# Online & Print Online & Print

# Elections office issues interim results update

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Elections Office put up an update Friday, showing progress in counting and reporting the vote from the November 3 election.

These are not official results, Voter Registrar Katrina Bartolomie stressed. She estimated that probably about half the 15,501 vote by mail ballots and 1,800 provisional ballots announced as left to review and count in a November 3 press release remain to be processed.

Read the rest of **Election** 

Over on Page 13

# Little Lake Fire Protection District update

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

No big news at the November meeting of the Board of Directors of the Little Lake Fire Protection District.

Unless ... it's all good and getting better at the fire department is big news.

Specifically, that news would be ... new acquisitions, upgrades and procedures, funding looking good, and ongoing good work in and for the community.

First off, the new fire-house.

"The concrete slab is completed; you can walk out on it and get a feel for

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Read the rest of} \\ \textbf{Update} \end{array} ]$ 

Over on Page 11

# Brooktrails Township board update

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Brooktrails The full Township Board of Directors met on November 10 via Zoom. When President Rick Williams asked if there were any changes or additions to the October 27 minutes, Director Tony Orth pointed out that the newly acquired squad "attack" used vehicle replacement that Fire Chief Jon Noyer was going to travel to Fortuna to purchase and pick up last week, apparently, was found, by the seller, to be in need of a new pump and that repair is being made

Read the rest of Brooktrails

Over on Page 11



Above Willits Community Services and Food Bank's Ruthanne Volz, left, Larry Garber, on stairs, and Dan Bebe, center, smile with food bank volunteer, Diane Carter, right, and in front, Parlin Fork officers, B. Vielbig, left, and R. Smith, right. Below: Bebe holds the cart getting loaded up by Willits Police Officer, K. Kersmarki with donated hams from Willits Police and Little Lake Firefighters associations.



Below: The usual Turkey Toss was a little different without the Parlin Fork inmates, but officers B. Vielbig, left, and R. Smith were still happy to oblige to keep the tradition strong. At bottom: One of the 10 hams that was escorted to the Food Bank via patrol car by Willits Police Officer K. Kersmarki in time for the Thanksgiving dinner.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

Drive-thru event planned for Thanksgiving day

**Turkey** Time Everyone being able to enjoy a warm meal on Thanksgiving will happen – corona or not –

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress

and the teams at Willits
Community Services and
Food Bank and the Willits
Senior Center have come

up with a plan to make it happen: a drive-thru dinner for the 31st annual event.

Read the rest of Thanksgiving

Over on Page 13





# back to purple COVID tier

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Mendocino County has been placed back in Tier 1, the purple tier, in which the extent of COVID-19 is called "widespread." One result of that decision is that efforts by county school districts to reopen in-person learning are back on hold, since the purple tier does not allow in-person learning.

This decision was made Monday by the state's Department of Public Health, and is based on a 69 percent increase in the

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Read the rest of} \\ \textbf{Purpled} \end{bmatrix}$ 

Over on Page 10

# EDFC has given out \$1 million in loans

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At the November 10 Willits City Council meeting the Economic Development and Financing Corporation gave their annual report detailing their successes in helping local businesses around Mendocino County during this tumultuous last year.

The EDFC is a local nonprofit financial institution which specializes in giving loans to small businesses. And as detailed by Interim Executive Director Jesse Burnett, they also help in other ways, like partnering with the Willits Chamber of Commerce for the "Mask Up Mendo" program to help educate the community and distribute masks and hand sanitizer during the

Read the rest of EDFC

Over on Page 11

# CalFire reports on fuel reduction program

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

CalFire Mendocino Unit Chief George Gonzalez spoke to the board of supervisors on Tuesday, reporting on his plans to implement fuel reduction projects in this county over the next six months.

According to Gonzales, CalFire will burn between 30,000 and 40,000 acres by next summer, most of it on property north of Covelo owned by Redwood Empire, which owns sawmills in

Read the rest of CalFire

Over on Page 11

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

# Against expanding grows

To the Editor:

Thank you, John Haschak, for the only vote against expansion of cannabis grows in Mendocino County. I do not understand why the other supervisors voted for it. It seems it is a current trend in government everywhere today to ignore the experts.

Have any of you driven around the county in a while? There is an epidemic of grows – most of them are illegal. People need to be managed, that is why we have laws. The illegal grows flaunt the lawlessness that seems to be pervasive. are they not stopped?

In my neighborhood, we have one grower that is trying to be legal. The others are all illegal. How do you know? They do not have an address posted at their sites, they drive around on their ATVs night and day. They suck water out of the dying streams, piles of trash, and chemicals

They do not have phone numbers that you can call and complain. How do you stop the 2 am music blasting without worrying about being confronted by the end of a gun or vicious dog? How do I tell the police where to go? "Follow the dirt road down to that place on the left"?

I recently rode my horse over to my neighbor to talk with him, for it seemed the only way to connect. He was not onsite, and I was appalled at what I saw. He is cutting isolation? down trees to create larger patches. He has wire and junk everywhere. Is he above the law? How do you stop him? Why are you letting him continue to ruin the land and my quality of life?

Now the BOS are voting in favor of expanding this? Who will stop illegal activities such as logging, grading, water exploitation, and dumping of pesticides? For what reason? The county does not benefit from illegal grows and, we, the law-abiding citizens, are suffering from the results of this. Have you seen the number of hoop houses that have sprouted everywhere? Lights all night long. Noise, constant noise.

What farmer protects his crop with guns and threatens everyone around them?

Please try and reason with BOS to change their minds on this very important issue.

Shari Fisher, Willits

# Reopening schools? Yes!

To the Editor:

This is in response to a letter in the November 5 edition of Willits Weekly on reopening schools. The author of the letter, Tessa Ford, ponders whether reopening schools is worth the health risk to our community due to COVID-19.

The CDC recently published that there is over a 99.5 percent recovery rate from COVID-19 for people under 69 years of age. The recovery rate for those 70+ with underlying health conditions decreases to 94.6 percent. Interestingly enough, the survival rate of most health conditions decreases significantly with elderly and those with underlying health conditions. COVID is no different.

Do we need to protect our elderly? Absolutely! Is the best way to do that by continuing to lock up our youth? We don't

# The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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Many students in Willits are suffering greatly due to distance learning. One parent, who worked extremely hard to get her honor student through Algebra II/Trig said that her daughter cried "Mom, I can't learn like this! feel like I'm not retaining anything!" Another parent stated that her son has

learned "nothing but how to be anxious and stressed" since online learning started.

It's likely that teachers who are home teaching their own kids while trying to distance teach are struggling too. They are fortunate enough to be able to be in the safety and comfort of their own home and teach their own kids while continuing to distance teach.

Many families in Mendocino County are not that fortunate. Many of us still have to get up every morning and go to work, leaving our kids to learn through Zoom meetings that require a ridiculous amount of internet, screen time What other activities are they doing that are illegal? Why (something we should be limiting), and very little support. Regardless of what some might think, email support is not

> Many of us come home after working eight- to 10-hour days to do two or three hours of school work with our children. If we're going to be doing the bulk of the teaching, we might as well unenroll our kids and homeschool! If you think this is learning from the safety and comfort of our own home, you're sadly mistaken.

> The stress this has put on families and children is unprecedented. It's only reducing the confidence we have in the public school system. And what about students who find that the teaching staff and social interactions they have at school are the only positive interactions they have in a day? What will become of them during this time of

> Lisa Damour, an adolescent psychologist states: "Teenagers are in a developmental space where it is critically important that they have regular contact with their peers and are able to develop close and ongoing relationships with adults outside the home, such as their teachers, their coaches, their advisers."

Damour goes on to say: "I worry very much about what it means for that to be disrupted by the pandemic." Kids need

Many private schools are operating with no problems at all (several in this county), and they've been operating since August! Children are permitted to attend Head Start, five

How is this different than operating a school? They simply use common sense precautions, masks and/or face shields, temperature monitoring upon arrival, and smaller class sizes. They have learned to adapt - the public schools need to do the same.

Even some sports have resumed - which is great - kids need sports, interaction with adults outside the home, and interaction with their peers. Why do schools remain closed if these other programs are able to adapt?

Studies show that children are not learning well with this model and are possibly a grade-level behind at this point ("Research shows students falling months behind during virus disruptions," New York Times article, June 5, 2020).

Additionally, the amount of "spare" time the kids have under this model is exorbitant - many students are depressed. constantly looking for something to do. What do you think they're going to turn to?

Their mental health is at risk. The CDC has reported that one in four of those ages 18 to 25 have seriously considered suicide during the lockdowns. That's 25 percent! The

mental health and well-being of our youth is at stake. Tessa Ford stated that if the children were to return, they would have to wear masks all the time (fair enough), the desks will be socially distanced by 6 feet, decreasing the class size, and that desks will have to be surrounded by

plexiglass shields on three sides....

Why would the desks have to be surrounded by plexiglass if students are wearing a mask and separated by 6 feet? The expense alone would eat up the ballot measure that just passed. Require masks for the kids and let them return!

And to think that a \$17 million bond measure was just passed to fix up schools. If the kids are not being allowed to return, divvy that \$17 million up to all the families who are enrolled to fix up their homes to include a classroom for

Is there a risk? Of course. There's a risk with anything we do. Every time we get in a car, we are taking a risk. This virus is *not* going away. We have to learn to live with it.

Originally, many of us were against returning to school with a mask requirement. We now recognize that the risk to our children is far greater keeping them locked up at home. We support a return to the classroom with common sense

Superintendent Westerburg, we strongly urge you to follow common sense guidelines: Use the \$1,881,300 you received from the federal CARES Act (www.edsource. org. "Official figures released on state, federal CARES Act funding to districts to address COVID-19, August 5, 2020) to reduce class sizes, and get our kids back to school five

Shawn and Cindy Sauers, Bob and Dena Blum, Gilbert and Sandy Fuentes, Chris and April Lamprich, Steven & Natalie Spackman, Willie and Alexis England, Steve and Cara Carter, and Russ & Shelley Rountree, Willits

# CalFresh signups November 19 and 20 at Senior Center

Enrolling in CalFresh helps you and your community stay healthy! As per the CalFresh web page:

"CalFresh is for people with low income who meet federal income eligibility rules and want to add to their budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table."

You can be on Social Security, have savings, own a home and/or cars, and still receive CalFresh benefits.

Schedule an appointment to find out more. Call Willits Senior Center at 459-6826.

# SVOV Extra yard waste pickups on Friday

Solid Wastes of Willits announces: "We will be collecting the green waste (only in Willits) on Friday, November 20 [already did November 13], no matter what your pick-up week is. Please place your green yard waste cans out at the street the night before to ensure pick-up. Please be patient with the drivers as they are doubling their pick-ups to do this service for the community.

- Solid Wastes of Willits

# Protect your holiday packages from thieves

Holiday shopping is approaching, or maybe you've already started. If you've started ordering online, remember it's also the season for package thieves, aka "porch pirates."

