

Thursday, October 15, 2020

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

Opinions, thoughts and thank you
letters from our readers

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

	9	5	1		2			
				6			7	
								3
	7				9		1	2
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AUTUMN WORD SEARCH																			
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APPLES	CROPS	LEAVES	SCARECROW
AUTUMN	EQUINOX	MAZE	SCARVES
CIDER	FOOTBALL	OCTOBER	SCHOOL
CINNAMON	GOURDS	PUMPKIN	SEPTEMBER
COOL	HARVEST	RAKE	SQUIRREL
CRISP	LEAF BLOWER	ROAD TRIP	TREES

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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		47	48					49				50	51	52
53						54				55	56			
57											58			
59						60					61			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Battered corners: dog-___
6. ___ Mater: one's school
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
41. Make less dense
43. Derogatory term for a country native
45. Pike and pickerel genus
46. Important in respiration and other biochemical

reactions (abbr.)

47. Belgian city
49. 'The Joy Luck Club' author
50. Essence of 'Aloha'
53. Suggestions
57. One who overindulges
58. Expression
59. Maize dough
60. Make into leather
61. British noblemen

CLUES DOWN

1. One of two or more people or things
2. Small, deerlike water buffalo
3. Part of a ladder
4. Unit of work
5. Patriotic women
6. Fragrant essential oil
7. Aggressive, uncouth man
8. One thousandth of an inch
9. Brisk and cheerful readiness
10. Serving no practical purpose
11. Prevent from going forward
12. Camera part
13. Former CIA
16. Colorless, odorless gas
18. Long division of time
22. Atomic #73

HOW TO
SUDOKU

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

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

October 5 to October 11

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **158 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

October 5

7:38 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

11:48 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

6:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of South Main Street and East Oak Street.

11:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of North Main Street and Sherwood Road.

October 6

10:08 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of North Main Street.

11:54 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of Laurel Street.

4:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

4:37 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

6:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of Fort Bragg Road.

8:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

October 7

12:59 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

1:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:32 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Central Street and South Street.

5:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1300 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

7:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

7:48 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

October 8

10:19 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of School Street.

3:02 pm: Officers responded to a report

of harassment in the 300 block of Penn Street.

5:33 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

October 9

10:42 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of Shell Lane.

4:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

5:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:50 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

10:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of School Street.

October 10

3:37 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

10:17 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of South Main Street and East Valley Street.

2:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Mill Creek Drive.

9:41 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and South Main Street.

October 11

12:55 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 200 block of School Street.

1:10 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Willow Lane and Baechtel Road.

1:41 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of School Street.

1:54 pm: COHN, Kyle Andrew (47) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of failure to appear.

2:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

5:02 pm: MILER, Eldon Gregory (44) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Restraining Order).

7:37 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.

The rest of
Resigns

From Page 1

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, the people of Willits, the service you all deserve."

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.



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 Howard Memorial Hospital as taste testers of the prepared dishes.

On Tuesday, October 6, Willits Weekly visited one of the classes. 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.

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 figure out how to make the food taste

Read the rest of
Cooking

Over on Page 9



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.



SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
707-303-3456
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Burton Jemigan
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you want to be included in
this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

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 trick-or-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 shelter-in-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

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 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.qudio.com/event/mlt.

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




Nov. 7, 14 and 21, 2020

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




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

If the pandemic has directly impacted your ability to pay for housing, food, or utilities, call NCO!



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.



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>
Meeting ID: 825 2830 2905 - Passcode: 144013

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

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166 SOUTH MAIN ST



10AM - 8:30PM
MON - SAT

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www.NorCalQuote.com • rcantua@farmersagent.com

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Willits man missing

Below: James Andrew Whetstone, 69, of Willits is missing.

Submitted by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

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

He was last seen on October 9, 2020 at 8:30 am at the family residence located in the 1500 block of Valley Road in Willits.

