



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Vital transportation program needs support

To the Editor:

To my mind, the Willits Senior Center local transportation program is the most important community resource available in Mendocino County. It not only provides extremely affordable transportation to remote rural areas that are almost deplete of dependable public transportation, but it also provides employment to local people who invest it back into our local economy. I am very alarmed that Willits may lose this subcontracted Mendocino Transit Authority service.

Seven years ago, when my income source was cut to only my Social Security monthly benefits, I was forced to sell my vehicle that I could no longer afford to maintain and drive. Living in Brooktrails Township, I could only do this knowing that Senior Rides was available to me Monday-Friday, 8 am to 3 pm for my appointments, errands and social contact. My ride to a doctor's appointment costs me \$4 – versus a taxi ride at \$4 a mile (\$20).

I am luckier than many my age (77), having a son and a few friends who, depending on their own busy schedules, are willing to give me rides for evening and weekend events. But Senior Rides has given me a freedom of movement that is invaluable to me being a highly independent person.

I like to go to public places alone, so that I can talk as long as I wish with anyone that I wish to talk with and then leave when I wish to instead of being on someone else's timeline. I can schedule my rides to and from town as tightly or loosely as I want at any given point in time.

From the time that I make the rides appointments to the time that I arrive home, I am visiting with friends. I can ask Terri what she is reading now, or what she did with her time off; and then thank Jewel for her recommendation for a barber and ask her if she "got her buck" last weekend at hunting camp. When Norman is my driver, we listen to and discuss music. With current and previous drivers, I have shared personal life stories and recent events in the community and world. They keep me up on what is happening in Willits.

I am again luckier than many my age to be physically mobile and not dependent on wheelchair or walker at this stage of early chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, but I still have times when breathing is difficult. Senior rides drivers have assisted me up the flight of stairs and into my house to rest in a chair, while they return to the van to retrieve and carry up my groceries to my kitchen.

After they are assured that I am all right, they return to their route, but I know that if I am concerned they will drive me immediately to the hospital. During the Camp Fire when smoke was bad in our area, I was called by them to see if I needed to be brought to the Willits Senior Center for air conditioning. I know they all care about me and my well-being, and that provides a personal assurance and a personal comfort that is also invaluable to me.

This letter, along with other letters from local seniors, will be submitted to MTA to help appeal for continued subcontracting so as to not lose our transportation. But I know that this service is a much-valued support to the families of our seniors and our disabled, and to the local businesses that appreciate their income that would not be available if they cannot afford to come to town to shop.

And so I appeal to any and all concerned persons of the community to drop by the front desk of the Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, to sign a petition for retaining our vital transportation resource.

Carol Brown, Willits

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

## Willits Weekly

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## CA Public Health urges everyone to stop vaping

Submitted by the California Department of Public Health

SACRAMENTO – As yet another California death related to vaping is reported in Marin County, the California Department of Public Health continues to urge everyone to refrain from vaping and e-cigarette use, no matter the substance or source, until the cause of vaping-associated lung disease is known.

This recommendation remains strong in light of a new report released November 8 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announcing Vitamin E acetate as a potential chemical of concern in the severe breathing problems and lung damage associated with vaping.

While this finding represents progress in the investigation, it does not rule out other causes or ingredients. The only way to assure that you are not at risk is to refrain from the use of all e-cigarette or vaping products.

If you choose to use cannabis products, purchase them only from a licensed retailer and be sure to read the ingredient label and avoid products containing Vitamin E acetate. You should avoid all products from unlicensed entities as the ingredients are unknown and may contain Vitamin E acetate and other potentially harmful ingredients.

Be aware that most of the illnesses are associated with THC products purchased from unlicensed entities and other informal sources such as friends, family, and in-person or online dealers.

"It is tragic that yet another person has died from this cause in California and people continue to fall ill. We are working closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other state health departments, and local health departments across California, investigating every case and testing products, and we'll continue until this vaping associated outbreak is over," said State Public Health Officer Sonia Angell, director of CDPH. "Until that time, we urge everyone to stop vaping, especially products from informal sources."

The California CDC and California, state and local health departments are making progress in the investigation. However, much remains unknown about the exact cause of the vaping-associated illnesses.

Since August 2019, the Department of Public Health has collected reports on 161 people in California who have a history of vaping and were hospitalized for severe breathing problems and lung damage. Four people have died. In the past week alone, 10 new cases in California have been identified.

To raise awareness about the dangers of e-cigarette use and vaping, the first phase of a new advertising campaign targeting young adults and parents called "Outbreak" is airing on TV, radio and online. The campaign addresses the outbreak of vaping associated lung illnesses and the growing teen vaping epidemic.

For more information about the dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping devices, symptoms of the vaping-associated lung illness, and where to find help, young adults should visit [www.VapeOutbreak.com](http://www.VapeOutbreak.com) and parents should visit [www.flavorhookids.org](http://www.flavorhookids.org).

An executive order by Gov. Gavin Newsome paved the way for this \$20 million statewide digital and social media public awareness campaign to educate youth, young adults, and parents about the health risks associated with vaping nicotine and cannabis products, produced by the State Public Health Department.

The Department is also developing recommendations to reduce vaping among young adults and teens by placing warning signs with health risks where vaping products are sold and on product advertisements.

For more information visit CDPH's website. For more information on the CDC released study, please visit their website, [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov).



Above, from left: A native doll clothes basket by Pomo basket weaver Mary Knight Benson is on display. A mushroom-dye color wheel by Miriam C. Rice is displayed on the wall. An old barn by the sea is captured forever in "Old Relic" by Edwin A. Cadogan. Below: Karen Horner, director of the Cultural Services Agency, and Megan Dukett, program administrator, stand at the entrance to the "Natural Expressions" exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum.



## New exhibit at Mendocino County Museum displays works inspired by and crafted with the natural beauty of the area

The new "Natural Expressions" exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum is a celebration of the beauty and diversity of Mendocino County. The exhibit, showing through March 15, encompasses many of the well-known iconic artists of the area as well as some of the lesser-known artisans and craftspeople who inhabit this creative county.

Megan Dukett, program director at the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency, gave a tour of the new exhibit at the opening celebration on Saturday, November 9, telling about the artists and why they were being shown in this format.

"The exhibit is called, 'Natural Expressions, Art Inspired by Mendocino County,'" Dukett began. "It's different pieces from our collection that are inspired by the beauty or natural resources of the county. We have quilts and we have fabric art and we have oil paintings and we have a willow chair that was made in Potter Valley in the late 1800s. We have shell art."

Dukett then pointed out some pieces by Mark Walker. Walker was a Willits artist who made utilitarian pieces like rakes or tools utilizing the same methods of the homesteaders in the 1800s. He was also a sculpture artist, and one of his snake sculptures is on display in the main gallery.