Consider sending the package to your work/office

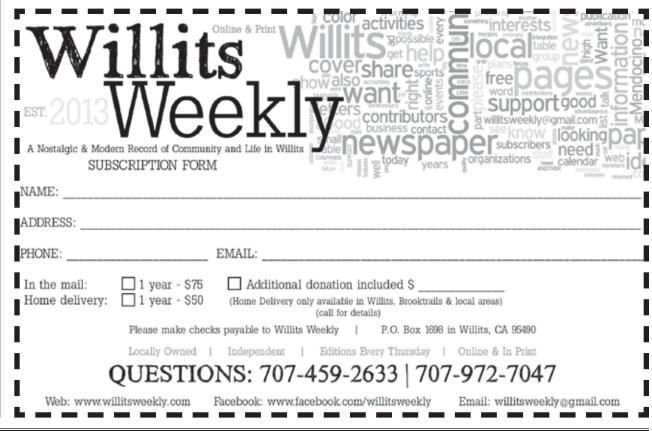
 Solicit help from a family member or neighbor by monitoring tracking information

• If ordering through Amazon, use the Amazon Locker option for delivery

• Or of course, buy local!

- Willits Police Department











# A different kind of 'tom'

Retired Sheriff Allman braves the rain in turkey suit to collect \$7,500 in donations for Thanksgiving meal and food for those in need

Some people will do anything for a buck, especially if it is for a good cause. Last Friday, at Bud Snider City Park, recently retired Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, who has been known to take many dunk tank baths in public to raise money for charitable organizations, once again flung all seriousness aside. He donned the skinniest turkey suit ever and bade passing motorists to stop and donate to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank, who once again is preparing to provide as many as 500 Thanksgiving

Mathew Caine

meals to residents of the Little Lake Valley. After many rain-drenched selfies with generous residents, the foolishness resulted in over \$7,500 being raised to buy turkeys, potatoes (to mash), salad fixings, side dishes, and pie. Any money left over will go to help the food bank provide their twice-weekly food distribution, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1 to 4:30 pm at their facility, 229 East San Francisco Street.

As always, the turkey dinners will be distributed at the Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 11 am to 3 pm, Thursday, November 26. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will be strictly drive-thru only. The dinners are free to anyone, no questions asked, all are invited – donations are welcome.

Richard Baker, executive director at the senior center, said that center will be delivering dinners to seniors and others who cannot get down to the facility. "We are going to be distributing meals to our Meals-On-Wheels clients," said Baker, "and anyone who doesn't have a ride to the senior center. We have numerous volunteer drivers and myself who will be going out Thanksgiving morning and delivering to three senior-housing complexes: Redwood Meadows, Baechtel Creek, and Holy Spirit. We're up to around 80 or 90 meals that we will be delivering."

The inmates of Parlin Fork Conservation Camp will again be cooking the turkeys at their own facility and delivering the baked birds to the senior center the night before, where they will be sliced and finished in the morning, along with all of the other fixings. "Everything is going to be cooked at Parlin Fork and then brought in Wednesday evening

so the food can be cut up and prepped. So all we have to do is warm things up the next "We're going to set up tables so the workers can get their assembly lines going. The

meals will be warmed in the kitchen and brought into the dining rooms where Over on Page 9

we can add a salad, a piece of pie.

707-459-5859

Septic & Water Systems - Site Development

Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

Harrah Senior Center

Christmas Store

1501 Baechtel Road

December 7-12

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteers Needed (459-6826)

Masks Required

**SEE'S CANDY** 

FOR THE

**HOLIDAYS** 

Nut N Chews, Soft Centers,

1 lb. boxes.

DRIVE THRU PICK UP

Turkey



Above, left: Tom "Turkey" Allman doesn't mind getting wet and dressing like a turkey for a good cause. Above, top: Tom the Turkey

gets an assisted selfie with lonor Ken Farnsworth.

Above: Tom Allman enjoys meeting all the people who

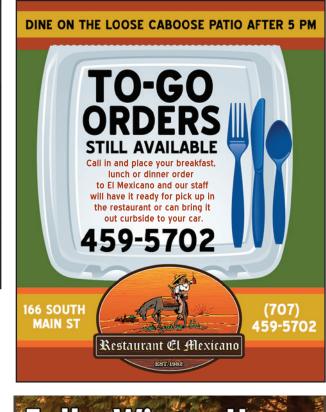
came out in the rain to donate At left, top: Tom Allman elbow bumps with Bill Barker who came out in the rain to donate

At left: Tom "Turkey" Allman takes donations at Bud Snider

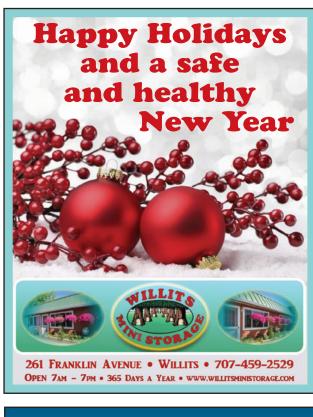
Below: Tom "Turkey" Allman collects donations with his volunteers Shailyn Brewer, Lucy Simonson, JoAnn Holliday, Serena Alexi and Amanda Kennelly.

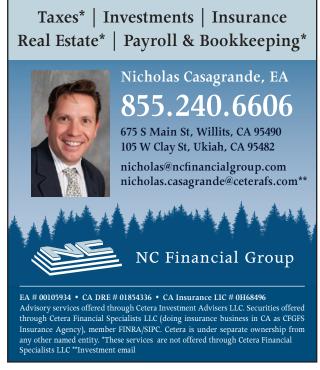
> Photos by Mathew Cain





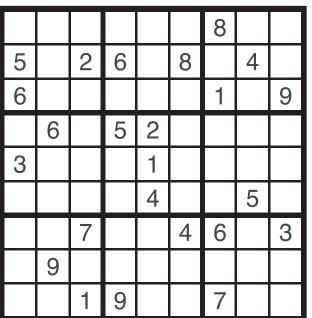






# Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword



# HOW TO SUDOKU

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



ASSISTANCE **AUTUMN BASTE BLESSINGS** CARVE CASSEROLE **COLONISTS CORNBREAD CORNUCOPIA** 

DINNER **DRESSING FEAST** FOWL **FRIENDS GIBLETS GRAVY HARVEST** 

**CRANBERRIES NEW WORLD NOVEMBER** OVEN **PARADE PILGRIMS** PLATE **PUMPKIN PIE RELATIVES** 

**INDIGENOUS ROLLS SEATING SQUASH STUFFING SWEET POTATO TABLE TASTY THANKSGIVING** TURKEY

14. Relative biological

17. Sun up in New York

18. Eggs in female fish

22. NBA legend Willis

28. Exercise regimen

27. Calendar month (abbr.)

29. The 8th month (abbr.)

32. Tall deciduous tree

37. Notified of danger

39. Archaic term for 'to'

42. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA

38. NFL game days

40. Plant pores

41. Canned fish

43. Connects with

47. Time zone (abbr.)

44. Of the skull

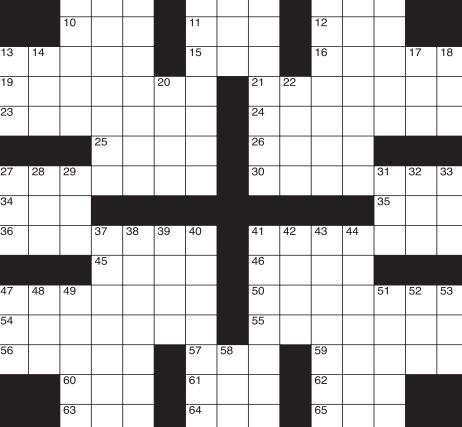
20. Stood up

\_\_-bo

31. \_\_ Paulo, city

33. Affirmative

effectiveness (abbr.)



# **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Autonomic nervous system
- 4. At or near the stern 7. Adenosine triphosphate
- 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 11. Chinese revolutionary 12. Green veggie
- 13. Large group
- 15. Swiss river 16. Semiaguatic mammal 19. Wrongdoers
- 21. Home to Disney World 23. Spanish doctors
- 24. Newborn child
- 25. Absence of difficulty 26. Large, stocky lizard
- 27. Earned top billing 30. A long wandering and eventful journey
- 34. Water (French) 35. Brew
- 36. Winged horse 41. A usually malignant tumor
- 45. Alfred \_\_\_, American actor

46. Austrian river

- 47. A reminder of past events 50. Connected with 54. Status
- 55. Dean residence 56. Egyptian city
- 57. Boxing's GOAT 59. Straits along the
- Red Sea 60. 'The Partridge Family' actress Susan
- 61. Get some color 62. Facilitates hearing 63. Commercials 64. A team's best pitcher

65. Patti Hearst's captors

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Speak up 2. More informative 3. Where passengers sit 4. Gathered

Supervises flying

regret

Lockjaw

9. Indian city

13. Patriots' Newton

- 48. When you hope to get there 6. Home of the Blue Jays 49. Hindu goddess
- 7. Public statement of 51. Land 52. Pitching stat 53. Field force unit 58. Lakers' crosstown

Sudoku puzzles are

# The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **184 incidents** in this

seven-day reporting period. **Summary of Active Investigations** and Arrests

# November 9

11:37 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of

1:06 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of North Main

6:36 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

8:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 300 block of South Main

11:48 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

## November 10

7:52 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 300 block of Franklin

9:55 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1100 block of South Main Street.

## November 11

10:32 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Mill Creek Court.

12:18 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Raymond Lane and Coast Street. 2:06 pm: Officers responded to a report

of trespassing in the 200 block of Sherwood Road and issued a warning. 9:44 pm: Officers responded to a report

of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of

South Main Street. 11:22 pm: FISKMCCARTHY, Monte Roy (29) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of School Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of disorderly

# conduct (alcohol). November 12

8:47 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of North Main

# By Claudia Wenning

is worth talking about this time of the year.

I'd like to mention some options we have in the Natural Medicine approach to prepare ourselves for the months ahead.

paying attention to the state of our health! Here are a few ideas about how you can create a personalized plan for your winter

First of all it is very important, more than anything else, to support your immune system, that is where it starts. We want to make sure that you assist your body to

Being exposed to the wide range of warmth and cold between outside and inside means dressing appropriately, using the "onion look" for keeping your body protected and insulated. The idea is to make it easy on the body to adjust to external influences, and avoid creating addition loads for the

And when you feel cold, warm liquids. like herbal teas, are the fastest way to raise your inner temperature and bring the body from the state of contraction back into the state of equilibrium. Done right, the changes between exposing the body to hot and cold can actually be stimulating and supportive

At the same time, best self-care is to move your body every day. Moving your energy by walking seems to be the one thing that many people can use as a daily practice. And even if walking is not an option for you, you still may find some inspiration in the suggestions below. This is about body awareness, and flexing our joints to keep the body in a state of balance and lubrication, as best as individually possible.

A "full body walk" also means to give complete attention to how you walk, where you walk, how you hold your body, how you

10:18 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Creekside

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLICE LOG** 

November 9 to November 15

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

1:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

2:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1000 block of Locust Street and issued a warning.

4:52 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of North Main

5:32 pm: Officers responded to a report

of trespassing in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. 9:01 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1200 block of South

10:00 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main

## November 13

9:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of Pine Street and issued a citation.

# November 14

1:21 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main

11:50 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

4:03 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street.

4:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

5:44 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

10:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

# November 15

8:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

10:13 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Sandy Avenue and Bonnie Lane.

# COLUMN | Your Wellness - Naturally! Winter self-care

Winter is upon us, and wellness self-care

There is nothing more important than

wellness, for yourself and your family.

adapt to temperature and environmental changes, changes of humidity, and changes to the amount of daylight hours.

immune system.

for the immune system

breathe, along with the strides you take.

