe to do so.

Barbara the Seamstress

Virtual Spiritual

Exploration

Meals on Wheels

volunteer driver and a

substitute driver: the job

takes about 3.5 hours

to complete. If you're

interested in joining the

team, call Deb Holcomb

Willits Food Bank

at 459-6826.

Firewood For Sale Firewood for sale. true cord of 16 inch dry firewood, \$200 and up. Will deliver. Call: 459-2868

To learn more about classes and topics that may interest you visit: Freezer Empty? We can help! https://www.meetup com/Lake-Mendoci-Due to health concerns no-Counties-Spirituin Mendocino County, al-Explorers/ Join us on John Ford Ranch will be Zoom or via telephone taking meat box orders Wednesday evenings. (not individual pack-7 to 8 pm, September age orders) for pick-up: 2 through October 28, Rancher's Choice Box 2020. Questions? Call - 50 pounds: steaks, (952) 999-2288. roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: Wanted: Meals 25 pound box of hamon Wheels

burger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natu-Volunteer Drivers ral ranch-raised grass As demand for homefed beef, no hormones delivered meals has or antibiotics. Call 459increased due to 5193 to arrange pick-up. concerns about the Leave a message, and spread of COVID-19, we'll call back. the Willits Senior Center is looking for another

Help Wanted Cashier/Clerk: Merch-Processor/ andise Stocker. Part Time (20 hours per week). Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Willits Senior Center Thrift Store. Call 459-

6826

Part-time

call 459-3333

Open Willits Community Ser-Help Wanted vices & Food Bank conposition tinues to distribute food. in Willits nonprofit following COVID-19 business. Applicant must safety provisions, to have current California hungry families and indriver's license, be dividuals in the Willits able to lift 50 pounds, area, with an increase drug and alcohol free. in numbers served. The must be tolerant and front office at 229 E San compassionate. Please Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on

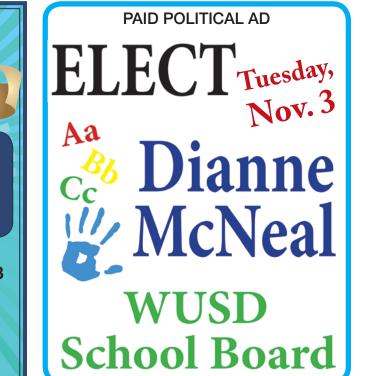
"Volumetrically, he [the owner of the property] used the space for the deck, the stairs, the proximity of the buildings, the weathering down from the ridge," Gregory continued. "This place came together in honor of the genius loci."

Even through the effects of the conflagration, the twisted melted metal, the charred trees, the remnants of floors and doors, the concrete stairs that now go nowhere, one can see the design and how the structures were created with the genius loci in mind. The respect for the true nature of the location is still obvious.

Although he revels in the fact that he is still alive, Gregory has many regrets at having to leave his home. "I had to leave my cat. The cat was a sorry sight when she finally came back a few days later after they lifted the evacuation, and I was able to come up to the property. She was beyond saving. I think she was under the house. Something fell across her, burned her whiskers and her eyes. She was in a terribly weakened condition. Her name was Amber," though some called her Ember.

"It took me some time to get out," Gregory continued. "I went through the deliberate process of saving my truck. Got it running and turned around. Put the Subaru in a place







The rest of Candidates

developmentally appropriate education that focuses on each student's strengths is a goal to which I am firmly committed.

Brvan Mann: I have a strong desire to be an advocate for our students and ensure them the best education experience possible despite the challenges they face. I also see a need for someone on the board with a background in business who is outside of the education system. This will provide balance and perspective to the board. I bring with me 34 years of construction management experience. One of the largest issues facing our local schools today is the declining condition of our facility buildings, and I see a person asked. with this background as vital to our school district

**Dianne McNeal:** I believe trustees must be accountable for their decisions and must listen to the feedback from teachers, students, families, and the Willits community. Trustees set the standards in our district: their focus should be on student achievement and implementing policies that will ensure success for all students. When our schools succeed, so does our community. School board decisions impact our schools and community for years to come. Our school board needs leaders, like me, who will see to it that our students and schools succeed.

#### What work, civic, and/or volunteer experience and what skills and strengths would you bring to the board?

Tracey Douglas: I have worked in both the public and private sectors. I was an elementary school teacher for 21 years and an adjunct community college instructor for 10 years. As a community member, I have been involved with the Sherwood Firewise Council and am currently their communications coordinator. I am a good listener, highly organized, and commit fully to whatever endeavor I undertake. I am also a passionate advocate for public education

Bryan Mann: In my years of construction management experience, I have worked with many different school districts, architects, engineers, and contractors. have completed hundreds of successful school projects. I have successfully managed several companies, and my business experience and common sense approach to the issues will be of great value to our school district. I have been coaching youth sports for 10 years. I have volunteered in Willits Unified classes, and through my coaching and volunteer work I have come to know many of the children and families in our community personally.

