Willits fire district up to the challenges

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

In this day and age of peril, risk, and wondering what else could possibly go wrong, it's nice to know Willits' own first responders, the Little Lake Fire Protection District, is running smoothly and up to the challenges.

That's a takeaway from the fire district's October board of directors meeting.

Jobs well done at fires big and small, construction of the new firehouse well underway, new equipment in hand and planned, new recruits, and good news on the money front.

Read the rest of Challenges

Over on Page 11

County buys Ukiah motel for homeless

housing

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The board of supervisors voted unanimously at their October 20 meeting to authorize the purchase of the Best Western Inn, located at 555 South Orchard Drive in Ukiah, for the purpose of converting it into a housing complex for marginalized populations.

According to Health and Human Services Senior Program Manager Megan Van Sant, the 56-unit former motel will soon be converted into housing for homeless people, veterans, seniors, small families, people at high risk of contracting COVID-19, and people at high risk of suffering from mental illness.

 $\begin{matrix} \text{Read the rest of} \\ \textbf{Housing} \end{matrix} \bigg]$

Over on Page 11

2 die in Covelo crash

Submitted by CHP, Garberville

On Sunday, October 25 at approximately 11:46 pm, an adult female was driving a Toyota Tacoma northbound on Howard Street in Covelo, north of SR-162, at a high rate of speed,

There was an adult male in the front passenger seat and an adult female in the rear seat. For reasons still under investigation, the female drove the Toyota off the east roadway edge of Howard Street, through a wood fence prior to colliding with a tree.

 $\begin{matrix} \text{Read the rest of} \\ \textbf{Crash} \end{matrix} \Big]$

Over on Page 11



A Monster of a Vote

Don't get scared: Halloween is this Saturday, October 31 & Election Day is Tuesday, November 3!

Halloween and voting always go hand-in-hand on the calendar, but this year it feels all the more connected, with all the ghouls and goblins waiting to hear the outcome of this monumental 2020 election.

The Mendocino County Elections Office has announced special Saturday hours this pre-Election Day weekend, from 9 am to 3 pm on Halloween, October 31, to offer help to voters. The office is located at the county Administration Center, 501 Low Gap Road, room 1020, in Ukiah.

"We will be answering your phone calls, issuing ballots, accepting your voted ballots, and allowing voters to vote in our office," said Mendocino County Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolomie.

"We will also offer conditional voter registration / voting for voters not registered in Mendocino County. If you have any questions, please call our office at 707-234-6819."

Because the Admin Center is closed on the weekends, Bartolomie asks those who come by on Saturday to call the voter office after arriving, 707-234-6819, so staffers can come let you in.

Drop your mail-in ballot off early at the official ballot box outside Willits City Hall, or bring your mail-in ballot to the polls on Election Day, November 3, at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street, or Brooktrails Community Center, 24850 Birch Street.

– Maureen Jennison





Above, left: Judy Morgan, Don Rowe and Charlie Shuman of the American Red Cross are prepared with plenty of reading materials. Above, right: The FEMA trailer will remain in Willits through Thursday, October 29, 8 am to 5 pm, to assist people with losses from the Oak Fire

Disaster Recovery

Local Assistance Center event in Willits hosts county, state and federal agencies offering aid and advice for those affected by fire or COVID-19

This year has been particularly difficult on the residents of Willits and surrounding areas. The Oak Fire devastated those living in its path and caused hundreds to be uprooted for at least four days in September. The smoke and ash affected everyone, especially those with asthma or other

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

respiratory complications.

The COVID-19 pandemic still continues, creating a unique brand of challenges for everyone, not just

those who have contracted the disease or their caregivers. Loss and obstacles have permeated the life that residents of the Little Lake Valley have become used to for many years.

Those with catastrophic losses from the fires and those who have been markedly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic sometimes feel helpless. However, they are not without help from those whose job and passion it is to offer them assistance and hopefully put them on the path to recovery.

As evidenced by Mendocino County's Local Assistance Center event on Monday, October 26, in the parking lot of the Willits Library, there are many county, state and federal entities with the mandate of helping those who have suffered losses or are having trouble coping with the new roadblocks to a contented, peaceful and healthy life. This was a gathering of about a dozen of these agencies, offering assistance and advice.

Included among the participants was the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which brought one

of their trailers that will be in residence in Willits through Thurday, October 29, 8 am to 5 pm. Jim Thacker, FEMA division supervisor, who is acting as Mendocino County's point-of-contact, stated: "One thing we're looking at is uninsured losses. People can also call FEMA at our toll-free number, 1-800-621-3362, or you can actually register online, www.fema.gov.

"We have a place on the site," continued Thacker, "where you can track the progress of your case. It's a good program for the things that you've lost, your home, etc. There's a whole shopping list. The best thing to do is call and go over in detail all the things that would pertain to the case. We're always open to coming back if the state requests it."

Thacker was impressed by the gathering of agencies. "I see the county has brought a lot of different departments," he said, "that would help with the folks as well. Actually, this is one of the better setups I've seen in my career. You've got all of the joint forces together. It's like a one-stop shop."

The Local Assistance Center was set up under the guidance of the Mendocino County Disaster Recovery Team, an entity which was created after the 2017 fires. "We also have the pandemic and now the two fires, the Oak and the August Complex," commented Darcie Antle, deputy CEO and Disaster Recovery director for the County of Mendocino.

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

County moves to red COVID tier

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

As of Tuesday, October 28, Mendocino County has been waved through to the "red tier" in California's Blueprint for a Safe Economy COVID-19 model, loosening up restrictions on local businesses.

Counties in the "purple" tier, where Mendocino County was categorized until Tuesday, have "widespread" occurrence of COVID-19, according to the tier system. Under the red tier, the COVID numbers are considered improved, but still "substantial."

Woo-hoo! Red!

Over on Page 10

Analysis:

Supes differ on weed deadlock

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The country's cannabis hoc committee's negotiations California Department of Food and Agriculture appear to have entered a crucial phase. According to Third District Supervisor Haschak, John negotiations have gotten tough. Both sides have taken a firm position, and both sides remain well separated from reaching agreement.

In addition, one of the ad hoc's members, Fifth District Supervisor Ted

 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Read the rest of} \\ \textbf{Deadlock} \end{bmatrix}$

Over on Page 10

Election 2020 notes

Submitted by the Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder's Office

This election is the kind of election we have never seen before. Polling places will not be what we are used to.

Voters who plan to vote at the polls this year, should bring their mail (vote-by-mail) ballot and envelope with them. If you arrive at the polls without your vote-by-mail ballot and envelope, you will have to vote provisionally, which requires filling out forms additional and placing the ballot in a "Special Pink" (provisional) envelope that is processed

Read the rest of **Election**

Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Last June I visited my husband's grave on Father's Day. Ironically, his nemesis — the dreaded poison oak — was slowly making its way downhill and most certainly would have encroached over his grave if left unchecked.

Highly allergic myself, I wrote a brief letter to Cemetery of the Redwoods asking if they could remove the poison oak. I thought no more about it because of the pandemic restrictions. Maybe all the workers had to be furloughed, or their hours scaled way back. I didn't know.

We sometimes have a hair-trigger when it comes to criticizing an agency but just never seem to get around to praising someone for a job well done. I visited his grave today on what would have been his 81st birthday. Imagine my surprise to find all of the poison oak gone.

I don't know who to thank, but they know who they are so I'll just say, "Thank you, Cemetery of the Redwoods workers." I'm delighted.

Gail Richards, Willits

Honoring traditions

To the Editor:

In olden times, much of Europe celebrated the night of what we call Halloween on October 31. Each tribe or nation had its own ways, but this was a time to remember the dead and the ancestors, to acknowledge the dark of life the need for sacrifice, the mystery of what lies beyond, and to prepare for the lean time of Winter.

Halloween, Dia de Muertos, All Souls and All Saints, and Samhain, the Celtic new year, all come from these roots.

Most of us will not be celebrating as usual this year, so I offer the method below as a simple way to honor these traditions. It requires, at most two candles – one white and read these words aloud:

(while lighting the black candle): Dark as night and twice as black This ebon candle burns its flame Consuming all, and taking back Night and death, fear and shame. Darkly burn with sallow light Taper black as night below. Grow you short this autumn night Take sorrow with you when you go.

(while lighting the white candle):

White candle flame, glow warm and bright, A token of the turning year. Sacred fire, gift of light Bring honor, faith and friendship here. In this night of dark recall, Of loved ones lost and dreadful dreaming Your flame means love and hope to all Who work the web of life's reweaving

Lila Ryan, Willits

Pine Mountain cell tower

Recently the Friends and Neighbors of Pine Mountain came together to file an appeal to the Board of Supervisors in regards to the Planning Commission's decision to let AT&T place a 143-foot mega cell tower on Pine Mountain. We paid a good sum of money for the opportunity to present

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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

Volume 8, Number 377

3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047

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

> Ad inquiries: call 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

our case to the BOS, and we were given 20 minutes to do

We provided the BOS with documented evidence that AT&T had provided inaccurate information to our county commissioners that was directly used by the Planning Commission to base their decision of approval.

This evidence included a very confusing spreadsheet in which AT&T had manipulated the numbers of public comments to make it seem as though the majority of people opposed to this project lived out of the area. This was not the case! Over 200 comments were submitted on this issue. Of these comments more than 75 percent were opposed to placing this tower on Pine Mountain.

The commissioners had never seen so many public comments on a particular issue. The commissioners decided to deny the approval of this tower due to overwhelming opposition. In the next meeting they were fully expected to vote unanimously to approve the denial that was drafted by the county counsel.

This did not happen. Two out of three of the commissioners that had read all of the public comments were not present. One of which recused herself because she had previously stated that due to such a massive outpouring of public comments we should find a way to have an open meeting on this issue. Because this was not possible she said she would just vote no.

