

**Thursday, November 5, 2020**

Photo by Maureen Jennison



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Reopening schools?

To the Editor:

Now that the county has been placed in the red tier ("substantial spread, 4-8 percent positive tests daily,") the Willits school district is starting to discuss a plan for reopening our school campuses.

As an educator, there is nothing I want more than a return to normal in my classroom, but I have zero confidence that it can be achieved at this time in the pandemic world we live in. Not only are there continuing health risks for students and staff, but the conditions under which schools would have to operate would be more harmful to our children than what we are doing now: Is it worth it?

As president of the Willits Teachers Association, I know of at least one or more educators at every site that have personal health risks and will have to take family medical leave, a leave of absence, or simply retire if we return now. Then there are staff members with spouses or family members who are at risk: for example, my husband nearly died four years ago in ICU from H1N1 – a precursor to the COVID virus – and is at extreme risk: should I gamble his life to teach in person?

These are troubling choices for teachers and families to have to make if we are asked to return before the virus has run its course or a vaccine is available.

In my own third-grade class, 25 percent of my students are being raised by grandparents or attend daycare, which puts all those families and businesses at risk if they return, and I suspect this average will hold steady or rise across all grade levels.

Diabetes, asthma, heart conditions, a history of cancer, and similar medical conditions are common in all families and increase the potential for death or long-term impairment for all age groups. And sadly, every day we read of yet another teacher who died, because there is no way to completely prevent exposure within a school population. The risk to teachers and student families is very high and can only increase with additional exposure.

For the children returning to the classroom, consider that it will be anything but normal. Every child must wear a clean mask every day, all day. Class sizes will have to be six to eight students in order to meet 6-foot physical distancing in the classroom, the cafeteria, on the bus, and on the playground. Desks will have to be surrounded by plexiglass shields on three sides.

Temperature checks will be conducted on the bus and upon arrival at school, with an isolation room for anyone exhibiting symptoms while they wait to get picked up (imagine the child subjected to identification when it's just a cold or allergies!)

Regular handwashing, strict rules for standing in line, going to the bathroom, where they eat, where they play, getting dropped off and picked up ... and the teacher isn't going to be able to interact closely with the student in the teaching process. This all adds up to a much more traumatizing experience than what our children have now, working from home.

Currently, students are receiving instruction five days a week, but if we return to school, that will be reduced to three days a week. An A/B schedule would have students attending either M/T or Th/F with Wednesday for deep cleaning classrooms, or M/W and T/Th with Fridays for deep cleaning. This actually places more burden on families to continue student education on the days they aren't in class, and less interaction between students and teachers.

Finally, consider the potential domino effect of opening and closing as the virus continues to cycle through spreader events like Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the flu season. If we open under a "substantial" or even "moderate" level, we are gambling on how long we can be in school before we have to close again (a minimum two to five days every time someone tests positive).

How much more disruptive would a cycle of open/close/open/close for the rest of the school year be to student and family life? Right now, we have found a way to continue educational practices while allowing a child to learn under safe and comfortable conditions from home. Even if you dismiss the health risk, why ask for that kind of chaos?

In summary, while some people think we're overreacting with all the safety measures, we have to acknowledge that viruses don't care about opinions. Our area has yet to realize the 3 percent death rate happening in the rest of America, but it will happen eventually as the virus runs its course or until a vaccine is developed. (It's science, it's math, it's history, it's everything educators have been teaching their whole careers!)

Every teacher I know wants to be working with our students again, but at what cost to ourselves, our families, and our students?

Our superintendent needs to know what families are thinking: Will you send your child(ren) back, knowing the stringent safety measures I mentioned will be in place? If not, will you choose Independent Studies instead? The option for distance learning like we are doing now will no longer be available when we return to the classroom, so it's one or the other.

Please contact Superintendent Westerburg by phone or email and let him know what you're thinking, so he can start developing the best possible plan for all of us going forward: 707-459-5314; markwesterburg@willitsunified.com. Thank you.

Tessa Ford, president,  
Willits Teachers Association

## Assemblymember Jim Wood thanks the people in Assembly District 2 for his reelection

SACRAMENTO – Today Assemblymember Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa) expresses his thanks for the impressive turnout of all California voters throughout the state and for the support of the people in the 2nd Assembly District for their support in his re-election.

"I am grateful for the impressive turnout of all Californian voters throughout the state and for the support I received from the people in the 2nd Assembly District to continue as your representative for another two years," said Wood.

"I look forward to continuing my work responding to the needs of the district including supporting wildfire victims, increasing resources for wildfire prevention, prescribed fires, vegetation management and home hardening. And it should go without saying that I am committed, as chair of the Assembly Health Committee, to making health care more affordable and am already preparing to respond to any actions that may be taken against the Affordable Care Act by the U.S. Supreme Court."

Assemblymember Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa) represents the 2nd Assembly District, which includes all of Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt and Mendocino counties, plus northern and coastal Sonoma County, including the northern half of Santa Rosa.



## Last California Statewide Fire Summary of the season?

Submitted by CalFire Sacramento HQ

As of November 3, 2020, nearly 4,100 firefighters continue to battle 22 wildfires in California. Tuesday, November 2, firefighters responded to 23 new wildfires and quickly contained them. As favorable weather continues, firefighters are strongly working to increase containment lines.

Continued quiet, dry and mild conditions continue through much of the week. Locally elevated fire weather conditions continue across the southern California mountains through midweek, where local wind gusts to 30 mph and very dry conditions are expected. Areas of coastal fog tonight into Wednesday morning. Significant change in the weather pattern expected Friday and into the weekend. Much cooler temperatures expected statewide by the weekend. Fire weather conditions may become elevated for parts of the state during the windiest conditions on Friday.

The forecast for November predicts warmer and drier than average weather across much of California. Many areas in Northern California, as well as the Southern Coast and Los Angeles Basin, will remain at an above normal potential for significant fire.

Despite cooler temperatures, fire danger remains elevated due to lack of rainfall and warmer than normal temperatures. CalFire continues to be staffed and prepared for wildfires, and is asking all Californians to do the same. To learn ways to prepare for wildfires, as well as other emergency preparedness tips, visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

With CAL FIRE's Incident Management Team 6's transitioning out of command of the two Orange County fires, and the remainder of the current fire activity occurring on federally owned land, this will be the last Statewide Fire Summary until fire activity increases. For the latest on the current fires from the U.S. Forest Service visit [www.incweb.org](http://www.incweb.org).

### South Zone Fire Update, August Complex

As of November 4, the Mendocino National Forest reports crews are making good progress on fire suppression repair across all areas of the South Zone of the August Complex. The hard work of fire personnel is paying off, keeping the South Zone at 499,826 acres and increasing containment to 97 percent. The entire August Complex is estimated at 1,032,649 acres and 93 percent containment.

As the August Complex nears full containment, incident management personnel are beginning to plan for a smooth transfer of responsibility back to local forest leadership.

There are 273 personnel working on the South Zone. Crews are continuing to focus on fire suppression repair in priority areas around the Sanhedrin Wilderness, in wild and scenic river corridors in the Mill Creek area, and in locations that are prone to landslides along key forest travel routes such as the M1 and M6 roads. Additionally, progress is being made on opening roadways and removing hazard trees to allow for further suppression repair activity throughout the forest.

Fire weather update: Afternoon temperatures will continue to be well above normal. The temperature will be 76 to 84 at lower elevations and 65 to 74 above 3000 feet, with humidity ranging from 23 to 33 percent. Winds will increase to 7 to 12 mph out of the northwest, gusting to 18 mph. A low-pressure system will bring significantly colder temperatures and increased

Read the rest of  
**CalFire** | Over on Page 11



## In a Jam

### Diane Deaton starts new cottage business making preserves as a creative pandemic solution

Diane Deaton is fondly known as Aunt Di by her Di's Day Care children and families. When COVID-19 regulations went into place for daycare providers, Deaton realized she couldn't continue doing the job she'd enjoyed for 18 years.

"I didn't feel comfortable with the restrictions that they were placing on childcare providers," she said. "Parents weren't able to come into your home anymore. The children were going to be required to wear masks in the home. And they weren't allowed to play together."

It was daunting to think about how she'd manage with the babies and children up to 5 or 6 years old that she'd cared for in her home.

Deaton's health care provider also cautioned that her asthma made her more vulnerable to contracting the virus. "So, I just couldn't do [daycare] any longer," she lamented. "I love the kids and miss them." They still keep in contact with phone calls and emails.

One day at the beginning of the pandemic, Deaton's daughter, Carissa, gifted her parents with boxes of meat for their freezer. "In order to freeze the meat, I needed to clear the freezer of all the fruit I'd frozen to make jam," Deaton said. "I had all the ingredients, so the next day I made nine batches of jam. That's a lot of batches of jam in one day!"

That night Carissa visited again, was surprised to see all the jam, and asked her mother, "So you're going to sell these, right?"