"We have Grace Hudson paintings," said Dukett as she continued with the tour, "that are in our collection. A lot of these pieces have never been exhibited or haven't been exhibited for quite some time."

"We have a pretty amazing basket collection.... We have a collection from the Knight family with multiple generations of basket weavers within that collection."

The intricacy and the beauty and just the resource knowledge of basket weavers of today and the past is incredible. We have some beautiful winnowing baskets that were used to leach the acorns."

On exhibit are a couple of beautiful redwood furniture pieces by Clyde Mallory, a logger and craftsman in the 1960s. "We took things from our collection that were inspired from or used the natural resources of the area that express its natural beauty," said Dukett. She explained that Karen Mattson, curator of the museum, worked closely with the curators of the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah "to get information about Hudson's paintings as well as the native baskets."

Also on display are paintings by Lorenzo Latimer. "He was a prolific painter at the same time as Grace Hudson. He was very inspired by redwoods," shared Dukett. "He was asked to do a series of four paintings to represent Mendocino County at the San Francisco Exposition around 1914. The paintings are now on display at the board of supervisors' chambers in Ukiah. We have others on display here."

There is also a "friendship quilt," an intricate shell-encrusted picture frame which was quite prevalent amongst the coast dwellers some years ago. One of the highlights of the exhibit is the work of Miriam C. Rice who developed methods by which she could extract colored dyes from the local mushrooms, which she used to infuse yarns and fabrics with an array of colors.

After the opening, children and parents were invited to the newly opened "Interactive Room," where families and

Read the rest of Expressions Over on Page 9



At far left: Seashell scones by Lenor Handley, 1880, show off the resources of Mendocino County's coast.

At left: A dresser by Clyde Mallory, circa 1960, sits against the wall.

Below: Brianna Brooks, staff assistant, helps Suki Southernland and Neveah Leon with their projects in the Interactive Room.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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



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!

CAREGIVING WORD SEARCH

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

AGING	GUARDIAN	LONG-TERM	RESIDENCE
AIDE	HOME	MEALS	RESPITE
ASSISTANCE	HOME HEALTH	NURSING	RESPONSE
CAREGIVER	AGENCY	PALLIATIVE	RETIREMENT
COMFORT	HOSPICE	PARENT	SERVICES
CONSERVATOR	HOSPITAL	PLANNER	SOCIALIZATION
CONTINUING CARE	INCOME	PROTECTIVE	STIMULATION
DECISIONS	INSURANCE	PROXY	THERAPY
EMERGENCY	LIVING WILL	REHABILITATION	TRANSITION

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13			14		
15						16			17		
	18			19		20			21		
				22	23			24			
25	26	27	28	29							
30							31				
32								33	34	35	36
											37
					38	39	40		41	42	
						43			44		
							45	46			
47	48								50	51	52
										53	54
55						56				57	
											58
59						60				61	
62											64

CLUES ACROSS

- Shelter for pigeons
- Popular lit genre \_\_\_fi
- Used to harvest agave
- Wintertime accessory
- 'Gandalf' actor McKellen
- Taxis
- Political plot
- Public television
- Nigerian ethnic group
- Informal loan clubs
- 'Wheel of Fortune' host
- C C C
- North, South and Central make them up
- In an early way
- Lied down in rest
- Female hip-hop trio
- Improves
- Genus of mackerel sharks
- Electronic countermeasures
- Emerging
- Balkan body of water
- A type of delivery
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Title given to a monk

- Partner to 'oohed'
- 'Luther' actor Idris
- Supporting pin (nautical)
- Golden peas plant
- One point north of northeast
- Unit of measurement
- Where clothes hang
- Opposite of night
- A way to change color
- Korean independence proponent Syngman

CLUES DOWN

- Reciprocal of sine
- Political organization
- Defunct funk record label
- Geological times
- One who drinks slowly
- Nightclub entertainment
- Establish in one's mind
- Restaurants
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Requests
- You don't watch to catch it
- Intestinal pouches
- Satisfy

- Wet dirt
- Regularly repeated
- Before
- The color of Valentine's Day
- Indicates near
- Bon \_\_\_: witty remark
- One's holdings
- Request
- Prefix meaning 'badly'
- Midway between north and northeast
- Ottoman military title
- Teased
- Happily
- Pie \_\_\_ mode
- Mars crater
- Sports TV personality
- Taxi driver
- Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- The sick are sometimes on it
- Relating to olives
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- A way to engrave
- Where Coach K. works
- Midway between south and southeast

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE LOG

November 4 to November 10

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **166 incidents** in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 4

4:32 am: Officer responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

7:55 am: ROBINSON, Casey Ray (26) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street following a foot pursuit. He was arrested pursuant to 148 PC (Resisting Arrest), on felony charges of violation of probation, and on misdemeanor charges of interfering with an officer and police radio transmissions, disobeying a court order, and failure to appear.

8:22 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

1:07 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

1:20 pm: ESPANOLANORTON, Samantha Lynn (20) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

2:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

4:06 pm: Officers initiated a robbery investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

4:58 pm: WOLFE, Shawn Ray (48) of Ukiah was contacted near the intersection of Highway 20 and South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11378 H&S (Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale), 11379 H&S (Sale or Transportation of Methamphetamine), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation), and on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance.

8:06 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of North Main Street.

November 5

10:53 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 500 block of Coast Street.

11:34 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:23 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

November 6

6:28 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 22000 block of Bray Road.

3:49 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

November 7

7:52 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

9:49 am: SANDERS Jr., Chuck Brien (31) of Escalon, California was contacted in the 100 block of South Street. He was arrested pursuant to 602 PC (Trespassing), and on felony charges of failure to appear on a felony charge.

10:03 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

11:04 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 300 block of South Main Street.

11:12 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

5:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

10:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

10:54 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1400 block of Baechtel Road.

November 8

12:07 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 200 block of East Valley Street.

12:53 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

8:08 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:16 pm: PHINNEZZ, Alicia Rose (41) of Santa Rosa was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street following a welfare check. She was arrested on felony charges of violation of community supervision, and on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance.



Shawn Wolfe of Ukiah.

8:54 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

November 9

10:28 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

4:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1200 block of Locust Street and issued a warning.

November 10

7:38 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 700 block of South Main Street.

9:10 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

12:11 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

4:58 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

6:42 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Coast Street.

7:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of North Main Street.



