

[illegible]

Donations Accepted Edition No. 381 **Wednesday, November 25, 2020**

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

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Read the rest of  
**Budget**  
*Over on Page 15*

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



– *Maureen Jennison*



**Joanne Moore**  
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Read the rest of **School**  
Over on Page 13

**Mike A'Dair**  
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Read the rest of  
**Unchanged**  
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Read the rest of  
**Warrant**  
Over on Page 15



# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

## Love in the time of COVID-19

To the Editor:

These are heart-rending, life-altering, imagination-stretching, and spirit-testing times for the Willits community and the world around us.

We have witnessed generosity from neighbors who give to neighbors and strangers alike; dedication and valor from our essential workers who allow us to go on with our lives; solidarity from our local farmers and food producers who keep us healthy and secure; creativity from teachers who manage to inspire learning and curiosity in their students despite unprecedented obstacles; determination from parents who, on top of the already challenging job of parenting, now also have to deal with online schooling, keeping the kids physically and mentally healthy, and miraculously stretching 24-hour days to squeeze in these activities while still maintaining their livelihoods (and sanity).

It has been eight months since the first COVID case in Mendocino County. While we are seeing light at the end of this long tunnel with the promise of vaccines, they are months away from reaching us. It is only a matter of weeks before our own trends could mirror the near-vertical rise in positive tests, illnesses, hospital cases, and consequent deaths that we are seeing around the country, but this is not inevitable.

We know how the virus spreads and how it can be stopped: universal masking, physical distancing, and hygiene measures. It sounds easy, but it isn't. Some of these measures keep us from showing our love to one another in the ways that we know how: sharing meals, hugging, shaking hands, even smiling! And eight months is the longest most of us have had to abstain from affection and connection, which are as essential as food and air. So, no wonder we are all tired of it!

I am asking that we push ourselves beyond our limits and continue to endure our collective temporary sacrifice even and especially during the holidays. We are craving normalcy, but now is not the time to revert to normal. In fact, if we risk gathering prematurely, our sacrifices thus far could end up being permanent ones with the severe illness in and/or loss of loved ones.

COVID-19 spreads exponentially, which means that cases could double

every few days. The more infected people there are around us, the more will be infected by them, and even more could be infected in turn until the virus is so widespread – hence, the term “going viral” – that our movements need to be highly restricted to protect the community, such as with our current purple tier restrictions.

The converse could also be true, that if we all shelter in place, those with symptoms or positive results quarantine, and we have robust testing and contact tracing protocols in place, we can decrease the number of new cases. There's a great illustration of exponential growth with and without social distancing that can be accessed on: [https://www.bhpioneer.com/opinion/amid-coronavirus-outbreak-san-diego-medical-professor-explains-why-staying-home-is-essential/article\\_e6daf51a-6a00-11ea-8c81-6b378ac736cd.html](https://www.bhpioneer.com/opinion/amid-coronavirus-outbreak-san-diego-medical-professor-explains-why-staying-home-is-essential/article_e6daf51a-6a00-11ea-8c81-6b378ac736cd.html).

It shows how one infected (not necessarily symptomatic) person who does not practice any restrictions could spread the virus to 2.5 people in five days, and they could spread it to 406 other people in 30 days. If they practiced 50 percent restrictions, the numbers go down dramatically to 1.25 and 15, respectively. And with 75 percent restrictions, to 0.625 and 2.5, respectively. The comparison of 2.5 versus 406 new cases by next month should be enough to convince us, especially with the understanding that each of them could potentially infect another 406 by late January.

Some would argue that we are not at risk because we are “naturally socially distanced” living in a rural community, but to that I would respond: Why then are we in the purple tier like most of the state? Yes, our doubling rate might be a little slower, but we also have less healthcare and other resources than the big cities do.

The consequences of failing to bring down the case count range from our kids being socially isolated for much longer, our local businesses suffering more losses, more of us becoming unemployed, our hospital reaching its capacity and being unable to provide adequate care to the sick, and our essential workers putting their lives at higher risk to serve us.

So, please give love these holidays: Voice or video call your friends and family, stay home, wear a mask, and keep everyone safe.

Medie Jesena Parrott, Willits

## Willits Senior Center Lunch

### Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

The Willits Senior Center is continuing to provide drive-thru, walk-up and delivered meals, although the dining room is closed. Thanks to some new funding from the Community Foundation, prices for drive-thru and walk-up meals have been lowered to \$5 moving forward through 2020. Meals on Wheels delivered meals remain at \$5.50. Call 459-6826 for more info.

Drive-thru and walk-up To Go meals are still available 12 to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. Pickup is outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

### Home Meal Delivery

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels delivered meals are \$5.50 per meal. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery; Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits.

Wednesday, November 25: Chili Rellenos Casserole

Thursday, November 25: WCS Community Drive-Thru Thanksgiving Dinner – call 459-6926 before Wednesday for Meals on Wheels Thanksgiving delivery

Friday, November 20: Closed

Monday, November 30: Italian Pasta Casserole

Tuesday, December 1: BBQ Chicken w/rice, veggie and cornbread

Wednesday, December 2: Sausage Mushroom Spinach Frittata w/hash browns

Thursday, December 3: Crab Salad Sandwich w/pea salad and chips

Friday, December 4: Chicken Breast with Mushrooms w/Swiss rice pilaf and roll

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

## Details of new 'stay at home' order

Submitted by the California Department of Public Health

To: All Californians

Subject: Limited stay at home order

Upon assessment of the recent, unprecedented rate of rise in increase in COVID-19 cases across California, the California Department of Public Health is taking immediate actions to prevent the spread of the virus.

These immediate actions will help reduce community spread, protect individuals at higher risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19, and prevent the state's health care delivery system from becoming overwhelmed.

Reducing movement and mixing of individual Californians is critical to decreasing transmission, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Therefore, as the state Public Health officer, I am issuing a “limited stay at home order,” effective in counties under Tier One (purple) of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

The order requires that all gatherings with members of other households and all activities conducted outside the residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation with members of other households cease between 10 pm and 5 am, except for those activities associated with the operation, maintenance, or usage of critical infrastructure or required by law.

This order does not apply to persons experiencing homelessness. Nothing in this order prevents any number of persons from the same household from leaving their residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation, as long as they do not engage in any interaction with (or otherwise gather with) any number of persons from any other household, except as specifically permitted herein.

This limited stay at home order will reduce opportunities for disease transmission with the goal of decreasing the number of hours individuals are in the community and mixing with individuals outside of their household. Every intervention to decrease mixing of households is critical during this unparalleled increase in case rate rise of about 50 percent during the first week in November.

In particular, activities conducted during 10 pm to 5 am are often non-essential and more likely related to social activities and gatherings that have a higher likelihood of leading to reduced inhibition and reduced likelihood to adhere to COVID-19 preventive measures (e.g., wearing face coverings and maintaining physical distance).

This order took effect on November 21, 2020, at 10 pm.