"When Carissa asked me that, I had no intention of selling the jams," Deaton said. She explained she had regularly made jam to sell when the girls were teens and wanted to go on mission trips to other countries. The jams were popular sellers then, and her daughter added: "You make very good jam, Mom, and people love it! They'll sell, and call it Our Little Country Kitchen."

Deaton, who grew up helping make jam at home, loved the idea and began making the fruit mummies from her mother's and grandmother's recipes. "I've made jam and jelly for years and years and years," she said and later added, "My sister and I would make 28 batches of jam on a weekend." That's equivalent to 244 half-pints of jam. Maybe that's where the word "jammin'" comes from?

As this reporter watched Deaton's process for making her Fully Loaded Blackberry Jam (it has all the seeds), the cook shared a few of her secrets. Her grandmother passed on this tidbit that will keep the boiling fruit from frothing: Add a half teaspoon of butter to the batch of cooking fruit. She also disclosed, "I put a little bit of vinegar in the canning pot so the jars come out clean and pretty."

Our Little Country Kitchen is definitely a family affair. "My husband, Ed, has been helping me figure out how much it costs to make a jar of jam," Deaton said. "My youngest daughter, Carissa, is helping with the social media. My oldest daughter, Allie, comes over and helps label the jars and is a support. My mother-in-law, Mert, helps process the fruit, and my sister, Denise, lives in

Read the rest of  
**Jammin'** | Over on Page 13



Above: The wire display shelves at J.D. Redhouse are being colorfully populated by Our Little Country Kitchen offerings. Below: Diane Deaton talks about missing her Aunt Di Day Care children and families. At bottom: Using a canning magnet makes it easy to get a hot, sterilized lid out of the pan and onto the jar.



Below, from left: Boiling the fruit, sugar and pectin is an important step in the jam-making process. At just the right consistency, the dark, sweet jam is being poured into jars that will go into the canning pot at a boil for 10 minutes. The ring is screwed on, and then the jar will be placed in the canning pot.

Photos by Ree Slocum

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

**Willits Weekly**

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Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

6			1					
			6	2				9
				8				4
	7				5			6
	9	5						
					2		1	4
	1	4		5			3	7
			9	7				
	5	3						

ALZHEIMER'S WORD SEARCH

ABILITIES  
ACTIVITIES  
AGGRESSION  
ALLELE  
ALZHEIMERS  
APATHY  
ASSAY  
ASSESSMENT  
ATROPHY

BENEFICIARY  
BIOMARKER  
BRAIN  
CALCIUM  
CAREGIVER  
CEREBRAL  
CORTEX  
CHOLINE  
COGNITIVE

COUNSELING  
DAILY  
DELUSION  
DEMENTIA  
DIRECTIVES  
DISABILITY  
FAMILIAL  
HIPPOCAMPUS  
HOSPICE

IMAGING  
IMPULSES  
MEMORY  
MILD  
MODERATE  
NERVE  
NEUROLOGIST  
PHARMACOLOGY  
PLAQUE

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53				54		55						56
57			58		59				60	61	62	
	63	64						65				
								67				

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Upright post on a boat

5. Sentimental person

10. Native American tribe

12. Wear away

14. Where you're going

16. Doctor

18. Popular Chinese dialect

19. One point east of due south

20. Northern sea duck

22. Note

23. Wives (law)

25. Trigonometric function

26. A way to communicate (abbr.)

27. Swiss river

28. No (Scottish)

30. Commercials

31. Large instrument

33. \_\_\_ Chantilly, \_\_\_ de Menthe

35. Small, sacklike cavities

37. High and thin in tone

38. Treat extremely well

40. Famed track star Usain

41. Secure web connection (abbr.)

42. Rob of energy

44. Paving material
45. Cool!

48. Tip of Aleutian Islands

50. Indicates silence

52. Water in the solid state

53. Security interests

55. Popular hoopster Jeremy

56. Shed tears

57. Low frequency

58. Harmful bacterium

63. Common language: lingua \_\_\_

65. Standards of perfection

66. They consist of two parts

67. A detailed description of design
- CLUES DOWN
1. More (Spanish)

2. A subdivision of a play

3. Japanese title

4. More jittery

5. Fabric

6. Luke's mentor \_\_\_-Wan

7. Cleaving tool

8. Ancient city of Egypt

9. 36 inches

10. Farewell

11. Second to last

13. Improved by critical editing
15. Defensive weapon (abbr.)
17. Fancy attire
18. \_\_\_ Farrow, actress
21. Completely opposed
23. Supervises flying
24. Pouch
27. True firs
29. Mistake
32. Computing platform (abbr.)
34. Snakelike fish
35. Greatly horrify
36. Despicable person
39. Tell on
40. Ballplayer's tool
43. Central Brazilian town
44. Court game
46. Land
47. 'The Partridge Family' actress Susan
49. Retract a statement
51. Data executive
54. Capital of Yemen
59. Portable computer screen material
60. Electronic data processing
61. 'Matt Houston' actor Horsley
62. Resinous substance
64. Rural delivery

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

October 25 to November 1  
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **247 incidents** in this eight-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

**October 25**

7:58 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Raymond Lane.

7:20 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

9:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Madrone Street.

10:15 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

**October 26**

10:15 am: LOPES Sr., Anthony (50) of Willits was contacted in the 600 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (under the influence of drugs) and disorderly conduct (alcohol).

3:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Casteel Lane and North Main Street.

6:14 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

9:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

**October 27**

12:53 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

1:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Holly Street.

2:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

6:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

6:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and East Valley Street.

6:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Holly Street.

10:39 pm: **ST. LAURENT, Larry** (46) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of Coast Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation.

**October 28**

9:46 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

11:23 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 600 block of South Main Street.

12:46 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 300 block of Pine Street.

1:40 pm: Officers responded to a report



Larry St. Laurent, Willits

responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of North Main Street.

10:47 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

The rest of Interim From Page 1

Weekly on Tuesday. "I am very excited for him to start soon."

The contract for Lizarraga "can run up to approximately five and one half months, on a month-to-month basis," according to the agenda report, and is "for an amount not to exceed \$50,000, plus an agreement to secure housing, at a cost not to exceed \$1,700 per month."

The report states that the salary will not increase the city's budget for this fiscal year, since the amount had already been accounted for previously.

Lizarraga was hired to replace Alexis Blaylock who resigned after being police chief for just six weeks, sitting "roadblocks" to doing her job effectively as her main reason for resigning.

Blaylock followed interim WPD chief Gregory Allen, who Garrabrant-Sierra said has talked with Lizarraga.

"[Lizarraga] has been in touch with our last interim, Greg Allen, who recommended the City of Willits highly and who enjoyed his interim appointment here," she said in an email to community members, asking about available rentals.

She added that "it is anticipated that [Lizarraga] will be here approximately 5 - 6 months."

Garrabrant-Sierra had announced previously that she will be resigning as city manager at the end of this year, and stated in her agenda report that "the City of Willits is in need of an interim police chief until a recruitment can be undertaken by the new city manager" for a new permanent chief.



Above, from left: Emilia Velasquez and her stepfather, Derek Zieba, show up on horseback to show their support. Devin, Misty and Shaun Johnson make it a family affair. Dina Blum and her son, Jackson, show up in their horned Jeep.

At left: The rally participants delight in the honks and jeers of the passing cars

Below: Organizer Jade Chilson's T-shirt states some of her views.

At bottom: Retired correctional officer Stevan Adams wishes everyone could act as friends.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Trump Rally  
Local Republicans show their support for the incumbent president Friday at Babcock Park rally

On Friday, October 30, at 6 pm, a group of like-minded Donald Trump supporters gathered at Babcock Park to show their solidarity, at least in their choice of president. They brought flags, signs, hats, T-shirts and energy to let the town of Willits know their feelings about the imminent election.

During the time Willits Weekly spent with the group, about 50 intrepid conservative voters showed up and stood on the sidewalk in front of the park, waving their flags and signs, cajoling the passing cars to react.

Most of the passing automobiles honked, some in support, some to flash a single-finger salute in opposition, but surprisingly for the times, it all seemed to be in the spirit of fun and the celebration of the rallyers First Amendment right to assemble and have their voices heard.

While Willits Weekly was there, there were no overly acrimonious voices heard, just a party atmosphere with political overtones, with no attempt to create a confrontation.

The event was organized by a young (21- and 23-year-old) brother and sister, Jacob and Jade Chilson, passionate in their support for conservative values and their perceived virtues of President Trump.

"I've been flipped off twice just for flying the American flag," said Jacob Chilton, in a pre-event interview. "The controversy is insane. There are a lot of people who want two different things. Most of the people I argue with want more government control, more of their rights to be taken away. I'm for more small government, personal responsibility for people's own actions. The controversy

At right: Sister and brother Trump rally organizers, Jade and Jacob Chilson, sit down to talk with Willits Weekly.