County counsel instructed the commissioner to recuse herself due to bias. As stated by our lawyer in our presentation to the BOS, this was not bias. I should note at this time that this commissioner has approved many cell

During the second meeting the commissioners made reference to, including directly quoting numbers from, the misleading spreadsheet that had been submitted by AT&T. For an accurate version of the public comments including every issue and concern brought before the Planning one black – or at least, the ability to imagine them as you Commission by the public see the appeal presentation part

> AT&T also gave inaccurate information to the commissioners about the numbers of parcels this tower would serve. According to them the tower would supply 450 parcels with coverage, there are only around 260 parcels on Pine Mountain and a large number of them were opposed to this project.(see parcel map provided by appellants in presentation and supporting documents).

> On the application for this tower AT&T states that there is insignificant seismic activity. We provided evidence of very significant activity in the tune of hundreds of earthquakes in the last year alone. (I'm sure all of Willits felt the quakes that rocked the valley on October 19, 2020). These quakes originated under Pine Mountain less than a mile from the tower site. This is a fire hazard.

> These are just some of the issues that were brought before the BOS. The biggest point that was completely disregarded by the supervisors was that 75 percent of the people who had submitted comments for this appeal were against the placement of this tower. I have never heard of a vote that took 75 percent to pass. Is this a democracy? Do our supervisors work for the people?

The supervisors did not address our concerns. The Friends and Neighbors of Pine Mountain spent the entire summer preparing to present our case. Hours and hours of volunteer time went into trying to bring out the truths of this matter. We had so much information there was simply no way to present it all in 20 minutes. We could only hope the supervisors would look into our supporting documents and review this matter carefully.

Looking back after the fact, I believe the BOS had already made up their minds before we had even presented our case. One supervisor cited his support for the tower due to letters from the sheriff and Little Lake Fire. These letters had been solicited and submitted by AT&T.

When we talked to the sheriff and Little Lake Fire they informed us that they had their own communication network and had no plans to utilize this tower. AT&T stated over and over that this tower would provide FirstNet services. Our county has already decided not to acquire FirstNet services due to expense.

The BOS refused to engage in any dialog when the chairman tried to bring our concerns to the forefront. With a simple call to vote each supervisor completely dismissed every single concern we had brought before them. Not even deeming it worthy of a response. One supervisor

For more information anyone may review these meetings and our presentation on YouTube. For all of our work and the facts of this matter visit the Mendocino County website (see agenda packet, item No. 4, for BOS meeting of

densely populated neighborhood.

I believe a great injustice has been done to the citizens of this county. This is my first interaction with the BOS. I had truly believed that if our supervisors had taken the time to analyze the data we provided for them, they would have little reason to approve this cell tower.

did not comment for the entire 2 hours of our agenda item except to say "Absolutely" to the approval of the tower.

After all of our hard work and many, many people coming together, after we paid for the right to be heard, the tower was passed unanimously with "absolutely" no comments

about our many concerns and overwhelming opposition to placing a mega cell tower right smack in the middle of our

These five people sit at the head of our county and make decisions for all of us. Upon observing the whole process, it became clear to me that the BOS are overloaded and simply do not have the time to give each agenda item the time and attention it deserves. It appeared to me that the supervisors were tired and wanted to get through our agenda item as quickly as possible.

This is a call to the people. We must find the time in our busy lives to monitor and have input in our local government. If we do not then they can simply do whatever they want. Why can a mega corporation like AT&T submit inaccurate information to our decision makers and not be

AT&T does not care about this county and the welfare of its people. They refuse to fix our land lines. In 2017 when the fires threatened Pine Mountain it was our land line that saved us when the cell towers failed the Willits valley. Wireless technology is unreliable with too many variables. We need a backup system.

After all was said and done our efforts only served to increase the height of the tower by 10 more feet. In order to do this the BOS (in a spur-of-the-moment decision) moved to amend the county's already existing ordinance to allow an even smaller setback from the tower than previously required. After all of our efforts, we were left with an instant tower that was trucked into place two days later.

My only recourse is to share this experience with the people of this county. In order to bring this case before the courts, we would need thousands of dollars. I appeal to the people of this county. If you take the time to review the facts and feel a great injustice has been served, please tell the supervisors. Anyone who wants to can comment at a supervisors meeting. I plan on speaking to them at the next meeting. What have I got to lose? This is my home.

This letter and these observations are my own. I do not represent the Friends and Neighbors of Pine Mountain. These are my opinions. The people of Pine Mountain are not anti-technology. A lot of us run entire businesses from our home guite successfully. We simply do not want a huge cell tower in the middle of our neighborhood. Why not put it on a remote ridgetop somewhere?

If you have read this far, thank you for your time. May the people of this county come together to create a true and ust future in these unprecedented times. As stated by the Dalai Lama, "only through discourse and dialog will we come together."

Maya Youngstrom, Willits

Methodist Church Gift Bazaar November 7

Willits United Methodist Church invites the public to their Gift Bazaar, on Saturday, November 7, from 9 am to 2 pm at 21551 Poplar Avenue.

All proceeds will be used to adopt a family at Christmas. Masks and social distancing will be in

Get a Willits Weekly subscription by filling out the form below and get weekly delivery to your home or business!





Above: Pete Swanton, owner of Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza, pulls a pizza out of the oven. Below:

Pizza Movie Night

Pete Swanton opens Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza, available Thursday through Saturday inside Main Street Music & Video

For those who have been craving a tasty, crispy thin-crust pizza, made in a real woodfired 800-plus degree oven, right in the middle of town, you are in luck. Pete Swanton's Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza, located inside Main Street Music & Video at 65 South Main Street, opens Thursday, October 29.

It will be open Thursdays through Saturdays, 4 to 8 pm, for now, with plans to open six days a week in the near future as well as expanding the hours to include lunch.

Further plans include rooftop dining, called "Pie in the Sky." Flying Dog Pizza, named after Swanton's terrier, Link, will offer full and personal-sized pizzas which can be created in less than 4 minutes. For those who like gluten-free crusts and / or vegan pizzas, there

Additionally, Swanton would like it to be known that Main Street Music & Video is back with hours 11 am to 8 pm daily, except Mondays. The new title of Swanton's business is Main Street Music & Video aka Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl.



PAID POLITICAL AD

WUSD

School Board

Taxes* | Investments | Insurance

Real Estate* | Payroll & Bookkeeping*

Nicholas Casagrande, EA

855.240.6606

675 S Main St, Willits, CA 95490

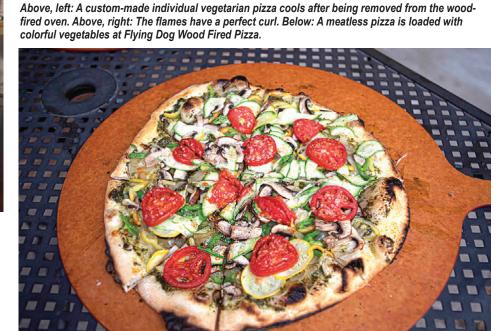
105 W Clay St, Ukiah, CA 95482

nicholas @nc financial group.com

nicholas.casagrande@ceterafs.com*

NC Financial Group

Cetera Financial Specialists LLC (doing insurance business in CA as CFGF







At top: A crispy thin-crust pizza steams in the 800 degree oven at Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza, located inside Main Street Music & Video. Above: A pizza finishes its baking.

on down

Photos by Mathew Caine



Drive Thru 8 Walk Up Meals Non

Seniors - \$7.00 niors (under age 55) - \$8.00 Menu - Oct. Week 5 Menu - Nov. Week 1 Thursday, Oct. 29 Monday, Nov. 2 Pork Chop with Onion Gravy Friday, Oct. 30 Tuesday, Nov. 3 Hot Dogs with Chili

Accepting donations to aide us in feeding seniors Sheltering in Place Please Visit —

Thursday, Nov. 5 Chicken & Dumplings Friday, Nov. 6 Country Fried Steak Fresh See's Candy

Wednesday, Nov. 4

LUNCHES:

For



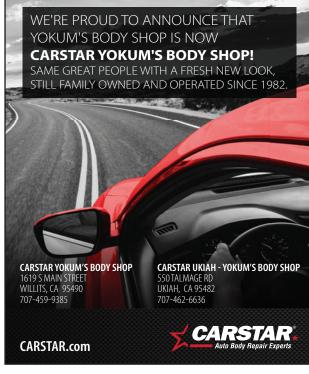


Saturday, Oct 31st

Store closes at 6pm

SPARETIME

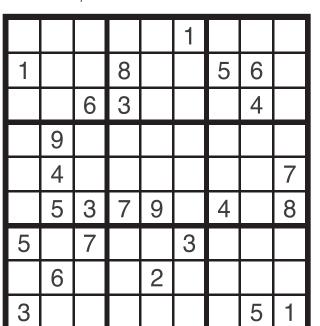
-GARDEN CENTER-



Justin Stephens, webmaste

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



M E D Z U I P E O O W P B Z M W F K D R

51. 'Family Guy' daughter

52. Irish mountain chain

54. Paired

56. Drinks

61. Skirts

60. Death notice

62. Fertility god

63. Where a curve

64. Red Sea port

67. The human foot

66. Leaver

68. Crash

2. Wings

7. Brews

12. Lasso

8. For each

9. Dictatorships

14. Tones down

3. French river

4. Internet device

5. Where Tony Bennett

6. Flowering shrub that

bears gooseberries

10. Slavic person in Saxony

11. Nobel laureate Shmuel

65. Mozambique seaport

CLUES DOWN

1. Excessively theatrical

17. Lunar period

21. Military elite

25. L.A. footballer

27. A satellite of Saturn

30. Obscure aspect of Sun

God and a group of

29. 'Cat Ballou' actor

32. Indicates the fare

35. Round Dutch cheese

asteroids

34. and feather

40. Relaxing place

43. Belgian city

42. Hit'an of Alaska

47. Organ of hearing

and balance

Asian people

49. Isolated Southeast

50. 'Power Rangers' villain

52. Yellow-fever mosquitos

57. Mother and wife of Uranus

53. Heavy cavalry sword

55. Laundry detergent

59. Stony waste matter

61. Helps you find places

56. A way to wait

58. Justly obtain

65. Oil company

37. Begat

26. Land plan

20. Leavened Indian bread

23. One thousandth of an inch

HALLOWEEN

HAUNTED

HOWLING

MACABRE

MIDNIGHT

MYSTERY

BROOMSTICK

CEMETERY

EERIE

FRIGHT

GHOUL

GOBLIN

AFRAID

ALIEN

APPARITION

AUTUMN

BAT

BIZARRE

63

CLUES ACROSS

15. Beloved Yankee great

17. Free from alcoholism

19. Entertains with song

25. Revolutions per minute

29. Woody climbing plant

41. Stuffing and mounting

48. Shape-memory alloy

18. Ribosomal ribonucleic

16. A female domestic

1. Pea stems

9. Leader

13. Distant

acid

24. Sodium

28. Neither

39. Origins

44. Rupture

45. Fathers

49. Halfback

31. Dismounted

33. Orbits the earth

36. Female parents

38 Separates acids

animal skins

46. Large primate

21. Wooden shoe

22. Female horses

23. Group of males

14. 5,280 feet

6. Type of music

HOW TO SUDOKU

row, column and box. You in which the numbers numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The

