

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013



Online & Print
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
Donations Accepted Edition No. 379 Thursday, November 12, 2020

County stays steady as pandemic spreads in world

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

As the COVID-19 pandemic surges globally and nationally, the disease here in Mendocino County remains relatively quiet, despite outbreaks that shut the Mendocino County courthouse and that also afflicted one resident and two employees in the county's juvenile hall.

According to state data which was released yesterday and which

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

Safety features coming to Blosser, Highway 20 crossing

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At a special meeting on Tuesday night, the Willits City Council heard a presentation from Caltrans representatives about designs they've been working on to potentially make major changes at the intersection of Blosser Lane, Coast Street and Highway 20 in Willits.

Many in the community have long sought changes at the intersection, which is near Blosser Lane Elementary School, to help with pedestrian safety and other issues.

Read the rest of **Intersection**
Over on Page 11

County burn ban lifted

Submitted by
CalFire MEU

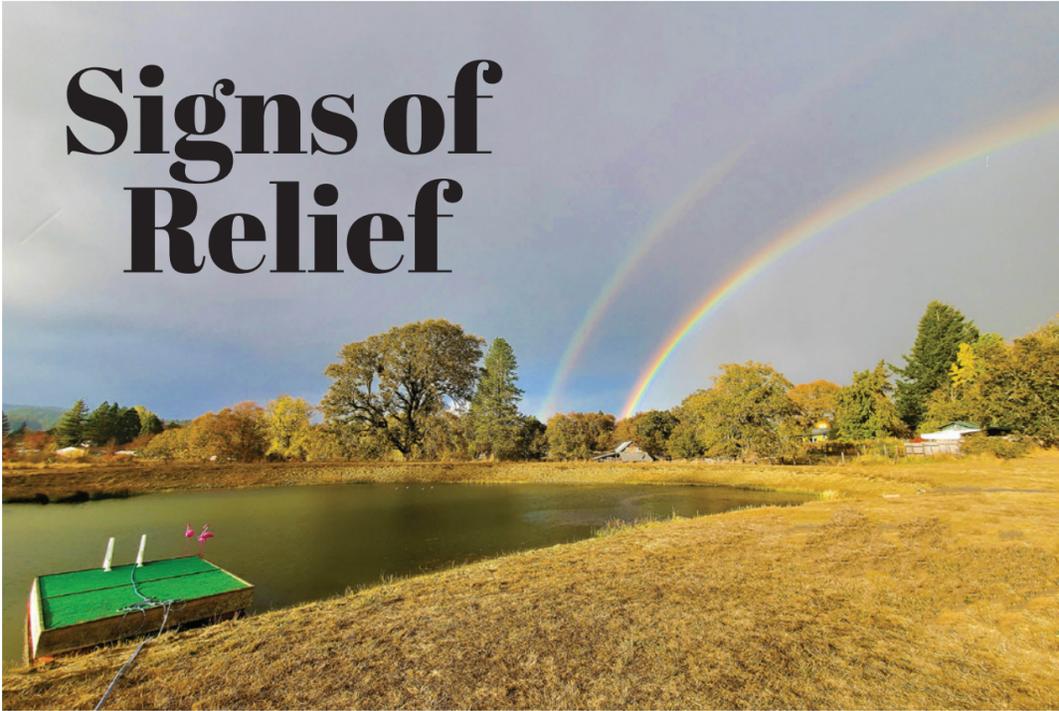
The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit announced Tuesday, November 10 that the burn permit suspension is lifted in Mendocino County.

Those possessing current and valid agriculture and residential burn permits can now resume burning on permissive burn days.

Burn permits are now available online from CalFire at <https://burnpermitfire.ca.gov> for residents of the state responsibility area. Burn permits can also

Read the rest of **Burn ban**
Over on Page 9

Signs of Relief



Saturday, November 7 brings sighs – and signs – of relief to many in Willits and beyond

A collective exhale was palpable Saturday morning in Willits as rain fell for the first time this season, effectively dampening the ground all around, and when a nerve-wracking election process finally announced a projected winner.

While only a little precipitation fell on that monumental Saturday, the presence of a bright double rainbow made it all the more of a special, hopeful-feeling moment.

The National Weather Service is predicting additional rainfall: a 30 percent chance of rain Thursday night as we go to press, and a 90 percent chance of rain on Friday with as much as an inch of rain possible through Friday night.

Overnight lows will be a little warmer, with predictions hovering around 35 degrees through the weekend.

– Maureen Jennison

At left, from top: The double rainbow shone bright in the back field. Rainbows and raindrops! Dramatic skies included bright sun, as well as rain.

City playgrounds expected to open next week

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

During the COVID-19 update portion of the Willits City Council's November 10 meeting, Willits Public Works Superintendent Kenan O'Shea spoke about re-opening the city's park facilities, including playgrounds, which he said is expected to happen early next week after they get the appropriate signs up.

O'Shea talked of the steps that the city is taking to ensure that it's following all county and state health orders and making it safer for the public to use the parks.

These include the installation of antibacterial hand soap dispensers in all of the open restrooms at Snyder Park and Recreation Grove, and daily sanitization and thorough cleaning of the bathrooms, picnic tables, and touched surfaces of the playground equipment with "a product designed to neutralize virus and bacteria, especially COVID-19."

The cleaning will take place every morning before the restrooms are opened at 9 am, and the restrooms will generally close around dusk.

Read the rest of **Playgrounds**
Over on Page 4

Potter Valley Project update

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

At the end of September, representatives from the Two Basin Solution Partnership and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission met in Ukiah to review the status and plans for 22 studies associated with the partnership's proposal to purchase and operate the Potter Valley Project, a hydroelectric facility located in and around Potter Valley.

In addition, more than 100 representatives from local and regional environmental groups and federal resource agencies, as well as other members of the public, attended the meeting virtually.

The Two Basin Solution Partnership consists of the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, the Sonoma County Water Agency, the County of Humboldt, California Trout, and the Round Valley Indian Tribes.

The Potter Valley Project generates about 9.4

Read the rest of **Project**
Over on Page 11

SHOP SMALL SATURDAY-S
SHOP LOCAL
STAY SAFE



NOVEMBER 14, 21, 28
SHOP FOR GREAT SPECIAL DEALS
ENTER TO WIN FABULOUS PRIZES
SEE PARTICIPATING STORES



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Senior Center Outreach Services

To the Editor:

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mendocino County Department of Public Health has implemented safety protocols that no longer allow our Senior Center outreach workers to conduct in-person meetings. We are still able to provide services via phone and to connect individuals to other helpful resources.

Not being able to socialize as we normally do during the pandemic has us concerned about seniors who may be feeling a heightened sense of isolation. We are asking anyone who would like to be put on our call list to contact us, so our outreach workers may call to check in with you to see how you're doing from time to time.

Richard Baker, executive director,
Willits Seniors Inc.

Volunteers sought for Thanksgiving drive-thru

To the Editor:

I am writing to provide an update on the preparations and help needed for this year's Thanksgiving Community Drive-thru Dinner.

Thanks to those who are busy making donations to help cover the cost of this year's dinner. There are now 36 frozen turkeys in our walk-in freezer that will go to Parlin Fork Conservation Camp next week, along with the necessary vegetables and other ingredients.

The inmates will cook an excellent meal as they do each year, then they will bring all of the food to the Senior Center on Wednesday, November 25 to be prepared in the kitchen by volunteers. The inmates will leave the food, not stay to work alongside volunteers, due to the need for a small work team in the food preparation area.

Turkeys and pies will need to be sliced, potatoes mashed, salads made, rolls baked, green beans, yams and gravy heated, and cranberry sauce made ready for our 31st annual Thanksgiving feast.

Volunteers are needed to work on Wednesday, November 25, from 3 pm until done at around 7 pm. On the next morning, Thanksgiving Day, work shifts will begin at 8 am and usually work for 2 hours with the final crew doing clean-up.