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Above: The newly promoted public-safety professionals take a photo with officials at a Ukiah ceremony: from left, Captain Gregory L. Van Patten, Lieutenant Quincy Cromer, Lieutenant Joseph "JD" Comer, Sheriff Matthew C. Kendall, Sergeant Jay Vanoven, Sergeant Clint Wyant, and Undersheriff Darren Brewster.

## Sheriff Kendall announces MCSO promotions

By Capt. Gregory L. Van Patten, for MCSO

On October 19, Mendocino County Sheriff Matthew C. Kendall announced the promotions of Lieutenant Quincy Cromer, Lieutenant Joseph "JD" Comer, Sergeant Jay Vanoven and Sergeant Clint Wyant.

In socially distanced ceremonies held in Ukiah, Fort Bragg and via Zoom, Sheriff Kendall credited high-level decision-making, hard work, and dedication to serving the Mendocino County community for his choices in these promotions.

Lieutenant Comer will serve as area commander for the Sheriff's Office for the coastal communities of the county. Lieutenant Cromer will be assigned as the Field Services Division administrative lieutenant, Sergeant Wyant will be assigned to the Investigative Services Bureau, and Sergeant Vanoven will be assigned to the Central Sector as a patrol supervisor.

View biography information on each newly promoted public-safety professional by visiting the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Facebook page at the following link: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoSheriff](http://www.facebook.com/MendocinoSheriff) and scrolling down to posts about each newly promoted MCSO officer.



## 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 place.

## Virtual Town Hall with Supervisor Haschak set for November 15

Submitted by Willits Economic Localization

The public is invited to a Town Hall Meeting (via Zoom) on Sunday, November 15 from 3 to 5 pm, to ask questions and comment in dialog with Third District Supervisor John Haschak on issues facing our community

and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

This meeting is hosted by WELL (Willits Economic Localization) and co-sponsored by Willits Chamber of Commerce, Mendocino branch of the American Association of University Women, the Willits Environmental Center, Nuestra Alianza de Willits, and other groups. All are welcome to participate!

To join the Zoom meeting, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ywvr93u2> or, for other options to participate, email [mstrong@willitsonline.com](mailto:mstrong@willitsonline.com) or call 707-459-1493.

### Willits Certified Farmers Market

## WINTER MARKET

November 5th 2020 - April 28th 2021

Green Uprising Farm  
New Agrarian Collective  
Mulligans Gardens  
Inland Ranch  
John Ford Ranch  
Irene's Garden  
Fairall's Farm  
Ewing & Petterson Mushrooms  
Shewolf Coffee  
Mendo Ferments  
Miller Sharpening  
Mendocino Herb Guild  
...Plus MORE Special Guests!

(Visit our Facebook Weekly For Updates!)

Thursdays 3pm - 5pm

JOIN US DRIZZLE OR SHINE

(Corner of West Mendocino Ave & Main Street in the parkinglot)

### Transportation For Seniors

Call 707-459-6826

---

### Home Meal Delivery

Call 707-459-6826 to Schedule  
Available Monday thru Friday  
Cost - \$5.50 per meal  
Delivered throughout Willits.  
Please call to set up delivery.

---

### Drive Thru & Walk Up Meals

Available 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
1501 Baechtler Road  
**LUNCHES:**  
Seniors - \$7.00  
Non-Seniors (under age 55) - \$8.00  
Children - \$5.00

#### Menu - Oct. Week 5

Thursday, Oct. 29  
Ghoulash  
Friday, Oct. 30  
Hot Dogs with Chili  
Turkey Dinner

#### Menu - Nov. Week 1

Monday, Nov. 2  
Pork Chop with Onion Gravy  
Tuesday, Nov. 3  
Hot Dogs with Chili  
Wednesday, Nov. 4  
Pork Fajitas  
Thursday, Nov. 5  
Chicken & Dumplings  
Friday, Nov. 6  
Country Fried Steak

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Accepting donations to aide us in feeding seniors Sheltering in Place  
— Please Visit —  
[www.willitsseiorcenter.com](http://www.willitsseiorcenter.com)

---

### Fresh See's Candy

Arriving October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Nut N Chews, Soft Centers, Milk, Dark and Assorted. 1 lb. boxes.  
**DRIVE THRU PICK UP • CALL 459-6826**

## Willits Toy Run 2020: Outdoor toy drop-off; GoFundMe page

The Willits Children's Christmas Program is sponsored by the Willits Rotary Club and coordinated and co-sponsored by the Willits Wild Bunch, Inc. The Christmas Program is set up to assist needy families in the Willits area and to supply gifts of toys, food and clothing to children who would not have a Christmas without this program.

During a normal year, the Willits Wild Bunch, Inc. sponsors and coordinates the Willits Toy Run, which this year will be the 28th annual run. During a normal year the Toy Run is attended by hundreds of motorcycle riders and members of the Willits community. A large gathering is held at Little Lake Grange where music,

food, a huge raffle, and a live auction take place. Toys are donated by the attendees, and money is raised through the raffle and auction. But this is not a normal year....

The 2020 Toy Run will take place with modifications: It will be held outdoors, and social gathering protocols will be in place at a toy drop-off location.

We have launched this GoFundMe page <https://www.gofundme.com/f/willits-toy-run-and-christmas-program> for donations, since a raffle and live auction which is always generously supported by our local businesses, will not be part of this year's run because of the social distancing restrictions.

The money is used to help obtain toys and clothing for the children to supplement the toy donations from the Toy Run. On average the Willits Christmas Program supports approximately 200 families and 450 children.

Thank you all for your past support, and thank you in advance for your support this year during these trying times.... Because of all these restrictions over the past six+ months, these kids really do need an awesome Christmas ... and we hope to give them the best one ever. Love to you all and thank you.

– Rich Venturi, Willits Wild Bunch, for the Willits Toy Run



## Sheriff Kendall announces new hires at MCSO

By Capt. Gregory L. Van Patten, for MCSO

On October 26, Mendocino County Sheriff Matthew C. Kendall held a new-hire ceremony to swear in Deputy Thomas Kelly and Deputy Carl Mitchell. In a socially distanced outside ceremony and via Zoom, members of the sheriff's office congratulated Deputy Kelly and Deputy Mitchell.

Both were Mendocino County Sheriff's Office corrections deputies who recently graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in Windsor. Their attendance in the academy was sponsored by the sheriff's office after having participated in an internal selection process of corrections division staff.

Deputy Kelly and Deputy Mitchell's career paths mark an effort by Sheriff Kendall to bring valuable skill sets learned in working in the corrections division to the field services

division. New patrol deputies undergo an extensive and vigorous training period once they graduate from the police academy prior to being allowed to work in a solo capacity.

Sheriff Kendall also introduced Stephanie Elledge as the newest volunteer member of the sheriff's office Search and Rescue team. Elledge is currently employed as an animal control officer with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Carl Mitchell

Deputy Carl Mitchell grew up in Lake County. She started her law enforcement career in the corrections division with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office in 2018. Deputy Mitchell expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve and protect her community in this public-safety profession, which she dreamed about since childhood.

Deputy Thomas Kelly

Deputy Thomas Kelly grew up in rural Plumas County. He recalls wanting to work in law enforcement since he was in preschool. Deputy Kelly started his sworn career at the

Above, left: Deputy Carl Mitchell, who recently graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in Windsor, is new to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Above, center: Search & Rescue volunteer Stephanie Elledge, who served five years in the Marine Corps, joins the sheriff's office Search and Rescue team.

Above, right: Deputy Thomas Kelly, after graduating fifth in his class at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in Windsor, has been hired as a deputy with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

At left: Law enforcement personnel welcome new hires to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office: from left, Captain Gregory L. Van Patten, new Deputy Thomas Kelly, new Search & Rescue volunteer Stephanie Elledge, Sheriff Matthew C. Kendall, new Deputy Carl Mitchell, and Undersheriff Darren Brewster.



Above: The Claws for a Cause auction features several pieces of furniture crafted by Cody Bartholomew, made of reclaimed barn wood from Ridgewood Ranch. Lydia Senter Colvig, who's been organizing auction items, stands behind the hand-built bar with a lucky horseshoe. At left: These two quilts donated by local quilter Amy Elliot, a cowboy throw-sized quilt and a queen-size log-cabin-designed quilt, will be up for auction.

## Claws for a Cause auction this weekend

Submitted by the Seabiscuit Therapeutic 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. An antique Barnsby English leather saddle, used by Hall of Fame inductee Noor, Seabiscuit's stablemate at Ridgewood Ranch, is also up for auction, with a letter of authenticity.

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 Hoymann 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 same time!

## Community Thanksgiving drive-thru dinner

Submitted by Willits Community Services

The Willits Food Bank will host the annual Community Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, at the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtler Road. Due to COVID, the dinner will be a drive-thru event, although some are expected to walk through. There will be no seating inside or outside the Senior Center.

"The menu," said Ruthanne Volz, executive director for Willits Community Services and Food Bank, "will be the same as in the past 30 years: turkey with all the trimmings, salad and pie, and a small bottled beverage, all packaged and ready in a to-go bag."