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 can figure out the order will appear by using the more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve

Sudoku puzzles are

PUMPKIN

SOULS

WITCH

WIZARD

WRATH

ZOMBIE

North Street and Redwood Avenue. 2:40 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of

Summary of Active Investigations

and Arrests

13-day reporting period.

October 12

3:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of West Oak

7:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1700 block of South Main Street

October 13

4:43 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Mill Creek

7:38 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of East Valley

9:33 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of

3:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

6:06 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation near the intersection of School Street and West Mendocino Avenue.

6:09 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

8:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

9:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of North Main Street. 9:16 pm: Officers initiated a theft

investigation in the 800 block of South Main

11:34 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of South Main Street and Holly Street.

October 15

1:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning

2:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

4:07 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 400 block of Central

October 16

North Lenore Avenue.

12:38 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of

11:21 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of Mill Street.

1:54 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 700 block of South Main Street.

6:48 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

October 17

4:11 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Railroad Avenue.

11:11 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of

The officers of the Willits Police Mill Creek Drive. Department handled 379 incidents in this

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

October 12 to October 24

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

7:37 pm: MADDOX, Thomas Vincent (39) of Willits was contacted in the 300 block of North Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (B) VC (Driving with Blood Alcohol Content of 0.08% or Higher), 14601.1 (A) VC (Driving with a Suspended License), 1203.2 PC (Violation of 2:36 am: Officer responded to a report of Probation), on felony charges of domestic suspicious activity near the intersection of battery, and misdemeanor charges of domestic battery.

October 18

12:23 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of West Van Lane.

October 19

8:54 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of North Main

10:03 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of North Street.

11:06 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1300 block of Eva

1:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

1:52 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of North

October 20

6:35 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of South Main

7:48 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of North

9:12 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

10:29 am: Officers initiated a hit-andrun vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of Haehl Creek Drive and East

10:36 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of School

2:15 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South

2:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Manor

3:00 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:51 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1200 block of

10:31 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

October 21

1:01 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

1:45 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

7:11 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and South Main Street.

11:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Bittenbender Lane and North Main

October 22

12:29 am: Officers responded to a report

Read the rest of Over on Page 10 WPD

WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

An Online Art Gallery featuring over 50 Mendocino County **Artists**

In time for the Holidays

https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/artists

For more information: gtm1950@gmail.com



Willits Photo Club

Arts Center hosts 20th anniversary exhibit showcasing images from local photographers

Ree Slocum

occupy both the downstairs and upstairs galleries. Sunday, November 22 is the final day of the feedback about each person's images.

"We're celebrating 20 years of the Willits Photo Club showing at the art center." said WCA Curator Gary Martin. "This is an interesting showing of 16 of the Photo Club members' work. Some people have gone out on a limb, out of their comfort zones, and tried new things. Some very talented photographers are excellent at what they do and have created a niche for themselves. They're showing new work."

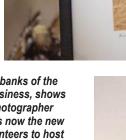
Dorothy Asbury, who has her own photography

The Willits Photo Club show is opening this business, has been in the club for all of those Friday, October 30 and will be open Fridays, 20 years. She said she keeps going to the club Saturdays and Sundays through the month. The because it's a group of photographers that freely range of creative, dynamic shares information about how to do certain and artful photography will techniques, where to find the best places to print on different mediums - canvas, metal. paper prints, and so on – and gives constructive

> "Everybody is kind to each other. Everybody respects each other, and the information we share back and forth is priceless," she said

> Jack and Mimi Booth were also at the WCA Monday when Willits Weekly visited. They were packing up Mimi's ceramic art and photography from her show last month. Jack, an avid and prolific nature photographer, has been part of the

Over on Page 9



At right, above: Finding wildlife in different places in the U.S., Booth made this photo of a red fox close to home on the banks of the Russian River. At right: Brand new to Willits and the Photo Club, Lola Saba, who is building a wedding-photography business, shows Willits Weekly one of the framed prints she submitted titled "Cross." Below, left: WCA Curator Gary Martin talks with photographer Dorothy Asbury as she completes signing in with her photography. Below, right: Longtime host volunteer Nancy Finn is now the new host coordinator at the WCA; she enjoys greeting people, talking about the WCA and the shows, and getting more volunteers to host

















Willits Weekly | October 29, 2020 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 **Pg. 4** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | October 29, 2020 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

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

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 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

Above, left: This

friendly enough.

Should we trust

A creepy ghost

near Brookside

graveyard at

Mendocino and

Mathew Caine

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.

> - Brooktrails and Little Lake Fire Departments









Adorable Scooby

Halloween Around Town

Thanks to all for the fun and ghoulish decorations to celebrate the season

Halloween may be on life-support this season due to the rigorous measures necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. but it is not yet dead. In addition to the smattering of merchants who will be offering safe socially distanced Halloween

residents who refuse to give up on the joy and fun of the holiday. These intrepid homeowners and renters have erected colorful displays dedicated to the spirit of All Hollows Eve, to the joy and wonderment of the youngsters who pass by -

events and specials, there are residential

or treating this year.

There are All Hallows Eve displays to be found in the area near Brookside School, near the Sherwood Casino, and in other locations around the city. It might be time for an automobile treasure hunt to scope out these lighted and colorful odes to the pure fun that is the traditional Halloween.

whether or not they will be trick



Trunk or Treat at Sparetime

Trunk or Treat at Sparetime Garden Center! On Halloween, Saturday, October 31, it'll be goin' on until the candy is gone or 6 pm! Bring your kiddo for a fun, safe, trick or treat drive-through. Pull into Sparetime Garden Center parking lot and get your treat



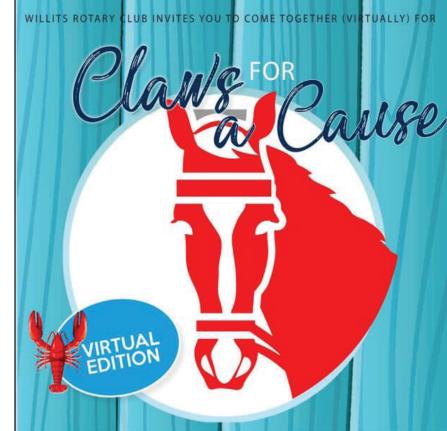
News from Noyo

Movie theater will open – soon – with Mendocino County finally moving into red tier

The smell of popcorn started wafting from the double doors of the Noyo Theatre, but was just a tease of things to come, alas. Owners Jeff and Lois Hoover, above, were inside, popping bags of popcorn for the upcoming movie night for Howard Memorial Hospital, who were hosting a drive-in event.

"We're so excited to be moved into the red tier, however," said Lois. "We hope to be open soon and see the community back in our theater as soon as we get set." Part of that process will include hiring new employees – keep an eye on the Noyo Theatre Facebook page for opening info and job offerings

Above, from left: The Haunted Mansion on School Street awaits unwary victims. Ghouls and goblins and giant pumpkins adorn a yard near Mendocino and Spruce. A scary spider waits for victims in the Northbrook area. At left: An impromptu Halloween light display in the



A BENEFIT FOR THE SEABISCUIT THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

NOVEMBER 6, 7 & 8

Online Auction: Amazing items include - Lobster Dinner for 4 delivered to you | Two Night Stay in Mendocino | Antique Saddle owned by Charles Howard used by Noor (Seabiscuit's stablemate) & other unique items

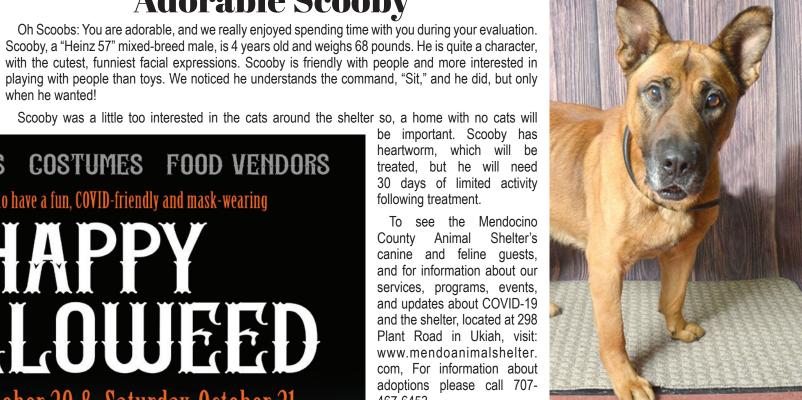
SPONSORS





SUNDIAZED

Party starts a 1 pm on Friday at 2601 N State Street in Ukiah







'The Glittered Graveyard'

Submitted by Glitter My World

The Glitter My World studio on East Valley Street in Willits usually puts on a small but elaborate display in the front yard of our studio. This year with COVID, we realized that so many kids were going to miss out on the Halloween experience.