For counties that move into Tier One (purple) after the effective date of this order, the terms of this order shall apply at 10 pm on day two after the county is assigned to Tier One (purple). For the purpose of counting days, day one shall be the first full day following the date of the tier assignment.

This order remains in effect until 5 am on December 21, 2020, and may be extended or revised as needed.

This order is issued pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 120125, 120130(c), 120135, 120140, 120145, 120175, 120195 and 131080; EO N-60-20, N-25-20, and other authority provided for under the Emergency Services Act; and other applicable law.

– Erica S. Pan, MD, MPH, acting state Public Health officer



Above, left: From left, Interim Chief Fabian Lizarraza, Michael Bennet, Ricco McCoy, Brittany Ponikvar, Aaron Branscomb, and Ben Branscomb are loaded up with pies, turkeys, and all the trimmings to pass out to Willits families. Above: Families who needed food help came through the line and even received dessert from Kemmy's pies

At far left: The donated turkeys are frozen and ready for distribution. At left: The Willits Police Department and members of Little Lake Fire distribute the dinners to families who need help this Thanksgiving.

Below: Kemmy's Pies and bags of vegetables and turkeys wait for the 12 pm start time for distribution.

At bottom: Cars line up down Commercial Street prior to the distribution time.

Photos by Mathew Caine

# Thanks for Giving

## Willits Police Officers Association and Little Lake Fire, with donations from local merchants, provide 40 meals for local families

By the end of the giveaway, 40 families had their Thanksgiving feasts enabled by the generosity of the Willits merchants, the Willits Police Officers Association, and Little Lake Fire. Prior to the start of the Thanksgiving Dinner Drive-Thru, at noon on Monday, cars were lined up, ready to receive the bounty of a 10-to-12-pound frozen turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, rolls, and delicious Kemmy's pies for dessert.

Given that the year 2020 has produced so many challenges for so many families, these gifts of food were much appreciated and saved the holiday for the lucky families that were able to get down to the police department and wait as much as an hour for the giveaway to begin.

The food for the November 23 event was generously provided by Grocery Outlet, Willits Safeway, Fisher Wireless Services, and Kemmy's Pies, as well as contributions from the Willits Police Officers Association.

Stacy Lowe and her daughter, Destany, had their car in the queue since shortly after 11 am in order to bring home the turkey and trimmings to their family of seven people. Lowe expressed her gratitude and stated, “It's been a rough year,” a sentiment familiar to many of the residents of Willits and of the country in general. The merchants and organizations of the Little Lake Valley are always prepared to help others, whether by providing funds or in this case, food, to bring some relief and joy to those in need.

New Interim Willits Police Chief Fabian Lizarraza was in attendance and helped out by taking and filling pie orders for the families, a choice of apple or pumpkin. Other volunteers from WPD included Brittany Ponikvar, Ricco McCoy and Michael Bennett, and two volunteers from Little Lake Fire. Aaron Branscomb and his son, Ben, provided the labor to stack and distribute the dinners.

For the officers, this was their Thanksgiving, as they are required to work on the actual

Read the rest of Giving Over on Page 11



The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

## Thanksgiving Mass outside at St. Anthony's

This Thanksgiving day, we will celebrate Mass as a community at 9 am.

It will be outside, and it will be cold. If you attend in person, please bring warm clothes. If you and your family would like to join the celebration from home, we will be posting the Mass using Facebook Live.

This holiday ... we have an opportunity to do a lot of good for our neighbors. When counting our blessings, we are also reminded to serve others; to give freely of ourselves. Some have time to give, others have their talents; still others, their treasure. Whatever you have or don't have, let us share friendship in our community; let us share His peace.

– St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

## Willits Weekly

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## Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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## A Season of Light

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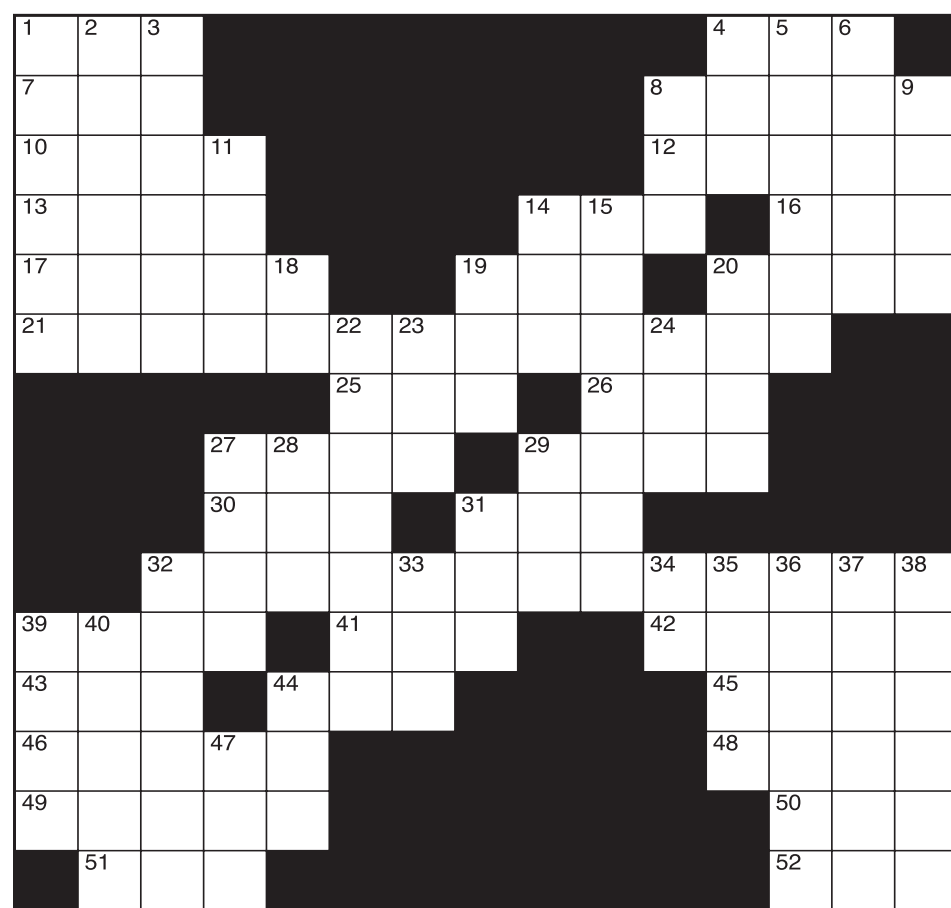


6					2	5		
2	7	9				6	8	
	4			3		1	2	9
9				1	8	3		
5		1		2			9	
4					9			
				9				6
	8	6	3		4			
3			2	6	7		5	

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

[illegible]

ASPARAGUS	COOKED	GINGER	SPINACH
BROCCOLI	DELICIOUS	GREEN BEANS	SPROUTS
CABBAGE	DIET	KALE	SWEET
CARROTS	EGGPLANT	KOHLRABI	POTATOES
CAULIFLOWER	FRESH	PEAS	SWISS CHARD
COLLARD	GARLIC	RAW	VEGETARIAN
GREENS			ZUCCHINI