Food preparations will be completed and the meals will be placed in to-go containers for the free drive-thru dinner, to be given out starting at 11 am and going until 3 pm. Since we are not serving anyone in the dining room due to the virus, helpers will be fewer.

Please note: **All volunteers must get COVID-**

tested. Appointments can be made by calling 888-634-1123 or by visiting <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>.

This is a great opportunity to serve the community while staying safe from the COVID virus by using all safety precautions and working with a small team to bring a lovely holiday meal to the Willits community.

We will use face masks, no exceptions; 6 feet social distancing will be required at all times; disposable gloves along with hand washing and hand sanitizer will be required. Forehead temperatures will be taken as volunteers arrive. Anyone who has a fever or is ill will be sent home. No visitors will be allowed in the building during our dinner preparations, serving and clean-up. No exceptions. Let's work together to avoid any COVID outbreaks related to this event.

Please call the Food Bank at 459-3333 or 354-3960 to secure your volunteer time.

Seniors age 60 and above may call the Senior Center at 459-6826 to order Thanksgiving meal delivery by Meals On Wheels **before Thanksgiving Day.** Giving thanks,

Ruthanne Volz, executive director,
Willits Food Bank

Thank you

To the Editor:

Dear Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center supporters: Thank you for participating in our online auction! We were able to raise \$31,500, and we could not have done it without you!

As our auction comes to a close, we would like to express our tremendous gratitude to all that participated in our event: sponsors, donors, bidders, and staff members who contributed and made Claws for a Cause such a great success!

To our winning bidders: Congratulations on placing your winning bid! Your packages will be available for pick up at the Howard House on Tuesday from noon to 2 pm and Saturday from noon to 2 pm. We will also be able to deliver during the week to those who need delivery. Please notify us at 272-1918 if you need to arrange delivery or a different pick-up time. We know that you will be pleased with your purchases and look forward to your continued support.

The online auction is over, but the merchandise page will remain open for a few days if you would like to browse: <https://strc.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/VirtualClawsforaCause/SHIRTSCUPSHATS>

Donate cash online: If you did not win a package online and would like to show your support, you can still donate here: <https://strc.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/VirtualClawsforaCause/Makeadonation>

Become a volunteer: We recognize that giving your time can be just as valuable as monetary contributions. Join our dedicated team of volunteers. Send us an email at seabiscuitridingcenter@gmail.com to learn about current opportunities.

We are truly grateful to our community and to all those who participated in our online auction. We thank you again for your generosity and for supporting our cause.

Board members,
Seabiscuit Therapeutic
Riding Center, Willits

Shop Small Saturdays in November

Submitted by the Willits Chamber of Commerce

With the many restrictions placed on business because of COVID-19, including limiting the number of shoppers allowed in a business at any one time, we have expanded Shop Small Saturday to more Saturdays: November 14, 21 and 28.

Shop Small Saturday will continue to culminate on the last Saturday of the month, November 28, however local participating businesses will have fabulous specials every Saturday in November. During these special Saturdays shoppers can receive, with purchase, an entry card for the chance to win fabulous prizes provided by participating businesses. Both Ukiah and the Mendocino Coast Chambers and businesses are implementing their own Shop Small Saturday month-long programs.

We are asking businesses who wish to participate to sign up through the Willits Chamber of Commerce via email at info@willits.org or phone: 459-7910

To participate businesses should commit to:

- Provide at least one \$25 gift card/coupon/certificate
- Provide at least one gift to be included in a basket to be awarded as one of the grand prizes (the more donations we receive the more prize baskets we will have to award). Or if the business wishes, they may donate a full basket to be awarded
- Post "Shop Small" poster in storefront to announce you are participating in Shop Small Saturday Promotion
- Have specials for shoppers each Saturday in November with the grand finale to be the official Shop Small Saturday, November 28.
- Hand out entry cards to those shoppers who purchase in your store.
- Collect completed cards from shoppers which will be collected by Willits Chamber representatives. Or direct them to the Center for the Arts or the Chamber of Commerce to drop off their cards.
- Willits Weekly will provide special advertising rates for this program. See next section or contact Maureen Jennison at 972-7047 or the Willits Chamber office at 459-7910
- The Willits Chamber of Commerce is not charging fees to participate in this program. It is our belief that you, the businesses in our town, have had struggles through the COVID-19 ordeal, and this is our way to help you through the heavy shopping season, and perhaps soften the effects.

Special Willits Chamber business rate from Willits Weekly for ads in November:

Any business who is a Willits Chamber of Commerce member who is also participating in the "Shop Small Saturday" event is welcome to purchase an ad from Willits Weekly at a special discounted rate!

Business card ads (3.25" wide x 2" tall) will be available for Willits Chamber members all November long for a special price of \$25/week (reg \$40). Buy one week, buy them all!

We will include a "Shop Small Saturday" logo on or near each participating ad to let shoppers know which businesses are included.

Ad run dates: 11/12, 11/19, 11/25 (we publish on Wednesday on Thanksgiving week).

Deadline for ad commitment and copy is the Monday of the week of publication.

Questions: Willits Weekly 972-7047 or Willits Chamber 459-7910.

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

The Willits Senior Center is continuing to provide drive-thru, walk-up and delivered meals, although the dining room is closed. Thanks to some new funding from the Community Foundation, prices for drive-thru and walk-up meals have been lowered to \$5 moving forward. Meals on Wheels delivered meals remain at \$5.50. 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.

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.

Thursday, November 12: Chicken & Dumplings

Friday, November 13: Country Fried Steak

Monday, November 16: Mozzarella Chicken (Red Sauce)

Tuesday, November 17: Ground Sirloin Steak, Mash & Gravy

Wednesday, November 18: Carnitas Burrito wet with Green Sauce

Thursday, November 19: Beef Tips and Noodles

Friday, November 20: Turkey Dinner

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



Handmade Gifts

Art in the Plaza organizer opens gallery and gift shop just in time for holiday shopping

Art in the Plaza finally has a home. Morgan Rex, who has offered local artists a place to show their work on the patio behind Cafe 77, has worked arduously painting and preparing the space at 99 South Main Street, getting it ready for its soft opening last week.

Currently it is open to the public Tuesdays through Fridays, 8 am to 4 pm, and Saturday through Monday at varying times and by appointment. Rex is hoping some of the artists will volunteer to keep it open on the weekends.

Known as Art in the Plaza Gallery and Gift Shop, the facility offers art, jewelry and photography at all price points in order to appeal to anyone who is looking for beautiful gifts for the upcoming holidays.

Much of the art has been created by Rex himself. The Corpus Christi native has been a fixture in the Willits art scene for several years, known for his brilliant copper (and other metal) sculptures, wind chimes, and fountains. His waterwheels and impressionistic sailing ships are a pleasure both to the eyes and the ears, as the sounds of burbling water soothes and relaxes.

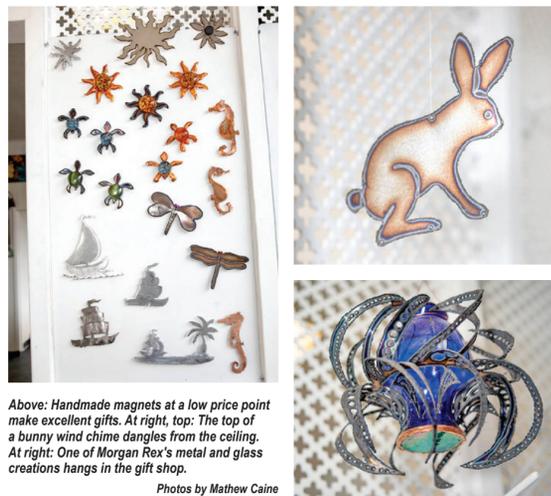
In addition to displaying the art of Willits' local talent, Rex plans to possibly have classes and seminars in his bright sunlit rooms, as well as having his own work space where patrons can watch him craft his metal works.