This made us extremely sad, so we started thinking about how we could create a safe Halloween experience. We decided to go big and open up the entire studio lot and create a one-way walk-through experience for the kids (and for all ages).

This year we will be taking families through a tour of "The Glittered Grave-

as long as families are willing to socially distance. The event will be in compliance with the 2020 COVID rules of a one-way socially distanced, non-touch event. At the end of the walkthrough, there will be individual bags of candy hanging that can be picked up and taken home.

It is a free event, and all are welcome

The studio is located at 132 East Valley Street in Willits. The event will start at 6 pm and end around 8. We will run the walkthrough for two nights to keep the crowds down. You can join us on either October 30 or 31. The exit will be onto the street behind the lot, Tuttle Lane (for pickups).

Want to help out with the event? Contact us at info@glittermyworld.com.



Page starting at 5pm. Take pictures and

be ready to post. Look for status to post

your enteries. Find Slam Dunk Pizza

Wilits on Facebook

Willits Weekly | October 29, 2020 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Willits Weekly | October 29, 2020 **Pg. 6** Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 **200 POINTS = 3 ENTRY TICKETS**

ONE UGILY MUDIER

2020 Jeep Gladiator Giveaway*

Earn Entries Daily for Weekend Drawings Oct 1 - December 26

200 points = 1 entry ticket

WEEKEND **DRAWINGS** Sat & Sun 5PM - 10PM

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

* Jeep provided by Thurston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and customized

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.

> SHERW/OOD VALLEY © CASINO

100 Kawi Place · Willits, CA 95490 Tel: 707-459-7978

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

The rest of

From Page 5

Willits Photo Club for years. After he and Mimi visited the club's shows for many years, he, and then she, decided

"The Willits Photo Club," said Jack, "is pretty professional and has good ideas. Sometimes I see something someone has done and ask how they did it. Sometimes they ask me how I get so close to wildlife and I say, 'Well I really don't need to be that close because I've got a big long lens," he

Mimi started her love for photography when she took a photography class in college and enjoyed a series of photos she'd made at the Greyhound station near where she lived. She put photography and other art on hold for many years in order to teach and mother her children. Later she used her photography as sketches of textures, rocks, leaves, sand and water for her ceramic art. At some point it occurred to her that some of those photos could "stand on their own" as part of her artistic expressions.

Both Booths are also a part of the Ukiah Photo Club, which Jack started around four years ago.

In this 20th celebration for the Willits Photo Club. the husband-and-wife duo are expressing their love of photography in their very unique and different ways. Mimi is showing black-and-white work that was a themed challenge in the Ukiah Photo Club last month. "Black and white seems to work really well with vintage-type photos and some geology and textures. It was fun to do something different," she disclosed. Look for her photos of gnarled bristle-cone pines, rusty vehicles, and rustic wood in the

On the other hand, Jack, who specializes in "anything nature." is showing new photos of birds and other wildlife. Some were photographed at their son's home in Washington, others in California's Modoc County, or near the Booths' home outside of Ukiah.

Don't miss the Willits Photo Club show. It promises to bedazzle and delight with a shout of encouragement to other creative photo buffs.

The WCA is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm. Masks and social-distancing protocols are required. The Photo Club show will be up from this Friday, October 30 through Sunday, November 22. A visit to the show can be a bright spot in your weekend.

For further information about the Willits Photo Club, check their Facebook page or email Bruce Haanstra: bruceh@pacific.net. The group meets every month and is meeting via Zoom during the pandemic.

To find out more about the WCA or volunteering, visit their website: www.willitscenterforthearts.org, their Facebook page "Willits Center for the Arts," or call 459-1726.

John Borgna

John Mario Borgna, age 90, passed-away peacefully on Monday, October 5, 2020, at his home in Willits, after a long struggle with leukemia. John was born February 19, 1930 in Fort Bragg, to John and Giovanna Borgna. He spent four years of active service in the US Army.

John had a passion for the outdoors, animals and boxing. He spent many years working with different groups in California to educate the public about the importance connect with animals, from mountain lions, wolves, to goats, he loved them all! As a young man John enjoyed the sport of boxing and competed into his early adult years. Later in life he was an avid fan, watching as many

You could often find John on his boat in the Fort Bragg harbor, enjoying the sunshine, working on his boat, and fishing. He could captivate a room full of family, friends and strangers with his tales from the sea, bringing much delight to all who imbibed.

He took great pride in his family and loved to spend time with his precious grandchildren. He is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Beverly; sons, Johnny, daughterin-law Dalys, Gino, Marco and Dante, daughter-in-law Kim; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

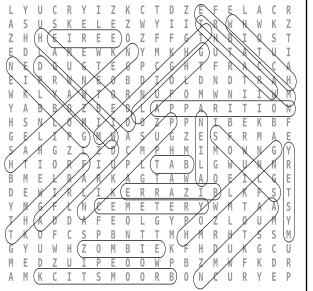
John's zest for life and adventure will be missed. A celebration of life will be planned in the future.

Tom Wake Plumbing Serving in Mendocino and Lake Counties

Full Service Residential, Commercial

Pipe Repairs
Fixture Replacement

For Fast Service Call



Fictitious Business Name Statement

Fictitious Business Name

Statement

The following company is doing

business as Mphotographress.

21300 Locust Street, Willits, CA

95490 / mailing address: P.O. Box

Registered owner: Maureen

Cristin Jennison, 21300 Locust

This business is conducted by a

The registrant commenced to

transact business under the

above in 2012.

on October 20, 2020.

s/ Maureen Jennison

fictitious business name listed

FRN statement filed with the

Mendocino County Clerk-Recorde

10/22, 10/29, 11/05 and 11/12/202

Street, Willits, CA 95490.

The following company is doing business as Catahoula Cafe -Bubbling Well Therapeutics QUEENPiN Acupressure, 80 South Street, Willits, CA 95490. Registered owner: Sally Ann ringle, 80 South Street, Willits, CA

This business is conducted by an

The registrant commenced to ransact husiness under the fictitious business name listed above on September 21, 2020. FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on September 30, 2020.

/s/ Sally Pringle Publication dates: 10/22, 10/29, 11/05 and 11/12/2020



Current Job Openings:

Deputy Public Defender I Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I **Director of Cultural Services** Inmate Services Coordinator Licensed Vocational Nurse Nutritionist - Part-Time Planning Technician II Planner II/III Public Health Nurse Registered Nurse Senior Program Specialist Senior Public Health Nurse

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:

Staff Assistant III

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/ human-resources



Christina McCluskey's Paralegal Service

am not an attorney. I cannot give you legal advice or represent you in court.

Mendocino County Registration No. LDA-14, Expires 10/01/2021

Paralegal and Legal Document Assistant

Pardon - Restraining Orders - Evictions - Civil

Complaints • Wills & Trusts • and much more

(707) 467-7642 104 W. Mendocino Ave., Willits, CA

Email: cmccluskey.paralegal@gmail.com

Small Claims • Divorces • Child Custody • Criminal History Record Expungements • Certificate of Rehabilitation/Governor's

LEGAL NOTICES **CLASSIFIEDS**

Computer Help Need help with your computer? Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhaill@gmail.com

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-For Sale

Queen "Puffy" mattress - 6 months old. Perfect condition. Rated #1 for comfort in 2020. \$500.00 Call: 707-841-0073.

Freezer Empty? We can help!

Due to health concerns in Mendocino Countv. 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.

Gift Bazaar Methodist Church Gift

Bazaar. November 7, 9am-2pm, 21551 Poplar Ave. All proceeds will be used to adopt a family at Christmas. Masks and social distancing will be

Help Wanted

Maintenance Substitutes \$17.66 hour, 40 hours per week Laura Sleeper @ 459willitsunified.com for an Keith's Structural Repair

Help Wanted

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

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

Now open: My Nails Salon

Acrylic • Mani/Pedi Gel Nails • Waxing 20% Senior Discounts 1472 South Main Street Open: Mon.-Sat. 9:30-7 • Sun. 10-5 Nina or Mike: 707-841-3007

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. oaknvine.net/tp"

> Stay Safe I'll be back to help you with your Alterations and Sewing Needs when it is safe to do so. Barbara the Seamstress

Wanted: Meals on Wheels

> As demand for homedelivered 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.

Volunteer Drivers

Ads are just \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

Scott Miller Mobile Sharpening

call us and we will come to you

(707)-272-7274 scott@pacific.net 408 West Mill St. Ukiah, CA 95482

Marc Komer Legal Document Assistan

An Affordable Non-Attorney Service Divorce, Living Trusts, Evictions, Probate, Incorporation,

Name Change, etc. www.mendolegaldocs.com 459-2775 104 W. Mendocino, Willits

••	٠,	_	101					/ \					_ ′ `
Α	L	0	0	F		М	ı	L	Е		Υ	0	G
М	Α	ı	D		S	0	В	Е	R		R	R	N
S	Е	R	Е	Ν	Α	D	Е	S		S	Α	В	0
			М	Α	R	Е	s		М	Е	N		Ν
R	Р	М		Z	0	R		L	1	Α	N	Α	
Α	┙	ı	Т		s	Α	Т	Е	L	L	ı	Т	Е
М	Α	М	Α	S		Т	Α	Е		S	Е	Е	D
	Т	Α	Х	1	D	Е	R	М	Υ		s	N	Α
		S	1	R	Е	s		Α	Р	Е		S	М
Н	В		М	Е	G		Α	R	R	Α	s		
М	Α	Т	Е	D		В	Е	٧	Е	R	Α	G	Е
0	В	ı	Т		М	1	D	ı	S		В	Α	Α
Ν	0	D	Е		Α	D	Е	N		В	Е	ı	R
_	\sim	_	Ь		l n		_			Ъ	Ь	_	l NI

8 6 9 8 6 4 3 5 3 9 8 6 9 5 8

The problem is at least two-fold. At a most fundamental level, the problem has to do with ensuring that environmental protections are included in the county's approach to its cannabis cultivation ordinance, and that those protections reach the level of protection that is required by CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act.