Is your body balanced while walking? You may want to swing your arms in a bilateral fashion to balance your body and engage all the joints in your body in a symmetrical and balanced rhythm to get the fluids to lubricate

By gently and rhythmically engaging your joints, you balance the energy in your body. Moving your body this way is simple and

Moving your body is even one of the few options we have to be social, while socially distancing as well, walking outside in proper distance with someone. This is healthcare on the physical and the emotional level, it surely matters.

When you take the kids for a daily walk, inspire them to lift their eyes up to the sky, scan the horizon, and get the benefits of balancing the time they are in front of the screens at home. When was the last time you were watching and reading clouds? This is something we can do anytime of the

Oh, the stories clouds can tell! Where are they coming from, where are they going, what images are they showing us?

And when you decide to go for a walk, choose a destination to walk to.

Make this time something that fits for you: You may want to walk to get a newspaper. You may want to go to the post office, the store. You may just simply want to walk a wide circle around your neighborhood. You may want to walk and say "hello"

patiently waiting for you to come by, to see how it is doing. Enjoy watching the leaves falling this time of year, and observe how the tree is starting

to go into a state of winter hibernation.

to that special tree in the distance there

Now, if this sounds just rather odd to you, find a goal that fits your interests, your

Wellness

Over on Page 13



Above, left: The Little Lake Fire Department and bikers ride down Main Street on the Toy Run. Above, right, top: The toys pile up during the afternoon. Above, right: Kim "Sugar B" and Rich "Pops" Venturi call the live auction at the 2019

Below: One of the two Willits Children's Christmas Program trees sits in the front window of Les Schwab Tire Center with tags bearing the requests of boys and girls in the community. At bottom: The second tree is located at J.D. Redhouse in downtown Willits. Both trees are being constantly restocked with tags for boys and





COBURN'S

CONSTRUCTION & CABINETRY INC.

CA LIC #392108

Randy J. Coburn

coburn\_randy@yahoo.com/

coburnsconst@gmail.com

707-459-9719/FAX 707-459-4984

**General Contractor** 

Willits, CA 95490

P.O. Box 616

Preview your completed project with our 3-D Computer Image

# Toy Run & Tag Trees

# Willits Christmas Program gets head start with tags around town and hope for full fulfillment from annual Toy Run

It'll be a little more ride, a little less party for this year's Toy Run event which will be held on Saturday, November 28, rain or shine, to help families in our community have a happy holiday.

Traditionally, the Willits Wild Bunch and other bikers meet at the Evergreen Shopping Center and ride to the Little Lake Grange where a party, food and auctions are held.

This year, it's a little different.

These are the toys

most being asked for

Baby dolls

Legos for girls

and boys

**Dragon stuff** 

Playdoh

**Puzzles** 

Games

Nerf guns.

**Darts or disks** 

Baby toys

- Toy Run

organizers

on the tree tags:

Everyone will still meet at the Evergreen Shopping Center at 11:30 am on Saturday and get escorted down Main Street by the Little Lake Fire Department. However, instead of heading to the Grange, the group will take a lap over the bypass, before ending

back at Little Lake Auto for the end point. If you are planning A spacious pop-up will be set up, and on attending the Wil-Taqueria Ramirez will be on site to sell a lits Tov Run and wonquick bite for hungry riders, or anyone dering what kind of toy wishing to come by. All attendees are asked to bring, here is a list to practice social distancing and follow of suggestions from county health guidelines. the Willits Children's Christmas Program.

Unwrapped toys or monetary donations are welcomed at the end of the run, and receipts will be available for cash donations, as the Willits Wild Bunch is a 501C3 non-Toys and money collected will go to help fill the requests of boys and girls in

the community who are participants in the

Willits Rotary Club's Children's Christmas Trees bearing the tags for gift requests are already located at J.D. Redhouse and Les Schwab of Willits. If anyone would like to pick up a tag, fill the requests, and return the unwrapped gifts to either tree location, or the Willits Unified School District office.

For more information about the program, contact 354-1991 or 272-5935.

www.NorCalQuote.com · rcantua@farmersagent.con

- Maureen Jennison



Auto · Home · Life · Health · Business

that is also appreciated.



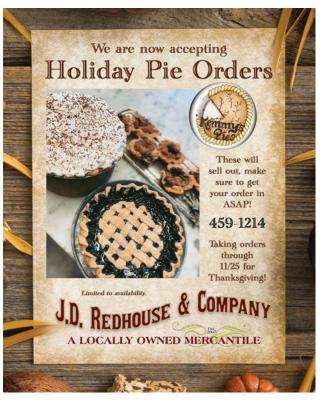


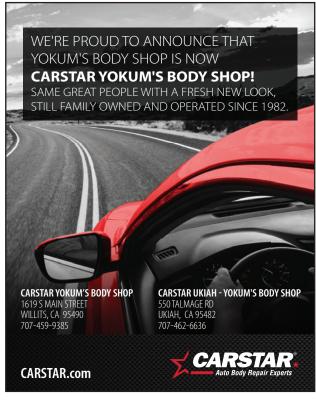


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• Design

· Plan Drawing

New Construction

· Kitchens and Baths



# Thanksgiving Dinner Drive-thru

Date: 11/23/2020 Time: 12 pm - until gone! Location: In front of Willits Police Dept.

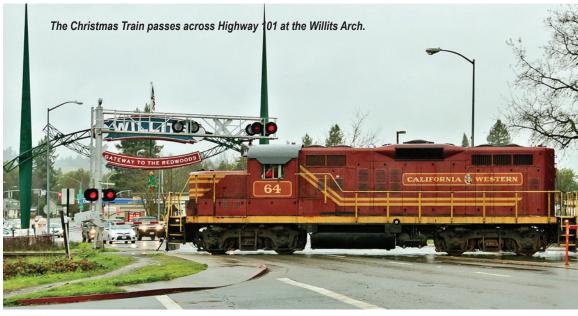
> The Willits Police Officers' Association and Little Lake Fire would like to give back!

Thanksgiving is a time for family.

We hope that our donation can make it so your family's Thanksgiving Day meal is one less thing to worry about.

With generous donations by Willits Grocery Outlet, Willits Safeway, Fisher Wireless Services, and the Willits Police Officers' Association we have 40 complete dinners to give to families in need! Dinners include: one 10-12 lb turkey, stuffing and mashed potato mixes, cranberry sauce, vegetables, rolls, and Kemmy's Pies for dessert! Dinners are on a first-come first-served basis, one dinner per vehicle





# Discover a Winter Wonderland aboard the **Magical Christmas Train**

For the safety of our staff, Santa, his helpers, and you, our treasured guests, this holiday season will look a little different than the Magical Christmas Trains of the past. We've reimagined the fun so you can keep making treasured memories with the Skunk Train this holiday season.

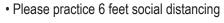
Climb aboard to the sounds of holiday music playing in the background, and enjoy a more socially distanced train ride, with a reading of "Skippy the Traindeer" by author Shelle Hart, and a socially distanced visit from Santa as he passes through your

All guests are required to wear facial coverings while on the train, and instead of serving you cookies and hot chocolate, we'll be sending you home with a goodie bag to enjoy in the comfort and safety of your

There is no assigned seating aboard the Magical Christmas Train. If you'd like to be seated with another party, please coordinate with them on boarding together.

Please remember:

Facial coverings are mandatory



- · Wash hands frequently
- Dress warmly
- If you feel ill please do not make your reservation, or if already made, notify us via telephone or email

The first day the Magical Christmas Train runs out of Willits is Friday, November 27, with three trips unprecedented times together. This is a COVID compliant scheduled so far, at 1, 3:30 and 6 pm. The train runs event. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through December 20, with up to five departures a day, and then on Christmas week, trains run Monday, December 21, Tuesday, December 22, and – the last Christmas train of 2020 – on Wednesday, December 23.

Fares for the Magical Christmas Train departing Willits are: Adult: \$52.95 (ages 13 and up); Child: \$42.95 (ages 2-12); Infant: \$10.95 (under the age of 2); and Dog: \$10.95. Copies of "Skippy the Traindeer" book are \$6.95. Fares include an 8 percent Historic Preservation assessment.

You can find more information and purchase tickets at our website, www.skunktrain.com or call the Fort Bragg Depot at 707-964-6371



MENDOCINO

COUNTY

**HERB** 

**GUILD** 

Holiday Herbal

Marketplace

from the makers, on Sunday, December 6 from 11 am to 3

pm. An exciting, unique opportunity to support local herbalists

and artisans, while finding that special handcrafted, locally

made gift for the ones you love, and certainly for yourself. A

Located outside the old Rexall building, 90 South Main

Sponsored by the Mendocino County Herb Guild: We invite

you to partake in community, whilst we go through these

Street in Willits (or in the Grange in case of rain).

Shop for locally crafted herbals and seasonal gifts direct

# CalFresh signups November 19 and 20 at Senior Center

Enrolling in CalFresh helps you and your community stay healthy! As per the CalFresh web page:

"CalFresh is for people with low income who meet federal income eligibility rules and want to add to their budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table."

You can be on Social Security, have savings, own a home and/or cars, and still receive CalFresh benefits.

Schedule an appointment to find out more. Call Willits Senior Center at 459-6826

Christmas

Store at

Willits Senior

Center opens

December 7

Don't miss the ongoing Christmas Store at Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. The Christmas Store is an extension of the Thrift Shop. As items are donated to the senior center throughout the year, Christmas decorations are set aside for the holiday-themed

store. The result is a multi-

roomed accumulation of artificial Christmas trees, festive linens,

wreaths, platters for holiday meals,

wrapping supplies, candles,

scenes and more. See's Candies

The Christmas Store will be

open December 7 through 12,

will also be available for sale.

459-6826.

# Sparetime Garden Center to open holiday store stocked with locally crafted gifts

Exciting things are happening at Sparetime Garden Center. "We are pleased to announce we will be opening a holiday store in the back of the property!" read a post on Sparetime's Facebook page. "Starting Black Friday (November 27) through Christmas Eve, the community is invited to bring their family and come check out our on-site winter wonderland!"

The store is decorated inside and out. "We hope the kids (and adults) enjoy all the lights, decorations and even a 9-foot Santa out front!" wrote Sparetime. There will even be a holiday photo backdrop amidst the decorations out front where families can take photos.

The store is stocked with amazing gift items from Kershaw, Revelry, Nebo, and so many more. Along with gift items from regular vendors, they are bringing in locally crafted items from members of the community.

"We know that there are limited options this year for people to sell their handmade products and for people to be able to purchase these items," Sparetime wrote. They have over 15 local vendors bringing in beautiful items such as handmade jewelry, hand-poured soy candles, Christmas decor, hand-sewn dolls, crocheted items, healing salves, photo prints, pottery, woodcraft, hand-sewn bags, and much more. "We hope to showcase a little bit of everything and help bring some joy to this holiday season," they added

Gift wrapping is being offered for free with a request for a donation to the Rotary Club. Strict COVID-19 guidelines will be followed to ensure it will be a safe place for people to shop and enjoy. The cut Christmas trees will be available starting November 21, and live trees are available now.

"We can't wait to open up the holiday store," Sparetime concluded, "and we hope to see everyone soon! Stay tuned for daily giveaways and prizes posted to our page! Stay safe, and happy holidays to all."

- Sparetime Garden Center



Christmas decorations are being set up in the new holidaythemed store at Sparetime Garden Center, which carries gifts from regular vendors and local



Imagine an organism that feeds

you, heals you,

reveals nature's

mysteries, and

could help save

the planet...