Dianne McNeal: I was a teacher, first at Brookside Elementary School and later at Blosser Lane Elementary School for total of 38 years before retiring in 2017. I have volunteered in our community in a variety of ways. Like many parents, I coached T-ball, Little League, and Willits Youth Soccer teams when my children were younger. served 18 years as a board member and swim meet official with the Willits Otters swim team. I volunteered as a mentor for two Eagle Scouts' community projects. I currently volunteer as a poll worker for Mendocino County

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desperate stage of disrepair. Passage of
competing at regional and state level.
also served as WTA site representative
                                          Measure I will provide the district with a
and as negotiator for the WTA bargaining
                                          revenue stream that will be used to address
committee
```

## those issues.

Bryan Mann: I support Measure I. I will be Alex Bowlds: I've lived here since age 5. I attended 12 years of public school here, candid, as a property owner I don't like the graduating in 1977 from WHS. Though idea of higher taxes. However, this is the no longer a coach, I help Coach Brian only means by which the state of California Bowles with his wrestling program at allows us to fund the necessary repairs to every opportunity. I remain involved in the our aging facilities. We are on the verge of CTE programs at WHS, providing support some very serious issues with the failing whenever and wherever needed by helping systems in many of our district buildings. bring new tools and technology into the We have roofs that are way over their life expectancy, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, programs. I continue to assist with projects, and fire alarm systems that are outdated primarily at the high school whenever and failing. We do not have years to wait

and find alternate funding. Tracey Douglas: I have lived in the

school district for 3 1/3 years. Last year Dianne McNeal: Now is not the time for Measure I, because of the economic an additional kindergarten teacher was needed three days before the school year stress that our nation and community is started. I was asked if I would be willing to experiencing due to the triple threat of the come out of retirement to teach that class COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment, and for the year. I said I'd be happy to take on ongoing climate change. Money is tight in that assignment because I knew that if I most households. We are currently paying didn't, the children would end up having back the 2010 bond, and if Measure subs for the year. Needless to say, that were to pass, taxpayers would be further would have been less than optimal for the burdened in an already uncertain time.

children. It was a great year! Are there any other issues that you think are key issues for the Willits State regulation currently requires Unified School District to be addressing remote education in Mendocino at this time?

County. What are your thoughts on how quickly and in what manner there should be a return to the classroom environment once permitted by the state?