The problem is that the state requires a site-specific environmental review while the county's regulatory system does not. The county's ordinance contains a long list of guidelines which, if properly monitored and enforced, protects the environment: light limits, noise limits, visual impacts, no tree removal, and required compliance with state regulatory guidelines on water use and habitat protection, to name just a few of the protections included in the document.

But those guidelines are not site-specific, and the state's regulations require that specificity, which brings us to the second aspect of the imbroglio.

Beginning in the summer of 2019, staff from the county's Planning and Building Services department and the County Counsel's Office held meetings with representatives from CDFA and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to try to find a way to work around the impasse.

The Fish and Wildlife problem was different than the CDFA problem. It centered on the need for each permit application to address sensitive species. According to Supervisor Haschak, negotiations in 2019 did not go well and were discontinued by late fall of that year.

By early 2020, Second District Supervisor John McCowen had had discussions with the county's Planning and Building staff, and together they had concluded the best way out of the impasse would be to scuttle the county's cultivation ordinance and to draft a new one that would require each county cannabis permit applicant to go through the county's use permit process. County staff told CDFA that the county was going to write a new ordinance, and negotiations on creating a work-around for the present ordinance ended.

McCowen tried to bring this proposal to the board and board Chair Haschak attempted to derail or block McCowen's effort. McCowen used his deep familiarity with board rules to force Haschak to let him speak; Haschak relented; discussions were scheduled, then postponed, and rescheduled; finally a full airing of the question was held on June 4. On that date, the board directed Haschak and Williams to re-start the conversations with CDFA and

According to both Haschak and Williams, the dialog with CDFW went well. In order to meet the sensitive species protocols required by CDFW, the county will hire an as yet undetermined number of retired CDFW inspectors, who will assess the parcels and complete the paperwork required by the agency. According to Haschak, the county has set aside \$160,000 for that work.

In the ongoing negotiations with CDFA, a solution was found: an improvised document called Appendix G. Theoretically, each holder of a county cultivation permit and each person who was growing legally by dint of holding an embossed receipt from either the county's Agriculture Department or Planning and Building Services, would have

The rest of

WPD

of suspicious activity in the of South Humboldt Street

Officers

200 block of North Lenore

responded to a report of

illegal camping in the 100

block of South Main Street.

responded to a disturbance

in the 200 block of School

responded to a disturbance

in the 1700 block of South

responded to a report of

trespassing in the 1700

block of South Main Street

11:11 am: Officers

responded to a report of

illegal camping in the 100

11:34 am: Officers

responded to a report of a

suspicious person in the

1000 block of South Main

responded to a report of a

suspicious person in the

300 block of North Main

pm: Officers

9:04

block of East Oak Street.

and issued a warning.

October 24

2:11

3:54

Main Street.

10:39

pm: Officers

am: Officers

am: Officers

am: Officers

700 block of South Main Street. responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the

4:57 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 800 block of South Main Street.

Officers am: responded to a report of an unwanted subject near the intersection of Barbara Lane and Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.

9:24 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

9:35 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of South Main Street.

October 23

9:55 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:16 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of East Commercial Street

12:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of

vandalism in the 400 block of East Commercial Street. 4:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block Street. to fill out a simple check list, draw a few maps, and get their state license. But the problem is, filling out the document was not as easy as state regulators thought

Haschak said recently that veteran county planner Jesse Davis spent about 30 hours providing Appendix G answers for two county permits, permits that staff had selected for relative ease in meeting Appendix G requirements.

On the plus side, the two permits that Davis did the responses for were approved for a state annual license by CDFA. But on the negative side, the time that Davis took to complete the Appendix G work on two relatively simple permits, raises a host of questions. What would it take to meet Appendix G on permits which are for parcels that have considerable environmental complexity?

If Davis took 15 hours to do the Appendix G work on one permit, it's an open question as to what it would take for staff to do the work on the approximately 1,154 county permits and permit applications that are in need of state

Recently, county Cannabis Unit staff presented a document to the supervisors that calculated the number of staff that would have to be hired to meet the need.

The calculations showed that if it took 20 hours per file. it would take 17,640 hours over the next 10 months to do the work required to answer to Appendix G questions and to do the paperwork for the 882 permit applications that are currently waiting for both a county permit and a state license. Meeting that need would require the county to hire

If it takes an average of 30 hours per file to meet the Appendix G requirements, it will take 26,460 hours of work over a 10-month period and the county would have to hire

"We're setting up a meeting with CDFA to tell them, we don't have the resources to do this," Haschak said. "And from previous conversations we've had with them, CDFA is telling us, they don't have the staff to truth those, and that this is something that the county needs to do for the state.'

Haschak added that he has set up meetings with state Assemblyman Jim Wood and with state Senator Mike McGuire in order to enlist their help in negotiating with

The other member of the county's ad hoc committee, Supervisor Williams, has come to the conclusion that Haschak's efforts are not needed

"I think the county made an error when it decided to become an auxiliary of the state and to act as a go-between between the cultivators and the state. We shouldn't have

"The state has tried to sucker Mendocino County in to doing its work for them," Williams said. "But it's their work. This isn't our CEQA problem. CEQA is met in the county document. The CEQA requirements that the state has can only be met in a site-specific document, which is fine, but that is between the cultivator and the state

"You've seen the staff analysis from the Cannabis Unit. It's going to take 35,000 hours of work to process those permits. We're talking about hiring 20 or 25 new planners. Now, we can't find that many planners here in this county. We have a hard time even finding four or five. So what are we going to do? Go out of county? It's ridiculous. There's no way we can pull it off, hiring that many people."

Williams' position was given legal support by the opinion of County Counsel Christian Curtis who on September 22 told the board of supervisors that the county was not legally required to help the state with the state's cannabis

"The state either needs to acknowledge that the county is the lead agency and then rely on the CEQA that was done there [i.e., in the county's cultivation ordinance] or, if the state believes there was an error, or that the environmental review needs to be done on a site-specific basis, it's really something that needs to be done by the state. It's not something that the county is required to do for the state," Curtis said.

But on the other hand, while Williams believes that the county shouldn't have to help the state do its iob, he is not prepared to abandon the county's 1,154 legally enrolled

"I think we can go with a use permit process for Phase 3." Williams said. "But for Phase 1 we are probably going to have to stick to the current ordinance. We have too many people who are too far down that road for us to switch."

Which means the county can't do the required work, and the state won't do the required work. Which means that the required work either can be waived by the state, which could determine that the county's process is sufficient after all, or the state could declare that it still needs its sitespecific documentation and that individual growers have to provide it.

"My concern on that is time is wasting," Williams said. "This is something if we are going to make that determination, we need to do it quickly. Because for 1,000 people to hire consultants is not going to be easy. The deadline is January 1, 2022 and people are going to have to get started soon if they are going to make that deadline.'

Haschak said he and Williams will be meeting with Assemblyman Wood on October 29 and with State Senator McGuire on November 12.

From Page 1 Woo-hoo! Red!

As of October 28, some businesses in this county can reopen, and some of those that are already partially open can open in a more normal, less restrictive way.

Because the weekly average daily count of new cases in this county has dropped below seven cases for two consecutive weeks, restaurants may now open indoors. Face masks are still required for both guests and patrons (except while eating), and socially distanced tables are required. Restaurant capacity is limited to 25 percent of capacity or 100 people, whichever is less.

Gyms may now open indoors, with modifications including masking and socially distanced machines and guests. Capacity is limited to 10 percent of full capacity.

Places of worship may open indoors at 25 percent capacity or 100 people, whichever is less. Use of facial coverings is required, as is social distancing between household units. However, according to a Mendocino County press release dated October 27, because "singing and group recitation dramatically increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission, singing and chanting activities must be discontinued at indoor services, and congregants engaging in group recitation should wear facial coverings at all times.'

Capacity for retail stores has been elevated to 50 percent of capacity. Facial covering and social distancing rules are still in place for retail outlets

Skilled nursing facilities may now have limited indoor visits to nursing home residents. Nursing facility employees and guests must wear masks.

According to the county press release, "Red Tier (or Level 2) counties that maintain Tier 2 data for at least two consecutive weeks may re-open school to classroom-based learning, with modifications. For Mendocino County, that could be as early as November 12."

Mendocino County must spend at least 21 days in the red tier and meet the orange tier requirements for two consecutive weeks before advancing to the next, less restrictive tier, the moderate tier, which is symbolized by the

The press release goes on to warn, "Most notably, Mendocino County may have to tighten back up and move back to a more restrictive tier if we experience a rise in cases. To help continue the progressive re-opening process, the public is encouraged to wear a mask, social distance, practice frequent handwashing, stay home when sick and avoid gatherings."

"We've made a lot of progress to move into the red tier and further reopen our economy," says Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo. "Thank you to our residents for doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19. If we continue to be proactive and follow the guidance from Public Health, we can continue to reduce transmission and gradually reopen."

"I am thankful, and cautiously optimistic that the state is allowing us to re-open further," says Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren. "While this is good news, we cannot allow this to make us believe we are in the clear. Many regions in the country have been experiencing recent spikes in COVID-19, so we all must individually maintain protective measures

Personal care services can reopen indoors

In other recent COVID news, last week the California Department of Public Health revised part of the guidance for

industries to allow personal care services to reopen indoor

Businesses that are able to take advantage of this allowance include skincare and beauty parlors (also known as esthetician services), nail salons, body art services, including tattoo parlors and piercing shops, massage services, including those massage parlors that are offered "in a non-healthcare setting," and electrology services

A press release dated October 23 goes on to state, "before re-opening, all industries and businesses must complete the self-certification process.