"I'm so incredibly happy here," beams Rex. "I've been dreaming about having a gallery with a patio that has a garden. I plan to do a natural water-themed thing out here in the front on Mendocino Street where it has become overgrown. It will be water-themed."

"I've put a lot of work into this place so far," he said, "but I still have a long way to go. I want to get the place filled with more artists before I do a hard opening. I want to fill the place so there are a lot of options, a lot of different things to look at and buy."

"I'm going to have benches," Rex continued, "with cushioned seats so people can come in and just sit and enjoy the art. That's one of the joys of being in the fountain business. They're a joy to sit and listen to. People can also sit outside, where there are some of my fountains, and listen to the water and the birds."

Rex is offering a new place where residents of the Little Lake Valley and others can go to experience and purchase art to brighten their personal spaces or for gifts. Artists wishing to show their pieces are encouraged to contact Rex at 707-354-1163, or just walk in during business hours.



Above: Handmade magnets at a low price point make excellent gifts. At right, top: The top of a bunny wind chime dangles from the ceiling. At right: One of Morgan Rex's metal and glass creations hangs in the gift shop.

Photos by Mathew Caine



At top, from left: The Art in the Plaza Gallery and Gift Shop owner, Morgan Rex, stands in one of the gallery's brilliant sunlit rooms. A copper working water wheel spins and gurgles. Morgan Rex stands in the courtyard outside his gallery.



Above: Rex demonstrates how he creates the relief shapes on a large piece of copper sheet. At right: One of Morgan Rex's beautiful relaxing fountains.

ART IN THE PLAZA

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JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

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 (707) 354-1163

The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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

Volume 8, Number 379
 3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

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Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



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!

CHILLY WEATHER WORD SEARCH

G	U	Z	Y	R	U	C	R	E	M	R	B	T	I	E	C	E	P
D	L	I	H	C	D	N	G	I	W	G	O	F	V	E	P	W	D
Z	Y	I	S	N	D	V	G	Z	F	Z	P	M	B	V	E	R	F
W	D	O	L	B	O	W	A	R	Z	P	R	M	B	V	E	R	F
H	V	M	B	L	O	I	O	B	L	E	M	A	S	O	L	A	R
A	H	G	E	C	N	O	T	N	R	O	G	S	D	P	S	A	C
A	I	A	W	H	N	B	C	A	S	K	T	C	S	D	P	S	A
I	U	R	N	W	P	N	T	M	S	B	O	T	K	O	Z	R	V
V	S	Y	M	U	A	U	V	R	I	N	A	M	T	O	R	H	A
O	I	L	S	A	R	R	T	T	E	L	E	H	N	U	R	D	Y
D	G	S	K	E	S	C	E	A	I	T	E	D	I	O	N	E	R
D	B	E	I	P	P	S	B	Z	R	R	N	G	I	S	R	H	E
N	B	D	D	B	T	L	A	P	M	C	N	I	V	O	F	M	T
W	Y	K	F	Z	I	T	W	I	L	I	T	A	W	R	C	E	Y
K	A	O	U	Z	I	L	A	Z	Z	I	T	I	O	U	E	F	M
O	E	U	Z	O	C	U	I	E	D	V	R	N	C	R	G	V	O
V	I	A	N	O	G	K	E	T	L	I	T	W	G	Z	B	L	H
N	R	D	P	O	A	I	R	P	B	Y	S	A	E	Z	B	L	H
P	E	L	M	A	G	F	D	O	U	T	S	D	C	G	Y	Y	G
D	S	M	W	I	F	R	O	Z	E	N	K	I	S	N	A	B	Z

AIR MASS	CLIMATE	FREEZING	MERCURY
ALTITUDE	COLD	FRONT	SNOW
ARCTIC	CONDENSATION	FROSTBITE	TEMPERATURE
BAROMETER	CRYSTALLIZATION	FROZEN	VISIBILITY
BLACK ICE	DEGREE	GALE	WINDCHILL
BLIZZARD	FOG	HYPOTHERMIA	WINTER

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11			12			13			14		
15						16			17		
	18				19	20			21		
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30							31				
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47	48								50	51	52
										53	54
55										57	
59										61	
62										64	

CLUES ACROSS

- Dutch word for 'language'
- Popular music style
- Body part
- Largely dry valleys
- Brew
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Where rockers play
- Human gene
- One point east of northeast
- Adversary
- Small cask or barrel
- About ear
- Benign tumors
- In a different way
- One charged with a crime
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Long, narrow straps
- Passover
- Ottoman military commander
- One who does not succeed
- Data
- 3D image
- Whale ship captain

CLUES DOWN

- Japanese title
- Made of wood
- Yokel
- Exercise system __bo
- Supreme being
- Playing card with three spots
- Hostelry
- Spiritual leader
- Single lens reflex
- Time of the 90th meridian, used in the central U.S.
- Thomas __, American cartoonist
- Easily manageable
- Male parent
- Nearsightedness
- Patriotic women
- Decorate a cake with frosting
- __ fi (slang)
- A joke rooted in wordplay
- Attack violently
- Keyboard key
- __ juris: independent
- Corporate executive (abbr.)
- Adult female bird
- Pertains to knowledge
- Pashtoes
- Prefixed title for Italian monks
- To be fired from a gun
- A way to position
- __ process: produces ammonia
- Follow instructions
- Humanistic discipline
- Throw
- Swiss river
- American hate group
- Actor Idris
- Seizes
- Small, deerlike buffalo

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE LOG

November 2 to November 8

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 172 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 2

6:54 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of McKinley Street.

3:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of West Valley Street and McKinley Street.

8:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

November 3

5:05 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

8:27 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

10:49 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Alameda Avenue.

12:00 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of South Main Street and Hazel Street.

3:41 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

7:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 400 block of East Hill Road.

November 4

9:03 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 400 block of South Main Street.

4:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of West Van Lane and Catherine Lane and issued a warning.

6:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue.

6:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

8:13 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street.

November 5

9:24 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

10:12 am: Officers initiated a missing

The rest of Playgrounds

O'Shea also talked about the health order guidelines that the public will be asked to follow while at the parks, saying that there will be "increased and improved signage at the main entrance points to the park, asking visitors to social distance, wear masks when appropriate, and limit occupancy of the playgrounds."

"There will be maximum occupancy signs for the play structures themselves," he continued. "Gatherings of more than three households and gatherings of over 20 people are prohibited. People also will be asked to refrain from eating or drinking while on the playground."

He said that he hoped people would be flexible and refrain from using the park or playground if it was crowded, and that they're asking park attendees to only use a playground structure for 30 minutes or less to be respectful for others who might be waiting.

"The playgrounds advise visitors to bring both hand sanitizer and wipes, and to wash hands before and after using the playground equipment," he added. "And to please refrain from using the equipment if they have had any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in direct contact with a COVID-19 individual in the last 15 days."

Benches and single-family size picnic tables will be available at the parks, but large picnic areas with multiple tables or benches will remain closed.

O'Shea said that the city "will continue to monitor the parks to gauge compliance with the county public health order," but said that it will largely be up to the public to follow the rules laid out.

"I just wanted to also kind of reiterate that it's not going to be the responsibility of the police department or the public works or

person investigation in the 700 block of South Main Street.

10:55 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:37 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

5:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 600 block of Hawthorne Lane.

7:36 pm: MILLER, Nicole Renee (31) of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. She was arrested pursuant to 273 (A) PC (Child Endangerment), 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), on felony charges of cruelty to a child (inflict injury), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

9:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

November 6

3:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

November 7

9:06 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Pine Street.

1:32 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of Redwood Avenue.

2:35 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

5:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

7:15 pm: SMITH, Erycka Lynnsheer (25) was contacted in the 100 block of Holly Street following a report of an assault. She was arrested pursuant to 242 PC (Battery) and 148 (A) (1) PC (Resisting Arrest).