# 'Fantastic Fungi'

The Now and Then Film Series presents a showing of "Fantastic Fungi." on Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12 at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

"Fantastic Fungi" starts out as an amazing nature film and morphs into an impassioned screed on how mushrooms can – essentially – save the world. The central figure is Paul Stamets, mushroomist extraordinaire!

With spectacular footage of growth and decay and impassioned speeches about the magic of mushrooms, this documentary is a treat for the eye and ear. As visually dazzling as it is thought-provoking, Fantastic Fungi sets out to make audiences see mushrooms differently - and

See the magical world of fungi and their power to heal, sustain and contribute to the regeneration of life on Earth. Psychedelic discussion is a part of the film also. To learn more about the film, directed by Louie Schwartzberg, visit https://fantasticfungi.com/

Your donation of \$10 will be used to support the showing of these films of import. Grange rules on COVID compliance are in place - you are asked to wear a mask and social distance. Limited seating on a first-come basis. Trailers and short films start at 6:30 pm. Not serving popcorn during COVID – please bring your own snacks and edibles.

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



# ONE UGLY MUDDER

2020 Jeep Gladiator Giveaway\*

**Earn Entries Daily for Weekend Drawings** Oct 1 – December 26

200 points = 1 entry ticket

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

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

# SENIOR THURSDAYS NOON - 5PM It's Super Seniors Day and guests age 55+ who earn

75 points that day will receive \$15 in Free Play and a 50% Off meal coupon to the Creekside Café.



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



# **Stuffing the Stockings**

Willits Frontier Days Juniors fill stockings for community children at Christmas



**BROWNS** Gas & Diese Pay at the Pump 7am - 10pm 459-4854 1799 So. Main St. P.O. Box 428

**POWER & HARDWARE** HONDA · HUSQVARNA · STIHL · MQ · CARHARTT Lawn & Garden Equipment Generators Sales, Parts & Service Pick-up & Delivery 1600 S. Main St. Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420 Willits, CA 95490 Service: 707 459-0596 Fax: 707 459-6369 villitspower@gmail.com



Willits Rotary Club's Children's to senior center programs. Info: Christmas Program.

Photos by Marcy Barry - Willits Harrah Senior Center















Above, left: Chamber director Ron Moorhead and board member Chuck Persico wave to the passing cars, as they promote Small Business Saturdays at the Willits Farmers Market. Above, right: Kiera Dragness at Monkey Wrench is offering 15 percent discounts on Saturdays this month. At right: Marissa Gutierrez and McKenna Buckingham are ready to serve customers at Scoops. Below: Owner Sara Mann and Kat Phillips of Mazahar are offering varying discounts.









# **Shop Local**

'Small Business Saturday' is every Saturday this month in Willits

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to be a factor in the economy of Mendocino County, the Willits Chamber of Commerce has decided to expand the annual Shop Small Saturday program in order to encourage those searching for Christmas holiday gifts to

Mathew Caine

walk away from their computers, get to town, and patronize local merchants. That way the money stays in the hands of friends and neighbors rather than contributing to the bottom line of huge distant

In the past, the chamber, in conjunction with American Express, has chosen one Saturday for the Shop Small promotion. "Generally in the last few years," said Ron Moorhead, executive director of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, "it's been a program that's been sponsored by American Express, and Willits merchants and shops have contributed and

"This year," he continued, "we decided on our own that we would expand it to all the Saturdays in November instead of one Saturday after Thanksgiving. Because of the COVID-19 situation, most stores can't

have a large number of people in the stores. So, we thought 'why restrict it

At far left: Ryker likes holding

the entry card at Buttercups. displays one of the Shop Small posters at J.D. Redhouse. At right: Ticket deposit jars are at each of the participating merchants, as well as the chamber office at the Skunk Train depot and the Willits Center for the Arts.



# Made for more next steps



Meet our Redwood Medical primary care team



John Glyer, MD

Family Medicine





Bev Draudt, FNP







McCullough, MD



Petruncio, DO



# Safe, Open and Ready for you.

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

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

AdventistHealthHowardMemorial.org

# The rest of Turkey From Page 3

and some juice, and then they'll be distributing them out the front door," Baker continued. "The police department is going to come and direct traffic, and they've also offered to help

pay for supplies."

Submitted by the Arts Council of Mendocino County

Awards are solicited from the community at

large. Honorees are selected by the Arts

Council of Mendocino County's Board of

Directors, and are formally recognized with

an official proclamation from the Mendocino

County Board of Supervisors. The 2020

awards and proclamation will be presented

by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting

The 2020 Arts Champions are broken

into categories. Lauren Sinnott is being

honored in the artist category; the Art Center

Ukiah is the pick for the arts organization

category; Willits Weekly was chosen as a

business; Judy Stavely is recognized as an

educator; and Gary Martin as an individual.

Lauren Sinnott, honoree in the artist

category, is an art historian and former

politician in addition to being an artist.

Sinnott was raised in a Wisconsin dairy

farm town by an artist mother and poet

father. She has degrees in art and French,

and an M.A. in art history. Wanting to live

near the ocean, she travelled to Point Arena

- the seventh tiniest city in California - as a

young parent of two boys in a school-bus-

turned-tiny-home to put down roots here

based, in part, on the advice of friends who

She describes the region as exactly

told her, "Your kind of people live there."

what she was looking for:

of

"America has several

hinterlands, and this

is the hinterland of

communities

modern era

California,

where

populations are

dwarfed by the

ridged landscape

and pounding ocean.'

As an artist in a small

community, Sinnott's commissions

have ranged from dog portraiture to

designing tombstones and wedding

dresses. She is currently working on a

huge, historical narrative mural on the north

wall of the Ukiah Valley Conference Center,

This epic work of public art is going on

year-four of production, in part because

so many people stop to visit with Sinnott

while she paints, to admire newly created

sections and discover details they may

have missed, and in some cases, to pose

for the mural. The mural contains over 60

portraits so far and tells many stories of

people who live here now, much of which

Art Center Ukiah is honored for their

many years of inclusive and high-quality

arts programming. Their exhibitions have

engaged youth, veterans and artists at

every level of their career, introducing

visitors to the fine work of local artists. ACU

was instrumental in establishing "Art Walk

Ukiah" and, along with the Corner Gallery,

has been a cornerstone of it. While the Art

Walk is on hold due to the pandemic, it is

still possible to view exhibits at both Corner

Gallery and Art Center Ukiah thanks to the

dedication and resilience of volunteers.

(As always, please check with venues for

current hours and safety protocol before

Willits Weekly is a locally owned

community newspaper, co-founded by Art Director and Chief Photographer

Maureen Moore and Editor / Publisher

Jennifer Poole. Willits Weekly has covered

hundreds of visual and performing arts

events since publishing its first edition on

May 2, 2013. Inside pages boast full-color

photos by feature freelance photographers

and writers Mathew Caine and Ree

Slocum. Willits Weekly also features the

work of news freelancers including Mike

website: www.goddess.graphics.

Ukiah, titled "Past Present and Future."

topography,

In order to facilitate the preparation and delivery of the meals, the food bank is on December 15. requesting the assistance of anyone who would like to volunteer, as long as they are healthy. "Volunteers are needed to work on Wednesday, November 25, from 3 to around 7 pm," said Ruthanne Volz, executive director of Willits Community Services and Food Bank. "Food preparations will be completed, and the meals will be placed in to-go containers for the free drivethru dinner.

"Please note," continued volunteers must get COVID tested. Appointments [for testing] can be made by calling 888-634-1123 or visiting https:// lhi.care/covidtesting. We will use masks, no exceptions; 6 feet social distancing will be required at all times; disposable gloves along with hand washing and hand living in the sanitizer will be required. Forehead temperatures will be taken." Those interested but isolated in helping out should call and tiny. This Volz at 459-3333 or 354- is the other

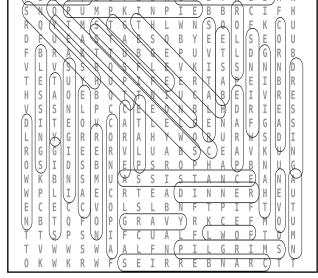
Seniors over age 60 may call the Willits Harrah Senior Center at 459-6826 to order Thanksgiving meals delivered by Meals on Wheels before Thanksgiving

As the rain continued, "Turkey" Allman, continued his fundraising insanity, along with his helpers Shailyn turkey Brewer, Lucy Simonson, Amanda Kennelly, JoAnn Holliday and Serena Alexi, who ran bravely out in the rain to collect money and greet the passersby.

The generosity of the citizens of Willits, as always, was very much in evidence, and even exhibited by the is shared at the mural's accompanying very young. "A very special shout out to fourth-grader Caidon Campbell," wrote Allman on his Facebook page, "who worked very hard and was able to raise \$800 for the event! He is 10 years old and posted flyers at the hospital to seek donors. You rocked it,

Those wishing make contributions can send a check to Willits Community Services, 229 San Francisco, or donate via PayPal at https://www. paypal.com/fundraiser/ charity/1951234?.

"Tough times don't last, but tough people do," said Tom Turkey. "Our community is full of people who are tough, and we will look back at these times with lots of memories. My best memory will be the time that our community stood together for everyone."



6 2 5 8 6 5 8 9 3 9 2 8 6

# The Arts Council of Mendocino County CLASSIFIEDS announces 2020 Arts Champions

Each year, nominations for Arts Champion A'Dair (county), Forrest Glyer (city), and Computer Help Joanne Moore (fire and school boards). Need help with your computer? Look for the return of WW's "What's Happening" centerspread color calendar

Rural bridge repair and Macintosh, Android and restoration. Structural IOS devices. Repairs, etrofitting for buildings. configuration On site welding. Retaintutoring: \$50/hr. Call ing walls. Keith Rosen: Liam 459-2470 or email 07-354-8992 uicearbhaill@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 pack-

age 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 ham-

burger in 1 or 1.5 pound

packages: \$150. Natu-

ral ranch-raised grass

fed beef, no hormones

or antibiotics. Call 459-

5193 to arrange pick-up.

Leave a message, and

we'll call back.

Judy Stavely, honoree in the education category, moved to Mendocino County in 1972 to take a job with the Mendocino Firewood For Sale Unified School District as a third-grade Firewood for sale. true cord of 16 inch dry teacher. The majority of her teaching firewood, \$200 and up. career was at Comptche School, a Will deliver. Call: 459one-room school house. She always incorporated art, music, dance and theater into her classroom teaching, knowing that an exposure to the arts is important for a

well-rounded education Upon her retirement in 2010, she "ran away with the circus," teaching classes for children with Circus Mecca in aerial fabrics and performing during the annual Circus Mecca Halloween show in Mendocino. She also began an aerial class at the

when community events resume. Visit

www.willitsweekly.com to see .pdfs of

all WW's regular editions and special

Willits Weekly is honored by the

community for being "in tune" with the arts

and, "always responding with local event

coverage" in the words of one community

publications.

Community Center of Mendocino for adults over the age of 50.

The class expanded when younger people saw how much fun was being had by the over-50 crowd and "wanted in," and now it is an adult class of students 18 to 80, who meeting twice a week before COVID. Stavely feels strongly that the "circus is for EVERY body."

She enjoys encouraging students of all ages, body types, and abilities to challenge themselves and become successful at things they never thought possible.

Stavely enjoys playing the fiddle for fun, and has taught at several music camps including Lark in the Morning. She also plays the accordion, most recently with the Hot Club of Comptche. During the last few years, she has become a volunteer in border work in both Arizona and Tijuana. She has three daughters and five granddaughters, who are the most important parts of her life.