```
WUSD employees must also be addressed.
 Dianne McNeal: This year has been
                                           Currently the district is not offering
 a difficult one filled with anxiety and
                                           competitive compensation and benefit
 uncertainly as we navigate life in a global
                                           packages to district employees. Retaining
 pandemic. WUSD must follow the federal.
                                           and hiring highly gualified professionals is
 state, and public health guidelines for
                                           essential to the success of our students.
 a safe return to in-person instruction.
 Any safety plan must be made available
                                          Bryan Mann: This is everyone's first time
 to the community through a district-
                                          at distance learning, and there was very
 wide bilingual mailing, posting to school
                                          little time to prepare. WUSD staff has done
 websites, and holding listening sessions
                                          a remarkable job given the circumstances.
 to gather feedback on the plan from the
                                           However, our students have suffered a gap
whole community. Safety measures must
                                          in their educational and social/emotional
be developed in collaboration with WUSD
                                          needs as a result of being separated from
administration, school board membership,
                                          their teachers and peers during COVID-19.
the WTA and CSEA, and the Willits
                                          We have to first analyze how much learning
                                           was lost and, then, formulate a plan to help
community.
                                           them recover the learning loss they have
 Alex Bowlds: Returning to the classroom
```

experienced during this time. must be based on the safety of all stakeholders. Remote education is a Dianne McNeal: Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the educational community stopgap measure. It affects the community negatively in many ways. However, going responded to the unprecedented back too soon will put many people in our challenges of the crisis by organizing

community at risk. I expect a return will resources and adjusting to distance start with a hybrid model, that will return learning with dedication and creativity. The pandemic increased long-standing health, to a normal classroom once a vaccine has been distributed. I want to return to a economic, and educational disparities. classroom model as soon as it is safe to do Equity and equality are not the same thing. so. Until then, I support whatever measures As a school board, we need to ensure all are needed to make distance education as students are treated with equity and have

successful as possible access to the resources that they need. Those students who require additional Tracey Douglas: The only responsible way supports to be able to access educational to approach education during COVID is to opportunities must be provided with them. listen to and follow the science. Everyone As a district, we need to work to ensure all is susceptible to getting, spreading, dying, children have equity of access or having long-term side effects from contracting COVID, and our educators, Alex Bowlds: There are many elements children, and families should not be put at to providing a quality education for our risk. We must continue to be conservative, students. First and foremost of them is the and follow the guidelines put forth by hiring and retention of high-quality teachers the state. I would not support reopening and staff. Competition with other schools schools until it is completely safe to do so, and private industry that pay more, or have and children and staff can be together, play better benefit packages, makes it difficult

constantly challenged with often conflicting and/or emotional information from parents. teachers, administrators, students, and the media. COVID-19 is an excellent example. We are tasked with listening to all the stakeholders, researching as much of the available data we can access, and then making decisions as a board, that can affect the lives of almost everyone in our community. It is a huge responsibility that cannot be taken lightly, and I don't.

Tracey Douglas: As a long-time advocate for public education on both local and national levels. I feel my experience as an educator, parent, and activist make me uniquely qualified to serve on the Willits Unified School District board. And as a former kindergarten teacher, I play well with others. I am grateful to the community for their consideration.

The rest of From Page 2 Measure I

updates, the new science wing, and many others. Because of how the bond was structured, it was too expensive to issue more debt. Now, 10 years later, the old problems are worse and new problems have arisen.

#### Other sources of funding

Tracey Douglas: In addition to addressing I know we would all like it if we could find the safety and health of our students, and an alternate source of funding for school the condition of our decaying facilities, repairs - maybe money from the state compensation and benefit packages for or redirecting the savings from the solar panels. Unfortunately, that is not how it works

> Before COVID-19, the state used to offer limited funding for some capital improvements, but only when districts could provide matching funds. Measure I bond funding could supply matching funds should the state's economy recover enough to offer that type of support.

As for savings from solar energy, the district has reduced its PG&E bill by about \$65,000 a year, which is fantastic, but even if we had kept every dime of that savings for the last eight years, we would only have enough to replace the roof at Blosser Elementary. We need more funding, plain and simple. (Also, the cost of the utilities has increased more than the savings the solar array provided.)

What we need is dependable funding for repairs over time, so we can responsibly keep students safe. Measure I provides that funding.

As I've said before, we recognize that the pandemic has thrown a wrench into life as we know it, and if we could wait a year to put this on the ballot again, we would, but elections are now held every two years and our schools cannot wait that long.

Summary

#### Sonoma Clean MCHC Health Centers welcomes Dr. Amit Mehta Power offers energy-

#### Submitted by MCHC Health Centers efficiency incentives

for builders

Submitted by Sonoma Clean Power

Energy Build program is powering

new home construction in Sonoma

and Mendocino counties with cash

incentives and technical guidance for

Through Advanced Energy Build,

new development projects can earn up

and induction cooktops, and customer

demand for smart appliances.

programs manager at SCP

Advanced Energy Build was adapted

from SCP's Advanced Energy Rebuild

program, which was developed in

partnership with Pacific Gas and

Electric Company and the Bay Area Air

Quality Management District to support

residents in the rebuilding process

after the October 2017 North Bay fires.

Build incentivizes energy-efficient

appliances and equipment, electric-

vehicle charging stations, and more,

with additional funds for all-electric

projects and those that combine

solar with battery storage systems.

Homeowners that want to maximize

their energy savings can connect to

SCP's GridSavvy Community at www.

sonomacleanpower.org/programs/

gridsavvy, which rewards customers

Similarly, Advanced Energy

builders.

homes

Sonoma Clean Power's Advanced