Sorry, no hot beverages will be served. Meals may be picked up at the front entrance from 11 am to 3 pm at no cost. A donation box will be available for those who wish to contribute.

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

Primary precautions will be followed in order to ensure everyone's safety from the COVID virus. Only staff and volunteers will be allowed inside the building. They must be free of virus symptoms, as determined by self-reporting and by taking forehead temperatures, to be allowed inside. They must observe safety precautions during their work shift. Those interested in volunteering may call the food bank at 459-3333 to sign up.

Volz said donations of food and supplies have been promised. If interested in helping with the costs of this annual event, she said, please call the food bank or email [wcsrav4@gmail.com](mailto:wcsrav4@gmail.com) for a list of needed items.

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



## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

### Agape Bible Church

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

### Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

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

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

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

### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

- Sound of Soul events
- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?  
Call 707-456-9934  
[www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org)

### Grace Community Church

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

### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

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

### St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-272-0177

Church Services/Communion  
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

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/willitsweekly](https://www.facebook.com/willitsweekly)

If you want to be included in this column please call:

April Tweddell  
(707) 972-2475  
[april@willitsweekly.com](mailto:april@willitsweekly.com)





Above: Ella Randrup and Nikolai Ritchley push their pumpkins through the water, while Aedan Lockwood-Chenelle and Emelia Owsiany wait for their leg of the relay during the Otters' Halloween festivities. Below: Emelia Owsiany tries to catch an apple in her mouth during the Apple Bobbin Relay at the Otters' Halloween party.

## An Otters' Halloween

Submitted by the Willits Otters

In keeping the holiday spirit alive during the pandemic, the Otters continue their traditions. On the Thursday before Halloween, the Willits Otter Swim Team enjoyed their annual Halloween festivities. The athletes received a bag of Halloween candy under the haunted canopy with more than one of the children experiencing a little fright. The athletes then participated in two relays.

During the first relay, the swimmers pushed full-size pumpkins the length of the pool, passing the pumpkin under the lane line to the next athlete. The swimmers then prepared for the Apple Bobbin Relay. This relay consisted of participants swimming the length of the pool. At the end of each lane there was an apple waiting for them to catch in their mouths and place on the deck. Once the apple was placed on the deck, the next leg of the relay could begin.

The relays were exciting and competitive. The Otters cheered each other on and had a great time. The rest of the practice consisted of free swim, diving, and a well-stocked treat table. A special thanks to all the parents that contributed to this special evening.

The Otters continue through their winter session into January and always welcome new swimmers. If interested, contact us through our Facebook page "Willits Otters Swim Team" or call Robert Chavez at 559-417-4157.

Go Otters!

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

**3X** ENTRIES ON TUESDAYS  
200 POINTS = 3 ENTRY TICKETS



## ONE UGLY MUDDER

### 2020 Jeep Gladiator Giveaway\*

**Earn Entries Daily for Weekend Drawings**  
**Oct 1 – December 26**  
200 points = 1 entry ticket

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

Two winners each hour will receive **\$100 Free Play** and an entry into the Grand Prize drawing on December 26.  
\* Jeep provided by Thurston Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and customized by DC Customs.

**SENIOR THURSDAYS** NOON – 5PM  
It's Super Seniors Day and guests age 55+ who earn 75 points that day will receive **\$15 in Free Play** and a **50% Off** meal coupon to the Creekside Café.



**SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO**  
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Not transferable. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Player's Club Members are required to present their gold card when valid ID 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 is a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.



## Leadership Mendocino celebrates graduates and a new direction

By Holly Madrigal, director, Leadership Mendocino

Leadership Mendocino, the innovative program that connects and educates the leaders of Mendocino County, has completed its 27th year. Class XXVII was a diverse group of members from all across Mendocino County.

We met one Friday a month to learn about a different aspect of our region, from Agriculture Day in the vineyards of Potter Valley to Natural Resources Day held at the Mendocino College Field Station in Point Arena and the forests of Mendocino Redwood Company.

We explored the creativity of the educational system in Fort Bragg, including the Krenov Woodworking School of Mendocino College. The group took a deep dive into current issues like the ambulance crisis and the Potter Valley water diversion. We heard from local speakers and experts on education, health care and business.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic curtailing our last two days in Covelo and at Mendocino College, our group managed to persevere. This Leadership Mendocino class has now graduated and is selecting class projects, which are designed to give back to the community. These projects are as diverse and interesting as the individual class members.

Jason Island, engineer, is crafting usable, single-unit design plans that can be accessed in the City of Fort Bragg to assist with the housing shortage. Lee Bryant taught a class in beekeeping to the Anderson Valley Adult School. Yvett Magallon plans to organize a youth wrestling tournament in Ukiah once the pandemic is behind us.

Many class members are choosing to devote their time by joining a local board of directors. David Riemenschneider

Read the rest of **Leadership** Over on Page 9

At top: Members of Leadership Mendocino Class XXVII gather for a group photo, with Director Holly Madrigal standing at right.

At right: Julie Fetherston helps brainstorm ideas at the Leadership Mendocino retreat.

Below: The Leadership Class XXVII group meets with Congressman Jared Huffman.



WILLITS ROTARY CLUB INVITES YOU TO COME TOGETHER (VIRTUALLY) FOR

## Claws FOR a Cause



**VIRTUAL EDITION**

A BENEFIT FOR THE SEABISCUIT THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

## NOVEMBER 6, 7 & 8

JOIN US ONLINE  
**STRC.EJOINME.ORG/CLAWS4ACAUSE**

**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

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Spartime



PureCrop1



Adventist Health

*Frank R. Howard Foundation*  SNOW

COLUMN | Medicare Notes

## It's time to review your Medicare coverage

By Seema Verma, administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Medicare's annual Open Enrollment season is underway, and I want to encourage all people with Medicare to review their current health and prescription drug coverage.

Medicare Advantage plan premiums have fallen to historic lows, dropping an average of 34 percent over the last three years. Many plans are offering a new insulin benefit that limits the maximum cost to \$35 for a 30-day supply. By shopping around, you may be able to save money and find a plan that better meets your needs.

Open Enrollment runs through December 7 each year. This is the time when you can change your Medicare health or drug coverage for the following year. You can switch to Original Medicare, or join or change a Medicare Advantage plan or Part D prescription drug plan. Any new coverage you select takes effect January 1, 2021.

Our updated Medicare Plan Finder ([www.Medicare.gov/plan-compare](http://www.Medicare.gov/plan-compare)) can help you compare the prices and benefits of Medicare Advantage plans, Original Medicare, Medicare drug plans, and Medigap policies. This mobile-friendly tool works on smart phones, tablets, and desktop computers. For beneficiaries who have created an account, we've personalized Plan Finder to generate a personal drug history so that prescription information will be auto-populated from personal Medicare claims history with accurate brand, dosage, and frequency information. But anyone can browse options without creating an account.

Many Medicare drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans that include drug coverage are participating in a new insulin savings initiative. These plans now offer 30 days of insulin for \$35 or less – an average savings of \$446 per year on out-of-pocket costs. To find a plan with lower-cost insulin, look for "Insulin Savings" on Medicare Plan Finder.

There are important differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage. Here's a brief summary:

### Original Medicare

With Original Medicare, you can go to any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare, anywhere in the U.S. In most cases, you don't need a referral to see a specialist.

For services covered under Medicare Part B, you usually pay 20 percent of the Medicare-approved amount after you meet your deductible. You also pay a monthly premium for Part B.

If you choose to join a Part D drug plan, you'll pay an additional monthly premium.

There's no yearly limit on what you pay out-of-pocket, unless you have supplemental coverage, such as Medicare Supplement Insurance, also known as Medigap. Medigap can help pay your remaining out-of-pocket costs (like your 20 percent coinsurance). Or you can use coverage from a former employer or union, or Medicaid.

Original Medicare covers most medically necessary services and supplies in hospitals, doctors' offices, and other health care settings. It doesn't cover some benefits, including vision and most dental care.

In most cases, you don't have to get a service or item approved ahead of time for Original Medicare to cover it.

### Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage Plans are offered by private insurers that provide your Medicare Part A and B benefits, in many cases through a managed network, similar to an HMO.

In many cases, you'll need to use doctors and other providers in the plan's network and service area to get the lowest out-of-pocket costs. HMO model plans won't cover providers outside the plan's network and service area unless certain exceptions apply, such as emergency services.

You may need to get a referral to see a specialist, even if the specialist is in your plan's network.

Out-of-pocket costs for Medicare Advantage vary, and plans may have lower out-of-pocket costs for certain services.

You may have to pay a monthly plan premium in addition to your monthly Part B premium. Some plans may have a \$0 premium or may help pay all or part of your Part B premiums.

Plans have a yearly limit on what you pay out-of-pocket for services covered under Medicare Part A and Part B. Once you reach your plan's limit, you pay nothing for services covered by Part A and Part B for the rest of the year.