Stavely is honored for her "constant volunteerism" and is described by a community nominator as someone with, "a gift for helping people find a means to belong ... an upstanding Mendocino citizen without whom, we would be much less

Honoree **Gary Martin** works tirelessly to bring quality art and arts education to Willits and the rural North County communities of Mendocino County. In the words of one of his many community nominators: "His efforts amplify the importance of art to the diverse populations in our community, making sure that school children, young adults, townspeople, ranchers, Native Americans, Hispanics, and all who have the interest have access.

"He also reaches out to artists and craftspeople to give them an avenue to show their works, and harvests a great deal of support and philanthropy from the community to keep the center afloat and

"Most recently," continued the nominator, "he has spearheaded the development of an online gallery for the arts center in the face of the COVID-19's debilitating effects on center operations and artist venues to share and sell their works. He deserves to be recognized for keeping the arts alive in our little corner of the world."

Gary Martin has lived in Willits for the

month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 510-5895. See at "http://www. oaknvine.net/tp"

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for Rent

Space for RV's and

Trailers \$425 per

I'll be back to help you with your Alterations and Sewing Needs For Sale when it is safe to do so. For sale: Air-Line Solid Barbara the Seamstress State Recorder, "reel to reel," \$80. 459-2942.

Willits Food Bank

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food. COVID-19 following 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



# **Current Job Openings:**

Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I **Director of Cultural Services** Eligibility Specialist I Legal Secretary I Program Specialist I/II

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

www.mendocinocounty.org/government/ <u>human-resources</u>

past 20 years. He attended San Jose State University's Master's Program in visual arts, and after four more years of schooling, graduated with a MA in interdisciplinary art history and humanities curriculum.

After teaching for a short time at Mendocino College, he began presenting art history lessons to students in grade schools and high schools in Willits. He now reaches 2,500 students monthly with presentations on art and art history, covering Laytonville, Covelo and Willits. Since the COVID-19 virus hit, he has been presenting lessons to students via Zoom and is sponsored by the Willits Center for the Arts, where he is also the curator.

The Mendocino County Arts Champion Awards are annually announced in the fall to coincide with a coastto-coast celebration of culture in America. For more information about the Mendocino County Art Champion Awards and other Arts Council of Mendocino County programs and services, visit www.artsmendocino.org or call 707-463-2727.

ANS

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county's average daily new case rate for the dates of November 6 through November 12, relative to the county's average daily case rate for the prior week. Currently, according to the state's Blueprint

for a Safer Economy data chart, which can be found online at www.cdph.ca.gov/ Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/ COVID19CountyMonitoringOverview.aspx, Mendocino County has an average rate of new cases of 9.5, and a testing positivity rate of 3.2 percent. The 3.2 percent rate qualifies for an orange tier rating (Tier 3 or "moderate" extent of COVID), but the 9.5 daily new case rate is well over the threshold number of 7, which separates the purple from the red tiers.

After the August 28 inception of the Blueprint for a Safe Economy, Mendocino County spent eight weeks in the purple tier. On October 26, it was promoted into the red tier, and spent three weeks there, before being bumped back into the purple

In that move, it was not alone. Currently, 41 of the state's 58 counties are in the purple tier.

"We're disappointed that due to the new criteria developed by the state, our data requires we move back to the purple tier.' said County Health Officer Andy Coren, as quoted in a November 16 press release from the Mendocino County Executive Office. "This impacts all Mendocino County residents. If your family has not been affected by the virus, it does not mean they never will be. It is when we as individuals let our guard down that COVID-19 has an opportunity to spread

"Mendocino County is experiencing a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases, which is being fueled by household spread and continued gatherings," Coren continued. "We urge business owners to abide by Public Health guidelines. This includes limiting facility capacity as required, and prioritizing the health of your patrons. We also urge individuals and families to not engage with indoor gatherings of any size, even if no one reports feeling ill. This virus is deadly, and can spread quietly through asymptomatic carriers.

The move back to Tier 1 means that restaurants must go back to outdoor dining and take-out; gyms and places of worship must operate outdoors; skilled nursing facilities can no longer allow in-person visitation; and retail stores are limited to 25 percent capacity.

Hair salons and barbershops may operate indoors, with modifications; movie theaters may only operate outdoors; and bars, breweries and distilleries shall remain closed; unless they serve food, in which case they may operate under restaurant guidelines.

### Schools can't go to in-person teaching

The move back to Tier 1 means that recent discussions in the Willits Unified School District and other school districts around the county as to whether and when Willits schools will move to in-person teaching have become stalled for now.

According to the state's online document, "Blueprint for a Safer Economy": "Schools in the widespread (purple) tier aren't permitted to reopen for in-person instruction, unless they receive a waiver from their local health department for grades TK-6....

The document also notes: "Schools can reopen for in-person instruction once their county has been in the substantial (red) tier for two weeks. Tiers take effect the day after assignment. For example, if a county moves to the substantial (red) tier on Tuesday, September 8, and stays there for two weeks, schools can open Wednesday, September 23."

# Mask mandate mutates to more massive

As part of Governor Gavin Newsom's response to steeply increasing national and statewide COVID-19 numbers, the state is requiring that facial coverings be worn whenever people are outside the home. There are a few exceptions to this rule.

People don't have to wear a mask when they are in a car alone, or with members of their own household; when they are working in an office or a room alone; if they are actively eating or drinking, provided they are able to stay 6 feet away from people who are not in their household; or when people are outdoors and keeping a distance of 6 feet away from other people who are not a part of their household. People must keep a mask with them and must put it on if they become closer than 6 feet away from other people. Other

exceptions include people who are getting a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the mask is required; people who must wear respirator protection; and persons who are exempted from wearing masks or facial coverings by other California Department of Public Health guidance.

The CDPH guidance goes on to clarify which people are exempt from wearing face coverings at all times. These people include children younger than 2 years old; people with a medical condition, or a mental health condition, that prevents them from wearing a mask; persons who are hearing impaired or who are communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication; and persons for whom wearing a facial covering would create a work-related risk, as determined by local, state or federal regulations, or workplace

# Coren puts pandemic in perspective

"The state is re-starting the time clocks for all counties, requiring that Mendocino County ... meet Tier 2 requirements for two consecutive weeks before advancing to the next, less restrictive tier," Coren said. "To help continue the progressive reopening process, the public is urged to wear a mask. practice social distancing and frequent handwashing, stay home when sick, and to

Speaking to the board of supervisors on Tuesday, Coren said this pandemic was a new experience for the United States. He noted that viruses do better in cold weather. and also that this virus is expected to spread more readily in winter, when more people are indoors, and when, because of the approaching major holidays, more people are expected to travel in cars.

"We are looking at six to eight weeks of surge," Coren said.

Coren did mention some good news. First, the county has a new two-track contract with OptumServe, the mobile testing laboratory which has been installed for the past six months at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah

The new contract calls for one facility to remain open at the fairgrounds, while the second is a mobile operation which can travel to different locations in the county.

Coren also mentioned that two companies, Pfizer and Moderna, have announced that they have received promising results in Phase 3 testing cycles for new COVID-19 vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine has shown more than 90 percent success rate in inoculating people against COVID; however, Coren said it must be stored at -70 degrees Celsius.

The Moderna vaccine has reported a success rate of 94.5 percent and can remain viable for up to 30 days when stored at 36 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit.

Coren said that much work is being done at both the state and county levels to prepare to vet both of these vaccines, and to organize systems to distribute them.

On Tuesday, the board of supervisors approved a contract with Willits' local Latinx group, Nuestra Alianza, to establish a Promotores de Salud health program among the Hispanic communities of Willits and Ukiah. The item was approved on the board's consent calendar. The compensation is \$158,700 and the agreement will be effective through May 31, 2021

# COVID-19 numbers

Since the first case that was confirmed in the county on March 19, the county has confirmed a total of 1,332 cases of the disease. Of that number, 1,216, or 92.3 percent, have been released from isolation.

As of Tuesday evening, the county has 94 confirmed active cases of COVID-19 in the county. Of that number, 86 are being kept in isolation, eight are in local hospitals, and none are in an intensive care unit in the county. Twenty-two people in this county have died from the disease.

Using a timeframe that is different than the California Department of Public Health's time frame, the county's Department of Public Health has confirmed an average daily new case rate of 10.29. The county's numbers show a testing positivity rate of

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective, 1,011 cases - or 76 percent of all cases -- reside in the Ukiah valley; 133 live in the north county; 118 are from the north coast; 46 are from the south county; and 24 are from the south coast.

A total of 33,692 tests have been done in this county. As of Tuesday evening, the results of 1,229 tests were pending.

# Haschak holds virtual town hall

Third District Supervisor John Haschak held a virtual town hall meeting on Sunday November 15 at which he spoke publicly with about 25 constituents who were attending the meeting on Zoom.

Mike A'Dair

To begin the meeting, Haschak touched on recent developments in the county. He noted that organizational work in Brooktrails. especially with the Sherwood Road Firewise group, along with physical work that CalFire did over the spring and early summer on the FirCo haul road north of Brooktrails, turned out to be a lifesaver when the Oak Fire broke out on September He said that the evacuation of Brooktrails that happened in connection with the Oak Fire

He touched on the situation with the county's stand-off with the state on the cannabis situation. That situation is that the county has currently 272 people who have county permits, and 882 people who have embossed receipts from the county, which signify that those 882 people have made an effort to "get into the county system" for regulating cannabis cultivation. Those 1,114 people do not have state annual licenses, and they cannot get them until something happens to make or allow the state regulators to confirm that those people have met the state requirements to ensure that CEQA standards for environmental protection have been met.

An addendum to the county's permitting process, called Appendix G, has been developed, which seems to fill the bill. However, filling out the Appendix G and providing the additional paperwork required, and then confirming that the statements in the appendix are true and valid, require significant staff time.

Currently, the county acknowledges that it cannot hire the approximately 20 planners required to do the work necessary to get those people annual licenses. At the same time, the state is saying that it is not able to provide the staffing required to do that work. The county's attorney, County Counsel Christian Curtis, has opined that the county is not required or obligated to do that work, and that the work of meeting the state's CEQA requirements is a state responsibility.

Haschak summarized that the discussions between the county and the state on that issue are "at loggerheads" and added that Haschak will be having a meeting on Thursday, November 19, with decision-makers from the California Department of Food

"The state won't do what they are supposed to be doing, and the county has realized that we can't do the things that we said we would do," Haschak said. "The meeting that we have this week with CDFA could be a critical meeting. "I think we are at a roadblock, a 'choque,' as they say in Spanish. I think both sides realize that we have some really

Haschak expressed some dissatisfaction with Measure B Project Manager Alyson Bailey's business plan, which she submitted to the board of supervisors on November 3.

"We are still looking for a financial plan," he said. "We haven't gotten a financial plan where we can rely on the numbers," he said. The plan Bailey submitted on November 3 plan concluded that the Measure B project

could be implemented, with construction of the three major facilities, plus staffing costs, plus some additional mental health services, and that there would be \$13 million left

At that November 3 meeting, supervisors Haschak and Ted Williams asked Bailey to respond to 28 questions they had about the plan. Bailey said that she would revise the plan and would provide answers to the questions at the board's first meeting in December.

Haschak made comments at the Zoom town hall that gave this reporter the impression he has taken Fifth District Supervisor Williams' position on the role of the Measure B Committee. For the past month, Williams has been saying that what has hitherto been the relationship between board of supervisors and the Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee has been based on an incorrect reading of Measure B.