1. Crow species
4. Partner to flow
7. Male offspring
8. Sedate
10. Orange beverage
12. Pair of small hand drums
13. 12th month of Jewish civil year
14. Former Pirates star Jason
16. Computer company
17. Made angry
19. Beverage container
20. Charlize Theron film '... Flux'
21. Localities
25. Consume
26. Don't know when yet
27. Bed style
29. Make a low, continuous sound
30. Wrath
31. Pollinates flowers
32. Association
39. Prejudice

41. Unhealthy
42. Hasidic religious leader
43. Distinctive philosophy
44. Short-term memory
45. In a good way
46. Emperors of Ethiopia
48. Imaginary line
49. Of barium
50. One's sense of self-esteem
51. Man who behaves dishonorably
52. Monetary unit

1. Rear of (nautical)
2. He minds the net
3. Ring-shaped objects
4. When you hope to get there
5. Young children
6. Beloved hobbit
8. Pigpen
9. Wish harm upon
11. Quick-eyed (Scottish)
14. Scrooge's phrase '\_\_\_ Humberg'

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## THANKSGIVING

**and a Happy Holiday Season**

**We Will be Closed**  
**Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Monday - Saturday</b>	<b>8am - 6pm</b>
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>10am - 4pm</b>

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page featuring stylized autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown, set against a dark background.

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**Deanna Cruise has been a respiratory therapist at Adventist Health Howard Memorial hospital for more than five years.**

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# 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.

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.

A spacious pop-up will be set up, and Taqueria Ramirez will be on site to sell a quick bite for hungry riders, or anyone wishing to come by. All attendees are asked to practice social distancing and follow county health guidelines.

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-profit.

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 Program.

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, that is also appreciated.

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

– Maureen Jennison



## 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, ornaments, holiday cards, advent scenes and more. See's Candies will also be available for sale.

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## Holiday Herbal Marketplace

Shop for locally crafted herbals and seasonal gifts direct 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 raffle, too!

Located outside the old Rexall building, 90 South Main Street in Willits (or in the Grange in case of rain).

Sponsored by the Mendocino County Herb Guild: We invite you to partake in community, whilst we go through these unprecedented times together. This is a COVID compliant event.

– Mendocino County Herb Guild

## Discover a Winter Wonderland aboard the Magical Christmas Train

*Submitted by the California Western Railroad, aka Skunk 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 reimaged 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 railroad coach.

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 home.

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.



## ‘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 brilliantly succeeds.

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.

Please remember:

- Facial coverings are mandatory
- Please practice 6 feet social distancing
- 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 scheduled so far, at 1, 3:30 and 6 pm. The train runs 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](http://www.skunktrain.com) or call the Fort Bragg Depot at 707-964-6371.

## Shop Small Saturdays Finale November 28

*Submitted by the Willits Chamber of Commerce*

Shop Small Saturday – expanded to every Saturday in November this year - culminates on the last Saturday of the month, November 28. All entry cards turned in by Saturday shoppers this month will be part of a drawing for the chance to win fabulous prizes provided by participating businesses and members of the Willits Chamber of Commerce's board of directors.

Some of the participating "Shop Small" businesses include: Monkey Wrench, Cat's Meow, Willits Power, Moon Lady - Moon Man, Buster's Burgers & Brew, Kemmy's Pies, Brickhouse Coffee, Mazahar, Off The Cuff, Buttercups, The Book Juggler, Main St Music Flying Dog, Imagination Station, El Mexicano, Loose Caboose, J. D. Redhouse, Unique Boutique, Chamber Of Commerce, Scoops, Les Schwab Tire, Tango, and Willits Center for the Arts.

Look for the "Shop Small" poster in storefronts participating in the Shop Small Saturday promotion.

The Willits Chamber of Commerce is not charging fees to participate in this program. It is our belief that you, the businesses in our town, have had struggles through the COVID-19 ordeal, and this is our way to help you through the heavy shopping season, and perhaps soften the effects.

For more information contact the Willits Chamber at [info@willits.org](mailto:info@willits.org) or 459-7910.

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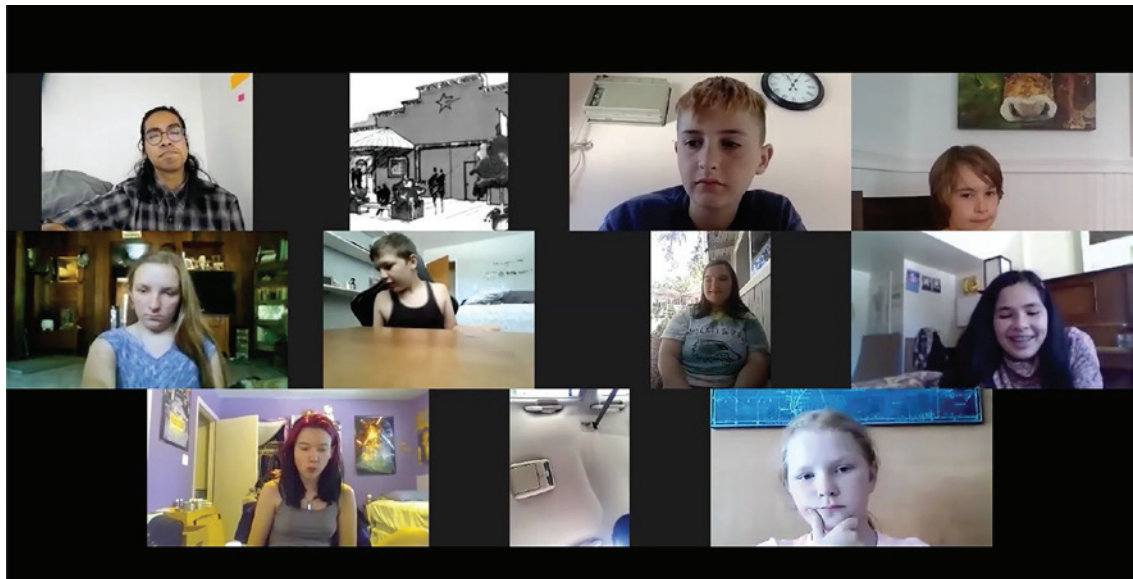
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I'm a seven year old Fox Terrier, name Daisey, and I went missing from our ranch on Center Valley Road on November 5, 2020. My family really misses me and I miss them. There is a reward for my safe return. Please call 707-459-4078 if you can help.



## ‘Riding the Willits Train’

A Youth Performing Arts Academy presentation from Willits Community Theatre

*By Steve Hellman, for WCT*

Willits Community Theatre will present "Riding the Willits Train," an online video compilation of youth performances, including songs, dance routines, Shakespearean soliloquies and four original short plays.

The wide-ranging compilation is drawn from WCT's Youth Performing Arts Academy, a five-week program held this past summer for local students. Opening Friday, November 27, the video will be available for viewing through the WCT website at [www.wctperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org).