8:57 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

November 8

2:55 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle near the intersection of Pine Street and Catherine Lane.

1:02 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 400 block of McKinley Street.

1:27 pm: ARRIGONI, Samantha Rose (24) of Willits was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of resisting arrest.

The rest of Playgrounds

any other city staff to enforce these rules," said O'Shea. "I mean it's really going to be up to the people who choose to use these facilities to evaluate the situation and use them essentially at their own risk."

He noted that the increased cleaning duties at the park will shift some of the focus of the public works department, but felt it was worth it.

"Basically it's going to come down to public works [spending] a little more time in the parks," he said. "That takes [staff off the streets a little more, and it commits more resources to these endeavors, but that's a commitment we're willing to make, and we want to see these playgrounds open and usable."

O'Shea said there will also be some increased costs due to potential overtime pay, on-call workers cleaning on the weekends, and additional supplies, but that the city has received some COVID-19 relief funds which could offset some of that.

All the councilmembers thanked O'Shea and the public works staff for working hard at getting the parks and playgrounds back open.

"I just wanted to say that this is awesome," said Councilmember Greta Kanne. "Thank you so much Kenan. I think the community is going to be really happy with this."

Online forum with Supervisor Haschak

Councilmember Madge Strong said there will be an online public forum with Third District Supervisor John Haschak this Sunday at 3 pm on Zoom.

She said that questions and feedback from the public will be welcome at the forum, and that anyone who would like to get the link for it can email her at mstrong@willitsonline.com.



Apple Pressing

Retired Sheriff Tom Allman presses apples into cider for his family, neighbors, and friends

Little Lake Valley is resplendent in colorful autumn foliage. Maple trees lend yellows, oaks are festooned in shades of earthy browns, and poison oak highlights with deep and striking reds. Late apples are sweetening on trees dressed in yellow leaves. Amongst other things, it's a time for harvesting pumpkins, winter squash, and apples.

Tom Allman posted the following on his Facebook page: "Saturday, November 7th is my last day of juicing apples. If you have apples on your tree(s), come by between 10 and 2 and you will leave with fresh apple juice. If you don't have any trees but want to see how it's done, swing by and learn how to press apples."

Thirty friends and community members visited and helped during earlier pressing days on October 31 and November 1. Allman's longtime friend, Mendocino County's District Attorney David Eyster, came by to help.

For the retired Mendocino County sheriff, it's a special time. "My family loves dealing with apples," he said. "There are so many things you can do with them. You can cook with them. Eat them right off the tree. You can make cider, alcohol, apple sauce and vinegar."

Allman's neighbor, Jim Devine, who helped with the pressing Saturday, added: "Or make a 'shrub.' It's fruit juice enhanced with vinegar. It's a non-alcoholic, hearty beverage with a kick."

Devine, his wife, Michelle Hutchins, and their son, Logan, moved here this time last year from Boonville. They were part of the Anderson Valley Foodshed and the Community Apple Press. "Many people have apple trees in their backyards," Devine said. "[Apple pressing] is kind of an old-timey tradition of people gathering and pressing. Often times the apples go to waste, so having a friend with a press or organizations like the Anderson Valley Foodshed, makes it possible to turn that fruit into cider. Devine also helped Allman plant apple trees last winter.

Besides processing other people's apples, Allman buys local ones to make cider for his use. John Wagenet from Willits brought 1,500 pounds of washed and sorted apples from his orchard to sell to Allman. He pressed 2,500 pounds of apples total, with Wagenet's apples combined with all the others. "I'm going to guess I processed 125 gallons of juice," he said.

With country music crooning in the background, Allman explained how he will use the juice: "I'm going to make the legal amount of hard apple cider I can make, which is 200 gallons per year. I won't make any more. I can't sell it. It's for personal use. But my friends certainly enjoy coming over and giving me their opinion on if this year's is better than last year's," he added with a laugh.

Kevin Copperfield brought his own crop to press. "Holy cow!" he exclaimed. "He has a motorized and pneumatic system that made as much juice in 45 minutes that I could have made in a day or more using a store-bought press." For three years Copperfield has been taking apples to Allman's press. He takes pleasure in making gallons of fresh juice and hard cider "made from my own apples!"

Allman's system for pressing apples is pretty streamlined. The fruit is sorted into buckets according to those with and without serious blemishes. The good apples are used for the pressing and put through an apple grinder – cores and stems included. The apple grinds are wrapped in nylon cheesecloth for its efficiency and placed on a steel pneumatic press. The mash is pressed and within moments, lightly syruped and luscious apple juice is streaming and filtering into another bucket.

All parts of this very social process are enjoyable. "Friends come over. Kids ride their bicycles out here. The parents help grind and press the apples. Many hands make light work," smiled Allman. One of the most enjoyable parts comes when Allman dips a little cup in the stream of juice and hands it to those eagerly awaiting a taste of this autumn's apple essence. "Mmmmm, delicious!"

"We clean, we grind, we press, we drink," Allman said. With his set-up, it's incredibly fast and easy to make something so tasty and versatile during harvest season.

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At right: The video rentals are back in business as the shop goes through changes.

Link loves to fly in Swanton's plane.

Ashley Nehrani works the dough.

Wade and Callan can't wait to get their pizzas home.

Below, right: Pete Swanton, Link, and store manager Shannon Mahler stand in front of the pizza oven.

Brad Walton shows his pepperoni pizza.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Local Promotion

New phone app allows you to promote your local business or event – without the noise of social media

Want to get some online, targeted and shared, promotion for your business, volunteer group or band without the clutter and noise of the social media world?

Consider the new xPathway app, "Changing the Path to Purchase,"

being developed by three old friends who went to school together – including Tom Girdauskas of Willits.

They call it a "mobile group marketing platform" which uses "natural friend-to-friend dynamics" to help local businesses and other organizations promote their brand, products, or quick specials, and also to grow their customer base.

The new app allows businesses to interact directly with their customers using their mobile phones without requiring any software downloads or IT resources, and at a very affordable price.

XPathway users so far include retail stores, restaurants, cannabis dispensaries, bands, a craft brewery, and hair salons. In Willits, local businessman Pete Swanton is using xPathway to promote his newly opened Flying Dog Pizza.

"I really want to support this new venture," Swanton said. "It's a really interesting new software ... very user-friendly, very hands-on. I'm not intimidated by it like I am with a lot of different apps. It's very personal."

"We want to let our customers know we have a lot of things going on here," Swanton said. "How does one get the word out? I think people are burned out on a lot of the ways of social media, so doing something new where people sign up for it and it's very local, I think is a good thing."

Girdauskas and his colleague Steve Marek talked with Willits Weekly via Zoom recently. Marek and the third xPathway partner, Dan Anderson, are in the Chicago area, but both have worked for California software development firms, and they had been working on a promotional tool for the retail industry.

When they reconnected with Girdauskas, in talking about how cannabis laws were changing in California, they decided to think about making their project useful for new, legal cannabis businesses.

"Our original idea was to give the farmers a way to compete in the market when it became legal," Girdauskas said. "to advertise, promote and sell product directly. But during our development time, Proposition 64 became law, which does not allow farmers to sell directly, so we adapted to be for much more general use."

Changes to the retail and restaurant industries required by COVID have also given the xPathway app new opportunities: "Right now with COVID the rules keep changing," Girdauskas said. "Our platform is an excellent way to inform your customer base that you're open, or how to do business with them in the age of COVID."

If a restaurant is having a slow day, for example, they could send out a flash alert about a 2 for 1 lunch special, using xPathway as an "immediate way to bring feet in the store and cash in your drawer," Girdauskas said.

"And it's not just text messages," Marek said. "There's a live link you can use to have anyone connect to your website, video, or SoundCloud account," or the connection could be to a photo or graphic with a message about a special event, he said.