At top, from left: Paul Ubelhart with his friend and fellow Legionnaire Frank Deuel show off their veterans caps at the Veterans Day breakfast. Katie Spackman, Hailee Lopez and Kaleb Whitehurst volunteer at Monday's breakfast. Veteran Dave Beebe and Douglas Smith smile for the camera. At right: 4-H volunteers serve more coffee to Rick Williams of Brooktrails. At right, below: Veteran and Scoutmaster Kenneth Wickstrom has been a Legion member for 46 years. At far right, below: The ramp at the Legion Hall makes access to the dining area much easier. At right, bottom: American Legion Commander Bob Ireland, left, looks at Vietnam war era photo printouts that veteran Cliff Zerikotes brought to share at breakfast.

Veterans Day  
Breakfast

American Legion Post 174's free Veterans Day breakfast on Monday was well-attended this year. "We had a big turnout," said the post's Adjutant Roger Ham. The 15 dozen eggs they started with weren't enough. "We had to run to the grocery store and get more eggs," laughed his daughter, Kelly Martin, who comes to Willits every year with her son, Jonah, to help out with breakfast. "It's Jonah's fifth year coming up from Fremont," Ham said.

Jonah Martin smiled, as he flipped pancakes on the grill. The annual breakfast is free to all veterans, military and emergency response personnel, firefighters, law enforcement officers, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Willits 4-H Club members in their green and white were greeting breakfasters and serving coffee and food, bussing tables, and just generally helping out. "It's fun," said first-time volunteer at the Veterans Day breakfast Hailee Lopez. This was Kaleb Whitehurst's third year volunteering at the breakfast: "It's always fun getting out in the community," he said.

"The Willits 4-H leader came to me and said, 'We want to do something for Veterans Day,'" Ham said. "And I want give to these kids a chance to interact with veterans, feel some community with them."

Ham also pointed out that the ramp south of the American Legion building, installed a couple years ago, "is fantastic for older people." The ramp, winding its way down the hill, accommodates wheelchairs, too.

It is a bit of work putting on community

events, but Ham appreciates the comradery, and the public events do sometimes bring the local post a new member – a Vietnam veteran joined Post 174 at the Monday breakfast.

A couple of Vietnam-era vets, Cliff Zerikotes of the 88nd Airborne and Dave Martin of the 101st Airborne Division were sharing copies of photo printouts Zerikotes brought, including shots he took of fellow parachutists during training.

The parachute drops were no big deal, both veterans agreed, with the jump equipment always carefully checked. "There's a couple seconds before the parachute opens," Martin said, that might be a bit hair-raising, but once the chute opens, everything is fine.

"The way they train you," Zerikotes said, "they do a real good job.... Everybody works together so well, you're brothers and sisters."

Another thing both Vietnam vets appreciated about their military service was "If you do the hard work, you get the reward for your effort – that doesn't always happen outside the military," Zerikotes said.

Zerikotes also brought a printout of two photos together: the image on the left shows himself with his friend, Tom, in front



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

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William and Judith Ray Recovery

As many people in the community know, a fire broke out at the home of William and Judith Ray, on East Side Road in Willits, during the afternoon of Monday, October 28, while there was a regional power outage. As a result, the Rays lost their home and all their possessions.

People who want to make a donation to the Rays may do so at either the Ukiah or the Willits branch of the Savings Bank of Mendocino County. One can approach a teller in person, and say that he or she would like to donate to the account of William Ray, or one can mail a donation to the account of William Ray to the Savings Bank of Mendocino County, 145 South Main Street in Willits, or 200 North School Street in Ukiah. William and Judith extend their thanks to all.

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Thursday, November 14

**Willits Farmers Market:** Winter market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street. Thursday, November 14, 3 to 5:30 pm. Veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talks, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**Sherwood Firewise General Meeting:** Thursday, November 14, 6 to 8 pm, Brooktrails Community Center. Preceded at 5 pm by the Brooktrails Women's Club's Soup Supper with four or five types of soup, bread, beverage and dessert for a \$5 donation to benefit the scholarship committee. "We will plan the utilization of the CA Fire Safe Council grant for chipping 75 to 150 different properties plus the 2 to 3 miles of roadside clearing." Discussion of what was learned from the recent fires as well as outstanding projects and grants. Info: info@Sherwoodfirewise.org.

**Porangui:** Positive energy, live world music. Porangui is coming to the Willits Center for the Arts on Thursday, November 14, doors at 7 pm. Featuring an array of instruments and sounds woven together in a live, improvisational set. A conscious dance event featuring a barefoot, conversation-free dance floor, and sober, good vibe. Tea, massage, and yummy treats available. \$25 in advance: Brown Paper Tickets or Mazahar, 38 South Main Street. \$30 at the door until sold out. Hosted by Ecstatic Dance Mendo. Info: Om Shanti Productions page on Facebook or 347-831-3645, Chantal.Simonpietri@gmail.com, www.porangui.com

**"Twelfth Night":** Willits Community Theatre presents William Shakespeare's comedy about love and mistaken identity. Extended through November 24. As adapted by director Billy Hetherington, the play is shifted to America in the 1920s, and staged at Mr. Duke's, a faded nightclub featuring a house band. Thursday, November 14, 7:30 pm, Willits High School, 299 Main Street. Plays Thursdays at 7:30 pm, \$15; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, \$20; and Sundays at 2 pm, \$15. Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com or 1-800-838-3006.

AT THE MOVIES



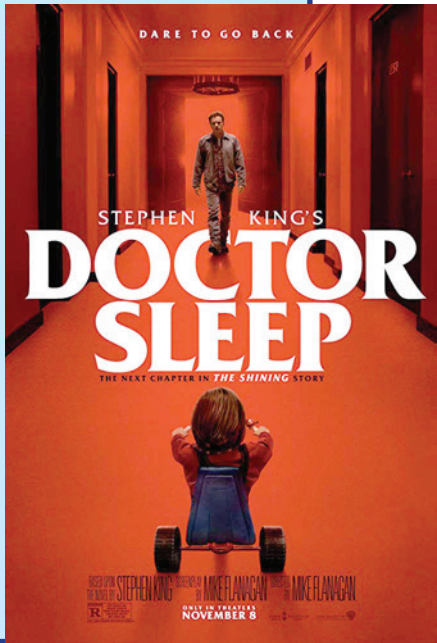
## 'Doctor Sleep'

**The Story:** Steven King horror thriller sequel to "The Shining." A mysterious family of soft-spoken psychic vampires capture children with special mental powers and suck out their souls. Danny Torrance was the little boy in "The Shining." He's all grown up now, and he's still being tormented by his extraordinary gifts. Torrance (Ewan McGregor) is living rough. He's a vagrant, an alcoholic. He's seeking a new life in a new town. Inevitably, the vampires and Dan Torrance and one more person, a very special – very powerful – girl, cross paths. A battle to the death begins.