After working as a hospitalist in Willits for the past two years, New Delhi, the capital of India and Mehta's hometown, high school board-certified internal-medicine physician Dr. Amit Mehta has joined students take exams after their sophomore year to determine which MCHC Health Centers as a primary-care physician and is currently accepting new patients. He is pleased to move into prevention and

medicine, and although he outpatient care where he can build long-term relationships with had planned to become an patients engineer like his father, his

MCHC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jerry Douglas said, "We're so pleased Dr. Mehta decided to shift from hospital care into our part of the continuum of care – primary care. His hospital experience gives him a great perspective, and his dedication to understanding the causes of patients' underlying conditions makes him a wonderful fit

for our organization." to \$4,500 per housing unit for energy Often, by the time patients require hospital care, they have been efficiency and resiliency features. experiencing the negative effects of chronic medical conditions for Low-income single-family homes. months or even years. In the hospital, Mehta saw patients with multifamily housing, and projects that add accessory dwelling units high blood pressure, obesity, uncontrolled diabetes, substance-use are eligible for increased incentive disorder, and other conditions that led to serious complications. amounts. The flexible incentive After he cared for them, many asked if they could see him for followup care, but he did not have an outpatient practice. Now he does. packages are designed to assist builders with the costs associated with In fact, he will spend all of his professional time and energy in an building electric-ready and all-electric outpatient setting.

His approach to medicine is both practical and deeply All-electric construction is still a fairly compassionate. He works with patients to help them become more new practice in the housing industry. attuned to their bodies and to the social and emotional influences However, it has become more prevalent that can lead to unhealthy behaviors. He appreciates MCHC Health in recent years due to California's Centers' integrated approach to health care, where medical and ambitious greenhouse gas reduction behavioral health professionals work collaboratively to serve their goals, the increase of efficiency in patients. electric appliances like heat pumps

The messages Mehta receives from patients speak to the way he makes them feel

 "Dr. Mehta treated me with kindness, compassion, and above-"What we see with homes that and-beyond professionalism ... He did not stop until he found what are built without gas, or very little was wrong with me and even stayed late to help make sure I got dependence on gas, is that they not needed treatment." only emit less pollution, but they also

save their occupants an average of • "Dr. Mehta listened to me and trusted me to know my body, and \$650 annually on their utility bills and he celebrated with me when I began to recover.' are cost-neutral to build. With new

• "Thank you to Dr. Mehta, whose kindness, compassion, and developments, we have an opportunity badass doctor skills got me back on my feet. to create healthier indoor environments

In meeting a doctor as dedicated as Mehta, you might assume for people to live in, while also helping he always wanted to be a doctor. Not so in this case. If not for his them save money on their overall mother. Mehta would never have entered this profession he loves. In living expenses," says Scott Salyer,

Library

announces

new K-12

databases

Cultural Services Agency

The Mendocino County

Library is now providing

to

educational resources for

students, teachers and

parents, which was made

available through the

California State Library. The

resources were funded by a

\$3 million project from the

multiple

of the

platforms

TeachingBooks – Book

BookConnections

• Recursos de Lectura

access

www.mendolibrary.org/

online-resources/articles-

databases/proquest or

contact your local branch

or the Mendocino County

Cultural Services Agency at

these

То

234-2873

Submitted by the

access

Mendocino County

Learn more at www.mchcinc.org. NCO offers assistance to Willits residents impacted by COVID or wildfires

## Submitted by North Coast Opportunities

In response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 and recent wildfires, combined with the culminating impacts of several years of federally declared wildfires, North Coast Opportunities is offering financial aid and other types of support to affected Willits community members.

Those interested may apply for support directly at www.ncoinc.org and click "Mendocino County Disaster Assistance" on the top left of the home page. The limited funds will be disbursed out on a first-come, firstserved basis

According to NCO Executive Director Patty Bruder, special funding is available immediately and should remain available through the end of the year

"So many people have been hurt by this pandemic, hardworking people who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut through no fault of their own. I encourage people to call and leave a confidential message so we can help them. Because of the pandemic, we are working remotely, but we check the messages daily and return calls quickly," Bruder said. The phone line for COVID assistance is 707-621-8817. Help is available from case managers who speak Spanish and English. People can also visit the NCO website at www.ncoinc org, and click on the "COVID-19 Immediate Relief Now Available" section.

2018 California State budget NCO's work with people affected by COVID is significant, but only the tip of the NCO iceberg. NCO's programs include various Community Action projects; Head Start Child Development Program, Leadership Mendocino, Rural Communities Child Care, Redwood Caregivers Resource Center, AmeriCorps Seniors. and NCO Volunteer Network. NCO is the Community Action Agency that primarily serves Lake and Mendocino Counties. NCO reacts and adjusts to community needs, including disaster response and recovery. For more information visit www. ncoinc.org or call 707-467-3200.



After this introduction to the Dr. Amit Mehta joins the MCHC Health Centers as a primary-care physician. United States, he decided to pursue an internal-medicine

residency at Michigan State University, completing it in 2015.

Internal medicine is one of three specialties that deliver primary care. The other two are pediatrics and family medicine. Internal medicine is a specialty dedicated to diagnosing and treating adult patients; pediatrics is a specialty dedicated to diagnosing and treating children. Family medicine is a specialty that treats people of all ages. Internal medicine physicians often care for patients with complex medical problems, including adults with multiple diagnoses.

Both Mehta and his wife, a dentist, enjoy working in health care and are pleased to call Mendocino County their home. When Mehta is not caring for patients, he enjoys spending time with his wife and their six-year-old son, playing music, and exploring his passion for photography.

Mehta joins a dedicated team of professionals at MCHC Health Centers, which provides comprehensive health services including primary medical care, pediatrics, dentistry, women's health, obstetrical care, counseling, psychiatry, and specialty care, and which looks forward to growing to meet the ever-expanding needs of the communities it serves. MCHC Health Centers includes Hillside

Health Center and Dora Street Health Center in Ukiah, Little Lake Health Center in Willits and Lakeview Health Center in Lakeport.

mother strongly encouraged him to become a doctor. Now, he says he cannot imagine doing anything else. He graduated from one of the most well-respected medical schools in India, Kasturba Medical College in Manipal During medical school he spent a year at Baylor