The messages can also include a QR code that can be redeemed for special offers, and that also helps keep track of who responds to the xPathway promotions.

"The app itself has an analytics table," Girdauskas said. "When Pete opens up his app, the first thing that pops up is the analytics graph. If he broadcasts 100 messages, he can see how many people rebroadcast it, how many came into the store to redeem the offer..."

"He would even know how many people looked it," Marek added. "Say he sent 1,000 messages, he'd know 500 looked at it, 250 clicked the link, and 125 showed up."

"What makes us different," Girdauskas said, "is that it's so easy. It takes 5 minutes to learn how to use it." Also, xPathway has a very efficient click-through rate.

"What we're finding out," he said, "is that an average of 22 percent click through to the second page," to the web page or video or song or graphic advertising that day's special. "On average our customers are seeing a 17 percent increase in business the day they send a broadcast."

And xPathway can handle larger accounts, too, with a customized business package: "We did a test," Marek said, "we sent 150,000 broadcasts to 150,000 unique phone numbers, and all were received within 7 minutes."

Users can get a \$9.99 per month package, which allows "essentially unlimited" promotions – all taking advantage of the well-known fact, Marek said, that "humans are among the most 'groupish' animals on the planet ... and friends listen to friends."

"It's a one-way transmission that can be viralized" with a message to inspire customers opted-in to your list to re-send or "broadcast" the news to their own friends and phone contacts, taking advantage of the natural friend to friend group dynamics.

"Anyone who needs to broadcast the same message to a lot of people can use our platform," Marek continued, "and it has none of the encumbrances of social media" – no algorithms, no "clutter," no noisy comments by social media users from across the country who have no real interest in your offerings.

To find out more about xPathway, visit <https://www.xPathway.com> or email sales@xPathway.com

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Above: Co-founder of xPathway Tom Girdauskas shows a message from Flying Dog Pizza on his phone. Below: Tom Girdauskas of xPathway software, and Pete Swanton, owner of the new Flying Dog Pizza, each display a different notice from Flying Dog on their phones, sent by xPathway.

Further below, left: Swanton cuts a pizza for a customer. Further below, right: The shop gets a new set of clear windows so passersby can see in. At bottom: Swanton takes the oven's temperature.

Photos by Mathew Caine

'Top Notch'

Pete Swanton's Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl opens to rave reviews from locals

The old Main Street Music and Video is no more. It's not gone, just morphed into an entirely new personality, full of things to taste, view, play and experience, all under the watchful eye of Link the Flying Dog. Along with the upgrade comes a new name, Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl.

Owner Pete Swanton has even had a new front window installed so passersby can look in and observe the process of the thin-crust wood-fired pizza in his new 800-plus degree oven, which is the centerpiece of the updated identity of this Willits staple.

In addition to the pizza, Swanton has plans to sell off some of his old CDs (not the classics) to make room for some games (shuffleboard, retro pinball, corn hole and more). There will be a sizable screen on which he will be showing video and films, and eventually plans are to create a rooftop dining experience with a 360-degree view of the Little Lake Valley. Food wise, the pizzas will be accompanied by a selection of pastas and salads. At the present time, customers can still enjoy the selection of over 22,000 DVD titles, 8,000 of which are classic complete TV series.

"With the store, I'm going with a retro style and feel. Hence the name. Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza," Swanton explained. "With so much technology and electronics, with the store being built in the 50s, kind of a retro feel with the big windows up front, with the old-school style Italian oven. Movie rentals are retro. Vinyl is absolutely retro. I'm bringing some of that back."

"I'm bringing in," he continued, "shuffleboard games, a

pool table, beer and wine. We're going to get a big screen on the north wall to show movies and music videos. Kind of bringing us back to decades past, kind of like The Pub [which Swanton owns and is currently closed due to the pandemic], which is an old-school feel, not up with the New Age bling. That, I believe, is part of its charm."

Swanton explains that his plans are fluid: "We're at three days a week now, Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays. We're going to expand to six days a week. The whole store will be closed on Mondays. At some point we'll be expanding to lunches. We're taking baby steps right now. We don't want to try to do too much too soon and have to put out an inferior product."

"I'm into this for the long haul," said Swanton. "By the beginning of 2021, the plan is to be six nights a week, probably not lunches yet, at that point. We might do individual-sized pizzas, which might be a lunch-only item."

"All of our pizza is music themed. You'll see our menu. The pizzas are named after musicians and music, like the Bug Guts. We call the 12-inch pizza, 'The LP' and the individual 7-inch is going to be 'The 45.'"

The centerpiece of all of the changes is the pizza, which has been receiving rave reviews from those who have been trying it. "The pizza is outstanding, really, really good," stated Richard Jeske on one of Swanton's sampling nights. "Great crust, great cheese, good flavors." Jeske knows pizza, having grown up in Chicago and having a brother-in-law with a pizza place. Jeske's remarks are typical of the responses from those who have welcomed this new pizza venture.

Steve Marsden commented, "Finally, a good pizza in Willits. My favorite is the gorgonzola and fig." Francisco Hernandez was impressed, "Absolutely delicious! The crust has great flavor and great texture. The ingredients are top notch and in a nice ratio to the crust." Rachel Deland agreed, "This pizza is delicious! Pepperoni, jalapeño, onion and feta cheese. It's nice and toasty on top."

The pizza menu is currently fluid, changing with the tastes of the customers and availability of the ingredients. There is a pizza for almost every taste. Opening night offered seven choices plus a build-your-own option. Vegetarian and vegan options are included. The mixtures are eclectic, tasty and fun. One can even get a pizza with Canadian bacon and pineapple (an ingredient sure to spark an argument from the more pretentious connoisseurs).

Link the Flying Dog is hoping everyone will try his pizza and take home a video (yes, there will be a pizza and free video option in the future) and have a great evening at home with friends and family (or enjoy it outside at one of the al fresco tables).

Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl is at 65 South Main Street; 459-4747.



At top: Pete Swanton works on the coals.

Above: One of the wood-fired pizzas that Pete Swanton offers.

At left: Necole Aguilar and daughter, Macy Barnes, stopped by at just the right time.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Above: Jenny Senter, at left, Jolene Carrillo, Ann Alumbaugh and Megan White hold up some of the many bags that were filled. At right, from top: The bags are loaded with rulers, pencil sharpeners, water colors, scissors, and colored pencils. Ann Alumbaugh opens the boxes to take inventory. Some of the almost 300 sets of colored pencils. A portion of the filled bags for the students are ready to be distributed. Art teacher Megan White has her hands full with all that is going into the bags.

Pencils and Paper

Rotary Club purchases \$4,000 in art materials so students can create projects at home

While the students at Baechtel Grove Middle School have been able to continue their education through distance learning, art is one subject that doesn't transfer to the digital realm so easily. Although art can be created on the Chromebooks donated to the students, there is really no substitute for putting watercolors or colored pencils to paper.

In order for the kids to be able to obtain these supplies, the Willits Rotary Club and their district Rotary office combined to create a grant to purchase \$4,000 in art supplies and materials for the students to have the most productive and substantial experience possible in the age of distance learning.

Art teacher Megan White is grateful for the generous contribution of the club, without which her classes would have consisted solely of the students' proficiency in digital art. In addition to the donation of the art supplies, the Rotary Club also provided around 300 pedometers to the physical education students at BGMS, so that they could be motivated to continue engaging in physical activity during this time of isolation.

On November 6, White and several members of the Willits Rotary, including Jenny Senter, Ann Alumbaugh, and Jolene Carrillo gathered – safely and distanced – to fill the bags to be given to the art students with scissors, pencil sharpeners, watercolor kits, colored pencils, and rulers – all staples of fine and fun art production. On order are various types of media, including drawing and watercolor paper, to arrive soon after.