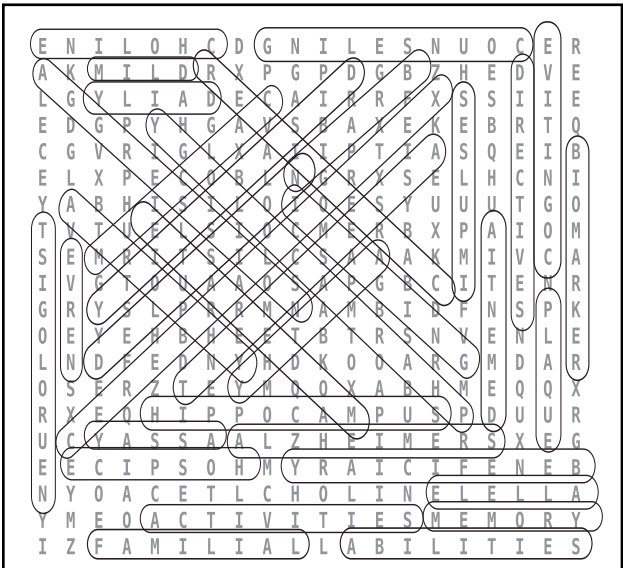
Plans must cover all medically necessary services that Original Medicare covers. Most plans offer extra benefits that Original Medicare doesn't cover, such as some vision, hearing, dental, benefits, as well as adult day health services, caregiver support, in-home support, and home-based palliative care.

In some cases, you have to get a service or item approved ahead of time for the plan to cover it.

If you'd like free, personalized counseling on what Medicare options are right for you, call the nonprofit State Health Insurance and Assistance Program, or SHIP. To find the SHIP program in your state, go to <https://www.shipcenter.org>.

Or call us at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).


Seema Verma is administrator of the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 800-MEDICARE.



## LEGAL NOTICES

WW292  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2020-F0523  
The following company is doing business as Mphotographress, 21300 Locust Street, Willits, CA 95490 / mailing address: P.O. Box 43, Willits, CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Maureen Cristin Jennison, 21300 Locust Street, Willits, CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above in 2012.  
FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on October 20, 2020.  
/s/ Maureen Jennison  
Publication dates: 10/22, 10/29, 11/05 and 11/12/2020

WW291  
**Fictitious Business Name Statement**  
2020-F0492  
The following company is doing business as Catahoula Cafe - Bubbling Well Therapeutics - QUEENPIN Acupressure, 80 South Street, Willits, CA 95490.  
Registered owner: Sally Ann Pringle, 80 South Street, Willits, CA 95490.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 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:

Accountant  
Administrative Services Manager II  
Custodian  
Deputy Director HHSA – Public Health  
Nursing  
Deputy Public Defender I  
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I  
Director of Cultural Services  
Eligibility Specialist I  
Licensed Vocational Nurse  
Nutritionist – Part-Time  
Planning Technician II  
Planner II/III  
Public Health Nurse  
Registered Nurse  
Senior Public Health Nurse  
Surveyor I/II

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:  
[www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources)  
EOE

The rest of **Leadership** From Page 8

joined both North Coast Opportunities and the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. Ben Anderson has joined the board of the Manzanita Project, which provides behavioral health for local adults.

We want to thank this exemplary group for stepping up to improve Mendocino County for years to come. This stellar group joins alumni of more than 700 participants who have shared their talents with this organization. Kudos to Leadership Mendocino Class XXVII:

Ben Anderson, Mendocino County Health Clinics; Todd Andrus, Redwood Credit Union; Alex Bland, Redwood Coast Regional Center; Angie Boone, Northern Circle Indian Housing; Jo Bradley, former owner Dennen's Victorian Farmhouse; Lee Bryant, Express It Mail Service; Neil DiBernardo, Community Foundation of Mendocino County.

Imil Ferrara, Mendocino Firesafe Council; Julia Fetherston, First 5 Mendocino; Allison Findley, Community Foundation of Mendocino County; Jon Frech, Black Oak Coffee; Scott Howland, Flow Kana; Jason Island, SHN Engineering; Katrina Kessen, Greater Ukiah Business & Tourism Alliance; Cynthia Lamon, Lamon Patent Services; Teresa Larsen, biotech consultant.

Debra Lennox, architect; Yvett Magallon, North Coast Opportunities; Tara Moratti, Coldwell Banker Ukiah & Willits; Maureen Mulren, 2nd District Supervisor candidate; Kate Napp, Redwood Community Services; Vic Phelan, Ford Auto Sales.

Sarah Reith, KZYX Public Radio; Dave Riemenschneider, retired Mendocino County judge;



## CLASSIFIEDS

**Computer Help**  
Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring. \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhail@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: 459-2868.

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

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

**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

**Willits Food Bank Open**  
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

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## Willits Weekly

We're online and in print

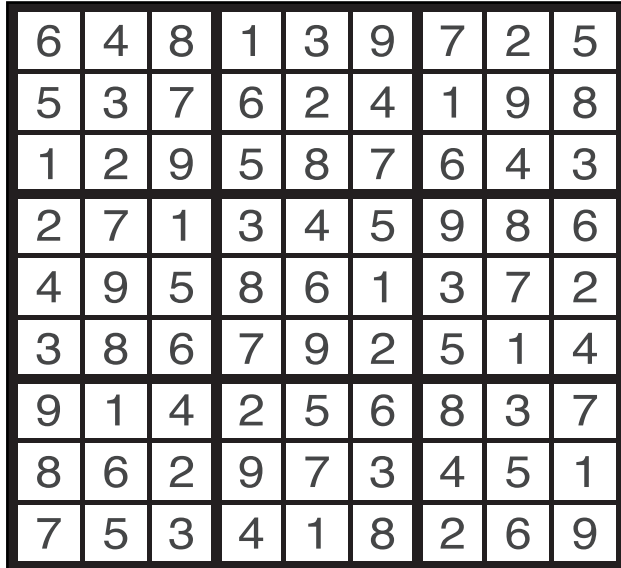


Molly Rosenthal, North Coast Opportunities; Craig Schlatter, City of Ukiah; Phoenix Trent, Evolved Growth Strategies; Peggy Weber, retired IT consultant; Sage Wolf, Redwood Community Services.

Leadership Mendocino has been the key organization providing leadership skill development in our region for over 25 years. Now this pandemic is testing all of us, straining our systems and impacting the local economy. Leadership Mendocino is committed to providing the support and engagement our community needs.

Our steering committee has launched an exciting new focus called the Year of Alumni to reconnect this large group of leaders. Our alumni have moved on to key positions around the county and their dedication for community improvement has not diminished. We have embarked on a yearlong program to support this cohort and provide them the tools to adapt and grow during this pandemic.

Our community fabric is the strength of Mendocino County, and Leadership Mendocino is moving forward to reinforce those ties. Stay tuned to hear more about how Leadership Mendocino will expand these connections throughout our Year of Alumni.





Both money-raising measures in the Willits look to be on track to be approved by voters.

Measure K, the three-quarter cent sales tax designed to fund essential services in the City of Willits, has received 809 yes votes, and 379 no votes, meaning 68.10 percent of residents whose votes have been counted so far approve, with 31.90 percent opposed. Measure K needs to be approved only by a simple majority vote, 50 percent of the vote plus 1.

The Willits Unified School District's Measure I bond measure requires a 55 percent supermajority to pass. So far, 2,156 voters, or 59.97 percent, have voted yes, with 1,439 voters, or 40.03 percent, voting no. If passed, Measure I will add an additional tax levy of \$40 per \$100,000 in assessed value on district property owners for repair and improvement of school district facilities.

The race for two seats on the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees is probably too close to call. At present, challenger and former teacher Dianne McNeal is in first place, with 1,525 votes (29.21 percent of ballots cast so far), followed by incumbent trustee Alex Bowlds with 1,403 votes (26.87 percent).

Of the other two candidates, Tracey Douglas has received 1,279 votes (24.50 percent), and Bryan Mann has received 1,014 votes (19.42 percent).

#### County elections

Mendocino County will have two new supervisors in 2021. In the race for the supervisor's seat in the First District (Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, Calpella) Glenn McGourty has defeated Jon Kennedy by a 60.49 percent to a 39.51 percent margin in votes cast so far.

In the Second District (City of Ukiah), Maureen "Mo" Mulheren has received 58.41 percent of the ballots reported so far, to Rodin's 41.59 percent.

#### Local results for Huffman, Wood

In Mendocino County, Democratic incumbent Congressman Jared Huffman defeated Republican challenger Dale Mensing with 75.19 percent of the local vote, to the challenger's 24.81 percent.

For the state Assembly, Mendocino County voters choose incumbent Democratic Assemblyman Jim Wood by 73.96 percent, over 26.04 percent who voted for Republican challenger Charlotte Svolos.