Alex Bowlds: I grew up locally in a logging family. I spent 38 years in the fire service, starting as a volunteer in Willits. I coached WHS wrestling for two years, and spent 10 years as a wrestling referee. I've been a CIF NCS Weight Assessor for high school wrestling for 10 years. I've been a WUSD trustee for nearly 10 years. I am fiscally conservative and a strong advocate for labor. I bring honesty, integrity and a strong work ethic to the table.

#### How long have you lived in the school district, and what, if any, school activities have you been involved with?

Bryan Mann: I have lived in Willits for 28 years. I have been on the football coaching staff of Willits High School for the last five years and have also coached JV basketball at Willits High School. My wife and I are currently the fundraising chairpersons for Willits High School Football. I have also worked in the Willits Youth Football League. I have volunteered time in district programs for students with special education needs as well as students in the Community Day School programs in the past.

Dianne McNeal: I moved to Willits after graduating from Chico State, I was substituting in both Willits and Ukiah schools. I was hired by WUSD and taught 38 years. My husband of 41 years, Don, is a life-long resident of Willits. Our children attended and graduated from Willits schools. As a teacher, I served as gradelevel chair, leadership member, site council representative, PTO parent. I coached Odyssey of the Mind for 12 years, with elementary and middle school teams

together, share materials, hug each other, to attract and keep high-quality teachers. etc. while not putting anyone at risk of Our efforts to increase beginning teacher contracting this virus. salaries have helped, but it isn't enough. We need legislative help, because California

Bryan Mann: The children in our community schools rank 39th in K-12 spending. rely on school to be a safe and stable place in their lives. We need to return them to Is there anything else you would like that educational environment as soon as the community to know about you

possible; however the situation we are with respect to being a school board faced with is unprecedented in history and member?

changing daily. When the state guidelines Brvan Mann: When I am elected I will deem things safe, the schools will need to be a voice for all parties which includes give families and staff time to prepare to students, parents, teachers, and staff. My transition back successfully. I look forward goal is to work together with everyone to working with other informed people with involved to be an advocate for our students' diversified viewpoints on how to go about success. I want to see every girl and boy restoring normal campus life in a manner in this district reach their highest possible that will be safe for everyone involved. potential and have a great overall school Do you support Measure I, the school experience while doing it. I commit to doing bond measure on the November ballot, everything in my power to see that every which is primarily intended to finance student in our district has every need met fixing and repairing school buildings? and gets the best educational experience Why or why not? available. Teachers, students, parents, and

staff your voice will be heard. Alex Bowlds: Yes. For the past 10

years, I've witnessed the decline of our Dianne McNeal: Willits is an amazing facilities. The last bond issue provided place to live and raise a family. As a retired some good things, but failed to fix what teacher and community member, I know was already wrong. They built the band the challenges that our community and room at Baechtel, paving at Brookside, our schools face. If elected, I will serve our CTE and library remodels at WHS, and community and focus on the best interests solar panels. These were good, but they of our students and teachers. I will work missed the mark. They didn't fix the roofs to ensure that our schools improve and or HVAC systems throughout the district, our students are well-prepared to achieve or the paving at Blosser or WHS. These their goals after high school graduation. I projects are beyond the capabilities of the would sincerely appreciate the opportunity district budget without impacting teacher/ serve the community as a trustee for Willits Unified School District. staff salaries and educational programs. Measure I will ONLY pay for repairs.

Alex Bowlds: It is a privilege, and a Tracey Douglas: I strongly support challenge to serve as a trustee on the Willits Unified School Board. We are Measure I. District facilities are in a

Our older schools require upgrades to meet today's academic and safety standards and to ensure that classrooms, science labs, technology infrastructure, and other facilities can continue to support high achievement. With repairs and modernization, we can do an even better job of preparing students for college and in-demand careers in health sciences, arts, technology, agriculture, and skilled trades. In addition, Measure I funds would allow WUSD to:

 Fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing, heating/cooling, and electrical systems

• Pave parking lots

Repair old, outdated classrooms and school facilities

Purchase a pool cover

 Update athletic facilities Mail-in ballots should have arrived in the homes of all registered voters this week. The deadline to register to vote is October 19. You can register at www.registertovote. ca.gov or at the Department of Motor Vehicles. To make sure your ballot is counted, mail it early. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about this

bond measure. You can reach me at the

district office at 459-5314.

Willits Weekly We're online and in print



Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | October 15, 2020 **Pg. 10** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

with a monthly bill credit for allowing signed by Gov. Jerry Brown their smart devices to serve as a with the goal of designing resource in times of stress on the a statewide collection of electricity grid.

online content to aid all As both Sonoma and Mendocino California students with their counties work to address the need educational needs.

for more housing, SCP hopes that These resources Advanced Energy Build will encourage frequently referred to as builders to adopt high-performance "library databases," provide standards and increase the number of teachers and students resilient, efficient homes available to with an immense amount residents in the area. of online books, scientific SCP will work closely with builders research. newspaper to ensure their designs qualify for the articles, photos, and videos program incentives and educate the all aligned with the future homeowners on the benefits of curriculum that California their new, energy-efficient appliances. has created for its schools. In addition to the program, SCP

A sampling plans to offer trainings and classes educational to contractors on clean energy include: technologies and all-electric building practices through its Advanced Britannica School: Elementary, Middle, and Energy Center to help smooth the local transition toward building High School electrification. For more information, Britannica Escolar (in www.sonomacleanpower.org/ Spanish for K-8) programs/advanced-energy-center.

 ProQuest Issue For more information, builders Researcher can email SCP at programs@ ProQuest Schools & sonomacleanpower.org or visit www. Educators Complete sonomacleanpower.org/programs/ advanced-energy-build. ProQuest eLibrary

visit

About Sonoma Clean Power and Author Resources Sonoma Clean Power is the public electricity provider for Sonoma and Mendocino counties. SCP first began Children's, Teen, Family service in 2014 as California's second Resources Community Choice Aggregator and since then has become a model para Jovenes y Familias for community-choice programs throughout the state. SCP provides resources, or for more electricity generated by cleaner sources information, please visit of energy with fewer emissions, and