White, having spent approximately \$1,000 of her own money in order to provide her students with the best learning experience possible under the current conditions, was delighted to hear "that people were ready and able to help our art program."

"At first," she said, "I wasn't sure who those wonderful people were, but I was asked to write down the supplies that we needed for the kids. As the summer progressed, I found out that it was Rotary that was so generous and willing to help us. It was toward the end of the summer that we found out how many students we were going to have, and I could get a correct list together of how much of each supply we would need."

"It's been a challenge to do the distance learning for art," she said. "It's a lot of pressure to make sure you're reaching all the students and helping them when you can't be there with them. In the beginning we were teaching the kids digital skills online. For some kids that's easy, and for

some it's really hard to navigate the computers. When they were doing digital art online, they were using programs like Google Drawings and Google Sheets, where they did mostly pixelated art. That's how we did art for the first three or four weeks, we did art that way.

"They only had Chromebooks," continued White, "so they would have to do their drawings with the mouse. In week five, we started doing art on paper. We had them try to find paper or come and get some from the office. We taught them how to take pictures of their artwork with the Chromebooks so they could submit it to us."

"These kids," she added, "are getting amazing skills in terms of becoming computer literate. They don't all have super-fast internet access. Some of the kids can't get a lot of help from their working parents. We have parent nights where they can come in and learn how to use the Chromebooks so they can help their children."

Dedicated Willits teachers are working to normalize their students' learning experience, but they need the help of the community. The Willits Rotary Club generously stepped up to help with this effort. The Willits Unified School District has had many obstacles to navigate while adjusting to distance learning. Any help they can get in these efforts is beneficial to the students, families, and the community.



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The following company is doing business as Mphotography.
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 Acupuncture, 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



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The rest of **Pandemic** | From Page 1

pertains to data gathered for the week of October 25 through October 31, the county retains its Tier 2 red rating for the third consecutive week, notching a "new cases per day" score of 4.5.

The county's testing positivity rate for that time period was 2.5 percent, which is down in Tier 3, the orange tier, in which the extent of the disease is termed moderate.

However, according to state Public Health rules, when your two main indicators are in different tiers, the higher or worse tier is determinative. Although the county's positivity rating is in the orange tier, its daily average rate of new cases is in the red tier, and so the county remains in the red tier. It first was moved into the red tier on October 26.

In recent weeks the county's two key numbers have moved around considerably. In the week in which the county was first put into Tier 2, it had an average daily case rate of 6.9 and a positivity rating of 2.9.

In the second week, which was announced on November 4, it had a daily case rating of 3.4 (orange tier) and a positivity rate of 1.7 (yellow tier). But the county remained in the red tier because in order to move into a less restrictive tier, a county needs to show lower tier numbers for two consecutive weeks.

The number crunching that took place on November 10 for the week of October 25 through October 31 gave the county a daily new case rate of 4.5, which is toward the lower end of the red tier. That's where the county is, at least for this week.

Outbreaks at court, juvie

In response to two unrelated COVID exposures that occurred during the week of November 2, Presiding Judge Ann Moorman has closed Mendocino County Superior Court for the week of November 9 through November 13.

Any court staff that experienced potential exposure to COVID-positive individuals have been instructed to test and quarantine.

The court will reopen to the public on Monday, November 16. Matters that were on calendar during the closure week will be rescheduled, and parties will receive notice of new appearance dates. The court requests all parties who are represented by counsel to contact their attorneys for further information.

On Wednesday, November 4, two staff members at Mendocino County Juvenile Hall who had recently transported a hall resident, began to experience mild COVID-19 symptoms, and so were tested. The tests came back positive. The juvenile whom they had transported also tested positive.

As of November 5, the three positive cases were in isolation. The hall and the transporting vehicle have been sanitized.

Contacted on November 11, county Public Information Officer Sarah Duket said she was not aware of any new information concerning the juvenile hall outbreak, and that she could not obtain current information because of the federal holiday, Veterans Day.

COVID-19 numbers

Since the first case that was confirmed in the county on March 19, the county has confirmed a total of 1,242 cases of the disease. Of that number, 1,152 people have been released from isolation.

As of Tuesday evening, the county had 68 confirmed active cases of COVID-19 in the county. Of that number, 58 are being kept in isolation; nine are in local hospitals, and one is in an intensive care unit in the county. Twenty-two people in Mendocino County have died from the disease.

For the seven days running from October 27 to November 2, the Mendocino County Department of Public Health has confirmed an average daily new case rate of 6.57. The county has a testing positivity rate of 3.76 percent.

It is clear that the dates looked at by the county and the dates looked at by the state are not the same, and the numbers are different. The state numbers indicate where the county is in the state's tier system; the county's numbers indicate where the county could likely be going.

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective, 934 cases reside in the Ukiah valley; 127 are from the north county; 113 live on the north coast; 44 are from the south county; and 24 are from the south coast.

A total of 32,702 tests have been done in Mendocino County. As of Wednesday evening, the results of 1,266 tests were pending.

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

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

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.

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 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

Classified ads are just \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks!

Deadline is every Monday!

The rest of **Burn ban** | From Page 1

be obtained by mail, by calling CalFire Mendocino Unit Howard Forest HQ in Willits at 459-7414, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

Residents in their respective districts can obtain burn permits from Anderson Valley, Laytonville, Little Lake / Willits (459-6271), Redwood Valley-Calpella, and Brooktrails (459-4441) fire departments.

Before you burn, call Mendocino County Air Management District at 463-4391 to confirm that you have all needed permits and to ensure it is a permissive burn day.

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Tessie the Tabby

Meet our girl Tessie. Tessie is an adorable female tabby who is around a year old. She came to us in August as a stray. Tessie is a quiet petite lady who weighs about 6 pounds. She is looking for a calm home with friends who will give her all the love her little heart desires. She enjoys the company of other kitties, does well with gentle children, and will gladly accept attention any time of the day. Tessie is spayed, current on vaccines, and microchipped. You can apply to love this adorable gal at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

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

Friendly Dane

Have you met our buddy Dane!?! If you haven't, let's introduce you! This glorious boy here is Dane. He is a large mixed-breed guy who is 6 years old. Sadly Dane has lost his family, who loved him dearly, due

to COVID-19. For Dane's family COVID-19 meant loss of jobs and housing. They had to move from their home to something more affordable. The only housing they could find was an apartment that did not accept pets.

Dane lived with kids in his previous home and is such a friendly boy. Dane is very sad right now and wants nothing more than a family to love again and be home for the holidays with! He has the most glorious lips and originally was adopted from the Ukiah Animal Shelter 5 years ago, so he is an old friend of ours. Apply to love Dane at www.mendohumanesociety.com today!

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

Gorgeous Marley

Marley is looking for a grand adventure! True to his husky breed, this guy loves to explore. He spends his walks sniffing every blade of grass and tree available and would be a great hiking companion. Marley is going to need lots of exercise and activity in his life, so a family that loves to be on the go would be best. He enjoys attention and welcomes pets, though he appreciates someone introducing themselves first.

Marley was a bit shy meeting new canine friends but did seem eager to play once they had spent a few minutes together. Marley would benefit from some basic training to help his already great personality shine even brighter. Marley is a very handsome 3 years old, weighing in at 50 pounds.

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



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Cats & kittens over four months old are eligible for this PURRRFECT Special Event!
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The rest of Project | From Page 1

megawatts of electric power annually, and also diverts some 64,000 acre-feet of water from the Eel River into Lake Mendocino and the Russian River.

According to the partnership's Feasibility Study, which was submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in May of this year, modifying and upgrading the Potter Valley Project, which may include the removal of Scott Dam and the draining of Lake Pillsbury in Lake County, will likely cost between \$400 and \$500 million.

Currently the Potter Valley Project consists of seven key assets, including Scott Dam which backs up Lake Pillsbury, Cape Horn Dam, and its accompanying Van Arsdale Reservoir, the water diversion facility located 400 feet upstream of Cape Horn Dam, a 2-mile long series of tunnels and above-ground water conduits, and the Potter Valley powerhouse.