**My Thoughts. Warning to the tender-hearted:** Steven King knows that tragedy is the death of the innocent. And so Mr. King, an imaginer of monsters, has imagined into being vampires who stalk, kidnap and murder children – torture is involved. Truly, this is a horror movie. It features fine actors. Ewan McGregor is unassuming and intense. Kyliegh Curran, who plays the very special – very powerful – girl, deserves a shout out. She's magnetic. Rebecca Ferguson is stunningly beautiful and knows it, and plays it. She does a solid boon for evil as an attractive vampire. "Doctor Sleep" is a movie with terrifying scenes and unexpected, quite satisfying twists.

**Parents:** Absolutely not for children. Don't bring them. I'm serious. I'll call Social Services. Teens and up.

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.



Friday, November 15

**Soup and Dessert Lunch:** St. John Lutheran Church annual event on Friday, November 15, 11 am to 2 pm. At the Fellowship Hall, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Lunch includes a variety of homemade soups, bread, and desserts for \$8 at the door. Craft items available for sale. A raffle with prizes, including a one-night stay at Benbow Inn, Thanksgiving and Family Fun baskets, art print by Peggy Hebrard, and award-winning crocheted afghan.

**"State of the Child":** 2nd Annual State of the Child Luncheon presented by First 5 Mendocino. "Explore the importance of early learning. Brains are built over time, but the primary foundations are constructed very early in life. Early interactions have the most impact on a child's development." \$35, lunch included. Scholarships to first5@mendocchildren.org.

attend available. Info: Friday, November 15, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

**Chamber Mixer at Mendocino College:** Willits Chamber of Commerce hosts a mixer at the Mendocino College, North County Center, 372 East Commercial Street, Friday, November 15, 5 to 7 pm. Co-hosted by the North County Friends of Mendocino College. "Join us as we celebrate the installation of a new outdoor bulletin board." Hors d'oeuvres, libations and raffle prizes.



folk-hooks with lyrical psychedelic satire and "pushing-the-envelope" paradoxical, universal subjects." Saturday, November 16, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, November 17

**"Autumn Wreaths":** a free craft workshop at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Part of the "Natural Expressions" exhibit. Sunday, November 17, 1 to 3 pm. While supplies last. Info: www.mendocinocounty.org

**Wolverines Football Playoff Game:** Friday, November 15, 7 pm, Willits High School versus El Molino. Admission (CFI rules require charging admission to playoffs): \$11 adults, \$6 students. Come support the team in WHS' first home playoff in years. Coach Brandon Norbury. Willits High School's Maize Field, 299 North Main Street.

**"Twelfth Night":** Friday, November 15, 7:30 pm. See November 14 listing for details.

**Shanachie Pub:** Hella Mendocino, "a mix of different musical influences going from Rap, Hip-Hop, Rock, Reggae, Cumbia and Folk." Friday, November 15, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

**"The Boys Who Said NO"** November 14

Producers of the upcoming documentary "The Boys Who Said NO!" will screen a cut of the work-in-progress at a preview and fundraising event, Thursday, November 14, at 6:30 pm, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "The film documents the largest mass refusal of military service in American history. Draft resisters risked up to five years in prison, to draw others to their side and show choices other than automatic obedience. Includes fabled folksinger and activist Joan Baez, who toured against the war with husband and Resistance leader David Harris before his arrest in 1969.... It was the only time in American history when a citizens' movement forced the government to stop a war." Donations of \$5 to \$20 support the Grange. Serving organic popcorn with real organic butter, and fair trade chocolate.

**"Teaching Biointensive Farming"** November 21

Ecology Action teams up with organizations from around the world to teach people about soil building, resource conservation, and home-grown food sovereignty, spreading Grow Biointensive® Sustainable Mini-Farming across the globe. This month, our partners from Latin America are coming to California for a visit. Juan Manuel Martinez, the director of Ecologia y Poblacion, gives a presentation about the inspiring and important work ECOLPOL is doing around the world, and the people they are helping. Thursday, November 21, 6:30 pm, St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

– submitted by Ecology Action



"Cultivating Edible Mushrooms."

Lancaster, Pennsylvania." Monday, November 18, 7 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Tuesday, November 19

**Tightwad Tuesdays:** Select films in their 2nd or subsequent weeks are discounted to \$6 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad Tuesday movies are "Doctor Sleep" and "Zombieland 2." Visit www.noyotheatre.com, call 459-6696 or check the ad in Willits Weekly for show times. 57 East Commercial Street.

**Eckhart Tolle Class:** at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Tuesday, November 19, 5 to 7 pm. "I will be sharing a video from one of Eckhart's Retreats, not normally available to the public." Info: Andrea, 707-513-8139. Free event.

**"Turkey Crafts":** Art night at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Choose between making a celebratory turkey wreath or a pinecone turkey. Tuesday, November 19, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Supplies provided. Ages 4 and up. More info: 459-5908. Also, another Turkey Crafts workshop on Friday, November 22, from 11 am to 12 pm.



Turkey crafts inspiration.

Thursday, November 21

**Willits Farmers Market:** Winter market at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street. Thursday, November 21, 3 to 5:30 pm. Veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talks, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**"The Boys who Said NO!":** Now and Then Film Series presents this documentary about draft resistance and the Vietnam war: "the little-known story of a small group of courageous citizens who rose up and took decisive action when they saw their government doing terrible wrong. Millions of

Americans protested in the streets, and the war was ended." Thursday, November 21, 6:30 for trailers and shorts prior to the feature at 7 pm. Donations of \$5 to \$20 support the Grange. Serving organic popcorn with real organic butter, and fair trade chocolate.

**Biointensive Farming Presentation:** Juan Manuel Martinez, the director of Ecologia y Poblacion, "a remarkable organization dedicated since 1982 to spreading Grow Biointensive throughout rural Mexico, south as far as Chile, and across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe" gives a presentation about the work ECOLPOL is doing around the world. Hosted by Ecology Action, Thursday, November 21, 6:30 pm, at St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Followed by a question and answer session.

**Shanachie Pub:** Tim O'Neil, "mixing origin roots of bluegrass with a strong nod to punk rock, folk." Thursday, November 21, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.



Tim O'Neil.

Friday, November 22

**"Turkey Crafts":** Art day at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Choose between making a celebratory turkey wreath or a pinecone turkey. Friday, November 22, from 11 am to noon. Supplies provided. Ages 4 and up. More info: 459-5908.

**Shanachie Pub:** I-Taweh, "spent 17 years playing guitar and bass with marquee reggae acts like Sugar Minott, Mystic Revelation of Rastafari and Everton Blender." Friday, November 22, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Saturday, November 23

**"Genealogy 101":** a free beginning workshop on "How to Start Your Family Tree": "Many people want to learn more about their family's ancestors, but they don't know how to start. Join Benjamin MacBean, Mendocino County Museum's research librarian, in learning the basics on how to research your family's history using online sources and databases." Saturday, November 23, 1 to 2:30 pm, Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street.