The interpretation of that role originated with Second District Supervisor John McCowen, who determined early in 2018 that the 11-person oversight committee was in essence the governing board of the Measure B project. At that time, McCowen told his board colleagues that the supervisors were legally bound by Measure B to not approve any expenditures on the Measure B project unless those expenditures had been approved by the committee. As a practical matter, that determination has led to the committee being regarded as the sole initiator of policy on the Measure B project, subject to oversight by

A few months ago Williams broke with McCowen when he told the board of supervisors that he thought it was the board of supervisors, and not the oversight committee, that is

At Sunday's town hall, Haschak appeared to side with Williams on that question. "The board doesn't have to wait on the oversight committee before we can do anything," Haschak said. "I think the board can move forward on its own, and I think that's the direction that the board is going to go in, as we move forward."

A good portion of the town hall was dedicated to citizen complaints that it is simply too difficult for people to speak to the board of supervisors during its public meetings. Several citizens observed that the lack of citizen involvement has led to a board that has lost contact with the voters.

Ellen Drell asked Haschak: "What specific actions are you planning to take to put the constituents back in the equation?

Although Haschak agreed the board was "disconnected from the people," and said that the situation had caused him to be "frustrated." he did not offer to take any specific actions. "The supervisors need to do more to hold staff accountable," he said.

Willits City Councilwoman Madge Strong asked if it was time for the supervisors to form a citizens advisory committee on cannabis. Haschak seemed open to that idea. "Maybe it's time to bring them into the Zoom world. I do think it's a good idea, and I think it would be well-received," he said.

Charles Sargenti asked Haschak if the new board of supervisors, which will seat two new members in early January, will be able to overturn two of the most controversial decisions made by the current board of supervisors: the hemp pilot program and the 10 percent of all acreage rule in Rangeland zoning for Phase III of the county's cannabis

Haschak said the hemp ordinance was a done deal and would not be coming back to the board for additional consideration. He said the 10 percent rule would have to go to the Mendocino County Planning Commission, and would come back to the supervisors after

"Maybe the new board will adjust that rule," Haschak said

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# The rest of Brooktrails

before the vehicle becomes part

of the Brooktrails Fire Department

Director Orth also commented

that he would be hearing if he

was reelected to the Local Agency

Formation Commission board, aka

Township General Manager

Tamara Alaniz reported: "Burn

permits are now being issued,

cautiously and optimistically. We're

anticipating wet weather and more

wet weather after that, so that's

notification received last month

from Eel River water rights holders

and watching out for drought."

LAFCO, around Thanksgiving.

From Page 1

Update

where things are going to be," said Fire Chief Chris Wilkes. "And we're expecting delivery of our metal building

"We have our sewer lateral hooked up ... and storm drain connected in front of the building," he "Whenever continued. we get underground work finished, it makes me feel

on December 4.

really good." Chief Wilkes made a point of thanking the city really good news in regard to the for "helping us make water line changes in front of the "Kudos to the city of Willits

Water Department," he said.

"Without [them] stepping up,

Board member

doing a good job.

have done.

Alaniz also said: "There was an update on the Proposition 68 (Parks and Recreation) grant, round 4. The deadline for submittal has been extended until March 2021, so that will be placed on the back burner for a little while. Additionally, regarding the fire department, our own Chief Nover will be participating in the upcoming Sherwood Firewise meeting and will be doing a presentation on winterizing and some of the do's and don'ts of fire safety during the

Alaniz "Lastly continued: generators installation update: We just finished the full undergrounding and rewiring that needed to occur at the Spring Creek, Tank 23 site. "Aggressive" and significant wiring work was done at several sites in order to update and to accommodate the generator up there for Brooktrails to legally, compliantly and safely operate our generators according to the standards that are in place.

"And," Alaniz noted: "It was a much higher expense than was initially expected (\$16,000) because there was trenching and undergrounding of the wiring as well as a new power pole needed, but now we have a safer product. We will be looking to replace a few of the pump houses that have deteriorated in the past couple of vears. It looks like we will be able to get a good deal on more than one

"We are now going to prioritize the Primrose Lift Station on the wastewater side of our capital needs. There has been quite a bit of compliance work that's been done for our water system, and that's indicated in our payables."

President Williams then asked the board to approve the accounts payable for outstanding invoices in the amount of \$179,089.92. The board voted its approval. Note: Last month's accounts payable amounted to \$203,180.42.

Williams then asked General Manager Alaniz to address the Action Agenda, Resolution 2020-10, establishing the Debt Management Policy. Alaniz responded: "This is another one of our exciting finance chapters that Brooktrails has been dealing with lately. Some of the things that we are looking at as we are preparing to plan for next year's budget - what are these policies that we are already having to adopt in order to take these fiscally prudent steps, like refinancing our bonds, and how does that integrate with our need to get this Title 5 Finance Policy Manual section adopted and underway?

"As a comprehensive way of addressing that," Alaniz said, "I intend to take the reserves policy that this board adopted a couple of meetings ago, and the policy adopted this evening and some general regulatory and administrative policy language sections and start getting our policy manual in order. '

President Williams called for a vote on the Resolution 2020-10 by roll call and the resolution passed by unanimous vote.

Williams then brought up the introduction of Resolution 2020-11 Establishing Rates for Solid Waste of Willits Franchise Services and Scheduling a Public Hearing on December 8, 2020 (at the next Brooktrails board meeting)

They were purchased with the proceeds of a recent donation from LEEF Organics and "have been used twice so far," said Wilkes. "One of those we found a gas leak in somebody's structure on

used to purchase wildland turnouts [protective clothing and gear] to replace the ones we went through this season," he added

East Valley Road."

I don't know what we would Lucier added that "it should be noted that [Wilkes was]

"He's been instrumental And, though not new, with keeping this on the right path," Lucier said. "He's been hands-on with this thing: he's on top of it; I see him down

there all the time." And what's a new firehouse without a new fire It won't be ready for next fire season, but the season after will be fought

... its purchase unanimously approved by the board. "When you see a CalFire engine rolling up and down the road," said Wilkes.

talking about." It will have a number of modifications that will increase the base price of close to \$280,000 by roughly \$100,000, including a radio equipment package allowing for "plug and play radios into the dash and center console," a two-tone paint job, and "two Legacy air-ride seats with pedestals ... that recline," said Wilkes.

with a new four-wheel drive

wildland type 3 fire engine

"That's the engine we're

"That's a big deal," he said of the seats. "The CalFire union says that Itheir firefighters] get motels when they're out every night. We're not a part of that union.

"There's times when our firefighters, engineers and captains are out on strike team – when they're literally staying the night in our fire trucks," he said. "As a fire chief, I don't want to send out our engines with seats that are not comfortable and that don't lay back ... so firefighters, when they're on a little bit of downtime, don't have to try to sleep sitting

The big-ticket addon, though, "is the 1,000 gallon per minute pump [allowing] us the ability to have this type of engine as a first-out structural firefighting engine in the wildland-urban interface," said Wilkes.

The trucks "normally come

with a 500 gallon a minute pump," he continued, which "can't be used as part of our ISO rating ... to use as a qualified engine for structural An ISO rating is calculation made by a

company called Insurance Services Office, which rates how well equipped fire departments are to put out fires in the community, and then provides those ratings to homeowners' insurance

So the new truck might be helpful with your insurance company as well as your

Combustible indicators for gases you can't smell are another new district

purchase increasing safety for homeowners, business owners and firefighters.

fiscal year, which ended June 30, the EDFC gave out over \$1 million in loans throughout Mendocino County "I think in these economic times we all are looking for every bit of good news we can find," he said. "I think there's been a lot of collaboration

COVID-19 pandemic.

toward working together in the county.

fiscal year marks the 25th year of the

EDFC is still here.

businesses.

that," said Burnett

during the last fiscal year.

While the loans for Willits businesses

accounted for only about 2 percent of

their total loans, Gernert said that the

EDFC is making a concerted effort to

reach out to Willits and other small

"I'd love to see that number

increase," said Gernert of the 2 percent

mark. "We'd love to grow our portfolio

in and around Willits and in some of

towns around Mendocino County.

The donation will also "be we see happening, and I think that good things are in store for all of us." EDFC helping local businesses.

A USDA grant that pays 55 percent of an approved item's cost has also funded cool stuff, including a "station air compressor, turnout dryer built into the [new] building, and a station radio system a communication system within the station." said

the district's helipad has received a makeover "making it nice," he said.

"It's been around for long time [since about 1991 and had a couple of paint jobs but [they] never went through and removed all the paint, filled the cracks, and started over with a fresh coat

"It looks like brand new. said Wilkes, who acknowledged the "good community support [of the] new owners of 300 Eastside Road ... who have allowed us to keep it there.

Finally, a "big change that

maybe everybody doesn't want to see, but it's a change that's necessary, [and] a big deal ... a long time coming... How the fire department is notified of emergency calls is changing as of January 1,

The Little Lake Fire Protection District has had a contract with the Willits Police Department dispatch services since

> But the district's mutual Fire and Ridgewood Ranch Fire, "are all dispatched by Howard Forest," said Wilkes, referring to the CalFire station on the top of the

> "It doesn't make sense. he said. "In today's world we need to be dispatched by the same location, by the same people, so everything is literally a pushbutton away from getting dispatched at the same time."

> "For example, when we have an accident at mile marker 40, which is super common.... If we were on the new dispatch setup. would automatically populate Ridgewood Ranch into that dispatch because of our agreement [with them]," he said. "It's all punched out in one button.

No matter the notification method, all calls are tabulated monthly as "call volume, and October's volume included seven fires, 14 rescues/emergency service calls, 13 traffic collisions, four hazardous conditions, 21 service calls, one special incident prepositioning to Lake County, and ... 660 bags of candy.

That last one involved five volunteers keeping supplies up and stuffing bags at a Halloween "candy handout. [that] worked out really well," said Firefighters Association President Aaron Branscomb. Handing out meals

Thanksgiving is next up on the Firefighters Association's

plans with Willits Chamber of From Page 1 Commerce Executive Director Ron Moorhead to create a small pool of

low-interest loan funding "to help with local businesses to improve their Burnett said that during the last

storefronts and facades

"We really do want to help Willits businesses to increase your traffic for vour businesses." he said. Regarding the COVID-19 era.

Burnett said that they've been able to

adjust the terms of some of their loans

and it's been really refreshing to see to help local businesses. a bigger greater effort being made "During the pandemic we offered deferrals with no interest accrued. I think there's a coming together that he said. "So we were able to pause what was going on for our loan clients and really try to affect and help Burnett pointed out that the 2019/20 them address what's going on in the economy around them without putting them out of business with paying loan "This business is not for the faint of payments. I feel like that was a really

heart," he said. "And what I mean by valuable asset during that time." that is that you just really have to have "We've also had low-interest loans a lot of faith in what you're doing, and for businesses that are looking to putting faith in the people and in the change or do something different process. And being able to stay afloat during this time and just stay on their as a loan fund while managing the feet," he continued. "So we've had that risk that is inherent in business – it's a offered, and it's still being offered."

great achievement. It's a great feat that He said that Scoops is one of the local Willits businesses who has He said that the recent addition of utilized the tools of the EDFC, and Robert Gernert as full time lending that the Ukiah Brewing Company and relations manager has enabled them Sheet Metal Works in Ukiah also were to ramp up their efforts to loan to local helped by the organization this last

"We just know that since [Gernert's] For this new fiscal year that started come on board in his first program year in July, Burnett said that the EDFC is he did over a million dollars in loans, "on pace to break our record of loans and I don't believe EDFC had ever from last year.' done a million dollars in a vear before

Following the presentation by Burnett and others at EDFC, Moorhead He added that according to their praised the organization for their estimates their efforts have "helped to retain or create 92 jobs" in the area "One of the good things that came

out of the COVID-19 situation and some of the other issues that we've had is this greater collaboration not only with the chambers of commerce but with EDFC," said Moorhead, " must tell you that we have got a great partnership going. When you look at the Mask Up Mendo program that we started, we couldn't have done that without the EDFC.... We've given out over 100.000 masks across the county so far and are still supplying other He added that he's been discussing businesses as needed,"

From Page 1 CalFire

the smaller cities."