The youth academy was conducted under the auspices of Producer Robert Ford and Program Director Karen Mattson and included workshops led by teachers Gretchen Moore and Angela Lau in set-painting, Jeff Shipp in song-writing, TinaMarie Silveira in singing, Heidi Rodriguez in dance, Oscar Montelongo in acting, and Robert Ford in script-writing.

Production of the compilation video included assistance from Jherek Ford and Fernando Silveira on sound, Kevin

Moore on lights, costumes by Phaedra Swearingin, and props by Mike A'Dair.

Ford says of the academy production: "Given all we're going through, the opportunity for the kids to express their artistic talents came at just the right time. It was the bright spot for their summer."

Highlighted in the video are the four original short plays that students wrote, casted and acted in. Ford says: "The thing that really impressed us was the substance of the plays. It really showed what our young people are presently facing and their vision for the future."

"Train to a New World" by Andante Silveira follows a group of high school friends reuniting for a midnight rail ride to a new world, complete with a derailment. "Death Train" written by Gigi Silveira and Miles Mattson is about a group of friends taking one last road trip together before they all have to move to different states.

Read the rest of Theatre [Over on Page 11](#)



Above, left: A compilation of photos from the acting class in WCT's Youth Performing Arts Academy. Above: The student cast of "Train to a New World."

At far left: Student actors Miranda Swearingin and Allegra Rose Silveira perform in "Chew Chew Soul," one of the student plays featured in "Riding the Willits Train." At left: A compilation of photos from the script-writing class in WCT's Youth Performing Arts Academy.

Below: Miles Mattson performs a Shakespearean soliloquy in the "Riding the Willits Train" student showcase from WCT. At bottom: Andante Silveira performs a solo singing part in "Riding the Willits Train."



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## Roots of Motive Power's Drive-Thru Santa Express Display

Submitted by Roots of Motive Power

Roots of Motive Power will be doing a lighted Santa Express Display for your viewing pleasure this year at the Roots yard, 420 East Commercial Street, in Willits. We have a small track (less than 1 mile loop) that we run our trains on.

On Saturday, December 5 from 5 to 8 pm we will be steaming up the POO#2 locomotive followed by an open air car with a Santa's workshop display in it, a flat car with a huge lighted Christmas tree, and no consist is complete without a caboose. All cars will be decked out with Christmas lights as a display for our fans to enjoy. We will also be live-streaming this event on our Facebook page and then later uploading it to our YouTube channel.

We know Christmas is going to look different for a lot of folks and wanted to spread a little Christmas cheer.

This will be a drive thru event only. We are not able to give train rides at this time. Our gates and the engine house will be closed. We will have an elf stationed in the parking lot to assist us with any problems that may arise.

We invite you to come view the train, Saturday, December 5 from 5 to 8 pm. You can temporarily park in the parking lot adjacent to our train loop to wait for the train to come by. You cannot get out of your cars. This is for your viewing pleasure only.

We look forward to next year when Santa can visit with the children one on one, and we can give out treats and sweets to all who visit our engine house.



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**Thanksgiving HOLIDAY HOURS**

**UKIAH ANIMAL SHELTER**  
The Ukiah Shelter will close early on Wednesday, November 25, at 1 p.m., and will be closed Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 26-28, and will resume normal operations on Tuesday, December 1, at 10 a.m.

**FORT BRAGG ANIMAL SHELTER**  
The Ft. Bragg Shelter will close early on Wednesday, November 25 at 3 p.m., and will be closed on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 26-28, and resume normal operations on Tuesday, December 1, at noon

If you are missing an animal on the above dates, please call 463-4427 in Ukiah or 961-2491 in Fort Bragg to leave a message. Staff will be on-site cleaning and will be checking voice messages to make arrangements with pet owners to pick up animals.



## Community Thanksgiving Drive-Thru Dinner

Willits Community Services and Food Bank invites you to the 31st annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner, a drive-through version this year, on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, from 11 am to 3 pm at the Willits Senior Center parking lot, 1501 Baechtcl Road.

There is no charge. Anyone may eat for free. Come give thanks and celebrate this holiday with your community. Donations are gladly accepted and will benefit WCS and Food Bank in their continuing effort to provide essential human services in our community.

For Meals on Wheels Home Delivery of Thanksgiving dinner, please call 459-6826 by Wednesday, November 25.

## 'Small Works'

ART CENTER  
POP-UP GIFT STORE

Willits Center for the Arts presents a Pop-Up Store for the holidays. The galleries will be filled with one-of-a-kind unique gifts priced from \$20 to \$200.

The variety of work captures everything from hand-blown glass ornaments, art quilts, paintings, jewelry, pottery and more all by artists from our community. The halls will be decked and ready for the holidays beginning Friday, November 27 through December 24. Galleries will be open from 11 am until 5 pm, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Be sure to bring the kids by to see the WCA's Christmas trees. Only six people will be allowed in the gallery at one time; masks are mandatory.

The Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street, next to the Noyo Theatre. Visit <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/> to learn more.

Don't miss the Art Center's Online Gallery <https://www.willitscenterforthearts.org/artists> which features the work of 50 Mendocino County artists.

## 'Understanding Our New Wildfire Crisis: Can We Tame the Blazing Beast?'

Submitted by Mendocino College

The second lecture in the Mendocino College Symposium series is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1 at 6 pm. In his online lecture, titled "Understanding Our New Wildfire Crisis: Can We Tame the Blazing Beast?", Mendocino College faculty member Chris Ineich will discuss the increase in catastrophic wildfires in our region.

Since 2015, our region has endured an unprecedented string of conflagrations that have shattered local and state fire records, disrupted lives, and transformed entire landscapes. In his talk, Ineich will explore the contours of this new fiery world, try to explain why wildfire behavior got so bad so fast, what the long-term ramifications might be, and what we might do to get some control over the beast.

In addition to teaching at Mendocino College, Ineich is also a faculty member at Sonoma State University, where he teaches ecology, field biology, soil science and environmental science. His interests include the ecology and management of local forest and woodland communities, fire ecology, climate change, pollinator ecology and conservation, and gardening for food, beauty, and wildlife. He has given numerous public talks on these topics in the local community, and has been working with Potter Valley School to develop an outdoor environmental education program.

At Mendocino College, part of our mission is to be an intellectual, economic and cultural anchor for the region, and it is our responsibility and honor to act as a leading public role in the district. Many Americans today are standing up demanding change throughout the U.S. and in our own communities. This is not an easy time, but it is an important one. Change, and open, honest discussions are needed.

To better serve our community, Mendocino College has begun this public lecture series focused on our social and community challenges. The lectures take place via Zoom webinars on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 pm. There will be no lecture in January.

For direct links to the lectures and for ongoing updates about the series, please visit: <https://www.mendocino.edu/symposium>.