**Shanachie Pub:** Fruit Leather Jacket, "Spawned from the depths of Willits Wednesday Open Mic nights comes Fruit Leather Jacket, a fruit-based,

funk-rock power trio from the future." Saturday, November 23, 8 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50B South Main Street.

Sunday, November 24

**Agent Orange:** Stiky Graffix presents punk band Agent Orange, in an all ages, early show, on Sunday, November 24, 6 to 9:30 pm, at the Willits Community

Center, 111 East Commercial Street. "The Original Southern California Punk/Surf Power Trio, Agent Orange is one of only a handful of bands who have been continually active since the earliest days of the West Coast Punk Scene. With special guests YourMom NorCal Punk and Apes"†† Shenanigans. Tickets \$20, online at https://agentorange.bpt.me or at Main Street Music.



## Ongoing Events

**Friday Night Live:** Vendors, food and entertainment. 1722 South Main Street (Evergreen Shopping Center). Starts at 5 to 8 pm.

**Linda Posner's "Word Buffet":** KLLG-LP, 97.9, "Poems and Sayings to Start Your Day." Sunday, 10 to 10:30 am.

**"Close to Home":** Local artist Linda Corben's paintings inspired by the natural world, now featured at Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street. Through December 31.

**Meatless Mondays:** at Roots Restaurant at Adventist Health Howard Memorial, 1 Marcela Drive. "Serving delicious plant-based options every Monday." 7 am to 5 pm.

**Collective Care:** A Holistic Support Group: Fridays, 10 to 11:15 am. 44650 Highway 101, Laytonville. Holistic community support and information. Children welcome. By donation. www.ninesistersbotanicals.com.

**Eight to the Bar with Les Tarr:** Radio active blues programming for tragically hip and twisted. Fridays, 9 pm to midnight. 97.9 FM, KLLG.

**Willits International Folk Dancing:** Class meets every Thursday, 7 to 8 pm, Willits Charter High School. New dances taught 7 to 8 pm. \$0 - \$5 sliding scale. Info: megster1989@yahoo.com.

**Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club:** Mondays, 7 pm, upstairs gallery of the Willits Center for Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Sliding scale \$0 to \$5/class. 707-484-3385 for info.

**Little John's Place:** Every Thursday Pool Tournament, 6 pm, \$5 buy-in. "We'll buy the pizza, you buy the beer." 383 South Main Street. 459-5636. facebook.com/littlejohnsplace/

**Free Herb Talks:** by the Mendocino Herb Guild. Every Thursday, 4 pm, at the Willits Farmers Market, indoors for the winter at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

**Roots Engine House Tours:** Docent-led tour of the Engine House most Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Join a Roots of Motive Power docent to view classic motorcars, a steam train engine, and more – up close.

**Marijuana Anonymous 12 Step Meeting:** Every Tuesday at 6 pm. Meeting place is the Back Alley building in Catherine Lane, directly behind the United Methodist Church, which is at the corner of School and Pine, right across from the Grange.

**Brown Bag Lunch Program:** Lunch served to the hungry in the City Park across from the Willits Police Station every Saturday at 1 pm, served by various community-minded organizations. For information, call the Food Bank at 459-3333.

**Boomer's Friday Night Karaoke:** 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of every month. Boomer's Saloon, 4520 Highway 101, Laytonville. 9 pm to 1 am. No Cover. 21+ Please bring I.D. Hosted by DJ-Ken Steely Entertainment with KJ/DJ-Ken Steely & Anna. Come for dinner, stay for the fun.

**Willits Farmers Market:** Winter Market starts at the Little Lake Grange, 271 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm, on Thursday, November 7. The last of the summer veggies, fresh salad greens, local meats, sausage and eggs, local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, including handcrafted bread. More: gift items, jams and jellies and savory preserves, olive oil and balsamic vinegar, fair trade chocolates, Willits-roasted coffee, tea, fire cider, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, free herb talks, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

**Emandal Chorale:** The Chorale is open to all who wish to sing a cappella songs of peace and justice. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: 367-1573.

**Friday Potluck Bingo:** Harrah Senior Center presents Potluck Bingo on Friday nights. Doors open at 5 pm; games begin at 5:30 pm. Minimum bingo buy-in: \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

**Weekly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group:** Every Thursday, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-1941.

**Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group:** Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or honenamm@yahoo.com.

**Willits Community Drum Circle:** 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

**Willits Library Activities:** Wednesdays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm "Lego Club" (bring your imagination and start building); 11 to 11:45 am "Play Group" (Self-directed playtime, with toys, ages 0 to 4); 2:30 to 3 pm "Storytime" (Books, songs, rhymes and movement, ages 3 to 6); 5 to 6:30 pm "Stamp Club" (Bring your collection); Thursdays: 11:00 to 11:30 am "Wiggle Time" (Explore movement and self-expression. Ages 4 to 7); 2:30 to 3:30 pm "Storytime and More" (with coloring and board games); Fridays: 3:30 to 4:30 pm "Therapeutic Coloring" (Bring a friend and relax with a coloring book); 5:30 to 5:50 pm "Calming Stretches"; Saturdays, 11 am to 12 pm "Write Live" (We provide a prompt and a creative writing); 2:30 to 4:30 pm "Drop-In Knitting" All skill levels. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

**Willits Seed Lending Library:** Offering information on seed saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted.

**Drop-In Knitting Circle:** Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and help you learn to knit and crocheting. Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or lotus3@earthlink.net.

**Soroptimist International of Willits:** Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets the second Tuesday at 4 pm and the third Tuesday at noon each month at St John's Lutheran Church Hall, 24 Mill Creek Drive. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

**Weekly Life Changes Discussion and Support Group:** Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 am. In the Conference Room at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

**Smoking Cessation Program:** Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by Adventist Health Howard Memorial. Every Wednesday at AHHM's Roots Restaurant, 1 Marcela Drive, 6 to 7 pm. Register today: 540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Free Sheriff's Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragons-ages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Teens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: "Mendocino Sheriff's Activities League" on Facebook or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

**Shanachie Pub:** Mondays, 7 pm. "Monday Blues & Beyond" with Blue Luke & Special Guests. Tuesdays, 8 pm: "Wabi Sabi" with host Mitchell Holman, formerly of It's A Beautiful Day ("Whitebird") features different artists every week. Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7:30 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery for 20 minute time slots from 8 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. Music starts at 3 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world, often turning into an evening full of unexpected surprises." Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Laytonville Farmers Market:** Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

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# ‘Thank you for helping out’

At last week’s Willits Rotary club meeting, members filled out thank you postcards for those businesses that helped them out during PG&E’s recent public safety power shutdown. “Willits Rotary loves being a part of such a great community and sends its appreciation to all of the Willits businesses affected by the PSPS, both those that could be open and those forced to close their doors,” said Jenny Senter, president, Willits Rotary Club.