The October 23 press release contains some sentiments from Public Health Officer Coren. "No employee should ever come to work sick, and the public is urged still to stay home if sick. Together we want to continue moving towards mitigating this pandemic while supporting our local

Case count

Since March 19. Mendocino County has confirmed 1.142 cases of COVID-19. Of those, 1,077 people have been released from isolation. As of Tuesday evening, the county had 44 active cases of the disease, which was down from 67 the week before. Of those 44 active cases, 40 are being kept in isolation and four are in the hospital. No one from this county is being kept in an ICU, either in this county or out of this county. Twenty-one Mendonesians have died

The current average daily count of new cases, as calculated by the county, is 6.86. According to the state's system of calculation, which is slightly different than the county's, the average daily count is 6.9. Either way, the average daily count is barely below the purple threshold of

The average rate at which tests come back positive, according to the county, is 3.78 per 100 tests administered. The state calculates our positivity rate at 2.9 percent. Either way, we are within the orange tier, which is the tier that is lower, or less restrictive, than the red tier.

The state's Department of Public Health has determined that when the results of those two types of assessments come down in different tiers, as happened this week and as has happened frequently with the statistics that Mendocino County has had, that the higher number will be determinative. In other words, if the county's daily count is red, but its positivity count is orange, the county will be red. If the case count is orange but the positivity count is red, the county will still be red.

Regionally, the bulk of cases – 886 – are from people who live in the Ukiah valley. All of the other regions in the county are reporting much lower numbers of cases. The north county has 113; the north coast 97; the south county region has 43; and the south coast area has 23.

Altogether 31,203 tests have been administered to the people of this county, and the results of 1,282 tests are The rest of From Page 1 Election

separately from regular ballots. If you are not registered to vote, you can register at the polls on Election Day and vote provisionally.

If you haven't received your ballot in the mail, please call 707-234-6819 or drop in to the Voter Office at the county Administration Center, 501 Low Gap Road, room 1020, in Ukiah, during our special Saturday hours this weekend, 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, October 31, for a replacement ballot.

Polling locations are open on Election Day only, but the official ballot drop box locations at the City of Willits, City of Fort Bragg, the City of Point Arena, and the County Admin Building in Ukiah are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week; the Boonville Fairgrounds Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.

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

Checking your ballot status

Mail-in ballots were mailed to all active registered voters in Mendocino County on October 5, for the November 3, 2020 election. According to Voter Registrar Katrina Bartolomie: "We have received numerous complaints about the State of California's new 'Where's My Ballot' site. Please be aware that this site does not work in all of Mendocino County.

The Elections Office has a solution for county residents to see if your ballot has been received: this service has been used by our voters for several years. Visit our website at https://www.mendocinocountv. org/government/assessor-county-clerkrecorder-elections/elections/vote-by-mailabsentee-status to check and see if we've received your voted ballot.

The rest of From Page 1 Crash

The female driver and male front passenger succumbed to their injuries and were pronounced deceased at the scene. The female rear passenger was flown to Enloe Medical Center in Chico with major injuries. The identity of the driver and front passenger are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The identity of the rear passenger is being withheld pending positive identification.

The Long Valley Volunteer Fire Department, CalFire, Reach Air, Lavtonville

Ambulance, and the Mendocino County Sheriffs Office assisted the California Highway Patrol with processing the collision scene and transporting the injured party.

Housing

of California has awarded the county a grant for \$9.6 million for this purchase. Of that, \$8.3 million will be used for the purchase price. Van Sant said the remaining \$2.3 million will come from budgets within the county's Whole Person Care program, and from federal CARES Act funding.

used for operation and management for the next two years,

The old Best Western is located in one of Ukiah's two shopping centers.

The possibility of creating homeless housing in east Ukiah has brought out a good deal of criticism from Ukiah residents. Some have accused the county of ramming this through in secrecy, without public comment. Others have pointed to the central location of the former motel as precisely the reason why it is the wrong place.

due to COVID-19.

Van Sant said that Whitmore Lane wouldn't work for the marginalized housing unit, because it is so remote from services. She pointed out that the far southern end of Ukiah has few stores, no post office, no DMV, and no Veterans Services office. Because of this, the Whitmore Lane facility would not have qualified for the state homeless grant, which the county is using to purchase the Best Western.

As for the lack of public input, Van Sant agreed that is what happened. She said it happened because the county only got the grant from California on September 16.

Zoom meeting and urged them to support the purchase.

Van Sant promised a town hall meeting in the near future to talk to the citizens about the new housing complex and to listen to community concerns. She said the county is putting out a request for proposals for a company to manage the

From Page 1 Challenges

Though not in charge, Little Lake Fire was part of what Chief Chris Wilkes described as a "wonderful collaborative effort" that came together to fight the local Oak Fire in September.

The incident commander on that fire, CalFire battalion chief Michael Maynard. "sent out a letter thanking everybody for the Oak incident response," said Wilkes, adding that he thought it "deserved to be read publicly."

So he did.

Excerpts include Maynard's assessment that it "was a challenging incident on many levels: location, access, evacuation, structure threat. Every indication was it could become a major incident with significant loss," he wrote. "Considering the conditions and the task at hand this was an enormous effort.

incident commander, and have received acknowledgement for a job well done. And it's only fitting to pass along the thanks and

that affected the different stakeholders' iurisdictions and communities we protect." he wrote, "Knowing everyone grasped the importance of what we were mitigating and the job at hand was awesome. The preparation and planning that was in place paid dividends immediately. My hat is off to everyone involved."

is keeping pace in many ways as fires increase in intensity and their seasons

For example, during red flag warnings (the National Weather Service's highest alert for extreme fire behavior), pre-

a lead vehicle) are often dispatched to strategic locations, ready to go into action immediately

"We sent out a county-wide prepositioning strike team over to Lake County a couple weeks back," said Wilkes. "They were supposed to be there just through the red flag warnings, and the first night they were there ... 4, 4:30 in the morning ... they get dispatched out to the Glass incident in Sonoma County.

"They were the third unit put on that incident ... right in the action when that fire was rockin' its hardest down there in Sonoma and Napa.... And they did well,"

Smaller, local fires are also being dealt

"We had a vegetation fire right at the corner of Baechtel Road and Main Street under the bridge," said Wilkes. "And we had three engines there ... plus Brooktrails responding ... so we had plenty of apparatus and staffing."

Most of the fire district's calls, though, are not to fires ... but to vehicle accidents and medical emergencies.

Total monthly calls (call volume) "slowed down during the first part of the pandemic [but was] kind of back to normal last month," said Wilkes, "We had 76 calls for

"When we have more calls, it's not like our folks show up less," he said. "It seems like when we have more call volume, they show up more ... get in a rhythm of going and doing it."

And the department literally has more folks "going and doing it."

"The roster is up in the 36 range." said "We do have a lot of new firefighters," equipment and almost a new firehouse.

"We're approximately two weeks behind on the [firehouse] project.... One of those weeks is because of the Oak incident," said Wilkes. "On paper, it's 365 calendar days [to construction completion].... So that puts it at the end of July 2021.

Along with new firefighters, there's new

"I thought it would be really nice to do a grand opening or a key ceremony during

Along with the firehouse, the district had projected "expenditures of roughly \$240,000" for "items we were going to purchase in our project," said Wilkes. But a recent grant from the USDA will pick up 55 percent of that cost.

"That's a big deal for us," he said.

\$25,000 from local cannabis business LEEF Organics.

Among other things, much needed but pricey combustible gas indicators that sniff for flammable gases will be purchased for each duty rig from the proceeds. (See Willits Weekly's October 15 edition for the interesting back story on this donation.)

And, finally, the imposition of impact fees to be paid to the district on new development projects is close to implementation, but still "a work in progress," Wilkes said.

with the results of a "nexus study" done for They are paid to the district by the city and

of their own impact fee ordinances. Problem is, Willits doesn't have an impact fee ordinance, so they're in the process of

"putting that together," said Wilkes. And, the county is "reviewing ... the nexus study ... before they put it on their

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 To Go meals are still available 12 to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. Pickup is outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. As of October 2020, To Go meals are \$7 for any seniors, \$8 for anyone under age 55, or \$6 if you are a member and you purchase a meal card for 10 meals at \$6 each.

Home Meal Delivery

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels delivered meals are \$5.50 per meal. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to

schedule home meal delivery; Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits. Can you

Thursday, October 29: Ghoulash

Monday, November 2: Pork Chop with Onion Gravy

Tuesday, November 3: Hot Dogs with Chil

Friday, November 6: Country Fried Steak Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule.

The rest of From Page 1

The cost of the former motel is \$10.6 million. The State

The remaining \$1.3 million from the state grant will be

secondary commercial hubs. It is near the Department of Motor Vehicles, the town's new and out-of-the-way post office, and a Veterans Services office, and it's not far from

As Martha Barra said at last week's meeting: "You are placing this in one of the best commercial neighborhoods in Ukiah." Barra and others have urged the county to void the Best Western purchase, and instead to place the housing unit at the Whitmore Lane facility, which the county has also recently purchased and is currently using as emergency housing for those who must be in isolation or in quarantine

State Senator Mike McGuire participated in the supes'

He reminded the supervisors there is lots of money to deal with the homelessness issue in California. The legislature recently dedicated \$600 million for this purpose, and McGuire said Governor Gavin Newsom is promising to add another \$200 million.

The Best Western project is the second major housing project which has been planned or completed in Ukiah recently. In April, the Rural Communities Housing Development Commission opened the 37-unit Willow Terrace housing complex on Gobbi Street. The cost of that housing project was \$12 million.

Supes adopt hemp ordinance

On a 3-2 vote, with supervisors Ted Williams and John Haschak voting no, the board adopted an ordinance adding an industrial hemp pilot program to the county code.

A motion submitted by Supervisor John McCowen was adopted by the board, with an additional direction to Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Donnelly to read a similar ordinance adopted by Sonoma County and "work with staff to better address stakeholder concerns," as well as to augment the best management practices and other regulations associated with the pilot program.