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Presented by Chris Ineich

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CONVERSATION

Since 2015, our region has endured an unprecedented string of conflagrations that have shattered local and state fire records, disrupted lives and transformed entire landscapes. In my talk, we'll explore the contours of this new fiery world, and try to explain why wildfire behavior got so bad so fast, what the long-term ramifications might be and what we might do to get some control over the beast. ~ Professor Chris Ineich

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# Ponds and the blue-green algae problem

By Brian Corzilius

Every year here in Northern California, there are reports of dog illness, deaths, and occasionally, people sickened from blue-green algae blooms in the waterways used for recreation. The same algae blooms impact native wildlife, including fish, in ways we are just beginning to understand. Blue-green algae is naturally occurring and is actually a cyanobacteria in an endosymbiotic relationship, with their production of cyanotoxins the reason for our concern.

In Mendocino County, the South Fork of the Eel River is noted to be especially impacted, with the cause often called out to residential and farming/ranching activity. Private ponds are often named as the culprit. There may be some truth to concerns over private ponds as a source, as these are often the first basins rain flushes into as it begins its journey to the sea.

In my personal experience I had a similar experience with a new pond we created on our property. After a couple years of existence we started getting blue-green algae blooms that would get especially thick and objectionable as the summer season wore on. One could say this was the result of diminishing volume and concentrated nutrients. Water plants and fish were tried, in succession, but the problem persisted.

During the same period, we were working with improving the soil health of our (organic) food gardens and orchards, learning about the hidden biota of native soils and their impacts on plant growth. Working with transplanting native trees we discovered how much better the plants did when some native soil duff was brought in and mixed with the tree's soil – a handful was often all that was needed to impart good growth response.

This led us to create a rough soil "inoculant" that included various forest duffs, commercial soil mycelium, yeasts, and garden compost. The response was amazing. Shortly after that period, probiotics for the human body started appearing, and we realized that a similar biotic construct exists for our own health as well.

Looking back at our pond's continuing algae blooms, one day I came across a "probiotic" pond treatment in the DripWorks catalog [1]. This was developed for pond clarity, and based on our experiences with soil and human health, I thought I would give it a try. A small, lunch-sized bag, costing maybe \$30, was tossed into the middle of the pond and allowed to dissolve and settle [2].

We didn't see much difference that year (it was late), but ever since then, no algae blooms, vibrant mosquito fish populations, not to mention native frogs (and of course, bullfrogs) and birds, etc. No further "treatments" have been undertaken, nor were necessary.

What we came to realize was that, like our (organic) gardens and the need to enhance the soil biota, the creation of a pond needs to also be "finished" with the seeding of pond biota to achieve a natural balance.

Will this help the rivers downstream from our scattered ponds? And are these ponds really the source of the blue-green algae blooms? These are questions that need to be explored. Since the river basins in this region receive relatively short bursts of prodigious rainfall, it is likely that the basins are scoured of much of the residual biota. Having the ponds feeding the rivers biotically balanced overflow would seem to be a benefit. Where



A recent shot of the pond on the Corzilius property.



Brian Corzilius' pond when it was first built.

river stagnation (and the threat of blue-green algae) is high, treating those areas may also have benefit.

[1] Visit local Willits business DripWorks at <https://www.dripworks.com/> to learn more about their pond products, or to request a catalogue. "The Pond Guy" <https://www.thepondguy.com/> is another source we've since come across.

[2] Our pond is about 3/4 an acre foot, or about 245,000 gallons.

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The rest of **Giving** | From Page 3

holiday. Thanksgiving is typically "a busy day," said Sgt. McCoy. "Relatives are not used to seeing each other. There is a lot of drinking. Uncle Joe shows up and everything goes sideways. He deep fries a frozen turkey. A lot of traffic collisions and DUIs. It's easy for part of the day when everyone is eating, drinking, watching football. Once everybody is done eating is when it kicks up a little bit."

Thanks to Willits merchants, the Willits Police Officers Association, and Little Lake Fire, 40 families will be able to provide a delicious Thanksgiving meal for their loved ones, including "Uncle Joe," in this extra-difficult year.

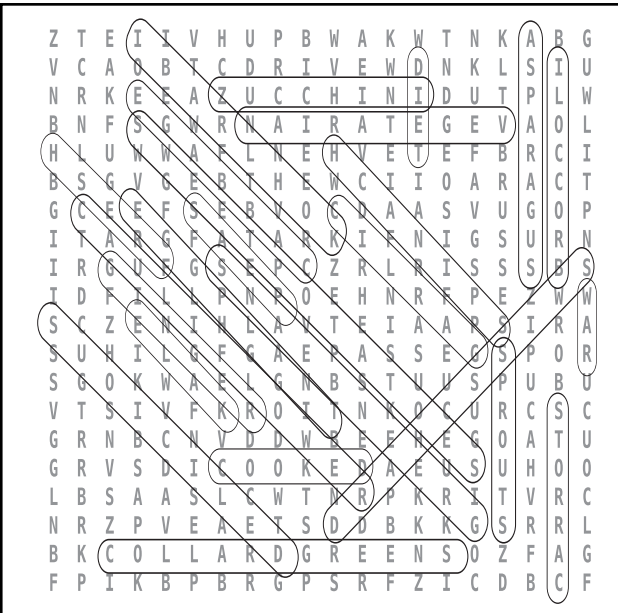


At top: Dispatcher and Community Services Officer Brittany Ponikvar and new Interim Chief Fabian Lizarraga are ready to pass out meals.

Above: Lake Firefighters Association President Aaron Branscomb and Dispatcher and Community Services Officer Brittany Ponikvar take stock of the remaining dinners.

Below: Stacy and Destany Lowe pull up to receive the supplies to cook a Thanksgiving meal for their family of seven.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Book Review

## 'A Jog Down Memory Lane' by Jim Gibbons

By Louis Rohlicek, Willits Weekly contributor

In his first book, "Flashbacks," local writer Jim Gibbons took us for a brisk stroll into the past.

He fled Wisconsin in 1969 to find a new life in California. It was an action-packed account.

He missed the Summer of Love by two years. That was very unfortunate, because finding love was high on Jim's list of important things to do. He did his best to make up for this error in timing.

He wound up living on a house boat in Sausalito. There he hobnobbed with Bay Area poets, artists, writers, and other ne'er-do-wells.

He fixed up a little boat, the Cowpie, and sailed it into various inlets, estuaries, and friendly ports of call around San Francisco Bay.

Then he left the poet's life in Sausalito, and moved to the mountains north of Willits. More adventures followed.

Now Jim's come out with a new book. This one is titled "A Jog Down Memory Lane." It's a continuation of his chronicles about life in Northern California. With his past life in Sausalito still close behind, a new love emerges: running.

He ran his first race in 1978. It was the First Annual Willits Hospital run. He lost.

Two months later he roared back to run in the first Annual Frontier Days Family Footrace. This one he won. There was no turning back.

He went on to win three National Cross Country titles. By then he was already in his 50s. There were many other races and many other firsts. He also got a lot of third-place medals. That's life. By the time he wrote "A Jog Down Memory Lane," he had competed in 525 races.