The September meeting was held in conformance with FERC requirements, after the partnership submitted its Initial Study Report on September 9. A document detailing what happened at the meeting, along with public comments and questions and FERC responses to those, was published on October 14.

The Initial Study Report outlined plans for 22 studies, which will look at the environment surrounding and involved in the project. The Initial Study Report proposes to eliminate one study that had been proposed by PG&E, and to add two new studies. The study that is to be eliminated is a study of the fish habitat that is provided by Lake Pillsbury. This is because Lake Pillsbury is to be drained under the partnership's proposal.

The two new studies are a study on Scott Dam removal, and a study of the socio-economic impacts of removal of Scott Dam and the draining of Lake Pillsbury.

The proposed studies include 11 studies on water, including: hydrology and project operations modeling, water temperature, water quality, fluvial process and geomorphology, instream flow, fish passage, fish entrainment, fish populations, special status amphibians and aquatic reptiles, special status aquatic mollusks, and Scott Dam removal.

There are to be two studies on terrestrial resources, including botanical resources and wildlife resources. The complement of studies includes three studies on the landscape, including roads and trails, visual resources, and hazardous fuels.

There will be two studies on cultural resources, including a study called cultural resources and another called tribal resources.

There are to be three studies having to do with recreation, including recreation facility assessment, reservoir recreational activities, and whitewater boating.

Finally, there is to be a study on the socioeconomic impacts of the full project, including the impacts of removing Scott Dam and draining Lake Pillsbury.

According to the October 14 summary, five modifications to the Initial Study Report are being proposed. These modifications are quite small. One direction that came out of the September 29 meeting was the clarification that the study of special status mollusks shall identify all gastropods.

There is a direction from FERC that the study timeframe for the recreation facilities assessment will be extended to September and October, in order to accommodate those hardy souls who hike into the Lake Pillsbury area during elk breeding season.

There is a direction that consultants who do the fuels assessment study shall consult with the National Forest Service to identify alternative water drafting sites in the event that Lake Pillsbury is drained. Currently, the forest service uses water from Lake Pillsbury for fire suppression in the Mendocino National Forest.

The study on the removal of Scott Dam will look at the impacts of dam removal on the Eel River, including sediment transport, aquatic habitat, channel morphology, and riparian ecology. The study will also look at impacts on removal of Lake Pillsbury on local groundwater supplies.

The study will estimate how fine sediment will be released from Lake Pillsbury under various Scott Dam removal options. It will evaluate the potential short-term biological impacts of suspended sediment releases resulting from Scott Dam removal. The study will also develop a preferred approach to managing sediment at the bottom of Lake Pillsbury.

The socioeconomic study will examine project impacts on agricultural, municipal, industrial, and domestic water intake systems, water supply reliability impacts on water users (including non-commercial agriculture), impacts on seasonal fire-fighting water storage, potential flood inundation risk to agricultural production, commercial structures, residential structures, and transportation and infrastructure; impacts on commercial, sport, and passive-use fisheries values; potential impacts on tribal commercial, subsistence (non-commercial), and cultural fisheries values; impacts on reservoir and river recreation values; and impacts to property tax revenue.

In addition, the socioeconomic study will examine project impacts on wineries, tourism, local government revenues and services, regional impacts to businesses due to changes in the value and availability of water as well as increased risk of flooding, and changes in displacement and relocation costs, including changes to National Flood Insurance Program payments due to increased flood inundation risks.

According to the October 14 summary, the socioeconomic study will cost \$500,000. According to the Two Basin Solution Partnership's Feasibility Study, the cost of doing all the studies will be between \$10 and \$30 million.

In its meeting summary, FERC personnel received and provided answers to 132 questions and comments from the public. Paraphrases of the questions and comments, which sometimes read like verbatim transcriptions, were published, along with FERC responses, in the document.

Scott Graecen, executive director of Friends of the Eel River, advocated for the removal of Cape Horn Dam, in addition to the removal of Scott Dam. According to a summary of the meeting provided by FERC, Graecen said a continuing take of fish has been happening at the dam.

The document notes that Graecen said: "Friends of the Eel provided evidence to FERC that the fishway has been blocked repeatedly during steelhead migration by sediment and debris carried by high flows. FERC erroneously classified that problem as inadequate maintenance rather than the systemic problem it clearly is. It is clear that predation in the Van Arsdale fishway presents very serious problems both in terms of impacts on fish passage and in the difficulty of preventing those impacts."

The document provides a response to Graecen's comments. It states: "At this time, [the parties] are not proposing to remove Cape Horn Dam. They have included consideration of fish passage modifications at the dam to improve upstream and downstream fish passage. Modifications to the dam will also be considered, relative to National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife fish passage design criteria."

A commenter named Denver Nelson asked who is paying for the studies. The response was: "The Notice of Intent Parties [i.e., the Two Basin Solution Partnership] are currently seeking/ securing funding to implement the studies."

Mendocino County Farm Bureau Executive Director Devon Jones asked if the proposed project could be changed, if, for example, the socioeconomic study were to show significant impacts associated with removing Scott Dam.

The official response to that question was: "An applicant for a new license may change the proposed project up until it files its final application for a new license, and has the opportunity to amend its application until FERC issues its Ready for Environmental Analysis Notice."

"FERC, during its National Environmental Protection Act analysis that includes soliciting input from agencies, tribes, and other stakeholders, may modify the applicant's proposed project and will include in its NEPA document a FERC staff recommendation."

Joshua Fuller of NMFS asked if sediment release associated with removal of Scott Dam would be timed to minimize impacts on salmon. The answer was "yes."

Tom Daugherty of NMFS asked if sediment studies will identify the appropriate channel types that are to be restored in the Lake Pillsbury footprint.

The response was: "The Scott Dam Removal Study will inform the sediment management plan and the revegetation plan for the Lake Pillsbury footprint, which would be developed as protection, mitigation and enhancement measures."

Former Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Planner Frank Lynch asked whose property would be evaluated for impacts in the study's definition of "lakeside." The response is that lakeside property includes anyone who could be impacted by the change in property value around Lake Pillsbury.

Friends of the Eel River's Graecen again hammered against the basic assumptions of the socioeconomic study, which will compare the proposed project with current conditions.

"The point with respect to SE-1 [the socioeconomic study]," Graecen said, "is that it makes zero sense to analyze the proposed project against the status quo when there is no proposal to maintain the status quo. There is no economic way to keep Scott Dam and the Lake Pillsbury reservoir. Any calculations that would depend on the continued existence of that infrastructure are without foundation."

FERC's response was: "FERC considers the no action alternative to be current conditions. The comment from Mr. Graecen addresses how FERC does its NEPA analysis, not the study plan."

According to the report of the Initial Study Report meeting, the studies will be conducted between January 1 and December 31, 2021. The final project application will be filed with FERC no later than April 14, 2022.

The rest of Intersection | From Page 1

Caltrans Transportation Engineer Joseph Caminiti presented a draft of a "project initiation document" with designs for two different options being considered – converting the intersection into a "roundabout," or creating what he called a "protected intersection" with several safety improvements.

The city has not yet secured funding for these projects, but Caminiti said that a completed PID design should help with the city's ability to find it either through Active Transportation Program grants or elsewhere.

He also said that funding had been found for a separate project around the Blosser/Highway 20 intersection that should begin this month in which Caltrans will be implementing several changes to help with safety issues.

One change will be adding a radar MPH feedback sign on Highway 20, so there will be one on both the eastbound and westbound sides, about 500 feet prior to the intersection.

They'll also be adding rectangular rapid flashing beacons both at the intersection and about 300 feet prior on each side, which light up when the crosswalk button is pressed.