The pilot program authorizes a total of five industrial hemp plots, each year, for a two-year period. The ordinance does not specify how large the plots shall be. The guidelines for the pilot program state that there will be weekly inspections of the hemp plots in which male hemp plants will be searched for, and, if found, destroyed.

The cannabis-growing community appeared to be united against the pilot program, claiming that male hemp plants are difficult to spot and that seed drift can wander as far as 10 miles from a hemp plot. Once flower-producing female cannabis plants get fertilized by male seed, their value as a commercial cannabis crop drops significantly.

Donnelly said that he was aware of that and that's why he was requiring that all hemp plots will start with cloned plants. He said that seed from clones has a much lower viability than naturally produced seed.

But he was countered by an industry argument that requiring clones was a useless gesture. Sarah Bodner, a spokesperson for Henry's Original, a cannabis product marketing company with facilities in Mendocino County, told the supervisors that clones were expensive, and that, in the real world, hemp would need to be grown on a large scale. She said that in a commercial production situation, most growers would not be able to afford to use clones.

The controversial pilot program drew 59 letters and emails from the public.

Case law behind sheriff's appointment Also at the October 20 meeting, County Counsel Christian

Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047

Curtis answered a citizen complaint that the three-year appointment of Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall was

Kendall was appointed by the supervisors on December 17, 2019, the same day that the board of supervisors voted

On October 13, Little River resident David Ayster phoned

to accept the retirement of former Sheriff Tom Allman.

in a comment to the board of supervisors in which he accused the board of malfeasance, bad faith, and bad government in the long-term appointment of Kendall. "The public should be fully informed in these matters, so

said. "When the public gets something as mundane as a parking ticket, there is always a record of what statute or code has been violated and it's clearly written on the ticket. "It seems to me that the least we should expect from this

common courtesy, at least," Ayster said. On October 20, Curtis sought permission from the supervisors to answer Ayster's complaint publicly. The

Curtis then referenced Section 25304 of the California Government Code. He read: "The board of supervisors shall fill by appointment all vacancies that occur in any office filled by the appointment of the board and elective county officers, except judge of the superior court and supervisors. The appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term or until the first Monday after January 1 succeeding the next general election."

Curtis acknowledged the section was ambiguous, inasmuch as Section 25304 seems to say that the board of supervisors could have appointed Kendall to serve only until Monday, January 4, 2021, which would be the first Monday after January 1 after the next general election. In December 2019, the next general election was to be held in November 2020. Instead the supervisors appointed Kendall to serve until January of 2023.

Curtis then read a section of case law, which he said clarified the matter further. The case was from 1901 X.L. Murphy versus the State of California, in which the then attorney general opined: "The board of supervisors only has power to appoint a successor for the full remainder of the original term remaining unexpired. The successor appointed to fill the vacancy does not have to run for office until the next general election at which the office would normally be filled, and the board may not appoint an individual for a shorter period term to be filled than the next general election occurring in the county."

Willits Weekly | October 29, 2020 Willits Weekly | October 29, 2020

"I had the responsibility of being

recognition to everyone," he continued. "We had to make tough decisions

Preparation and planning for wildfires

said training chief Eric Alvarez.

Friday, October 30: Turkey / Birthday Dinner

Wednesday, November 4: Pork Fajitas Thursday, November 5: Chicken & Dumplings

appointments.

Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors'

that we can understand how we are being governed," Ayster

board is a reading into the public record of the statute the governs these very important appointments. It would be a

supervisors granted that permission, although Supervisor McCowen warned he did not want the board's decision to allow Curtis to explain his legal advice to the board to be viewed by the public as setting a precedent.

Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490

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

First, big fires.

positioned strike teams (five engines and

Frontier Days," he added.

Another recent big-deal donation was

The fee amounts were set in accordance

county, who collect them using the authority

agenda."





Far left: This beautiful autumn-theme hand-crafted pottery plate from the Jan Hoyman Studio in Ukiah is one of 100+ items up for auction. At left: Auction items include a 750 mL bottle of Charbay "S" Stout Whiskey, uniquely distilled from bottleready Big Bear Black Stout beer (8.1 percent ABV) from the award-winning Bear Republic Brewery in Northern California. Below: The antique Barnsby English leather saddle of Hall of Fame Inductee Noor (raced 1947-1950), who was Seabiscuit's stablemate at Ridgewood Ranch, is up for auction. At left, below: A guitar signed by country singer Garth Brooks is included in the auction.



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.co

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

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

The Church of **Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

265 Margie Drive Willits, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Patl of Spiritual Freedo •Sound of Soul events

 Membership Discourses Spiritual Discussions ECK Light & Sound Services More information? Call 707-456-9934

Grace Community Church

www.eckankar.org

Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m Worship Service & 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 Ŵalks of Faith

St. Francis **Episcopal Church**

707-272-0177 hurch Services/Communic by Zoom at noon. Call for information 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 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

Claws for a Cause

Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center's annual fundraiser goes virtual, with 100+ items available for online live and silent auctions

Submitted by the Seabiscuit Therapuetic Riding Center

It's time for the annual Claws for a Cause auction, which supports the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center. This year's fundraiser will be a virtual event with a live auction held on YouTube Live on Sunday, November 8 at 4 pm. The silent auction opens for bidding on Friday, November 6, and runs through Sunday.

The annual Claws for a Cause fundraiser helps support Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center throughout the year, a therapeutic riding program that serves children and adults in Mendocino County. The goal of STRC is to teach the skill of horsemanship to individuals with disabilities and use the added benefits of horse movement, coordination, and personal awareness to help develop skills and strength in their daily lives

With over 100 items up for auction, there's something for everyone. Items include wine and gift baskets, beautifully hand-dyed scarves, vintage jewelry, a lobster dinner for four delivered to you, and a two-night stay in Mendocino. The auction also includes several items for horse lovers: a new Wintec English saddle, a practically brand-new Crates western saddle, and saddles owned by the Howard family, including a western saddle that was used by the Howard grandchildren.

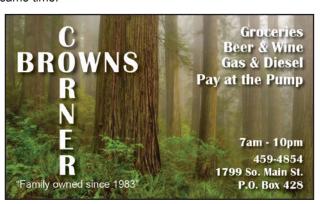
Noor's riding saddle is up for auction as well. Hall of Fame Inductee Noor (raced 1947-1950) was Seabiscuit's stablemate at Ridgewood Ranch and had quite the successful career in his own right. The saddle is an antique Barnsby English leather saddle, made in Walsall, England. It was originally owned by Charles S. Howard (from the estate of Lindsay C. Howard, Jr., Charles Howard's grandson) and is supplied by Lisa Howard, greatgranddaughter of C.S. Howard and donated by Jacqueline Cooper, president emeritus of the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation. The saddle includes a letter of authenticity. Don't miss your chance to own some history!

Other items up for auction include a Garth Brooks autographed guitar and a 750 mL bottle of Charbay "S" Stout Whiskey, uniquely distilled from bottle-ready Big Bear Black Stout beer (8.1 percent ABV) from the award-winning Bear Republic Brewery in Northern California. A hand-crafted pottery plate with an autumn theme (10.75 inches wide) from the Jan Hoyman Studio in Ukiah will also be available.

> This year's auction will use Greater Giving Online Bidding - allowing for a paperless bidding system. Bids are made using a smartphone or tablet on silent auction items. Also, packages can easily be tracked by "following" their activity without having to continuously return to a table or bid sheet

> To participate in the auction, visit http://strc.ejoinme.org/ claws4acause and click on the link titled "Click Here to Register & Bid." The link will take you to a page where you can create a free account with Greater Giving, which allows you to participate in the online bidding.

Help support this worthy cause and treat yourself at the



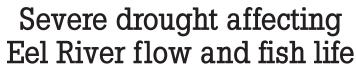
COBURN'S CONSTRUCTION & CABINETRY INC. eted project with our 3-D Computer Image

Randy J. Coburn **General Contractor** P.O. Box 616

Willits, CA 95490 707-459-9719/FAX 707-459-4984 coburn_randy@yahoo.com/

 Custom Homes New Construction ICF Structures Remodeling Cabinetry Kitchens and Baths Blueprints Plan Drawing





Submitted by the Eel River Recovery Project

The Eel River Recovery Project is conducting fall-flow reconnaissance while collecting automated water temperature gauges, and recently surveyed three important northern Mendocino County tributaries: Outlet Creek, Tenmile Creek, and the upper South Fork Eel.

The lack of rainfall in February 2020 and low rainfall in the southern part of the Eel River watershed through the rest of last winter are resulting in extensive dry stream reaches and record low flows downstream at South Fork Eel River gauges.

Outlet Creek is a major tributary of the upper Eel River that has headwaters above the city of Willits. Upper Baechtel Creek is one of these headwaters and has maintained surface flow in most years since 2012, or at least cold-water pools with steelhead trout juveniles. In 2020, this reach is dry and fish-less.

Broaddus Creek was also dry and without fish of any kind, as was Mill Creek below Willits Creek. Willits Creek barely maintained surface flow below Brooktrails, and riffles were too shallow to support steelhead, but pools there provided some of the only cold-water habitat in the Outlet Creek watershed in 2020.

Outlet Creek, below Highway 101 at the bottom of Little Lake Valley. lacked surface flow. However, reaches downstream of there and above Long Valley Creek maintained surface flow and California roach were present and

abundant. Lower Long Valley Creek was warm but connected with roach surviving, while the uppermost reach of the creek at Highway 101 was dry.

In sum, Outlet Creek is exhibiting severe ecological stress and is failing to support cold-water fish species, with only limited reaches supporting any

A survey of Tenmile Creek near Laytonville had more mixed results. Main Tenmile Creek ran dry above Highway 101, near Harwood Park and downstream near the Black Oak Ranch. However, it had surface flow in a middle reach supported by springs and retained steelhead trout.