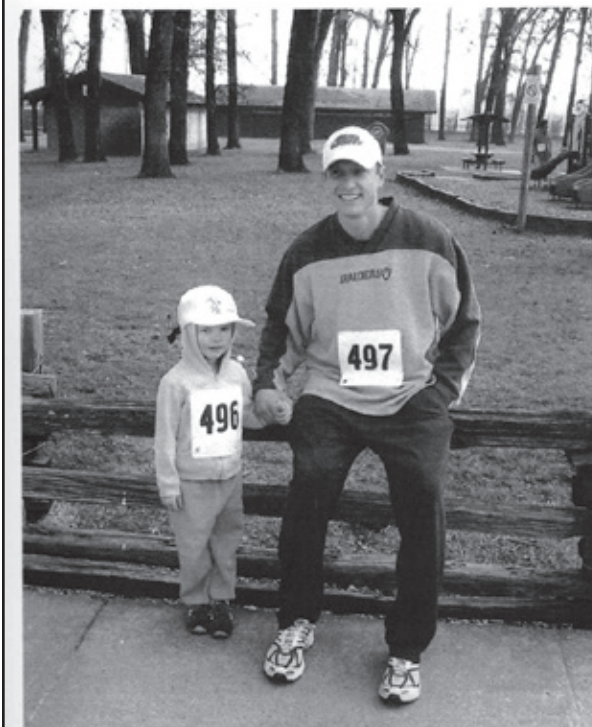
The book is full of local runners and Mendocino County old-timers. Longtime Willits residents may recognize a lot of names from the past.

I enjoyed this book, even though I'm not a runner. The background Jim presents of life in a Northern California town, impacted by the "back to the land movement" is easy to recognize. Jim, however, also pulls his readers into the running world: plenty of runners, various humorous encounters, many friendships, and a tragedy.

Reading Jim's book almost made me consider running myself. Fortunately, this crazy impulse passed. At my age, it's too late anyway. Whew. It's easier to read the book again.

"A Jog Down Memory Lane" can be purchased from Amazon.

## A Jog Down Memory Lane



JIM GIBBONS

The rest of **Theatre** | From Page 7

"Downtown Train" by Miranda Swearengin dramatizes a heart-warming exchange between a runaway boy and a wise and experienced young woman. "Chew Chew Soul" by Aria Silveira takes its viewers on a tour from Willits to France with delightful craft foods and fantastic gourmet pastries.

Participants in the academy included Bronach Bowles, Sam Bowles, Mason Caspino, Malia Jimenez, James Mattson, Miles Mattson, Damian Reiter, Kaya Reiter, Finn Shipp, Nicole Sylstra, Aria Silveira, Allegra Rose Silveira, Andante Silveira, Gigi Silveira, Miranda, Swearengin, and Cadence Wilson.

Access for viewing "Riding the Willits Train" will be available at the WCT website beginning on Friday, November 27 and running until further notice. Ticket cost for the access is \$10.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Computer Help

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

## Cottage for Sale

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

## Firewood For Sale

Firewood for sale. 1 true cord of 16 inch dry firewood, \$200 and up. Will deliver. Call: 459-2868.

## For Sale

For sale: Air-Line Solid State Recorder, "reel to reel," \$80. 459-2942.

## For Sale

Lionel trains and accessories for sale, gently used. Engines, rollingstock, transformers, operating accessories, buildings, switches, track, cars, people, etc. Not old, 1990's, mostly from a layout just disassembled. Very low prices. Call John for info: 459-0460

## Freezer Empty? We can help!

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

## Keith's Structural Repair

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

## RV/Trailer Space for Rent

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

## Stay Safe

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

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

# LEGAL NOTICES

WW294

## Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0568

The following company is doing business as Quantum Level Health, 291 School Street, Suite #4, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Claudia Wenning, PO Box 125, Willits, CA 95490.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on November 1, 2015.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on November 19, 2020.

/s/ Claudia Wenning

Publication dates: 11/25, 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17/2020

**Willits Weekly can run your legal notices including factious business name statements, foreclosure notices, storage unit auctions, and much more. Contact us for more information at willitsweekly@gmail.com**



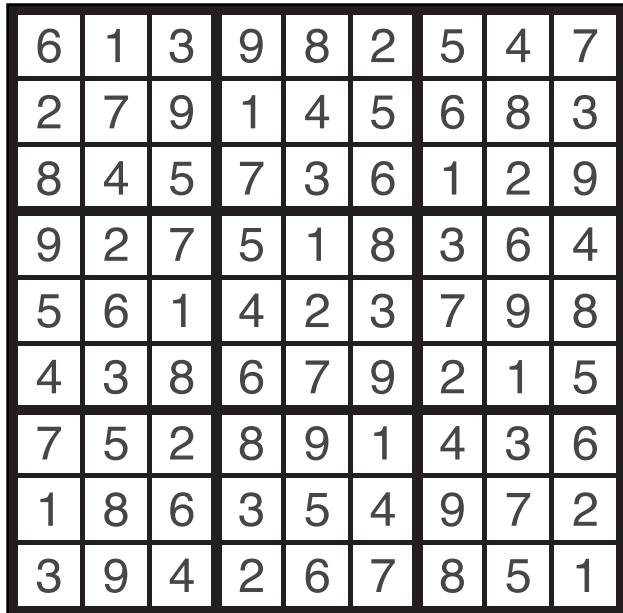
## Current Job Openings:

Buyer  
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I  
Eligibility Specialist I  
Legal Secretary I  
Property Tax Technician  
Supervising Public Health Nurse

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

[www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources)

EOE







At far left: A giant Santa stands on his sled next to the family photo area in front of the store.

At left, top: Emma Harrison stands in front of Bonnie Riley's antique-ish crafts.

At left, bottom: Bonnie Riley's Edison lamps make a unique gift.

Below: Emma Harrison shows a stonework flower-arranging piece by Don Kennedy.

At bottom: Macramé plant hangers hang in the corner.

At bottom, left: Anne VanderHorck's hand-knitted dolls and other whimsical pieces fill an entire section.

Photos by Mathew Caine

## The rest of Warming | From Page 1

press conference at which he provided an analysis of the COVID-19 surge that has been sweeping both California and the nation. His analysis was somewhat more emphatic than usual.

He noted that nationally, 250,000 people have died from COVID since March. "Consistently, we are exceeding 150,000 new cases, nearly every day," Coren said. "That is a 250 percent increase over the past three weeks."

"In California, where we are doing better than the country as a whole, we are currently seeing more than 10,000 new cases a day. Hospitalization rate is up to 63 percent of capacity, and occupancy in intensive care units is up 40.5 percent over what it was three weeks ago.

"Madera County, which is a small rural county in the Central Valley, has seen a 467 percent increase in cases over the past two weeks. At this rate, Mendocino County could run out of intensive care beds in two weeks," Coren said.

Dr. Coren offered a pep talk to the viewing audience. "I know all of us have already been through a lot," he said. "We learned new habits, cancelled or postponed seeing friends or loved ones, missed milestone celebrations, suffered closures, bankruptcies, suffered loss of jobs and loss of housing. We're tired. We're frustrated. We're annoyed. We're angry at all the restrictions.