– Submitted by Willits Rotary Club

## Van Morrison

Van Morrison is a very big name for this shy friendly little terrier mix youngster. At just over a year old, he is 28 pounds of pure delight as he exudes attitude with just a pinch of sass! Found as a stray, he is still trying to find out how and where he fits into this new reality.

Surely, he dreams of a family to keep him warm, secure, and well-loved as the days grow shorter and the nights get colder! Can you provide a place in your home and heart for this little guy? If cute and sweet are what you want, then hurry down to say hello to Van Morrison, soon!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is located at 9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Please give us a call at 707-485-0123 if you have questions. You can view all our adoptable dogs and cats on Petfinder or through our website: mendohumanesociety.com. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join HSIMC on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.

## Buddy Boy

Buddy is a charming, the shelter when his guardian neutered male mixed-breed pounds.

Buddy loves to play

older fellow who found himself at passed away. He is a 10-year-old dog who currently weighs 72

with toys, he is easy to walk on a leash, and would love a warm bed to curl up in when you are not out taking him for a leisurely walk. He loved his Fido Field Trip, and after he got tired after a walk, enjoyed his nap, too.

There’s something wonderful about the older dogs – their calm demeanor and quiet ways. Got a soft spot in your heart for the senior dogs? Come to the shelter and meet Buddy. The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit the shelter. For more information about adoptions, please call 707-467-4653.

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*Presents Our Annual*  
**Christmas Store**

Join us for the  
**Holiday Craft Faire**  
on **Saturday, Dec. 7th**  
as well.  
*Beautifully handcrafted  
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**9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Dec. 5TH-14TH**  
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*All proceeds  
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Photo by Matthew Caine

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**Ukiah Shelter office hours are Tue.-Sat., 11-4:40, till 6:30 on Wed. Closed for lunch everyday from 1:00-1:30.**

**Mendocino County Animal Care Services Shelter**  
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**FRESH TURKEY**  
WHOLE & PETITE BIRDS  
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## The rest of Wood From Page 1

14 were on medical or health care issues.

One of the bills he passed, Assembly Bill 824, made it a crime for large pharmaceutical companies to pay smaller, start-up companies to delay releasing cheaper, generic drugs, which would compete with the drugs developed and sold by the bigger companies.

AB 2760, a bill written by Wood and passed by the legislature in 2018, requires that prescriptions for opioids be accompanied by a prescription for naloxone, a drug that can break the addiction to opioids. This year Wood wrote and passed AB 714, a bill that exempts prescribers from the requirements of AB 2760 when they are prescribing, ordering or administering medications to a patient in an inpatient health facility or prescribing to a patient in outpatient-based hospice care.

In 2019, Wood authored AB 890, a bill that would allow nurse practitioners to practice to "the full scope of their license" without physician oversight. On Wood's website, he states that AB 890 would effectively increase the number of primary health care practitioners in California and would "increase access to care for many more people in California, especially in underserved and rural areas." This bill is a two-year bill and cannot move forward until January 2020.

Another bill authored by Wood, AB 954, helps to untangle the mess that sometimes happens when a dental plan or insurer leases access to a dental network from a third party. What happens then is that dentist A thinks he is working under contract B, whereas he is really working under contract D. As a result, dentist A will sometimes tell patient F that he will be charging price Y, but the billing company charges price Z. According to Wood's website, AB 954 "will increase transparency so that

both dentists and patients have more clarity over benefits and co-pays."

Assembly Bill 1088, authored by Wood, prevents seniors and people with disabilities who are dually enrolled in Medicare and Medi-Cal from losing their Medi-Cal coverage when the state begins paying their Medicare Part B premiums.

The amount that the state pays, which is \$135.50 per month (or \$271 for a couple) can be just enough to increase their countable income for purposes of determining their Medi-Cal eligibility and can cause them to be dropped from no-cost Medi-Cal and placed on a share-of-cost Medi-Cal where they would be required to pay hundreds of dollars more for their care. AB 1088 will prevent this "senior penalty" by requiring the state to not count the state's payment of Medicare premiums as income.

Wood also wrote some bills that dealt with non-medical issues which passed in the assembly. These include AB 867, which directs the Department of Motor Vehicles to allow the use of credit cards for payment of fees in DMV offices.

Two other bills written by Wood are two-year bills, and won't be brought to a vote until 2020. The first is AB 1387, which makes fishing licenses a 365-day license from date of purchase and which directs the Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a computer application that can display one's fishing license on one's phone. The other is AB 437, which establishes a fund to provide grants to eligible non-profit organizations. The grants are to be used by the organizations as sub-grants to people who cannot afford the cleaning deposit and the first month's rent for a rental dwelling.

## CalFresh replacement benefits due to power loss

Health and Human Services Division of Employment and Family Assistance Services Deputy Director Rachel Ebel-Elliott told the supervisors on Tuesday that her office will be offering replacement benefits

for participants in the county's CalFresh program who lost food during PG&E's public safety power shutoff event which took place in Mendocino County from Saturday, October 26 through Wednesday, October 30.

Ebel-Elliott said that low-income people who are not participants in the county's Cal Fresh program are encouraged to call the Employment and Family Assistance Services Division and sign up for CalFresh. The number is 463-7700.

CalFresh beneficiaries who lost food during the PSPS must apply in person at the Social Services office in Ukiah, 737 South State Street, or in Fort Bragg, 764 S Franklin Street. The deadline to apply for replacement benefits is November 22.

## Libraries are rockin' thanks to Measure A

Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency Director Karen Horner told the supervisors on Tuesday that the library has recently drafted an annual report, the first of its kind and not to be confused with the annual report on the state of the library which is written by the Library Advisory Board.

According to Horner, the state of the library has improved dramatically since the passage of Measure A in 2011. Horner said that, relative to the state of the library in 2011, today the library as a system is open 68 percent more hours, has 173 percent more staff, has 173 percent more items, has 1,913 percent more programs and opens its doors to 1,377 percent more people who are attending those programs.

Horner said that, once approved by the supervisors, the report would be printed and would be made available at all library branches.

The supervisors voted 5-0 to accept the report, to authorize its publication, and to direct library staff to work with the Library Advisory Board to develop a plan to install generators at appropriate library branches.

## The rest of Campground From Page 1

hotels now pay.

According to county Treasurer and Tax Collector Shari Schampire, if the tax measure is approved by the voters in March 2020, the county will collect about \$1 million a year from the tax on the "gate fee" for campgrounds.