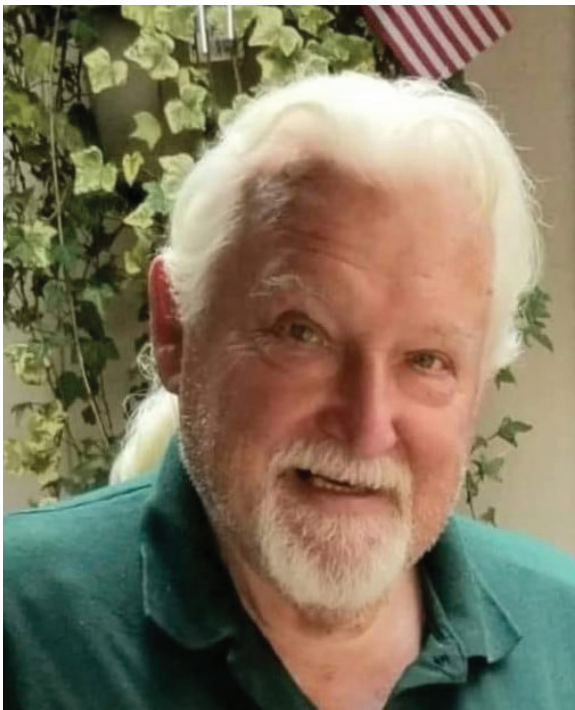
He is believed to have either walked away or received a ride from someone in a vehicle, although that is not his usual behavior.

He is described as a 69-year-old male, standing 5 feet, 11 inches tall, and weighing 250 pounds. He has blue eyes and shoulder-length gray hair that he usually wears in a ponytail.

He was last seen wearing a gray jacket, blue jeans [or black sweatpants, as per his daughter] and black boots. He is reportedly in good physical health for his age.

Anyone with information about James Andrew Whetstone's current whereabouts is urged to contact the Sheriff's Office by calling 707-463-4086.

MCOS Case# 2020-25082



Halloween fun from Willits Community Theatre

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

For some lively fun and scary in-home Halloween entertainment, Willits Community Theatre will present the hit murder comedy, "Death by Golf," for online streaming Saturday, October 31. Directed by drama-veteran Phaedra Swearingin, this hilarious spoof unfolds when an escaped convict, an anxious bride, a scheming new husband, and a suspicious attorney all convene with competing agendas at scrappy Grandpa's house.

The lively combination of uproarious comedy 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 Kathy Vellis.

Little does everyone realize, the stakes are higher than any of them can even imagine. As the suspense



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

Photo by Phaedra Swearingin

mounts and the nutty violence intensifies, Ashley the newlywed slips into an increasing hysteria, while Muriel the attorney discovers the murderer's evil agenda, and Grandpa, drawing upon an unexpected hidden reserve of inner strength, gets around to fine-tuning his stroke. The resulting combination of innocent frolic and deadly consequences serves up a million reasons for murder and just as many laughs – for perfectly spooky Halloween entertainment.



"Death by Golf" by playwright Gregg Kreutz is presented as a staged reading in two acts. 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.

Willits Beautification


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



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.



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



Friday, November 6, 2020
Time: 4pm-6pm
Tickets: \$60.00 Dinner includes one whole Tri-tip, BBQ Beans, Caesar Salad, Fresh Loaf Of Emandal Bread, 4 cookies, and a flower from Flowers By Annette.
**See any Boosters Officer or Member, or tickets also available at Cats Meow.
Covid Health & Safety Measures will be in practice. Pick up drive through at the WHS Ag Farm.



OBITUARY |

Edith Nixon

Edith Marie Nixon, 86, of Covelo, passed away peacefully on 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 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 quilting, 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 Fremont, 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.



Above, left: Tim Gregory takes a last look at what 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.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Below: A burned-out vehicle sits on the edge of the property.



LEGAL NOTICES

WW288
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2020-F0461
The following company is doing business as Elk Creek General Engineering, 30660 N HWY 101, Willits, CA 95490 / mailing address: 30660 N HWY 101, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Kara Garmann, 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 Garmann
Publication dates: 09/24, 10/01, 10/8 and 10/15/2020

WW289
Fictitious Business Name Statement
2020-F0439
The following company is doing business as Bigfoot Fab, 4800 Hearst Willits Road, Willits, CA 95490.
Registered owner: Tony Gera, 4800 Hearst Willits Road, Willits, CA 95490.
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 1, 2020.
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 2, 2020.
/s/ Tony Gera
Publication dates: 10/01, 10/8, 10/15 and 10/22/2020