"But a better day is coming. There are safe vaccines that are on the way. We must bear with this a while longer, and these days before us are going to be a severe challenge," Coren said.

Having said that, Coren offered recommendations for the coming holiday season. They included masking all the time, washing and sanitizing one's hands, avoiding gatherings generally and using Zoom instead, but if you do gather, limiting the gathering to not more than three separate households, not traveling, getting an influenza vaccine, increasing the ventilation in your home and car, which means leaving windows open, and avoiding physical contact with people who are outside your household.

"Wave at people instead of shaking hands or hugging or kissing," Coren said. "Avoid chanting, singing loudly, shouting or playing wind instruments. If you do travel, when you return, quarantine. Avoid Black Friday shopping."

### New quarantine instructions

Coren said he and the Public Health team have analyzed the county's COVID data over the past month, and have determined that the biggest factor in spreading the disease is spread within the home. Therefore, the county has changed its definition of quarantine. Director of the Social Services Branch of HHSA Bekkie Emery explained the new definition.

Emery said that when a person is in quarantine, they cannot be closer than 6 feet to another person for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. The 15 minutes do not have to be continuous, so that a person could reach their limit if there are three five-minute periods in a day when a quarantining person is closer than 6 feet to another person. The quarantine period is 14 days.

"A person who is in quarantine should be separate from other people who are in quarantine in your household," Emery said. "If you cannot do that, we support using our quarantine and isolation alternate site, to help you keep your family safe.

"People who can't quarantine at home and who also cannot go to that alternate site should wear a mask and should maintain the 6 foot distance as much as possible," Emery said.

## The rest of Shooting | From Page 1

Ridgewood Grade. First responders found a maroon Chevrolet pickup truck stopped in a traffic lane with two men inside, one dead and one critically injured. The critically injured victim succumbed two days later in a Santa Rosa hospital.

Ramirez, a sometimes Covelo resident, became a suspect early in the investigation. Deputies arrested him in the early morning hours of July 3, 2918, north of Covelo after receiving tips as to his whereabouts.

Ramirez admitted that while sitting as a passenger in the backseat of the pickup, he shot and killed his father, Calisto Ramirez Guerrero of Covelo, 51, as well as his brother, Miguel Angel Ramirez Davila of Eureka, 32.

Ramirez eventually entered guilty pleas to two counts of voluntary manslaughter. He also admitted two special allegations,

### New overnight curfew

Coren talked about the new curfew which was announced on Thursday, November 19 by the state's Acting State Public Health Officer Erica S. Pan, MD.

Under this curfew, which is called a "temporary stay-at-home order," people cannot leave their homes from 10 pm to 5 am, "except for those activities associated with the operation, maintenance, or usage of critical infrastructure or required by law."

Or as Coren put it, for some necessities including getting food, medicines or walking the dog. He said that the curfew was necessary at this time to limit the spread of the disease.

"It does limit spread in those hours when people are involved with use of substances and when people are losing inhibitions and can spread the germs more easily," he said.

The new temporary curfew is currently set to expire December 21 at 5 am. The new order does not apply to persons experiencing homelessness.

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall announced on Friday that he would not be enforcing the curfew.

"I wanted to talk to you today about the potential impending mandates from the state level on mandatory curfew," the sheriff wrote on a Facebook post.

"I'd like to let all the residents of Mendocino County know that the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office will not be enforcing compliance of any health or emergency orders related to curfews.

"What does this mean? It means we won't be making compliance checks of businesses, homes or making contact with individuals who are out between the hours of 10 pm to 5 am specifically due to these new curfew mandates.

"Will we be responding to regular calls for service? Yes, of course.... All of us at the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to wish everyone a wonderful and meaningful holiday season," Sheriff Kendall concluded.

When asked by a local reporter if Health and Human Services Agency's Special Investigations Unit would be enforcing the temporary stay at home order, Dr. Coren said that unit responded to complaints that are left on the Call Center line and would not be responding promptly. He also said that 99 percent of what enforcement it does do is "education."

"This is citizen enforcement," Coren said. "We know what protects ourselves, and we want that to happen."

### COVID-19 update

Since the first case that was confirmed in the county on March 19, the county has confirmed a total of 1,441 cases of the disease. Of that number, 1,280 have been released from isolation.

As of Monday evening, November 23, the county has 139 confirmed active cases of COVID-19 in the county. Of that number, 130 are being kept in isolation; 9 are in local hospitals and none are in an Intensive Care Unit in the county. 271 people are in quarantine, and 22 people in this county have died from the disease.

The Department of Public Health has confirmed an average daily new case rate of 9.71. The county has a testing positivity rate of 3.97. Therefore, the county remains in the purple tier, in which the prevalence of COVID-19 is called widespread.

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective, 1,078 cases reside in the Ukiah Valley; 161 are from the north coast; 124 live the north county; 51 are from the south county and 27 are from the south coast.

A total of 34,621 tests have been done in this county. As of Monday evening, the results of 1,500 tests were pending.

alleging that he personally used a firearm to inflict death on both family members. Voluntary manslaughter is generally defined as an intentional killing in which the offender had not formed a prior intent to kill, such as a killing that occurs because of a sudden quarrel.

Any credits the defendant may attempt to earn toward early release are limited to no more than 15 percent of his overall sentence, meaning Ramirez must serve 20.5 years before being eligible for parole. Plans are for the defendant to be deported to Mexico upon the completion of his prison sentence.

The law enforcement agency primarily responsible for investigating and gathering the evidence to sustain the defendant's convictions was the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. District Attorney David Eyster prosecuted the case.

## The rest of School | From Page 1

school board with considerable flexibility as to the timing of bond offerings and the tax rate imposed on property owners (which cannot exceed \$40 per \$100,000 of assessed value), Superintendent Mark Westerburg thought it "important that we have a little bit of conversation about what that might look like."

The board will "have to make a decision at the December meeting [about] ... what they ask for in a first draw," he said. "And my recommendation ... is probably going to be \$25 instead of \$40 per hundred."

"I think the \$25 will generate enough revenue to let us get started and do some of the main projects we need to get done without ... hitting the taxpayer as hard as we could," he said.

"We need to show them we built this so that we could hold back if we needed to and be flexible if we needed to. And this would be an example of that."

Board President Alex Bowlds agreed.

"I think, at this point in time, with the potential for our economy being ... far worse if this COVID thing continues to drag on.... I think it would be irresponsible for us to try to tag our taxpayers with that high of a value of bond repayment," he said. "If we do the \$25, it's a reasonable compromise. It does give the district enough funds to be able to deal with some of the major pressing issues.

"And it has another benefit," he added. "If the economy continues to decline, we can delay the second issuance of bonds, and that \$25 per \$100,000 will drop over about three years to as low as possibly \$6 per \$100,000.

Some of the major pressing issues that will be dealt with by the initial offering include "the Blosser roof, the parking lot at the high school, and heating and cooling at the main building at the high school," said Westerburg.

Trustee Paula Nunez wondered "why a parking lot would be more important to students and their benefit in the first draw than would be putting water in the science rooms for their eyes in case there's an emergency or any number of things?"