its services and customer programs

are practical, affordable and inclusive,

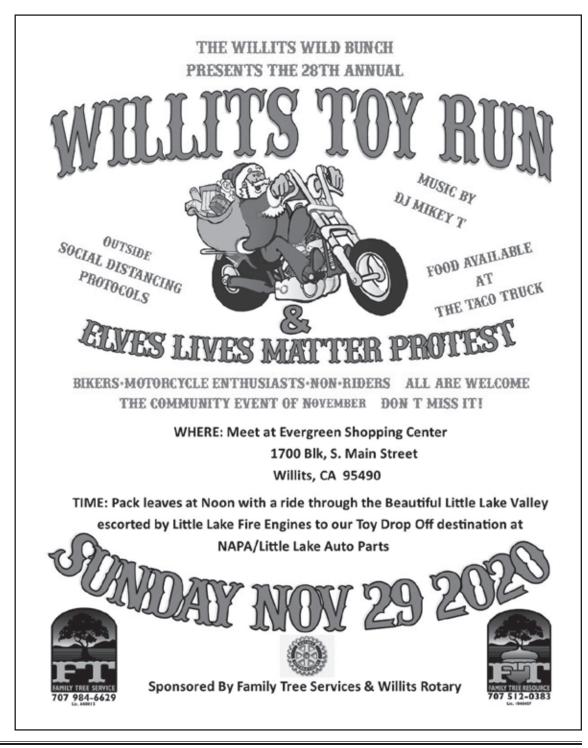
empowering everyone to be part of

the transition toward a clean-energy

future. To learn more, visit www.

sonomacleanpower.org or call (855)

202-2139.



## Red London

London came to the shelter as a stray dog, so we don't know his history. Here at the shelter, he's pretty mellow for a husky, and beyond handsome with his red coloring. London appears friendly and eager to meet new canine friends. It's always a good idea to read up about dog breeds you are considering adopting, and that's especially true with husky dogs. Secure fencing and daily activity are important for this breed.

London is 3 years old and weighs a svelte 66 pounds. You can find more about London at www.mendoanimalshelter.com

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

## Mama Cindy

Meet our sweet gal who goes by Mama Cindy. This adorable girl came to us early in August as a stray. Upon intake she appeared to be expecting, which is where her name comes into play. However, upon vet check we discovered she was not expecting. Ooops! We decided to keep her name. This beautiful gal is around 2 years old and weighs about

8 pounds.



match. She is up to date on vaccines, microchipped, and spayed. She is ready to ride off into the sunset with her forever person. Could this be you? If so you may apply to make her vours at www.mendohumanesocietv.com.

Mama Cindy is ready to find her perfect

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@hsimc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsimc.org. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more

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



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@ hsimc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsimc.org. Visit

## Mr. Jake

Jake is not from State Farm, but he is new on the scene! This handsome small mixed-breed pup has legs for days and weighs about 12 pounds. Jake came to us mid-September with three other dogs as transfers from Clearlake Animal Control. Jake is the last one looking for his own forever home. Are you looking for a new forever friend who will keep a smile on your face with his silly little personality? If you answered yes, let us help you out! All you gotta do is fill out an application! You can apply to love Jake at mendohumanesociety.

"Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.



The rest of	Erom Bogo
Equity	From Page

the county's equity grant proposal, when it reviewed the proposal in March. At the request (or order) of the state, eligibility for the program will be limited to people who can prove that they were negatively impacted by the state's "War on Drugs." Dukett added that grants for direct technical assistance were eliminated.

Dukett said that the county has put out a request for proposals for an administrative assistant/consultant to coordinate the equity program, who will offer technical assistance to grant applicants.

The cannabis unit has hired an extra help departmental analyst who will assist the contractor with grant disbursement.

Dukett told the supervisors she is expecting that the office will begin accepting grant applications in November. She added that the deadline to disburse grant funds is August of next year.

She told the supervisors that in order for the cannabis equity program to become functional, the county needs to contribute \$100,000 to the program. Third District Supervisor John Haschak said that in his discussions with the Office of the Governor of California's Business Development, he was told that the equity program can use that \$100,000 any way it wants to.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde suggested at least 50 percent of the \$100.000 be set aside to help deadbeat growers pay their unpaid road association dues. Supervisor Haschak said he wanted part of that \$100,000 to be dedicated to helping people who want to form cannabis cooperatives.

According to the Mendocino County Cannabis Local Equity Program manual (version 3, dated October 7, 2020): "A local equity applicant must be eligible for a cannabis-related application, permit, and/ or license to operate a cannabis business in unincorporated Mendocino County, whose activities are specific to cultivation, nurseries, processing, manufacturing, laboratory analysis, distribution or retail of cannabis."

The applicant must also have a household income defined as "very low income" or "extremely low income" for Mendocino County in the 2020 state income limits produced by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

The applicant must also meet one of the following qualifications within Mendocino County's equity program to become eligible for consideration for funding in all service categories offered:

a. Have lived within a five-mile radius of the location of raids conducted by the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting program; b. Has a parent, sibling or child who possession, use, manufacture or cultivation of cannabis (including as a juvenile);

was arrested for or convicted of the sale.

c. Any individual who has obtained or applied for a cannabis permit in Mendocino County, or who has worked in or currently works in the cannabis industry, and was arrested and/or convicted of a non-violent cannabis-related offense, or was subject to asset forfeiture arising from a cannabis-related event;

d. Is a person who experienced sexual assault, exploitation, domestic violence, and/ or human trafficking while participating in the cannabis industry:

a loss of housing as a result of cannabis enforcement.

of county fees for cannabis-related permits, including fees for Application, Assistance

Building Services."

requirements of local or state permits or licenses that mitigate adverse environmental effects of cannabis cultivation." These includes categories such as regulatory compliance, capital improvement, fixtures or equipment to

COVID19CountyMonitoringOverview.

forbearance periods of surface water diversion required by state or local regulations;

facilities located within streamside setbacks

c. Installation of solar electrical systems to replace diesel or gasoline generator power for off-grid cannabis facilities where connecting to the grid is economically infeasible.

culverts or infrastructure needed to meet state or local regulations.

Grants are also available "for the purpose of employment skill training for eligible equity participants employed or seeking employment in licensed cannabis operations in Mendocino County.'

The manual states that direct technical assistance includes "business planning, loan application preparation, site location services, human resource management, capital procurement services, bookkeeping and accounting practices and systems" as well as educating applicants

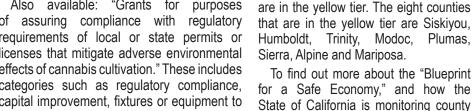
"regarding legal regulations for cannabis cooperative associations and educational information regarding the process of forming

## Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals to provide drive-thru, walk-up and delivered meals, now that inside dining has been shut down again by the state.

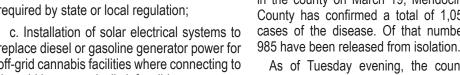
Call 459-6826 for more info.

e. Has become homeless or suffered Home Meal Delivery

The local equity program manual goes on to describe the kinds of services which are offered by the program. They include: "Waiver Meetings of up to four hours with the Cannabis



Local COVID update b. Remediation and relocation of cannabis



d. Road remediation, watershed mitigation,

The rest of

cannabis cooperatives."