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/human-resources

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104 W. Mendocino, Willits

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



Tom Wake Plumbing

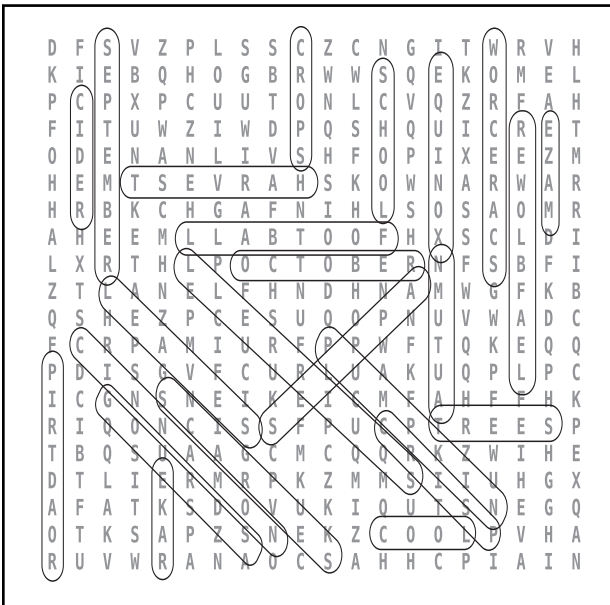
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The rest of Cooking | From Page 5

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 on Tuesday, October 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. You can sign up online at www.tinyurl.com/y/3ja4kgx.

To find out more information about Herby's classes, email her at anna.herby@ah.org.

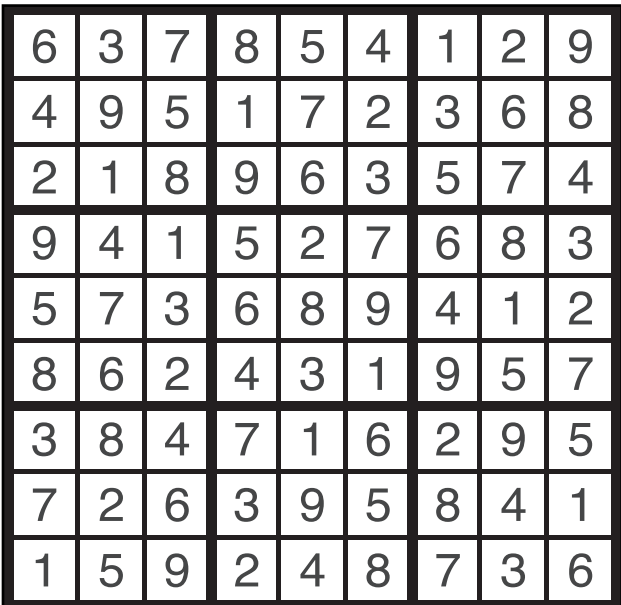
To learn more about the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine and the Food for Life program, visit www.pcrm.org.

The rest of Fire | From Page 8

where I hoped it wouldn't burn. I only grabbed a few things, money, papers, a box of precious stuff, papers mostly. There were things I didn't think about that I wish I had, the djembe, the digeridoo, my guitar. I didn't even think of them. They were further away out of my field of vision. I was very focused on doing what I had to do to stay alive."

Gregory has no plans to ever return. It is not his property, and the future of the place and his own future are uncertain, although he has a place to stay in Golden Rule, for now. The investigation as to the actual cause of the fire is continuing, and the results will not be known for some time as the process is long and detailed with many possibilities that need to be checked off prior to publishing a determination.

The privilege and inherent danger of residing in the place of beauty that is Northern California has never been so evident to the people of Willits and Brooktrails as it has this season, a season that is not quite over, but hopefully without further local incident. The genius loci is sacred but not entirely safe.



CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help

Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring. \$50/hr. Call Tony (707) 510-5895. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tip>

Cottage for Sale

In town, a 2-bedroom cottage for sale. \$178,000. Call 459-9228.

Firewood For Sale

Firewood for sale. 1 true cord of 16 inch dry firewood, \$200 and up. Will deliver. Call: 459-2868.

Freezer Empty? We can help!

Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

Help Wanted

Cashier/Clerk: Merchandise Processor/ Stocker. Part Time (20 hours per week). Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Willits Senior Center Thrift Store. Call 459-6826

Help Wanted

Part-time position in Willits nonprofit business. Applicant must have current California driver's license, be able to lift 50 pounds, drug and alcohol free, must be tolerant and compassionate. Please call 459-3333

Help Wanted

I need a yard person who knows how to trim bushes. 459-2976.

Help Wanted

Needed on all handyman for property management company 707-459-4599.

Keith's Structural Repair

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

RV/Trailer Space for Rent

Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 510-5895. See at <http://www.oakvine.net/tip>

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I'll be back to help you with your Alterations and Sewing Needs when it is safe to do so.

Barbara the Seamstress

Virtual Spiritual Exploration

To learn more about classes and topics that may interest you visit: <https://www.meetup.com/Lake-Mendocino-Counties-Spiritual-Explorers/> Join us on Zoom or via telephone Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8 pm, September 2 through October 28, 2020. Questions? Call (952) 999-2288.

Wanted: Meals on Wheels

Volunteer Drivers

As demand for home-delivered meals has increased due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, the Willits Senior Center is looking for another Meals on Wheels volunteer driver and a substitute driver: the job takes about 3.5 hours to complete. If you're interested in joining the team, call Deb Holcomb at 459-6826.

Willits Food Bank Open

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

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

Bryan 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 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. I 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 after 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. I 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.

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 grade-level chair, leadership member, site council representative, PTO parent. I coached Odyssey of the Mind for 12 years, with elementary and middle school teams

competing at regional and state level. I also served as WTA site representative and as negotiator for the WTA bargaining committee.

Alex Bowlds: I've lived here since age 5. I attended 12 years of public school here, graduating in 1977 from WHS. Though no longer a coach, I help Coach Brian Bowles with his wrestling program at every opportunity. I remain involved in the CTE programs at WHS, providing support whenever and wherever needed by helping bring new tools and technology into the programs. I continue to assist with projects, primarily at the high school whenever asked.

Tracey Douglas: I have lived in the school district for 3 1/3 years. Last year an additional kindergarten teacher was needed three days before the school year started. I was asked if I would be willing to come out of retirement to teach that class for the year. I said I'd be happy to take on that assignment because I knew that if I didn't, the children would end up having subs for the year. Needless to say, that would have been less than optimal for the children. It was a great year!

State regulation currently requires remote education in Mendocino 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?

Dianne McNeal: This year has been a difficult one filled with anxiety and uncertainty as we navigate life in a global pandemic. WUSD must follow the federal, state, and public health guidelines for a safe return to in-person instruction. Any safety plan must be made available to the community through a district-wide bilingual mailing, posting to school websites, and holding listening sessions to gather feedback on the plan from the whole community. Safety measures must be developed in collaboration with WUSD administration, school board membership, the WTA and CSEA, and the Willits community.

Alex Bowlds: Returning to the classroom must be based on the safety of all stakeholders. Remote education is a stopgap measure. It affects the community negatively in many ways. However, going back too soon will put many people in our community at risk. I expect a return will start with a hybrid model, that will return to a normal classroom once a vaccine has been distributed. I want to return to a classroom model as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then, I support whatever measures are needed to make distance education as successful as possible

Tracey Douglas: The only responsible way to approach education during COVID is to listen to and follow the science. Everyone is susceptible to getting, spreading, dying, or having long-term side effects from contracting COVID, and our educators, children, and families should not be put at risk. We must continue to be conservative, and follow the guidelines put forth by the state. I would not support reopening schools until it is completely safe to do so, and children and staff can be together, play together, share materials, hug each other, etc. while not putting anyone at risk of contracting this virus.

Bryan Mann: The children in our community rely on school to be a safe and stable place in their lives. We need to return them to that educational environment as soon as possible; however the situation we are faced with is unprecedented in history and changing daily. When the state guidelines deem things safe, the schools will need to give families and staff time to prepare to transition back successfully. I look forward to working with other informed people with diversified viewpoints on how to go about restoring normal campus life in a manner that will be safe for everyone involved.

Do you support Measure I, the school bond measure on the November ballot, which is primarily intended to finance fixing and repairing school buildings? Why or why not?