— a psychiatric health facility, a crisis residential treatment facility, and a regional training center — along with a half-dozen ancillary programs, which have been recommended by the Measure B Committee and partially adopted by the board of supervisors, and have plenty of money left over.

In the document, Bailey notes that revenues which are to be dedicated to construction of facilities total \$29,228,000. Costs for the facilities are projected to be \$20,785,258, leaving \$8,442,742 as unspent funds.

Anticipated services, including some services and programs that the supervisors have not yet approved, total \$5,137,261. Earlier in the document, Bailey noted that the Measure B tax is expected to bring in \$9,743,000 in revenue, to be dedicated to providing services and to funding operations. Therefore in the "services" column, Bailey is projecting a surplus of \$4,605,738.

In addition, a prudent reserve of \$1.9 million is to be set aside.

That means that altogether, Measure B is expected to bring in \$40,871,000 over the first five years. Anticipated facilities will cost \$20,785,258 and anticipated operations and services will cost \$5,137,261. Therefore, by the end of 2023, the Measure B account will have something on the order of \$13 million in unspent funds in its coffers, according to Bailey.

The bad news is that, in spite of repeated pleading by Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams for a strategic plan that would go into professional-level, accountant-style detail on current and projected costs, including construction costs, staffing costs and maintenance costs, and in spite of the fact that Williams and Third District Supervisor John Haschak were placed on an ad hoc committee for the purpose of working with Bailey on the strategic plan, Bailey nevertheless offered the board a 30-page sheaf of generalities and unknowns.

A quick glance at the table of contents shows that Bailey spent one page on the crisis residential treatment facility, which is projected to cost \$5.2 million, two pages on the psychiatric health facility, which is projected to cost anywhere between \$8 and \$17 million, and seven pages on the regional training center, which will cost \$525,000 when it is completed.

The strategic plan is necessarily vague on a number of

pointed out the truck that has been in service "died a smoky, fiery, oily death" and the cost of fixing the vehicle would not be advantageous. Fire Chief Noyer is traveling this week to Fontana in San Bernardino County, to purchase a used but in very good condition replacement, a 1999 Ford F450 for a cost of \$19,000.

The December 2020 election for the special districts representative on LAFCO, Mendocino County's Local Agency Formation Commission, was forefront. Brooktrails board member Orth is currently the representative of Mendocino County's special districts on LAFCO, and the board formally supported Orth's continued service on the LAFCO board as a full-term, regular member.

General Manager Alaniz stated that there is also a regular seat available on LAFCO (that serves for the remainder of a four-year term). Director Orth recommended that current, dedicated and long-serving LAFCO alternate, Jennifer Bazzani, be placed in consideration for that seat. Bazzani is with the Ukiah Valley Fire District that has worked closely with the City of Ukiah. The Brooktrails board also voted to support Bazzani.

Board members then discussed the upcoming holiday schedule and noted that the Brooktrails board will meet just once in November and once in December: on Tuesdays, November 10 and December 8. It was stated that everyone will be able to enjoy a good holiday season, from Thanksgiving through Christmas and New Year's.

"So this is a happy moment for the county, to graduate to red. But I just want to make sure that everyone realizes that this is very tenuous. It's not only because we continue to see a case or two per day, and that brings us close to seven [cases a week], which is the cut-off [separating the red tier from the purple tier], but also the country is starting to feel its second wave, mostly in the mid-west and the southern states, but also in southern California, we're seeing an increase in cases and we should be bracing," Coren said.

Dr. Coren said he has been meeting recently with other public health officers and state officials and that they have been working on creating an organizational structure to distribute vaccines. "There is no vaccine yet. Possibly, if all goes well, we will be distributing in the late spring."

Coren added that the University of California at San Francisco will not extend its contract to analyze COVID-19 tests for Mendocino County and will cease providing that service by November 14. At the same time, the county is seeking to renew and expand its contract with OptumServe, the testing service that has been stationed at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds since May 22.

Coren said the county has applied not only for the renewal of the OptumServe contract in Ukiah, but also has applied for a travel team OptumServe service, which will be able to travel to various locations around the county.

#### Latest COVID numbers

Since the first case that was confirmed in the county on March 19, the county has confirmed a total of 1,188 cases of the disease. Of that number, 1,110 have been released from isolation.

As of Tuesday evening, the county has confirmed 57 active cases of COVID-19 in the county. Of that number, 54 are being kept in isolation, two are in local hospitals, and one is in an intensive care

points, such as the cost of the psychiatric health facility. Part of the problem here is that neither the Measure B Committee nor the board of supervisors have yet to decide on where the future PHF will be located, or whether it will be built from scratch, or whether an existing facility will be remodeled to give the county its PHF.

"Renovating a building to create a PHF in a rural area (such as Mendocino County) can cost between \$400 to \$650 per square foot, in comparison to a new facility at an estimated \$1,122 per square foot," Bailey wrote, reprising information she included in a July 2020 document she wrote entitled "Operational Costs for Proposed Crisis Residential Treatment Facility and Psychiatric Health Facility/Psychiatric Hospital."

For her draft strategic plan, Bailey added some new language on costs of a potential PHF. "Another measuring or estimation device calculates \$500,000 per bed. For instance, the 27,000-square-foot former Howard Hospital building may cost up to \$17 million to renovate (or \$630-\$650 per square foot), while a 16-bed facility may cost approximately \$8 million to renovate according to the \$500,000 per bed model. This excludes some soft costs including the cost of equipment and operations.

"A PHF project will cost anywhere from \$8 million to \$17 million according to research trends within the last five years. An average of \$12 million is used in the final fiscal section," Bailey wrote.

The Measure B ad hoc committee had received an early copy of the draft document, and had compiled a list of questions about it. The questions include the following:

"In this report, the overall estimate for '18-'19 is \$8,068,000 while the actual is \$8,555,373 (from the auditor's report) and '19-'20 estimate is \$8,700,000 while the actual is \$8,647,202. Why aren't the actuals being used?"

"For years 6-10 the operations revenue is listed as \$2,050,000. On page 29, the annual revenue is listed as \$2,500,000 for these years, a difference of \$450,000 for each year. Why is this?"

"In column 2, Estimated Expenditures, the line items do not add up to \$4,800,000 but rather \$5,102,173. How is this calculated?"

"The Design Costs/Planning (3) is listed as \$1,127,167.00 and the footnote #3 details the costs as Nacht & Lewis

## MCSO makes arrest in sexual assault of Covelo 17-year-old

*By Detective Sgt. Luis M. Espinoza, for MCSO*

In August of 2020, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies were contacted by concerned family members regarding a case involving a long-term sexual assault of a 17-year-old female juvenile in Covelo and 31-year-old suspect Kevin Reed Johnson of Weott, California.

Based on the nature of the investigation, detectives with the Investigations Bureau took over the case. During the ensuing investigation, following interviews and search warrants, evidence was discovered which identified Kevin Johnson as participating in repeated sexual assaults of the minor, over the course of at least a year beginning in 2019.

These crimes included at least one act of rape by intoxication. Additionally, information was learned that harmful matter was caused to be sent by suspect Johnson to the minor during the reported time. The identified sex acts were suspected of occurring in the Covelo area and in Humboldt County in Weott.

On October 30, with the assistance of the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office, an arrest warrant for Kevin Johnson was issued by the Mendocino County Superior Court with a bail of \$100,000 for the listed charges.

On November 4, at about 8 am, detectives with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant, with the assistance of Humboldt County Sheriff's Office deputies, at a residence located on School Road in Weott. Suspect Kevin Johnson was contacted and arrested for the outstanding warrant. At the conclusion of the search warrant service, suspect Johnson was transported to the Mendocino County Jail for booking and is housed in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

Specific charges include: 261(a)(3) PC - Rape of Victim Prevented from Resisting by Any Intoxication; 313.1(a) PC - Distribution/Exhibition/Offers Harmful Matter to Minor; 287(b)(1) PC - Oral Copulation of Victim Under 18 years of Age; and 261.5 PC - Unlawful Sexual Intercourse with Minor more than 3 years younger than perpetrator.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Tip-Line at 707-234-2100 or Mendocino County Dispatch Center at 707-463-4086.

unit either in, or out of, the county. Twenty-one people in this county have died from the disease.

According to California Department of Public Health calculations, for the current sample week of October 11 through October 17, the county has a daily average new case rate of 6.9, and a testing positivity rate of 2.9 percent.

The Mendocino County Department of Public Health, looking at more recent data — the seven days between October 20 and October 26 — has a confirmed average daily new case rate of 5.57, and the county has recorded a testing positivity rate of 3.72 percent.

Looking at disease statistics along racial lines, 743 of all cases are among people of Latinx descent; 231 are among whites; 99 are among American Indians; four are among Blacks, six are among Asians; 91 are categorized as "unreported"; and 14 are classified as "other."

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective, 895 cases reside in the Ukiah valley; 118 live in the north county; 108 are from the north coast; 44 are from the south county; and 23 are from the south coast.