## The Willits Senior Center is continuing a Meals on Wheels driver? Call Deb at 459-6826

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Thursday, October 15: Ground Sirloin with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Friday, October 16: Tater Tot Casserole

Monday, October 19: Chicken Tacos Drive-thru and walk-up meals are still Tuesday, October 20: Baked Ziti available 12 to 1 pm, Monday through Wednesday, October 21: Pork Chops Friday. Pickup is outside the Senior

Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, All Senior Center meals are currently \$5.

Steak Friday, October 23: Carnitas Burrito, wet with Green Sauce

Thursday, October 22: Philly Cheese

Call 459-6826 the day before needed Transportation for seniors: Call 459to schedule home meal delivery; \$5 per 5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off meal, Monday through Friday. Delivered for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' throughout Willits. Can you volunteer as appointments.

From Page 1 Let's get 'red'

Twenty-five counties are now in the red total of 21 people in this county have died tier; 11 are in the orange tier; and eight from the disease. are in the yellow tier. The eight counties The local Department of Public Health

has confirmed the latest average daily new case rate is 9.57 (seven-day average with a seven-day lag). The county has a

To find out more about the "Blueprint testing positivity rate of 3.75 percent. for a Safe Economy," and how the The "Cases by Source" statistics State of California is monitoring county show that of the total positive cases, COVID statistics, visit www.cdph.ca.gov/ 608 were deemed infected by "close Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/ contact"; 344 cases were judged to be

"community spread"; 89 cases were attributed to "work/out-of-county travel": and the cause of 14 cases remains under investigation.

Since the first case that was confirmed Looking at the disease from a regional in the county on March 19, Mendocino perspective, 810 cases reside in the County has confirmed a total of 1,055 Ukiah Valley, 103 are from the north cases of the disease. Of that number. county, 81 are from the north coast, 42 are from the south county, and 19 are As of Tuesday evening, the county from the south coast. currently has 49 confirmed active cases A total of 28,858 COVID-19 tests have of COVID-19. Of that number, 44 are

been done in Mendocino County. As of being kept in isolation, five are in local Tuesday evening, the results of 1.148

Treats

turmoil with daily social distancing, kids Firefighters will sanitize the bags prior doing classes through Zoom, and the to opening the bags. The candy will be cancellation of many holidays, birthdays, evenly distributed into candy bags that and other social gatherings. Many the fire departments have purchased. members within both Fire Departments Vehicles will be directed to a lane to feel that it is necessary and within the receive the Trunk or Treat bags by best interest of the mental, emotional firefighters. Everyone must remain in and social health of the community's their vehicles and, when pulling up to children to host this modified Halloween the candy table, inform the firefighter of Trunk or Treat Event. how many children are in the vehicle, **How:** Any candy donated to or purchased receive their bags of candy, and enjoy by the Fire Departments must remain the decorations that others may have put in their original bags from the store. out.

The rest of From Page 1 Expands



The rest of

aspx

Program of the Department of Planning &

Also available: "Grants for purposes of assuring compliance with regulatory

address the following activities including, but not limited to:

a. Water storage for irrigation during

required by state or local regulation;

hospitals, and none are in an intensive From Page 1

care unit, either in or out of the county. A tests were pending.



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 5рм – 10рм

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 customize

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.





Now more than ever... Don't delay your child's vaccines.



The process will include a review by the board of supervisors, and then a review by Mendocino County Planning Commission, and then final adoption of the ordinance by the board of supervisors. It is possible that changes to the Phase 3 standards will take place before type of land that is zoned Industrial. the ordinance is approved.

Most of the board's work on Tuesday afternoon focused on Table 2, which defines what will be, and what will not be, allowed in Phase 3. The revised table greatly liberalizes some aspects of Phase 3, and eliminates some other aspects of Phase 3, namely commercial cannabis production on Rural Residential parcels with a 5-acre minimum, also known as RR5 parcels.

Commercial cannabis cultivation was removed from RR5 zoning types on the recommendation of Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde. Gjerde said that RR5 was essentially a residential zoning and he didn't want commercial cannabis production in residential areas.

The revision of Table 2 allows commercial cannabis production on a large scale on those parcels zoned Rangeland which are larger than 10 acres. In fact, the supervisors determined that on those parcels, cannabis production may occur on 10 percent of that parcel's total acreage.

That means, for example, that person who owns 120 acres of property zoned Rangeland would be permitted to grow 12 acres of cannabis. The same approach was applied to land zoned Agricultural and on land zoned Upland Residential. This "10 percent plus" rule applies only on Aq. Upland Residential and Rangeland parcels that are 10 acres in size, or larger

For most of the Phase 3 table, however, cultivation allowances will remain largely what was "on the drawing board" for the past two years. Those zoning districts include Rural Residential 10 acres (RR10), Upland Residential, the three types of Industrial zonings, as well as Ag and Rangeland zonings.

For all of those zoning types, on parcels that are a minimum of 5 acres in size, cultivation plots of up to 2,500 square feet of cultivation will be allowed and are considered Specialty Cottage; cultivation sites between 2,501 square feet to 5,000 square feet are also allowed and are considered "Small.

On parcels between 5 and 10 acres, cultivation sites between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet are allowed and are also considered "Small.

The medium permit types begin on parcels that are 10 acres in size, or larger. On the three types of Industrial zonings (Industrial 1, Industrial 2 and Pinoleville Industrial) 5 acres in size, or larger, may apply for and be granted

when parcels are 10 acres in size or larger, indoor cultivation and mixed light cultivation will be allowed, but outdoor cultivation will not be allowed. The board agreed that there is to be no outdoor cultivation of any kind on any

## **Discretionary program**

If one may use an automotive metaphor in connection with the supervisors' approach to Phase 3, in some respects the board put the pedal to the metal on Phase 3, but in other respects the board put the brakes on.

The "brakes" aspect of what they did on Tuesday refers to requiring that Phase 3 shall be a discretionary program and that all applications for a permit will be subject to either an administrative permit, a minor use permit or a major use permit process.

The county's Chief Planner Julia Acker-Krog reminded the supervisors that administrative permits may either be issued "in-house" by the county's Planning and Building staff, or may be reviewed by the zoning administrator, who is Planning and Building Director Brent Schultz.

A minor use permit will be administered and reviewed by either the zoning administrator or the planning commission.

A major use permit always goes to the planning commission and always gives the public an opportunity to participate at a public meeting of the commission.