Alex Bowlds: Yes. For the past 10 years, I've witnessed the decline of our facilities. The last bond issue provided some good things, but failed to fix what was already wrong. They built the band room at Baechtel, paving at Brookside, CTE and library remodels at WHS, and solar panels. These were good, but they missed the mark. They didn't fix the roofs or HVAC systems throughout the district, or the paving at Blosser or WHS. These projects are beyond the capabilities of the district budget without impacting teacher/salt salaries and educational programs. Measure I will ONLY pay for repairs.

Tracey Douglas: I strongly support Measure I. District facilities are in a

desperate stage of disrepair. Passage of Measure I will provide the district with a revenue stream that will be used to address those issues.

Bryan Mann: I support Measure I. I will be candid, as a property owner I don't like the idea of higher taxes. However, this is the only means by which the state of California allows us to fund the necessary repairs to our aging facilities. We are on the verge of some very serious issues with the failing systems in many of our district buildings. We have roofs that are way over their life expectancy, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and fire alarm systems that are outdated and failing. We do not have years to wait and find alternate funding.

Dianne McNeal: Now is not the time for Measure I, because of the economic stress that our nation and community is experiencing due to the triple threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment, and ongoing climate change. Money is tight in most households. We are currently paying back the 2010 bond, and if Measure I were to pass, taxpayers would be further burdened in an already uncertain time.

Are there any other issues that you think are key issues for the Willits Unified School District to be addressing at this time?

Tracey Douglas: In addition to addressing the safety and health of our students, and the condition of our decaying facilities, compensation and benefit packages for WUSD employees must also be addressed. Currently the district is not offering competitive compensation and benefit packages to district employees. Retaining and hiring highly qualified professionals is essential to the success of our students.

Bryan Mann: This is everyone's first time at distance learning, and there was very little time to prepare. WUSD staff has done a remarkable job given the circumstances. However, our students have suffered a gap in their educational and social/emotional needs as a result of being separated from their teachers and peers during COVID-19. We have to first analyze how much learning was lost and, then, formulate a plan to help them recover the learning loss they have experienced during this time.

Dianne McNeal: Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the educational community responded to the unprecedented challenges of the crisis by organizing resources and adjusting to distance learning with dedication and creativity. The pandemic increased long-standing health, economic, and educational disparities. Equity and equality are not the same thing. As a school board, we need to ensure all students are treated with equity and have access to the resources that they need. Those students who require additional supports to be able to access educational opportunities must be provided with them. As a district, we need to work to ensure all children have equity of access.

Alex Bowlds: There are many elements to providing a quality education for our students. First and foremost of them is the hiring and retention of high-quality teachers and staff. Competition with other schools and private industry that pay more, or have better benefit packages, makes it difficult to attract and keep high-quality teachers. Our efforts to increase beginning teacher salaries have helped, but it isn't enough. We need legislative help, because California schools rank 39th in K-12 spending.

Is there anything else you would like the community to know about you with respect to being a school board member?

Bryan Mann: When I am elected I will be a voice for all parties which includes students, parents, teachers, and staff. My goal is to work together with everyone involved to be an advocate for our students' success. I want to see every girl and boy in this district reach their highest possible potential and have a great overall school experience while doing it. I commit to doing everything in my power to see that every student in our district has every need met and gets the best educational experience available. Teachers, students, parents, and staff your voice will be heard.

Dianne McNeal: Willits is an amazing place to live and raise a family. As a retired teacher and community member, I know the challenges that our community and our schools face. If elected, I will serve our community and focus on the best interests of our students and teachers. I will work to ensure that our schools improve and our students are well-prepared to achieve their goals after high school graduation. I would sincerely appreciate the opportunity serve the community as a trustee for Willits Unified School District.

Alex Bowlds: It is a privilege, and a challenge to serve as a trustee on the Willits Unified School Board. We are

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.

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

I know we would all like it if we could find an alternate source of funding for school repairs – maybe money from the state 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

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 industry that pay more, or have better benefit packages, makes it difficult to attract and keep high-quality teachers. Our efforts to increase beginning teacher salaries have helped, but it isn't enough. We need legislative help, because California schools rank 39th in K-12 spending.

• 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.