Of the total cumulative case number of 1,188, 643 were female and 545 were male. A total of 54 percent of the people who have contracted COVID-19 in this county were female.

Looking at the disease as broken up into age cohorts: 34 cases have been among people between the ages of 0 and 5; 48 cases between ages of 6 and 12; 104 people between the ages of 13 and 18; 391 people between the ages of 19 and 34; 308 people between the ages of 35 and 49; 187 people between the ages of 50 and 64; and 116 cases are among people who are 65 or older.

A total of 32,047 tests have been done in this county. As of Tuesday evening, the results of 1,399 tests were pending.

for \$720,000, AECOM for \$332,000 and Building Commissioning for \$59,167. This adds up to \$1,111,167.00. There is a difference of \$16,000. Why is this?"

There were 21 such questions. During discussion of the item, the supervisors asked Bailey if she would answer these questions. Bailey said she would do so.

Measure B Committee's Jan McGourty, who was for many years the chair of the county's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Advisory Board, told the supervisors she felt Bailey's strategic plan was "very disappointing. It seemed to emphasize the training center. There was no focus on services. Essentially, no plan was presented. It was just a recapitulation of present knowledge," McGourty said.

As the supervisors were discussing the strategic plan, Williams noted that to most people, the PHF was the centerpiece of the Measure B project, and yet the Measure B team seemed to be working mostly on a regional training center and a crisis residential treatment facility. He suggested that work on the crisis residential treatment facility be frozen and that work begin forthwith on the PHF. No one supported his statement.

Bailey mentioned that more information would soon be forthcoming on both the crisis residential treatment facility and the PHF. She said the county has received four good responses to its recent request for proposals for an operator for the crisis residential treatment facility, and is due to select an operator within the next two weeks. Bailey said this would help to determine county costs associated with supporting the operation of that facility.

Bailey added that in two weeks the county would also be selecting an operator to run the proposed PHF. Supervisor John McCowen then made a motion to direct staff to come back to the board at its next meeting, scheduled for November 17, with additional information pertaining to the construction and operation of the PHF, the crisis residential treatment center, and the training center. Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Jenine Miller interjected that there was to be an extension on the closing date for choosing the PHF operator.

McCowen revised his motion to bring the new information back to the board at its first meeting in December. This motion was approved unanimously.

the location, however the suspects had left the location prior to the deputies' arrival. Deputies contacted and spoke with a few farm workers at the location who had been camping on the property and had witnessed the incident.

Deputies learned that a minivan and a small sedan vehicle arrived on the property at about 12:15 am and drove to a large storage building approximately 50 to 60 yards uphill from where the farm workers were camping.

Several subjects exited the vehicles, and one of the farm workers witnessed the subjects break into the storage building which contained semi processed marijuana/cannabis.

The subjects then proceeded to remove several boxes and containers of semi processed marijuana/ cannabis from the storage shed and dumped the marijuana into both vehicles before driving away from the area. The farm workers who witnessed the incident telephoned the marijuana/cannabis farm operation owner who in turned called 911 to report the incident.

Deputies had concluded their preliminary investigation and were leaving the property when the two vehicles described arrived at the property, and deputies followed the vehicles east on Highway 20.

When the vehicles split off in different directions, deputies attempted to conduct an investigation stop on the van when the driver, Christopher France, 24, of Willits

sped off at a high rate of speed. Deputies initiated a vehicle pursuit that traveled from Willits and ended near Upper Lake at the intersection of Highway 20 and Highway 29 in Lake County.

With the assistance of California Highway Patrol, who took over the high-speed pursuit, a spike strip was deployed at the intersection of Highways 20 and 29, causing all four tires to deflate and bringing the vehicle to a stop just south of the listed intersection on Highway 29.

France and an adult female passenger were quickly detained.

Deputies located evidence on France and in the van indicating his involvement in the burglary of marijuana/cannabis at the listed marijuana/cannabis farm. France was also found in possession of illicit drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Deputies learned Willits Police Department officers had located three subjects in a sedan vehicle located at a mini market and gas station at the intersection of Highway 20 and Main Street in Willits. The vehicle matched the other suspect vehicle observed by deputies fleeing the marijuana/cannabis farm.

A search of the vehicle revealed evidence that two of the subjects were involved in the burglary of the marijuana/cannabis farm. Two of the subjects in the vehicle, Brandon Langenderfer, 27, of Laytonville, and Angelo Martinez, 21,

of Santa Rosa, were taken into custody for the burglary.

Miranda Mullins, 24, of Willits, who was in the vehicle with Langenderfer and Martinez, was arrested for unrelated drug misdemeanor charges and a felony probation violation.

Deputies learned where the suspects were residing and went to a residence located in the 1000 block of Locust Street in Willits, where they found the stolen marijuana/cannabis hidden in a canvas carport.

Langenderfer and Martinez were booked into the Mendocino County Jail for 459 PC (Burglary) and 182 PC (Conspiracy) and were each to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail. Langenderfer also had an additional charge of violating his Post Release Community Supervision probation (3455 PC).

France was arrested for 459 PC (Burglary), 182 PC (Conspiracy), 2800.2 CVC (Felony Reckless driving while evading a Peace Officer), 11350 (a) H&S (Possession of controlled substance); and 11364 H&S (Possession of drug paraphernalia). He was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Mullins was arrested for unrelated illicit drug charges and felony violation of probation 1203.2 PC. She was booked into the Mendocino County Jail and was to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

*At far left: Brandon Langenderfer, 27, of Laytonville.*

*At left, center: Christopher France, 24, of Willits.*

*At left: Angelo Martinez, 21, of Santa Rosa.*

## DA announces felons sentenced to state prison

*Submitted by the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office*

Four felony-level defendants were sentenced late last month in the Mendocino County Superior Court to state prison.

The men are now in the queue at the Mendocino County Jail awaiting a decision by California Department of Corrections authorities to resume processing new inmates at state prisons.

The felons sentenced on October 21-23 were:

Joseph Phillip Hart, 46. He was living in the Spy Rock area of northern Mendocino County when arrested. Hart was sentenced Friday, October 23 to five years in state prison after he was convicted by a jury of assault with a knife, a felony. The defendant's base sentence of 36 months was doubled because he admitted to having a prior strike conviction.

Tylor Lauvale Ulugalo, 23, of Ukiah was sentenced Friday, October 23 to five years in state prison after entering a guilty plea of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor under the age of 16 years, a felony. The defendant's base sentence of 36 months was doubled because he admitted having a prior strike conviction.

Randolph Paul Bisson, 65, of Covelo was sentenced Thursday, October 22 to 13 years in state prison following his conviction by plea for assault with a firearm, a felony, and an admission that he personally used the firearm in the commission of the crime. The conviction is defined as a violent felony so any credits he may earn towards early release is limited to no more than 15 percent of the overall sentence.

Joel Jesus Ramos, 39, of Hopland was sentenced Wednesday, October 21 to 24 months in state prison following his unsuccessful performance on supervised probation. The defendant was convicted by plea in May 2018 of vehicle theft and receiving stolen property (a motor vehicle), both felonies.



*Joseph Phillip Hart, 46, formerly of Spy Rock.*



*Randolph Paul Bisson, 65, of Covelo.*

chance of precipitation beginning Friday and continuing through the weekend

Closures: Order No. 08-20-14 is in effect for the Mendocino National Forest. Private properties accessed via a Forest System road may require a permit from the USDA Forest Service. Please contact the Mendocino National Forest at 530-934-3316 for more information.

Fire Restrictions: In the interest of the safety of firefighters and visitors to the national forests in the Pacific Southwest Region, fire restrictions were extended to November 6 to prevent further fires from being started and overtaxing the resources of those fighting existing wildfires. For details on the restrictions, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd836358.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd836358.pdf).

Please be extra cautious with any activity that could spark a fire. One less spark, One less wildfire.

For more incident information please see InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6983>

**We're online and in print**  
**WILLITS WEEKLY**





Above, from left: A brave visitor to the Glittered Graveyard finishes the last bite of her candy. Emmy Good welcomes visitors to the studio decorated with ghouls and goblins. The visitors at Glitter My World are greeted by a smoke-breathing dragon. Justin Noyer, son of Chief Jon Noyer, is dressed in full firefighting regalia. Below, left: So much to see and experience at the Glittered Graveyard. Below, left, bottom: Marcus and Bela Glenn drive to Sparetime Supply for their candy, and Lupe Santamaria, aka Stitch, makes sure they drive away happy. Below, right: Glitter My World hosts a dinner party for those who are no longer with us.



Above: Little Lake Fire Secretary Michelle Schnitzius and her daughter, Harper, help out.

At right: Rescue Dan has seen better days.

Below: A ghost inhabits the upper floors of the Glitter My World studios.