Other improvements will include changing the striping on the sidewalk to make the crosswalk more visible and putting streetlights at both sides of the crossing.

For the other project, Caminiti presented preliminary designs for both the roundabout and the protected intersection options to the council on Tuesday.

He said the roundabout would be the much more costly option, and it would require large retaining walls on the northern side to protect against the hill, as well as the alteration of several nearby driveways.

The design includes a large centerpiece in the middle of the roundabout consisting of gravel, mulch, boulders and other material.

The cheaper protected intersection design would include improvements such as raised concrete and textured pavement at all four corners to deter automobiles, and separate crosswalks for pedestrians and bicyclists at three of the four crossings.

The crosswalks would be shorter than they currently are in both options, though the roundabout design would lead to by far the shortest crossings, in the range of 13 to 25 feet. Currently the main crosswalk across Highway 20 is about 90 feet.

Caminiti pointed out that the placement of the crosswalks and the overall design took into consideration the city's plans to put bike lanes on Blosser Lane as well as a sidewalk

along the eastern side of the road.

He estimated that the protected intersection option would cost about \$3.5 to \$4 million, while the roundabout would cost more in the realm of \$10 to \$15 million.

After some inquiries by councilmembers, Caminiti talked about some of the pros and cons of each option, besides the obvious difference in costs.

He said that while the roundabout does force drivers to slow down because of the physical change in the road, there was some question as to whether it was actually safer for pedestrians since drivers navigating through a roundabout often tend to be more distracted.

When asked by councilmembers, he said he did not know any specific statistics as to the relative safety of each.

Caminiti said plans to improve the intersection have been in the works since last November, when he and others from Caltrans did a "walk audit" of the area with residents who live near the intersection, as well as representatives from Blosser Lane School, the City of Willits, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Mendocino County Public Health, Walk and Bike Mendocino, and the Mendocino County Council of Governments.

"What we heard from the community at that meeting was that the No. 1 thing was to slow traffic," said Caminiti.

Community Development Director Dusty Duley spoke at the council meeting, and said he has been hearing from many in the Willits area for several years who have been wanting a roundabout in that intersection.

Referring to the walk audit, Duley said: "I think it was understood that the project being implemented in the coming weeks is designed to improve safety in the short term, and that a roundabout continues to be the long-term solution. And that thought is certainly consistent with a number of community meetings that were held around the discussion of pedestrian safety going back quite a ways."

Caltrans is seeking to complete the PID by December or January, and Caminiti said he is open to hearing any input from the Willits community regarding the intersection changes up until November 30. People can email him at joseph.caminiti@dot.ca.gov.

Maps of the design plans presented can be found on the agenda link for the November 10 council meeting at www.cityofwillits.org.

Mendocino County Library announces virtual '1,000 Books Before Kindergarten'

Submitted by Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

The Mendocino County Library system is pleased to announce a digital version of the popular "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" reading challenge!

Studies show that the more books you read with children before kindergarten, the easier it will be for them to learn how to read on their own when they start school.

Additionally, parents and caregivers are a child's very first teachers, and the process of reading 1,000 books together during this crucial developmental stage helps to both strengthen that bond and instill a lifelong love of learning.

For added incentive, prizes for specific reading milestones may be available from your library – please call your local branch for more information. One thousand books may seem like a lot, but if you read just one book a day, you will have completed the challenge in less than three years, and if you read three per night, it will take only one year.

Most importantly, do not stop at 1,000 – keep reading and learning together! Whether you log your little one's reading virtually or on paper, this challenge is ongoing and open to all children ages 0 to 5. The parent or guardian of each participant must be library cardholders to register.

Registration for the challenge is available at <https://mendolibrary.beanstack.org> or by phone at your local branch. For more information, visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact your local library branch: Ukiah Library, 463-4490; Fort Bragg Library, 964-2020; Willits Library, 459-5908; Coast Community Library, 882-3114; Round Valley Library, 983-6736; and the Bookmobile, 234-2874.



Sherwood Firewise November 12 online meeting

Submitted by Sherwood Firewise

Join Sherwood Firewise at our monthly meeting on Thursday, November 12 from 6 to 8 pm with presentations from Supervisor John Haschak and the Sherwood Firewise Communities team. You can email questions before the meeting to info@sherwoodfirewise.org or text via the Zoom Chat Room during the meeting.

Brooktrails Township Fire Chief Jon Noyer and Brooktrails Fire Captain Harry So will discuss how to be safe in your home during the colder months; proper use and operation of heating devices and fireplaces, etc.

Nate Russell of the Red Cross will present a synopsis of the Red Cross services in our area.

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

To join using the Zoom platform:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85625036304?pwd=dWVpYXpnSkwrQkkwbXdRRzd6T3E5dz09>

Meeting ID: 856 2503 6304, Password: 918795

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

Our Mission: To make Sherwood Corridor residents safer, to keep properties prepared for emergencies through civic engagement and proper maintenance of properties and routes.

History: Formed after the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire, we have been instrumental in defining, refining, and helping to clear ingress and egress routes in the event of emergencies. Our SafetyNet program helps to inform and instruct residents of any events that might need their attention and action.

To learn more, visit <https://www.sherwoodfirewise.org/> or follow the "Sherwood Firewise" page on Facebook.



Virtual Town Hall meeting on homelessness

Submitted by the Mendocino County Executive Office

On Monday, November 16, at 6:30 pm, state Senator Mike McGuire, the County of Mendocino, and the City of Ukiah will be hosting a virtual Town Hall meeting, "Coming Together on the Homelessness Crisis," a community discussion on local efforts to address the homelessness crisis.

During the event, there will be an overview of the Project Homekey Program, discussion on potential management models and plans for this permanent housing project and types of services that will be offered with this program. The public is encouraged to participate and join the community conversation by sharing your ideas, asking questions and participating in neighborhood input opportunities.

"Like hundreds of communities across America and throughout the state, Mendocino County has been working hard to tackle the homelessness crisis that exists on our streets," Senator Mike McGuire said. "We're looking forward to partnering with the county and the City of Ukiah on Monday's Town Hall focused on providing permanent housing, which would be connected to mental health and addiction services, to some of our neighbors who are in greatest need."

How to attend: Register in advance for this webinar at https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_56BGCnjfTmO9qwGeX41FnQ. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. The webinar will also be streaming live in English and Spanish on Mendocino County's YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/mendocinocountyvideo>.

How to submit your questions and comments: Email your questions and comments in advance and in real time during the virtual town hall to: Senator.McGuire@senate.ca.gov.

For more information, please contact the Executive Office at 707-463-4441 or ceo@mendocinocounty.org.

SIW's Third Tuesday speaker this month is author / educator Annu Subramanian

Submitted by Soroptimist International of Willits

Soroptimist International of Willits Third Tuesday Speaker Series invites the public to Zoom with us Tuesday, November 17 at noon! Our speaker will be writer / educator Annu Subramanian, joining us from Albany, NY.

Her topic will be: "Human Trafficking: A Rising Global Epidemic" and how women's networking (or any community-based networking) can take essential steps to raise awareness. R.S.V.P. to siwillits@soroptimist.net for Zoom link.

Subramanian is an educator, a writer of conscience, and a human-rights advocate from Albany, New York. She was chosen as a national finalist by the Norman Mailer Center and National Council of Teachers of English in 2011 for her short story titled "So Fair and Very Lovely" and as an Educator of Excellence in 2011 by New York State English Council.

Using her novels as resources, Subramanian conducts workshops on teaching humanity through literature and speaks at various events to raise funds for grassroots movements, to promote women's empowerment, and to address human-rights abuse. She is using "Another Heaven," her second novel, to benefit victims of human trafficking. Proceeds from "Waiting for the Perfect Dawn" (her debut novel) benefit victims of domestic violence.



Above: Annu Subramanian displays a copy of her second novel, "Another Heaven," which deals with issues of human trafficking.

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