It is not clear that the measure will be passed. In June of 2018, a similar tax measure failed to pass by a 46.51 percent "yes" to a 53.49 percent "no" margin. The main difference between what failed in 2018 and what is being proposed for March 2020 is that the 2018 ballot measure was a general tax with a non-binding advisory measure saying that the county would have to spend at least 50 percent of the proceeds on roads and fire protection and EMS.

The March 2020 measure will be a general tax with a non-binding advisory measure pledging the board to spend 100 percent of the revenues on fire protection. However, the companion measure is advisory only, and future boards of supervisors could decide that the money raised from the tax could be spent other priorities.

A general tax needs only a simple majority to pass. The other kind of tax, a special tax, needs a 2/3 majority to pass.

During discussions on Tuesday, Acting County Counsel Christian Curtis said that certain people, even if they stay in private campgrounds in this county, will be exempt from paying the tax. Curtis said people who secure a written agreement from the campground owner that they are planning to stay at the campground for more than 30 days, will not have to pay the tax at all.

If people do not secure a written agreement, and if they do end up staying longer than 30 days, they will only be taxed for the first 30 days. After 30 days, they can stay at the campground and will not have to pay the transient occupancy tax.

David Roderick, a board member with the Hopland Volunteer Fire District, said he had concerns about the tax measure. "These piece-meal, incremental moves that we're doing aren't addressing the environment we're in," Roderick said. "The TOT, if it in fact passes, may provide the false impression to the voter that they've fixed fire and EMS [emergency medical services] problems in Mendocino County, and it won't remotely do that, and that may foreclose on further actions down the road.

Roderick said he was skeptical that the TOT would bring in \$1 million annually. "I don't see that happening," he said. "And the county has a poor track record on forecasting gross receipts. The cannabis

program is a prime example of that.

"I don't want to discourage anything related to expanding help for our fire and EMS providers. But this is not it. The TOT failed last time. I think it was a general fund, and I think this is more targeted. I think people will understand that better.

"But I'm just very concerned about where we are. Especially given the fact that our ambulance system is now under extreme pressure. I think the public needs to be better informed about that."

Roderick also mentioned that supervisors had learned at a recent meeting that the county's public safety communication system is now "at 90 percent, 95 percent" through its expected lifespan.

"So as we deal with climate change," he continued, "these public safety power shutoffs, this is like the opening chapters of a very disturbing post-apocalypse novel. And how we want to change those opening chapters is an opportunity right now. And I'm not encouraged," Roderick said.

Janet Carter, who owns a campground in Fort Bragg, said the TOT measure, if it passes, would have unintended consequences. "The TOT tax will hurt a lot of low-income families and low-income people," Carter said.

"Sometimes they come in a car because they have nothing else. Families with children, because they just can't afford the extra money. And not having that little dab of money to spend, at souvenir shops or restaurants or what have you, will hurt the town. There is no logging or fishing industry, so we have to rely on the tourists. So, if you tax them out of town, that hurts," Carter said.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen explained why he thought the 2020 tax measure was a better measure than the 2018 measure.

"The previous measure, I believe, the advisory provided that no less than half the revenue would be spent on specified general services. So, it's a general tax. It's non-binding, other than the voters would hold any board politically accountable if they chose to deviate from the advisory.

"A huge difference this time," McCowen continued, "is 100 percent of the tax being newly applied to private campgrounds will go to the benefit of fire [protection districts.] That's a huge change, I think. It provides certainty to the voters. This will go to support fire, and, although it's not enough to fill all the needs, it goes a lot further than nothing.

"So, to those who say, 'Gee, it's a band-aid. It's not doing enough,' [I would ask] is doing nothing a preferable option?" McCowen said.

## The rest of Cannabis From Page 1

have about 5 percent uptake. And our Assemblyman Jim Wood was here earlier, and, in passing, he commented that Trinity County is also about 5 percent....

"This is about asking staff to work on building a joint resolution, working with CSAC [the California State Association of Counties], working with RCRC [Rural County Representatives of California] building a coalition with other northern, cannabis-producing counties, to show the state that we have a problem.

"We have some creative ideas for how to fix it," Williams continued, "but those ideas are about permitting the existing industry first and then coming back for compliance later, rather than setting the bar that's so high, so many hoops to jump through, that we can't possibly expect legacy cultivators to comply."

After Williams finished speaking, Supervisor McCowen said he disagreed with Williams' strategy but that he agreed with Williams' goal, which was to get cultivators who are still working in the "black market" to join the legal, regulated market.

It was then that McCowen presented his 4-point plan. The first point was to direct county CEO Carmel Angelo to convene a regional forum of high-level representatives from six north coast counties, in order to discuss state barriers to successful cannabis cultivation permitting, and also to discuss which barriers can be removed, and how. Those counties would be Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Lake, Sonoma and Del Norte counties.

The second point is to direct the cannabis cultivation ad hoc committee, which consists of McCowen and Third District Supervisor John Haschak, to work with Planning and Building staff and cannabis growers to find ways to streamline the county's cannabis cultivation ordinance.

The third part of the plan is to direct staff to create an equity program application that prioritizes capital assistance to help cultivators address environmental and building compliance issues.

The fourth part will be to re-open the application and permitting process for what would then be the third wave of Phase One of the county's cannabis program. This wave would be limited to "legacy growers who have not yet come forward to become part of Phase One."

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde asked if McCowen was envisioning that this Phase Three of Phase One would not include people who were due to be "sunsetted out" of their cannabis cultivation activities, and he was assured that was the intention. In other words, while the door will once again be opened, it will not be opened to folks who have been slated for sunsetting in 2020.

Haschak asked if he could add language that would direct those staffers who will be participating in regional discussions "to explore economic development through regional cooperative models." Haschak's language was welcomed, and the entire four-part package was approved unanimously.

Before being approved, Director of Planning and Building Services Brent Schultz gave the supervisors a report on the current state of the county's cannabis program.

According to Schultz, the department has received, since May 4, 2017, 1,588 applications to cultivate cannabis. Of those, 254 came in to the department in the few days before October 4, 2019, which was the deadline for what could be termed Phase Two of Phase One.

Schultz said the department currently has 232 active permits. He said that about 200 cultivators are seeking renewals of their application. Schultz did not say how many permits have expired as of November 12, but, in a report given to this reporter on October 6, Planning and Building staff indicated that 101 permits had expired by that date.

Schultz noted that of the 1,095 active applications currently being processed by his department, 1,007 are held up for a variety of reasons at the state's resource agencies, and 88 are being kept in a holding pattern at the county level. That means that 92 percent are on pause in the state's system, and 8 percent are waiting in the county's system.

Schultz also mentioned that the cannabis unit is short-staffed at present. He said that the unit is down three full-time inspectors. Interim Human Resources Director Cherie Johnson told Willits Weekly the unit currently does not have a program manager or a program administrator, and is down three field inspectors.