For cannabis cultivation in Ag zonings, an administrative permit is required for all permit types from Specialty Cottage ranging upward to Small Mixed Light at a maximum of 10 acres. For Ag parcels that are more than 10 acres, a minor use permit is required.

For Rangeland, a major use permit will be required for all permits. For parcels in Upland Residential districts, a minor use permit is required for all permit types up to 10 acres. Over 10 acres, a major use permit will be required.

For RR10 properties, minor use permits are required across the board. However, the expansion of cultivation sites on RR10 acreages that are 10 acres or larger will not be allowed. In RR10 parcels, cannabis cultivation on parcels larger than 10 acres would be subject to the area standards that obtained with the "small" permit categories: Growers would be able to grow a maximum of 10,000 square feet of pot.

The board also affirmed two caveats to the entire mix of regulations. The first is "that a parcel that is located in a zoning district that allows commercial cultivation and has a lot area of between 3.5 acres and 5 acres, and that shares at least 50 percent of its boundaries with parcels that are

permit types Specialty Outdoor, Specialty Mixed-Light Tie 1 and 2, and Nursery."

In addition, the board agreed that " a parcel that is located in a zoning district that allows commercial cultivation and has a lot area of between 7 acres and 10 acres, and that shares at least 50 percent of its boundaries with parcels 10 acres in size or greater, may apply for and be granted permit types Small Outdoor and Small Mixed Light Tier 1 and 2," if it succeeds in getting an approved discretionary permit.

In addition to fixing the details of Table 2, the board agreed upon a few principles that are to be incorporated into a new ordinance which will likely be adopted before April 1, 2021, when the county's Phase 3 program is due to begin.

The board agreed that growers who applied for a Phase I permit but who were denied a permit, would be eligible to apply for a Phase 3 permit. The board asked itself if there were any reasons for denial in Phase 1 which would also disqualify a person from applying to Phase 3. It was unable to agree upon an answer to that question.

The board members agreed one of the conditions that ought to be incorporated into the application review process is that trucking in water from elsewhere shall not be allowed.

Third District Supervisor Haschak appeared to be dismayed at the direction that the board was heading on Phase 3, particularly on the idea of allowing 10 percent of a parcel's acreage to be given to cannabis cultivation in Rangeland, Ag and Upland Residential zoning districts.

Prior to voting no, Haschak explained his reasons. " have serious concerns about the expansion, the 10 percent of the land mass," he said. "That's going to really devastate the small growers."

Apparently referring to allowing any new permits in Rangeland zonings, a point which appeared to be very much in doubt prior to Tuesday's meeting, Haschak commented: "We've heard from the sheriff, we've heard from environmental groups, we've heard from ranchers, that are against it.... I'm going to vote no," he concluded.

Earlier in the afternoon, Haschak lamented that so many important decisions were being made with very limited input from the public. Before she cast her vote, First District Supervisor Carre Brown told Haschak that she thought the public had not yet spoken on Phase 3.

"I think that once this comes back, we're going to have a lot of public input," Brown said. "When there's a draft ordinance. I hope that satisfies your concern.



Above, left: Corpsmembers from Ukiah wrap the Post Creek Guard Station in foil to protect the 1934-built structures from the August Complex Fire. Above, right: CCC Ukiah Corpsmembers use hand tools to build containment lines around spreading flames on the northern edge of the August Complex fire. Below: A CCC Ukiah Corpsmember loads up with used fire hose before hiking the hose off the fire line.

# **California Conservation Corps**

CCC members play an often-invisible role fighting wildland fires like the August Complex

#### Submitted by the California Conservation Corps

massive water douses from helicopters are often the images shown of fighting wildfires like the August Complex. And while those firefighting tactics are indeed a critical part of getting containment around flames, there's also the gritty, marathon-like work going on at basecamps and on fire lines that most people don't get to see.

"Yeah, 16-hour days. We wake up at the crack of dawn, before that even," said Gabrielle Falaschi. She's one of hundreds of members of the California Conservation Corps, who are either fighting fires or working the basecamps that deliver the support firefighters need to keep going.

"As soon as I finished orientation [at CCC's Delta Center in Stockton] we were out here," Falaschi said. "This is about our third week here. It's really great, working refir," she said. "Refir" is short for the task of storing and distributing everything needing refrigeration at basecamp, whether it's food or first aid.

From sunup to beyond sundown, the CCC members are handling refir, chow lines, installing signage and fencing, and issuing firefighting gear like chainsaws, fire pants, hose nozzles - whatever

Dramatic fire-retardant drops and it takes to get the firefighters rested, refueled, and back to the fire lines.

> "Which means sometimes we have people here that go to town to Walmarts and Rite Aids, to buy special stuff and things left at home," said Corpsmember Angel Campos from Compton.

He joined the CCC nearly a year ago. The program enrolls 18- to 25-year-olds to gain work experience through responding to state emergencies, but mainly through working on environmentally focused projects like building hiking trails and restoring natural habitats.

Corpsmembers are paid a monthly stipend of \$1,905 and can earn up to \$8,000 in scholarships each year they are enrolled.

Some CCC members enroll specifically to fight wildland fires. They train alongside CalFire and U.S. Forest Service firefighters - responding to the front lines, including the August Complex Fire, where they hand-dig fire breaks and put out hot spots.

"It's seriously tough work," said CCC Conservationist Cedar Long. She led her crew of 14 Corpsmembers from the CCC Ukiah Center in doing the grueling task of hiking out - on foot - the miles of fire hose used by USFS crews as flames surged south of Highway 36 between Red Bluff and Dinsmore.

Her crew was also tasked with preserving the historic Post Creek Guard Station lookout cabin by doing what's called a structure wrap - literally wrapping the building from baseboard to chimney in foil.

"These are 18- to 25-year-olds doing this work. It's on-the-job training for the Corpsmembers, and an experience they will remember forever," Long said - an experience that can lead to a career.

Long added that the CCC's work that doesn't necessarily make the evening news, but does make a huge impact on both the young Corpsmembers and local communities.

Back at the August Complex basecamp, Falaschi takes a breather from her 16-hour day. She finds comfort in knowing her hard work is helping the fight against flames consuming wildland, property and, sadly, lives.

"You're doing it for yourself. You're doing it for the firefighters. You're doing it for the community. You're doing it for California. We live here; you gotta make it a great place to be," she said.

Visit www.ccc.ca.gov to learn more about the California Conservation Corps.



# Made for more next steps



#### Meet our Redwood Medical primary care team



Erica Baumker, PNF Pediatrics





Family Medicine



John Glyer, MD Family Medicine



Claudia Petruncio, DO Internal Medicine



Andrea

McCullough, MD

Family Medici

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