Sonoma Clean Power offers energy-efficiency incentives for builders

Submitted by Sonoma Clean Power

Sonoma Clean Power's Advanced Energy Build program is powering new home construction in Sonoma and Mendocino counties with cash incentives and technical guidance for builders.

Through Advanced Energy Build, new development projects can earn up to \$4,500 per housing unit for energy efficiency and resiliency features. Low-income single-family homes, multifamily housing, and projects that add accessory dwelling units are eligible for increased incentive amounts. The flexible incentive packages are designed to assist builders with the costs associated with building electric-ready and all-electric homes.

All-electric construction is still a fairly new practice in the housing industry. However, it has become more prevalent in recent years due to California's ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals, the increase of efficiency in electric appliances like heat pumps and induction cooktops, and customer demand for smart appliances.

"What we see with homes that are built without gas, or very little dependence on gas, is that they not only emit less pollution, but they also save their occupants an average of \$650 annually on their utility bills and are cost-neutral to build. With new developments, we have an opportunity to create healthier indoor environments for people to live in, while also helping them save money on their overall living expenses," says Scott Salyer, 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.

Similarly, Advanced Energy 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 with a monthly bill credit for allowing their smart devices to serve as a resource in times of stress on the electricity grid.

As both Sonoma and Mendocino counties work to address the need for more housing, SCP hopes that Advanced Energy Build will encourage builders to adopt high-performance standards and increase the number of resilient, efficient homes available to residents in the area.

SCP will work closely with builders to ensure their designs qualify for the program incentives and educate the future homeowners on the benefits of their new, energy-efficient appliances.

In addition to the program, SCP plans to offer trainings and classes to contractors on clean energy technologies and all-electric building practices through its Advanced Energy Center to help smooth the local transition toward building electrification. For more information, visit www.sonomacleanpower.org/programs/advanced-energy-center.

For more information, builders can email SCP at programs@sonomacleanpower.org or visit www.sonomacleanpower.org/programs/advanced-energy-build.

About Sonoma Clean Power

Sonoma Clean Power is the public electricity provider for Sonoma and Mendocino counties. SCP first began service in 2014 as California's second Community Choice Aggregator and since then has become a model for community-choice programs throughout the state. SCP provides electricity generated by cleaner sources 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.

MCHC Health Centers welcomes Dr. Amit Mehta

Submitted by MCHC Health Centers

After working as a hospitalist in Willits for the past two years, board-certified internal-medicine physician Dr. Amit Mehta has joined MCHC Health Centers as a primary-care physician and is currently accepting new patients. He is pleased to move into prevention and outpatient care where he can build long-term relationships with patients.

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."

Often, by the time patients require hospital care, they have been experiencing the negative effects of chronic medical conditions for months or even years. In the hospital, Mehta saw patients with high blood pressure, obesity, uncontrolled diabetes, substance-use disorder, and other conditions that led to serious complications. After he cared for them, many asked if they could see him for follow-up care, but he did not have an outpatient practice. Now he does. In fact, he will spend all of his professional time and energy in an outpatient setting.

His approach to medicine is both practical and deeply compassionate. He works with patients to help them become more attuned to their bodies and to the social and emotional influences that can lead to unhealthy behaviors. He appreciates MCHC Health Centers' integrated approach to health care, where medical and behavioral health professionals work collaboratively to serve their patients.

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

• "Dr. Mehta treated me with kindness, compassion, and above-and-beyond professionalism ... He did not stop until he found what was wrong with me and even stayed late to help make sure I got needed treatment."

• "Dr. Mehta listened to me and trusted me to know my body, and he celebrated with me when I began to recover."

• "Thank you to Dr. Mehta, whose kindness, compassion, and badass doctor skills got me back on my feet."

In meeting a doctor as dedicated as Mehta, you might assume he always wanted to be a doctor. Not so in this case. If not for his mother, Mehta would never have entered this profession he loves. In

Library announces new K-12 databases

Submitted by the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

The Mendocino County Library is now providing access to multiple 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 2018 California State budget signed by Gov. Jerry Brown with the goal of designing a statewide collection of online content to aid all California students with their educational needs.

These resources, frequently referred to as "library databases," provide teachers and students with an immense amount of online books, scientific research, newspaper articles, photos, and videos -- all aligned with the curriculum that California has created for its schools.