Gonzalez mentioned that his crews will be burning in the hills both east and west of Ukiah; will be burning about 110 acres of land near the bridges in Boonville; will burn more than 2.000 acres on the Shamrock Ranch near Laytonville; a few hundred acres on the U.C. Extension Center property in Hopland; will expand and maintain work that was done in 2019 on the FirCo haul road north of Brooktrails; will modify and maintain work that it already did this year in the Mitchell Creek subdivision near Fort Bragg; and will establish and maintain cleared perimeters around critical infrastructure, such as radio towers and AT&T fiber optic cables, at various

locations in the county Gonzalez said CalFire is still in negotiation with Redwood Empire on that burn contract, but added he hopes to be able to put in a fire break, which CalFire crews will be able to connect to the 97-mile long fire break that runs from Lake Pillsbury to Covelo, which CalFire put in this summer when it was battling the monumental August Complex fire.

He also mentioned that he is hopeful that CalFire can successfully negotiate with the federal government's Bureau of Land Management to do a burn program on the 52,000 acre Cow Mountain Recreation Area southeast

"This is an important area for us, because it could be kind of a firebreak to keep Lake County fires from coming into Mendocino, and also to keep Mendocino fires from going into Lake County," Gonzalez said. He noted that negotiations with BLM have been slow. "It is difficult to work with another agency and to work with their standards for CEQA and NEPA [the National Environmental Protection Act] or any of those," Gonzalez said.

He also mentioned that work was being impeded due to his agency's lack of a sufficient number of archeologists. It seems that meeting the requirements of NEPA mean that an archeologist has to carefully examine the proposed burn areas, making sure that there are no archeological sites there

"The only thing that is a major bottleneck for the CalFire Mendocino out," Gonzalez said.

Unit is the archeological review, Gonzales said. "We have to forward ourselves to CalFire Santa Rosa, and the archeologist comes out, and the larger the project, the more walking and grading the archeologist does... Mendocino County is one of the last counties that can actually burn. and burn large plots of land. So, in order to get the archeological review completed, it's taking quite a bit of time

for that final process." Second District Supervisor John McCowen suggested that the county could hire an archeologist. Third District Supervisor John Haschak thought that was a good idea, and promised to call Gonzalez this week to discuss ways in which the county could help CalFire

secure more archeologists Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams asked Gonzalez how the board of supervisors could help. Gonzalez said he wanted the county to inundate the population with information, letting people know that CalFire wants to assist people in treating back-country roads and making them less vulnerable

"We need to continue to go forward and make Brooktrails an example what we can do, countywide, Gonzalez said, referring, as Haschak did in his online town hall meeting on Sunday, to successful efforts to make the old FirCo haul road north of Brooktrails able to receive heavy fire equipment from CalFire and other fire agencies. "If you look out on the coast, the Mitchell Creek area is where could start assisting every community with access-egress roads. So, access is number one.

"And then, No. 2, we could start putting in firebreaks, and things like that.... Every little community has a priority road where they get in and out: Vichy Springs, Pine Mountain area. Out on the coast, in the Albion area. there's key roads everywhere

"We're more than willing to help out, as long as we can get locals to understand what we're doing. We're not there to environmentally impact anything. We're just treating, if you will, what I'll call the Caltrans road system: 30 feet out, on each side of the road. And that helps everybody

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At right: The play structures at Bud Snider City Park are still cordoned off for now. But new signs in Spanish and English have been set up near playground equipment.

Below, left: Signs using pictures with words, like this one, are being posted around the parks making it easier for children and adults to understand the park rules.

Below, right: Colorful signs now posted at Bud Snider Park and the Rec Grove remind and inform park users about how to stay safe from COVID-19 infection.

At bottom, left: Willits City Public Works Supervisor Kenan O'Shea poses next to one of the signs being placed in Rec Grove. At bottom, center: Brian Framke of Willits Public Works is ready to sanitize the playground equipment and attach signs in designated places. At bottom, right: Orange plastic barrier fencing remains around Bud Snider City Park for now.

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SUPERVISION



# Thank you in doing your part to help slow the spread of COVID-19!

# **Playground Preparation**

City of Willits getting ready to reopen playgrounds at City Park and Rec Grove

At last week's Willits City Council meeting, it was announced that playgrounds at Bud Snider Memorial Park (aka City Park) and the Rec Grove were going to be open soon, after nine months of being shut down due to COVID-19 restrictions. Ree Slocum A happy Willits City Public Works crew, headed by Kenan O'Shea,

When Monday morning rolled around, Supervisor O'Shea and Public Works employee Brian Framke were working early, putting up signs, cleaning playground equipment, and

O'Shea told councilmembers the

Read the rest of Playgrounds

would start implementing their plan to safely reopen the playgrounds





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The rest of Playgrounds

From Page 12

plan included daily sanitization and thorough cleaning of the bathrooms, picnic tables, and touched surfaces of the playground equipment with "a product designed to neutralize virus "The stores that want to participate," 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.

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

The decision to open is ultimately up to Mendocino County along with City of Willits Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra, O'Shea cautioned. "We hope the public can bear with us," he said, "and be patient, and that we [Public Works] ultimately can't make those decisions. The last thing we want to do is open the parks up for three days and have to close them again. It's just too much of a roller coaster to put people through."

On Tuesday, Garrabrant-Sierra said that the playgrounds will be open as soon as the cold and rainy weather lets up, "unless we hear otherwise from the county.

Outdoor playgrounds are allowed – with the required restrictions – no matter which COVID "tier" a local area is ranked under. But in Governor Gavin Newsom's press conference on Tuesday that rolled back 42 counties to more restrictive COVID tiers, there was mention of potential further restrictions.

The Public Works crew is continuing to set up the sanitization stations, clean playground equipment and bathrooms, and install the signs with hopes that, when the rain stops, thev'll be "ready to cut the ribbon [on the orange plastic barrier fencing] and open them shoppers, and pass them along to a

For right now O'Shea hopes that people will get used to seeing and understanding the signs. In particular are the new ones by each of the playground structures that place a limit on the number of children that can play on the advertising rates for this program for equipment at the same time.

A lot of the new signs were created by the City of Ukiah, which they freely shared with Willits. "As a big-sister city to us, we kind of look to them for guidance," O'Shea said. "They have more staff and more tax base, so a lot of times we borrow signage and procedures from them. I can't thank them enough. Their staff was very sharing of information they've developed. I give them credit for doing some of the groundwork," he added.

When the playgrounds do open up, there isn't funding or staffing to make sure people follow the "rules." So, O'Shea suggests: "It's up to the individual to evaluate and use their discretion as to the safety of their children at the playgrounds and on the equipment. They may load up their kids and get down there and realize the park is overcrowded. They'll have to make the decision whether they want to go home and use the park at less peak hours."

The California Department of Public Health has some other requirements: Do not use the playground when different households are unable to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet or when the capacity limit has been reached; no eating or drinking in playground, to ensure face masks are worn at all times: wash or sanitize hands before and after using the playground; and limit visits to 30 minutes per day when others are present.

How will you know the park facilities are officially open for use? O'Shea says with confidence: "When the orange plastic barrier fencing is down, it'll be open season to play on the park equipment again. And please follow the simple rules on the signs that are in English and Spanish.'

For more information, visit www.covid19. ca.gov/industry-guidance and scroll down to the "Outdoor recreation, including campgrounds and playgrounds" section.

Saturday

on it. You put it in the bin.

Saturdays."

discounts and prizes.

basket to be awarded

drop off their cards.

office at 459-7910.

Moorhead explained, "offer specials on

those days. If you buy something in the

store, you get an entry form, a card that

you put your name and phone number

"The first week of December," he

continued, "we'll take all of those cards

and draw the lucky winners of a host

of fabulous prizes. Stores are giving

us themed baskets of goods. Others

donating are gift certificates for a meal

or sandwiches at Loose Caboose,

etc. Every store that is participating

Moorhead added that participating

According to Moorhead, participating

merchants should provide at least one

\$25 gift card and at least one gift to

be included in a basket to be awarded

as one of the grand prizes. Or if the

business wishes, they may donate a full

Merchants wishing to participate

should hang a "Shop Small" poster on

their storefront and have specials for

shoppers each Saturday in November.

with the grand finale to be the official

those shoppers who purchase in the

store, collect completed cards from

Willits Chamber representative, or direct

shoppers to the Willits Center for the

Arts or the Chamber of Commerce to

Willits Weekly will provide special

members of the Willits Chamber of

Commerce. Contact Maureen Jennison

at 707-972-7047 or the Willits Chamber

"The Willits Chamber of Commerce

is not charging fees to participate in

wrote Moorhead. "It is our belief that

vou, 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,

Some of the available discounts

include: a 15 percent discount storewide

at Monkey Wrench, a draw-your-own

discount at Off the Cuff, and negotiable

bargains at Mazahar. Other participating

merchants include Willits Power, Moon

Lady, Kemmy's Pies, Cat's Meow,

Buster's Burgers and Brew, Brickhouse

Coffee, Buttercups, Flying Dog Wood

Fired Pizza and Vinyl, Imagination

Station, El Mexicano, Loose Caboose,

J.D. Redhouse, Unique Boutique,

Scoops, Les Schwab Tire, Tango, and

Moorhead would also like it to be known

that the chamber's "Mask Up Mendo"

project is still going strong. The program

provides free masks, hand sanitizer,

and education in cooperation with all

the chambers in Mendocino County and

assisted by generous contributions from

the Economic Development & Financing

Corporation, which provided the masks

and hand sanitizer. The project has

fomented a new spirit of cooperation

between the Willits Chamber, the Ukiah

Business and Tourism Alliance, and the

Mendocino Coast Chambers, which

Moorhead believes will continue long

after the promotion has ended.

The Book Juggler.

and perhaps soften the effects

the Small Business Saturday program,

Stores will hand out entry cards to

Shop Small Saturday, November 28.

From Page 8

beliefs, your philosophy, and and restrict those numbers?' So, we expanded to Saturdays, November 14.

Maybe you have a dog to take a walk with. Maybe you just want to walk and observe yourself breathing deeply and feeling rejuvenated.

Wellness |

From Page 4

Maybe you simply walk and observe your posture: Are your shoulders relaxed, is your neck loose, are you freely moving your head around and observing your environment

Do you enjoy observing the horizons and the vastness of the ever-changing skies above?

has a poster that says 'Shop Small These walks can be a part of your winter wellness plan, moments of self-care, time stores in Willits. Ukiah, and areas out and tuning in, moments of serviced by the Mendocino Coast reflection and communing with Chambers are all offering great

> Moments with family, outside, just being in nature, chasing and catching falling leaves.