Photos by Mathew Caine



## The rest of Halloween

From Page 12

Both Brooktrails Fire and Little Lake Fire offered drive-through trick-or-treating, although there were few tricks that could be pulled while safely ensconced in the family automobiles under the watchful eyes of their parents. Harry So, captain at both the fire departments, was instrumental in securing bags of goodies from Coast Hardware, Safeway, Rite-Aid, Grocery Outlet, and several generous residents.

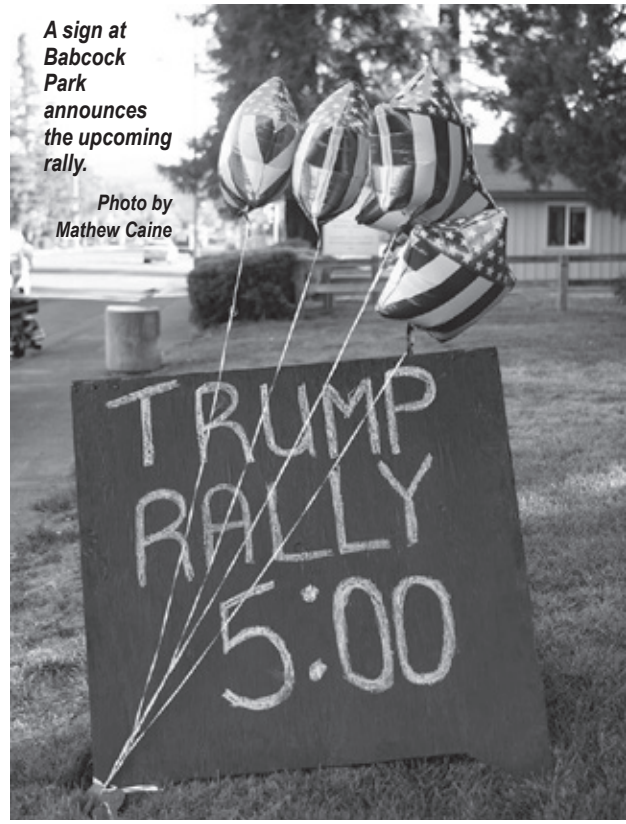
"I've had a couple months of organizing to do this," said So. "Last year we organized this in Little Lake, about 525 bags of candy, and we were out in an hour. This year we were lucky enough to have a lot of donations from businesses and local residents. We netted around 510 pounds of candy. We divided it up between Brooktrails and Little Lake Fire."

"I felt the need to give back to the community," said Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer, "since everybody's been quarantined and socially disrupted. We came up with this idea to give back to the community and let the kids at least have a little bit of fun."

Sparetime Supply & Garden Center had an early 2 to 5 pm candy giveaway under the watchful eye of Stitch (from "Lilo and Stitch"), aka Lupe Santamaria, who made sure the kids had their little pre-packed bags of sweets.

A socially distanced yard of horrors and delights could be found at the Glitter My World studio of artist and sculptor Keena Good. Talking ghosts, smoke-breathing dragons, vultures, fortunetellers, a skeletal banquet, a ghostly graveyard, and dead-things-come-to-life greeted families who were lined up down the block to enter this fantasy Halloween world, at the end of which they were encouraged to pick a bag of pre-packaged goodies to take home, rip open, and enjoy.

With safety in mind, the "adults" of Willits made sure that their children were not denied the fun and fantasy they wait and plan for each year. Germs and bugs and viruses could not stop the delight of this tradition from being real, at least for one night.



The rest of

## Rally

From Page 5

around with an American flag on Fourth of July. You're letting people know that they're not alone, that there are people who think like you, and agree with your mindset."

At the rally, there were participants who expressed the desire for the acrimony to cease and for the country to work together. "This is the best country in the world," said Stevan Adams, a retired correctional officer. "We should all be friends. We should work for the betterment of all of us."

Jacob Chilton summed up his hopes for the country after the election: "Basically, as far as people being able to talk to each other when they disagree, that is the beauty of America is that we have diversity. It is completely OK to have your own opinion, even if it doesn't coincide with mine."



Above: The Brooktrails firefighters and their families pass out many bags of treats.

At right: Jackie Cobbs helps her son, Marshal Haschak, pick from the bags of candy at the end of the Glittered Graveyard.

Ar far right: Naughty nun Emelyn Salmeron, Austin Spence, and the Bride of Chucky, aka Violet, are on their way into the spooky pathway.

Photos by Mathew Caine



# Halloween Night

Local businesses, organizations and individuals get creative to ensure kids still have fun despite COVID-19 challenges

Ghosts and goblins and things that go bump in the night were all playing merrily on All Hallows Eve in the town of Willits, scaring and delighting kids and parents, passing out Halloween treats, and generally creating the transient mayhem that only comes out to play one night a year. Now, the candy is being rationed to make it last, at least one or two days, as the people share photos of their favorite costumes and plan their own for next year.

With so little actual trick-or-treating possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several creative enterprises and households created alternate ways to deliver the treats to grateful youth. There were candy-launching devices to fling the sweets out to the street, hanging bags for the kids to pick from, drive-through parades of cars full of costumed families, and ghoulish pulley systems to send the confections to the waiting hands of Disney princesses, cartoon characters, political figures, barnyard animals, and some indistinguishable creatures that actually look like humans the rest of the year.

Read the rest of

## Halloween

Over on Page 13

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Above: Diane Deaton adds blackberries to her fruit cooking pot where she adds a half-teaspoon of butter to keep it from frothing.

At right: Katie at the Painted Peony, a design studio, and Deaton work together to create party favors – this jar of Happy Thoughts was made for Deaton's daughter's baby shower as a party favor.

Below: All of Our Little Country Kitchen labels are made by Katie at the Painted Peony. She creates original art and designs for her customers.



Photos by Ree Slocum

## The rest of Jammin'

From Page 3

Michigan and helps me with new ideas and recipes over the phone."

The list of jams, jellies and butters is almost 25 offerings long and ever growing, since Deaton continues to experiment. New this year is her Christmas Jam made with strawberries, cranberries, and spices like nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger. Another new jam is called Apple Pie. There are also Carrot Cake Jam, Sugar Free Jams and Butters, and Apple Cider Jelly. All are yummy. All are made from local fruit, some from the Sacramento Valley from The Fruit Lady.

As we're approaching Christmas, Deaton suggests, "I really like the quarter pints for gift-giving. You can get three or four different kinds and give a really cute gift."

To order jams, jellies and butters directly from Deaton's cottage-permitted business, Our Little Country Kitchen, go to their Instagram account: @ourlittlecountrykitchen or Diane Deaton's personal Facebook page "Diane Wacaster Deaton" or call 707-354-4128. She will include a card, if you'd like. The fruit preserves are also available at J.D. Redhouse in Willits and the Hometown Store in Ukiah.



## 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, November 5: Chicken & Dumplings

Friday, November 6: Country Fried Steak

Monday, November 9: Ground Beef Tacos

Tuesday, November 10: Patty Melt

Wednesday, November 11: Chicken Florentine Pasta

Thursday, November 12: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

Friday, November 13: Brisket Sandwich

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

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Email: [cmccuskey.paralegal@gmail.com](mailto:cmccuskey.paralegal@gmail.com)

I 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

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MEEOW!

  
Mendocino County Animal Care Services  
mendoanimalshelter.com

Mama Meadow

Meet the beautiful dog who made us at Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County work for her trust, Mama Meadow. This beauty is around 5 years old, 45 pounds, and a mom to 11 adorable puppies. This wonderful girl has one dramatic story to tell.

Meadow was a stray who found herself on some pretty awesome peeps' property around July 27. They tried to catch her, but she was not having anything to with this. They began feeding her to earn her trust. Meadow did not make this process easy at all. However, with persistence and patience, their hard work paid off. On August 18 during the

thunderstorm, we heard the couple trying to help Meadow were able to capture her in their horse trailer.

At this point Meadow was very pregnant, and we wanted to help her and her soon-to-be kiddos. Meadow was very fearful upon arrival and, sadly, this made it hard to find a foster home. That didn't stop us from giving Meadow the best set-up here on site!

Shortly after arrival, on Labor Day to be exact, Mama Meadow blessed us with 11 adorable puppies. All of Meadow's puppies have found their forever homes; now it's Meadow's turn. We are still learning about Meadow, but she continues to come more and more out of her shell daily.

Do you have room in your heart for Mama Meadow? Can you show her all the good life has to give and just how wonderful love is? If so please send us an application so we can make it happen! You may apply at [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com)

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

– Kelsey Smith for HSMC

Big Church

Meet this big handsome cat, Church. Church is a 5-year-old male feline who is on the larger side. Twelve pounds to be exact. Church is a lovable, sweet and mellow purr machine. He loves to get patted, and for his face to be rubbed. Church is neutered, micro-chipped, and current on vaccines. You may apply to love Church at [www.mendohumanesociety.com](http://www.mendohumanesociety.com).

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Learn more about your heart care options in Mendocino County at [AdventistHeart.org](http://AdventistHeart.org), or call 888-529-9018.

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