A sampling of the educational platforms include:

• Britannica School: Elementary, Middle, and High School

• Britannica Escolar (in Spanish for K-8)

• ProQuest Issue Researcher

• ProQuest Schools & Educators Complete

• ProQuest eLibrary

• TeachingBooks – Book and Author Resources

• BookConnections Children's, Teen, Family Resources

• Recursos de Lectura para Jovenes y Familias

To access these resources, or for more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org/online-resources/articles-databases/proquest or contact your local branch or the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency at 234-2873.

New Delhi, the capital of India and Mehta's hometown, high school students take exams after their sophomore year to determine which career options will be available to them. Mehta scored at the highest level, opening the door to medicine, and although he had planned to become an engineer like his father, his 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 University on scholarship. After this introduction to the 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. 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, first-served 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.

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.

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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.mendoanimalsshelter.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.mendoanimalsshelter.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. Oops! We decided to keep her name. This beautiful gal is around 2 years old and weighs about 8 pounds.



Mama Cindy is ready to find her perfect match. She is up to date on vaccines, micro-chipped, 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 yours at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsmc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsmc.org. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.



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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.com.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsmc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsmc.org. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.



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The rest of Equity | From Page 1

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:

- Have lived within a five-mile radius of the location of raids conducted by the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting program;
- Has a parent, sibling or child who

was arrested for or convicted of the sale, possession, use, manufacture or cultivation of cannabis (including as a juvenile);

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;

e. Has become homeless or suffered a loss of housing as a result of cannabis enforcement.

The local equity program manual goes on to describe the kinds of services which are offered by the program. They include: "Waiver of county fees for cannabis-related permits, including fees for Application, Assistance Meetings of up to four hours with the Cannabis Program of the Department of Planning & Building Services."

Also available: "Grants for purposes of assuring compliance with regulatory 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 address the following activities including, but not limited to:

- Water storage for irrigation during forbearance periods of surface water diversion required by state or local regulations;
- Remediation and relocation of cannabis facilities located within streamside setbacks required by state or local regulation;
- 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.
- Road remediation, watershed mitigation, 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 cannabis cooperatives."

The rest of Expands | From Page 1

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 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 Ag, 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)

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 type of land that is zoned Industrial.

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 5 acres in size, or larger, may apply for and be granted

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

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

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

Home Meal Delivery

Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery; \$5 per meal, Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits. Can you volunteer as

The rest of Let's get 'red' | From Page 1

Twenty-five counties are now in the red tier; 11 are in the orange tier; and eight are in the yellow tier. The eight counties that are in the yellow tier are Siskiyou, Humboldt, Trinity, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra, Alpine and Mariposa.

To find out more about the "Blueprint for a Safe Economy," and how the State of California is monitoring county COVID statistics, visit www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19CountyMonitoringOverview.aspx

Local COVID update

Since the first case that was confirmed in the county on March 19, Mendocino County has confirmed a total of 1,055 cases of the disease. Of that number, 985 have been released from isolation.

As of Tuesday evening, the county currently has 49 confirmed active cases of COVID-19. Of that number, 44 are being kept in isolation, five are in local hospitals, and none are in an intensive care unit, either in or out of the county. A

The rest of Treats | From Page 1

turmoil with daily social distancing, kids doing classes through Zoom, and the cancellation of many holidays, birthdays, and other social gatherings. Many members within both Fire Departments feel that it is necessary and within the best interest of the mental, emotional and social health of the community's children to host this modified Halloween Trunk or Treat Event.

How: Any candy donated to or purchased by the Fire Departments must remain in their original bags from the store.

Firefighters will sanitize the bags prior to opening the bags. The candy will be evenly distributed into candy bags that the fire departments have purchased. Vehicles will be directed to a lane to receive the Trunk or Treat bags by firefighters. Everyone must remain in their vehicles and, when pulling up to the candy table, inform the firefighter of how many children are in the vehicle, receive their bags of candy, and enjoy the decorations that others may have put out.

permit types Specialty Outdoor, Specialty Mixed-Light Tier 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 1 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. "I 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

Dramatic fire-retardant drops and 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

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 Walgreens 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.



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