It does have a staff assistant and an administrative assistant, one regular, full-time field inspector, and two extra-help field inspectors. So, out of 10 employees, the county's cannabis unit currently has five.

## The rest of PSPS From Page 1

has formulated intended recommendations to the board of supervisors with a goal of providing resources and support to get LEMSA up and running.

Inspections of multiple family residences (three or more units) as required by SB 1205 are being scheduled and eligible properties will be notified.

The district is continuing to work with compliant property owners on vegetation abatement and enforcement. Currently the district's enforcement options are severely limited to non-existent. This requires staff time to reach out to non-compliant property owners. This one-on-one approach is the best way to reach property owners and their neighbors to achieve full abatement results.

Currently the district is working with the County of Mendocino to replace the sewer line on Mallard Road and remove the bypass that has been in place for over a year.

For the past three months, "sewer jetting" has been taking place in anticipation of wet weather. The purpose of this is to help avoid inflow and infiltration impacts to the wastewater treatment plant.

The California Special Districts Association issued their year-end legislative report in October. CSDA gleans from the state's massive legislative agenda those bills that affect special districts like Brooktrails. In the report they gave their recommendations, status of the bills, and cost/savings. While much of the information is mundane or highly technical (written in legislativeese) Brooktrails General Manager Tamara Alaniz and her staff highlighted for the board areas that will be of most interest to the Brooktrails Community Services District. The following are some of the actions taken by the legislature – or maybe to be passed in the future – that would have a visible impact on Brooktrails residents.

SB 669 would create the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. This fund is designed to give disadvantaged communities the funding need for projects that give access to safe drinking water. Funding for these projects will come from the interest generated by this fund. AB 217, before it was gutted and amended, would have established the Safe Drinking Water Fund for All Act for all Californians, funded by several fees on agricultural activities and supplemented by money from the general fund.

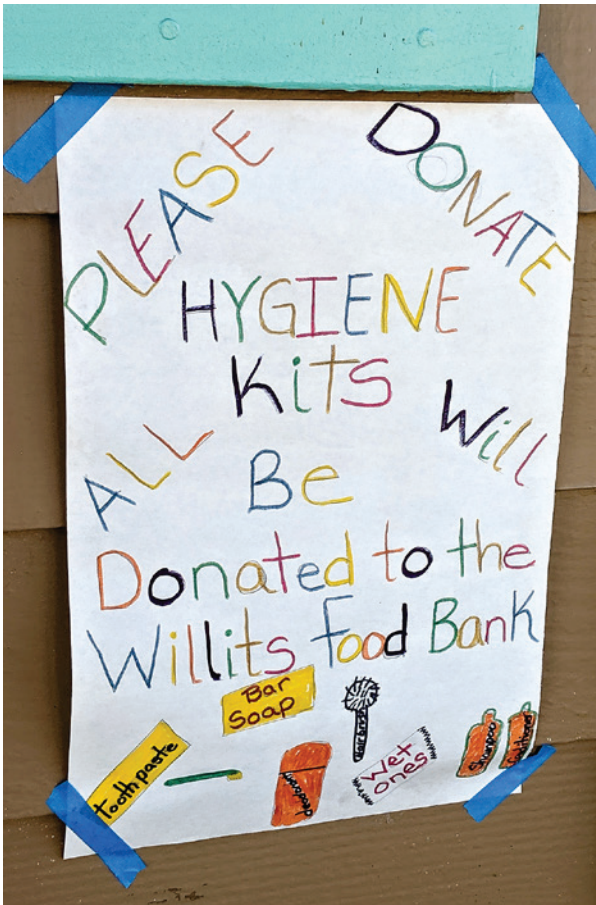
AB 882 would prohibit an employer from firing an employee for testing positive for a drug that is being used as a medical-assisted treatment, under the care of a physician or licensed treatment program.

AB 220, which was signed into law at the end of September, allows people running for office to use campaign funds for child care, in an effort to allow more parents to run for office.

AB 1699, which was signed into law in October, prohibits mobile telecommunication service providers from throttling down or otherwise failing to provide adequate or necessary telecommunication service during a state of emergency.

Page after page of the CSDA report deals with everything from defining local emergencies to workers rights, pensions, firefighters training, nurse practitioners, and water contracts to affordable housing rules and regulations. You can find the report at www.csdca.net.

The next Brooktrails Board meeting will be on December 10th at 7pm at the Brooktrails Community Center. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in active discussions regarding the Brooktrails Township. There will be only one meeting in the month of December after the 10th the next meeting will be January 14th, 2020.



At top, from left: Ivan Estrada Castro and Pancrazio Bettolino show off a comb and hand sanitizer; Ariana Vazques and Ava Arkelian show off cotton swabs and toothbrushes; Jonas Swearengen and Julian Castaneda show off shampoo and conditioner; and Adrianna Alvarez and Alexis Carrillo show off a toothbrush and toothpaste. Above, left: The group working on the kits includes, from back row, left: Megan Perkins, Leadership teacher Karen Patereau, Alexis Carrillo, Prisila Rodriguez Ramos, Ivan Estrada Castro, Ariana Vazques, and Blosser Lane Principal Nancy Runberg. Front row, from left: Lillie Unangst, Adrianna Alvarez, Maria Aguilar, Ava Arkelian, Jonas Swearengen, Julian Castaneda, and Pancrazio Bettolino. Above, right: A sign informing the community about the kits. At far left: Megan Perkins and Lillie Unangst show off tissues and floss, and Maria Aguilar and Prisila Rodriguez Ramos show off shampoo and soap.

# Hygiene Kits

Fifth-grade Leadership group wants to ‘engage the school and impact the community’

Submitted by Blosser Lane Elementary School

Blosser Lane Elementary School's fifth-grade Leadership group is proud to lead a hygiene kit fundraiser. It is their goal to collect enough items to fill 1,000 bags, before Christmas break, and donate them to the Willits Food Bank. Presently, they have 20 bags completed.

The fifth-grade Leadership group, under the supervision of staff advisor Karen Patereau, wanted to help raise needed items for the Willits Food Bank. When the students found out that the Food Bank could use hygiene items, they wanted to do something about it. They have made posters and visited all classrooms asking students to contribute what they could of the following items: cotton swabs/Q-tips; shampoo/conditioner; toothpaste/toothbrush; floss; deodorant; bar soap; hand sanitizer; and travel-size laundry soap.

Students from the group recently announced at their monthly assembly their purpose in doing this. “Why are these kits so important to us? They are important to those in need. As a community we need to help one another. As for the prize we spoke of, we feel the real prize will be the joy in our hearts. Giving is not just about making a donation, it is about making a difference.”

If you are interested in donating to their cause, please bring clean, unopened items to Blosser Lane Elementary School, and drop them off in the donation barrel by the front office. More info: 459-3232.

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