A walk is an opportunity to ground into the very moment. connect with the planet that carries us all, and to feel the connection, right there under

Next time I will write about herbal preparations that can support your winter wellness.

Please stop by the upcoming "Holiday Herbal Market" in Willits, December 6, 11 to 3 pm. at the old Rexall parking lot, 90 South Main Street. Claudia Wenning can be found

at the Little Lake Grange in Willits, where she and Michelle Champion (Cummins) are at your service with Complimentary Healthcare, Functional Natural and Naturopathy, Medicine. Acupuncture, Acupressure, Flower Essences, Herbal Remedies and Supplements, Body treatments and much more. To learn more about in person or video appointments, visit www.claudiawenning.com or call 707-371-6103.

Election

The November 13 update shows the results of 36,586 ballots processed so far, or 69.19 percent of the total 53,651 registered voters in the county. Bartolomie estimates when every vote is reported turnout for this election will be somewhere between 76 and 78 percent, not quite as high as the 80.01 percent turnout in the 2008 presidential election.

From Page 1

In local races, the interim update hasn't changed results much from the final election night report. Measure I, the Willits Unified School District bond measure, with a total of 5,660 votes reported, is still passing, with 59.73 percent "yes" to 40.27 percent "no." Final election night results, with 3,595 votes reported, showed 59.97 percent voted "yes" and 40.03 percent voted "no." Measure requires 55 percent of the vote plus 1 vote to pass. If passed, the measure will add an additional tax levy of \$40 per \$100,000 in assessed value on district property owners for repair and improvement of school district

As of Friday's update, the "yes" votes for Measure K, the three-quarter cent sales tax designed to fund essential services in the City of Willits, are maintaining a strong lead at 66.59 percent (1,180 votes), with "no" at 33.33 percent (587 votes). Measure K requires only a simple majority to pass.

In the race for two seats on the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees, as of Friday's update, challenger and former teacher Dianne McNeal is in first place, with 2,324 votes (28.50 percent), and incumbent trustee Alex Bowlds is in second place, with 2,163 votes (26.52 percent).

Of the other two candidates, Tracey Douglas has received 1,915 votes (23.48 percent), and Bryan Mann has received 1,753 votes (21.50 percent).

All three incumbents running for reelection on the Willits City Council were reelected, with Friday's update reporting that Gerardo Gonzalez got 1,162 votes (35.85 percent), Saprina Rodriguez received 1,054 votes (32.52) percent), and Madge Strong got 1,025 votes (31.62

Voter Registrar Bartolomie says state law gives her office 28 days to certify any election - that deadline would be December 1 this year. At present, she's hoping the voter office will be "done and certified by Thanksgiving," announcing final official results by the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

In general, the election went well this year, Bartolomie said. Overall, she thought having the official ballot dropoff boxes at Willits City Hall and elsewhere around the county was "great." Voters returned a couple thousand ballots to the Willits drop box, and in Fort Bragg, more than 4,000 ballots were dopped off.

One difference to note in this election, she said, was that her crew had counted "over 25,000 ballots by Election Night – that's double the amount that we usually do." Why? Because people sent in their mail-in ballots early, she said.

To see the full November 13 elections results update. https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/ assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections/currentelection-results.

# Thanksgiving

From Page 1

from 11 am to 3 pm.

Anyone wanting a meal is welcome to drive in to the center and pick up a plate of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, salad and dessert

Helping raise the needed funds for this event is no small task, and this year, monies that were raised from Tom Allman's Turkey Fundraiser (see story on page 3 of this paper), along with additional donations from Thy Sumvand and other generous community members helped ensure 36 turkeys and all the trimmings will be available

As usual, the crewmembers at Parlin Fork Volz expressed her thanks to the generous Conservation Camp will assist by cooking the turkey, stuffing, potatoes and more and, while they also usually serve the meal back at the senior center, this year, the COVID restrictions prevent them from leaving the the Senior Center at 459-6828 - before

Officers noted the strict COVID guidelines Wheels delivery.

Even though diners won't be able to join for the inmates and crew at the camp one another in the dining room at the senior explaining they felt lucky to have not had any center, the free dinner will still take place on cases at the Highway 20 property yet, and Thursday, November 26, Thanksgiving Day hoped to limit contact as much as possible to help them remain COVID-free.

Thankfully, the two officers, B. Vielbig and R. Smith, who came to pick up the food that the inmates will cook were willing to uphold the turkey toss tradition, something we've been photographing to promote the

Thanksgiving dinner for over a decade. Willits Police Officer K. Kersmarki also got in on some photo fun as he delivered the 10 hams donated to the food bank from the Willits Police Officers Association and the Little Lake Firefighters Association.

Willits Food Bank and Community Services Executive Director Ruthanne community for helping make this event happen and also explained that if any homebound seniors aged 60 and over would like a meal, they are also welcome to contact Wednesday - to schedule a Meals on



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Mendocino County Registration No. LDA-14, Expires 10/01/2021 m not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction

# Happy Cherry

Cherry is a people pleaser - she adores humans! All humans, whether familiar or strangers - makes no difference to this sweet girl! Cherry is a happy dog, playful with people, though not so much with

toys. Cherry will want to be a part of the family and spend as much time as possible with her new quardians. This

sweet-as-a-bowl-of-cherries girl is 5 years young and 58 adorable 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 inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www. mendoanimalshelter.com, For information about adoptions please call 707-467-6453.



Humps-

a-lot

# Sir Humps-a-lot

Meet the small but mighty Sir Humps-a-lot. This little compact guy was found as a stray wandering around State Street. His finder brought him to us in hope we would have better luck. Sadly no one has come forward to claim our little friend. Do you know where he belongs? If no owners are found we will be getting him neutered and start the search for a new place to

call home.

Sir Humps-a-lot is full of character, 5 to 7 years old, a small mixed-breed who weighs 11 pounds. He is eager to make friends, dog-social, and was not fazed by

the cat in his previous foster home. He is

a silly, loving, and joyful guy. Sir Humps-a-lot will be up for adoption next week; you may submit an application now at www. mendohumanesociety. com. He won't be available long!

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

# **Furry Friends Hoping** for a Home

3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsimc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsimc.org. Visit

"Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.

# Handsome Faunzy

Meet this handsome cat Faunzy. Faunzy is a 1-year-old tabby male who weighs about 7 pounds. He came to us in November of last year as a stray, when he was only a month old. He has lived pretty much his whole life with us. We

would love to get him a home so he can experience the good life.

Faunzy is neutered and up-to-date on his vaccines. If you're interested in adopting Faunzy, you may fill an application out on our website 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@hsimc. org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsimc.org. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www. mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.

# OBITUARY |

# **Bobby Anderson**

Robert "Bobby" William Anderson, born and raised in Willits, passed away November 7, 2020 at the age of 61. Bobby was born to Leonard William Anderson and Edna Irene (Spence) Anderson on June 7, 1959. Bobby was always proud to be working.



In his youth he did yard work, later collecting cans and bottles from all around town, then 15 years at the Noyo Theatre, and at the time of his passing he was working at the car wash.

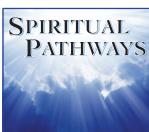
Everyone knew their day was going to be better when Bobby arrived to brighten it. He enjoyed being a member of the Lions Club. He created

a variety of arts and crafts, and shared them to the delight of the recipients.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Edna Anderson and his baby brother, Thomas Anderson. He is survived by sisters: Joyce (John Saulter) Huffman, Donna Alcorn, Linda (Donald) Grey; and brother, Norman (Barbara) Anderson, all of Willits; nieces: Angela, Audra, Amy, Bonnie, Heather and Maria; nephews: Jason, Norman, Oren, Will and Levi; many great-nieces and great-nephews; his very close friends, Dan and Tanna and Dennis and Randa Craighead, Kathy, and Jeff.

Graveside services were held at the Willits Cemetery on Tuesday, November 17. Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.





# Agape **Bible Church**

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

# **Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church**

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

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

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

### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

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

### **Grace Community** Church

Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits **Modified Worship Service** 10 a.m.

Other ministries suspended for now. For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

# St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadam Mass times Confessions by appointment: 459-2252 Sunday Mass outside:

8:00 a.m. English 9:00 a.m. Spanish We welcome All Walks of Faith

### St. Francis **Episcopal Church** 1 North Main Street, Willits

707-272-0177 Church Services/Communion by Zoom at noon. Call for information. ALL ARE WELCOME The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

### St. John **Lutheran Church**

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

### Willits Seventh-Day **Adventist Church**

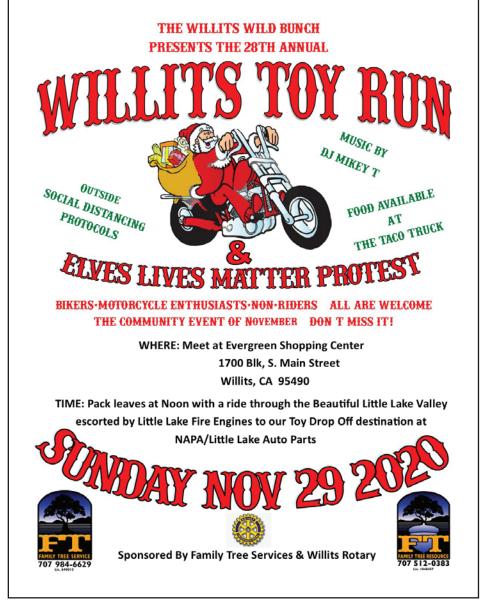
399 W. Mendocino Avenue 707-459-5714 Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45 a.m. 4th Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school. 22751 Bray Road, Willits

# Willits United Methodist A Christ centered, progressive church ALL ARE WELCOME

286 School St. (at Pine) Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor Worship Celebration Sundays - 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m. 459-2855 Facebook: www.facebook.com

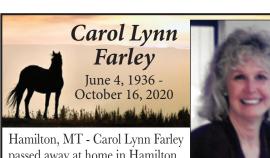
If you want to be included in

this column please call: **April Tweddell** (707) 972-2475









passed away at home in Hamilton

on October 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM with her family by her side. Carol was born in Fort Bragg, California on June 4, 1936. Her mother was Claire Dilling and her step-father was Clifford Johnson.

She grew up in Caspar, California and later in Willits, California. Growing up she loved horses and, in those days, could ride her horse all day across the Willits valley. She married Bob Graves in 1951 and had 4 children, Stephanie, Tracy, Mark and Christy. She was active in the Willits Horsemen and Soroptimists and was a surrogate Mom to many children in the valley. Later they moved to Portland and then to Bend, Oregon.

After Bend, the family moved to Vader, Washington where they had a large property with several horses and many dogs. She always loved dogs. Over the years she had many jobs including insurance agent, flagger and bookkeeper.

After her husband passed away, she married Peter A. Farley and lived in Redondo, Washington where they owned and managed a pizza parlor. They spent many summers at a cabin in Hamilton, Montana on the Bitterroot River next to the Farley family Trout Farm. Over the years, she entertained many friends and family at the cabin for meals, good wine, and tall tales. In 2017, she moved to Hamilton with her husband.

Carol was preceded in death by her daughter Christy and her brother, Jim Johnson, of Healdsburg, California.

She is survived by her husband, her three children, as well as 4 grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Carol enjoyed looking at the mountains from her deck and the river from her porch at the cabin. She liked birds, all animals but most especially dogs. She was a wonderful and skilled lady who took good care of all who knew her. She will be greatly missed.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.dalyleachchapel.com