Lower reaches of Cahto, Streeter and Big Rock creeks are underground. Nonetheless, headwater reaches of these creeks maintained cold water and steelhead trout as did Mill Creek and Peterson Creek. The extent of steelhead distribution and standing crop in Tenmile Creek is far less than

Tenmile Creek feeds the upper South Fork Eel River, which is experiencing the lowest flow levels ever at U.S. Geologic Survey flow gauges at Leggett and Miranda. On October 20, the Leggett gauge reported 11.6 cubic feet per second, only barely higher than the record low in 2002 of 11 cfs, while the median flow for the previous 50 years is 29 cfs.

The USGS gauge at Miranda was 13.5 cfs, which was at an all-time record low for the date, and less than one third of the median flow of 56 cfs derived from 81 years of data. The

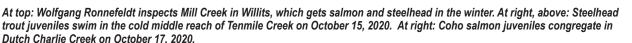
lower Eel River at Scotia measured 65 cfs on October 20. While not a record low flow, this is far less than the 108-year median flow of 147 cfs and the 200 cfs adult salmon need for

The last viable population of coho salmon in northwestern California is in the upper South Fork Eel in Mendocino County. While tributaries like Jack of Hearts and Redwood Creek ran low, they remained cold but had no coho salmon juveniles. Dutch Charlie Creek in the same vicinity had similar flow levels, but also abundant coho salmon. It appears that excess sediment is impairing habitat and may be more limiting than flow in this area of the upper South Fork watershed.

For more information, visit www. eelriverrecovery.org or the ERRP Facebook page. Call 707-223-7200, if you have questions or you want to

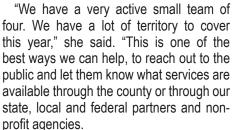






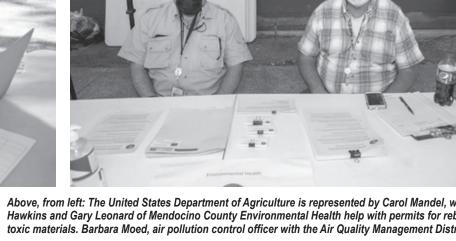






have been evacuated," continued Antle. "If they were evacuated in the Oak Fire, they may be eligible for assistance through FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency]. If you had out-of-pocket expenses, your hotel, your food, those kinds of things, you can apply at the FEMA trailer.

"The folks who actually lost their homes," she said, "can come and apply for individual assistance through FEMA. And there may be some additional assistance that, say, Red Cross or SBA or USDA may be able to assist them with, like living expenses, etc." The Mendocino County Disaster Recovery Team can be reached at: 707-234-6303 or disasterrecovery@mendocinocounty. Visit www.mendocinocounty.org/ community/fire-recovery to learn more.



Above, from left: The United States Department of Agriculture is represented by Carol Mandel, who can help with erosion and plant life. Vince Hawkins and Gary Leonard of Mendocino County Environmental Health help with permits for rebuilding septic systems and wells and removal of toxic materials. Barbara Moed, air pollution control officer with the Air Quality Management District, provides information on toxins at home sites.

four. We have a lot of territory to cover this year," she said. "This is one of the best ways we can help, to reach out to the public and let them know what services are available through the county or through our state, local and federal partners and non-

"Today we are looking for people who

"We're here to offer assistance," said the Red Cross's Don Rowe, "to anybody whose home was damaged in the Oak Fire. We have apps that people can download for

their phones or tablets. We have subjects like first aid, pet first aid, information on floods, tornados, earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes, general emergency information. The apps are at www.redcross.org, they tell people where the shelters are open across the country."

Some of the other agencies represented were:

 Mendocino County Behavioral Health which oversees most of the mental health entities throughout the county and deals with issues created by the recent challenges. They have a hotline: 855-587-6373 "for those people who are considering suicide or are in great distress." They can be found on Facebook, "EachMindMatters" or on the web, www.eachmindmatters.org.

 Mendocino County Social Services, which offers food stamps and health information, aiding people in filling out paper applications for those not computer savvy. www.mendocinocounty.org/government/ health-human-services-agency

· Mendocino County Environmental Health, which helps property owners remove toxic materials and rebuild septic systems and wells, for which they offer permits. They help with several steps of recovery of properties. Info: 707-234-6625 or they can be found on Facebook,

County Environmental Health" or at www.mendocinocounty.org/ government/health-and-human-servicesagency/environmental-health.

· Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, an international service organization in 56 countries, which provides mostly financial assistance. They offer debit cards and easily prepared meal kits. Info: 408-262-3389, www.tzuchi.us.

· Home Energy Assistance Program does energy assistance for low-income homes. They help with utility bills, PG&E, propane, heating oil. They also do weatherization on homes as a free service for income-qualified households. Visit www.northcoastenergyservices.com.

 North Coast Opportunities has a myriad of assistance programs and debit cards. "We have applications for people to apply for funds for assistance with fire relief," explained Michelle Hablitzel. "We also have COVID-19 pandemic relief. We have debit cards here to distribute for \$50 and \$100." Info: www.ncoinc.org or 707-621-8817.

 Mendocino County Building and Planning Services, which was there to help people in the process of obtaining permits rebuild. www.co.mendocino.ca.us/ planning. There was also a representative to help with legal cannabis grows that

may have been affected by the fires. Info: cannabisprogram@mendocinocounty.org.

· The Air Quality Management District was there to help those who were returning to their homes or wanting to rebuild to be safe from toxic ash and other environmental perils, including asbestos. Info: 707-463-4354, mcaqmd@commendocino.ca.us or visit: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd.

· The United States Department of Agriculture, which provides technical assistance to landowners regarding natural-resource conservation, including which trees can be saved and how to avoid runoff erosion into streams and waterways. Info: 707-485-3233 or carol.mandel@ ca.usda.gov.

· Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, with the mandate to help growers during the pandemic to keep themselves and their employees safe and healthy. Info: www. mendocannabis.com or 707-234-5568.

The Local Assistance Center was only operating in Willits that one afternoon; a second LAC took place in Covelo on October 28. However, anyone needing the assistance of any of these organizations or agencies can contact them at the above numbers, email addresses or websites to get help on the road to recovery.





by Vicky Rodriguez and Sylvia Lopez. At left: Tarryn Scroggins and Jessica England are ready to help people with MediCal and CalFresh. Photos by Mathew Caine

Pg. 13

At far left: The Home

Energy

Assistance

Program is represented

LITTLE LAKE

HEALTH CENTER

(707) 456-9600

WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE,

PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE.

45 Hazel St., Willits

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

CALL FOR A WELL CHILD APPOINTMENT

Steep roof? We're not scared!

BOOFING. Inc

Office: (707) 462-4514

Mobile: (707) 367-3786

Residential & Commercia

Serving areas of Mendocino,

Lake and Sonoma Counties

Email: basroofing@live.com

111

Now more than ever...

Don't delay your child's vaccines.

Online: www.basroofing.com



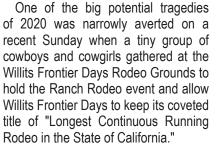






94th annua

Micro – but county-approved – rodeo held at WFD grounds to continue title



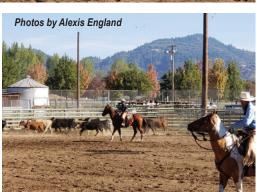
The three teams – Whiskey and Wild Women, Key Livestock, and Heart Bar Ranch - competed in calf branding, team sorting, ranch doctoring, dally calf roping, and trailer loading during the rodeo on October 18. First place went to Whiskey and Wild Women, second

to Key Livestock, and third to Heart Bar

"My favorite quote of the day was from Lee Persico," said Alexis England, WFD volunteer. "He was up in the announcer's booth and laughed and said: 'We have never had to do a rodeo under cover before!' Lee's been involved with WFD since he was 1.5 years old."

WFD kept the event quiet and without spectators to comply with the county's special allowance of the event, and everyone looks forward to a regular celebration in 2021.

Maureen Jennison

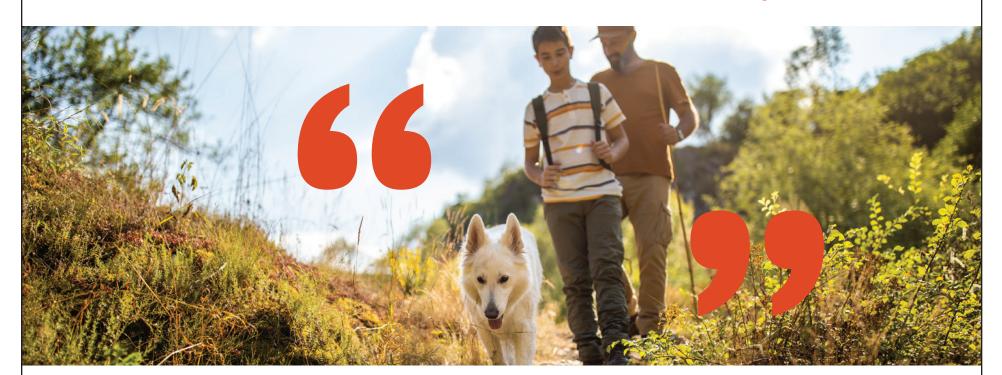




Below: The few contestants who competed at the 2020 Ranch Rodeo at the Willits Frontier Days grounds pose in front of the empty stands. Left, right and above: Contestants participated in minimal events, but still showcased their skills of the cowboy way of life during the October 18, 2020 rodeo.



Made for more next steps



Meet our Redwood Medical primary care team



Pediatrics



Sam Cahil, PA Family Medicine



Bev Draudt, FNP



John Glyer, MD Family Medicine



McCullough, MD Family Medicine



Petruncio, DO Internal Medicine



Safe, Open and Ready for you.

You were made for more. More growth. More exploration. More awe-inspiring moments with those you love most. And our team is here to help you on your journey by providing you and your family with access to whole-person care. Through our local team of providers and our extended network of Adventist Health specialty providers throughout Mendocino County, our vision is to continue to transform the health of our community today and for generations to come.

Now welcoming new primary care patients. 833-AH-WELLNESS | 833-249-3556 3 Marcela Drive, Suite C, Willits

AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org