Acknowledging that he had "been asked a lot" about that priority, Westerburg explained why.

"Our insurance company is going to drop us if we do not fix the parking lot," he said. "It is more than a trip hazard. It is a major issue that could affect the pool, the gym, and all that area.

"It's really unsafe. It's a trip hazard. It's a car hitting their trailer hitch hazard. It's an issue we have to deal with," he said. "We've already had a couple of people getting injured. It's an accident waiting to happen."

The necessity to fix the roof at Blosser, he explained, is also a clear priority.

"Every time you take in water, which we do, you have mold problems," he said. "If you don't fix the roof, it starts at the top and works its way down."

Willits charter schools are also beneficiaries of Measure 1 funds, and Nunez wondered how much those schools will get if Willits Unified "takes less. Then do charter schools get less on that first draw?" she asked.

The answer was no. "We made an agreement with them for \$400,000 on the first draw and \$50,000 on any additional draws," said Westerburg.

There is no such definitive agreement when it comes to mask wearing by district employees.

The district has a policy, and yet some are still apparently confused and anxious. Willits Teachers Association President Tessa Ford broached the subject.

"Most people are still trying," she said, "but there have been some reports of some employees that aren't wearing their mask, and it's upsetting to the people who are scared and anxious," she said. "Be respectful, even if you think it's not important, or it's not real. It is real for other people, and you are adding to their stress and anxiety by not wearing it.

"Even if you're walking around on campus or you're working on campus, and there's a group of you standing around not wearing your masks, and there's some kind of reason you have an exception ... everybody else doesn't perceive it that way," she said.

Bowlds asked whether there was "a district-wide policy on mask wearing."

"We have mandatory masks. Every public facility does," responded Westerburg.

Nunez wondered whether there were "one or two departments that have been told that they do not need to wear masks?"

"I have been pretty clear with everybody. Every department needs to wear masks," said Westerburg. "We have some people who are working in groups together, especially in maintenance ... and are a cohort group.

"I told them, when they're in public they need to have [masks].... If they're by

themselves in their truck, that's different ... [or] by themselves out in a field working on a sprinkler...."

Nunez asked, "but a cohort isn't exempt either, right? A cohort is what ... two people, or six?"

"A cohort can be up to 12, according to the health department," said Westerburg.

California School Employees Association President Dan Green described his personal protocol for the board.

"Me personally, I follow the CDC guideline ... the California public guidelines," he said. "Outside, I don't use a mask. If I go to work on a room ... I knock, and I ask if it's OK that I come in that room.

"If I'm told it's OK, and they have a mask, I have a mask. If they don't have a mask, sometimes I won't wear my mask. Personally, that's how I do it," he said.

"It just seems that it's not working out as well as it could," Nunez continued, "and there's a lot of variable about what people think they're being told because they didn't wear a mask, and they are with three or four people in a room or a building or someplace.

"It is very misleading," she said. "The perception people are going to get when they see more than one and two people together and they don't all have a mask, and they say 'oh well, I'm a part of a cohort' ... it doesn't help much.

"It would seem, since the district had provided everyone with a mask that they might consider putting it on," she said. "I just didn't know what happened if it didn't happen."

"They've all been handed masks," said Westerburg. "If they don't have one ... at some point, if somebody's flagrant, it becomes a work violation."

No telling how it will work out when students return to the classroom, but for now that's not an issue.

"There's no discussion about going back in session when you're in purple. It's not even an option." Westerburg told the board. The state of California announced on November 16 it was moving Mendocino County back into the purple or "widespread" COVID tier, where schools are not permitted to reopen.

"As I've told everybody from the get-go, January 24 is probably the target date for middle school and high school for sure because it's a change of grading periods," Westerburg said.

"And that's just depending on what color we are, what are the numbers, and is it the reasonable thing to do at that point?" he continued. "We have a lot of equipment needs ... air purifiers for the rooms haven't come in yet. We posted for custodians for a month now and have virtually no applications."

Uncertainty abounds when it comes to education in time of pandemic, but not so much when the issue is selling real estate.

The sale of recently rezoned property at Blosser Lane came one step closer to reality with a board decision to declare the property surplus, trustee Nunez the lone opposing vote.

"We are not making a decision that we're selling it," said Westerburg. "We're saying that it's surplus, and that would allow me to send out letters to all the entities that have first right of refusal.

"We now have an assessment of what the property might be worth ... so I can use that to send the letter out, so if we get into a position where we do want to sell the property, we'll be able to do that," he continued. "Once we get past ... that correspondence back and forth ... we can have a conversation about do you want to sell it.

"Obviously I think we should sell it, but that's a board decision later on," he said.

"I will point out from my perspective ... because Measure 1 passed, I personally am not necessarily in favor of selling that property unless we have a financial need to do so," said president Bowlds.

"When we get to that point, we'll have a debate about it," said Westerburg. "Because the debate is, 'does the community need housing bad enough that we should sell it?'

Ending on a couple of short high notes: Trustee Jeanne King expressed thanks to the Rotary Club for the donation of art supplies that Baechtel Grove students can use at home and also to the Willits Educational Foundation for home school supplies.

And the board unanimously approved the appointment of parent Jenny Nelson to be the district's representative with the SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) commission.

"Jenny is a parent in our district who is super duper active," said Westerburg. "She is wonderful. She is everywhere always volunteering her time ... just such an asset to school district children and parents ... great communicator ... one of our unsung super volunteers."

# Sparetime Christmas

## Garden supply store opens holiday gift shop full of locally crafted goods

As hard as the Grinch of COVID tried and tried, he could not destroy Christmas this year. He closed down many of the familiar holiday staples of the Willits area, including the two- or three-day spectacular known as the Willits Holiday Craft Fair, an event where many of the local artisans display the wares on which they have worked for much of the year. This event, a fundraiser for the Willits Art Center, has filled up the Willits Community Center for more than 30 years, and spilled over into the WAC in recent years. Its loss has been felt by the artisans and patrons alike.

Knowing this, Emma Harrison, along with Brandy Enge and Diana Hosford, employees of Sparetime Garden Supply, decided to utilize their defunct hydroponics building and transform the edifice into a wonderland of crafts with a Santa Claus-themed photo area and holiday music, providing a generally enjoyable activity perfect for the entire family. Additionally, they have a vast selection of live and cut trees to take home and festoon with favorite baubles and tinsel.

Harrison wanted to create a space where families could shop for gift items, originally only those carried by Sparetime, but realizing that there would be no craft fair this year, she began to plan and invite many of the local artists who have shown at the fair in the past.

Read the rest of Sparetime | Over on Page 15



# SHOP SMALL SATURDAY-S

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## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Agape Bible Church**  
290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Where love is first  
and the Bible is central.  
Sunday Services:  
9:15 a.m. - Bible Class,  
adult & children  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Awa: 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 Margo 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 Bandman  
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 Brunetti

**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  
april@willitsweekly.com





Photos by Maureen Jennison



– Maureen Jennison

# Lake ‘Puddle’ Mendo

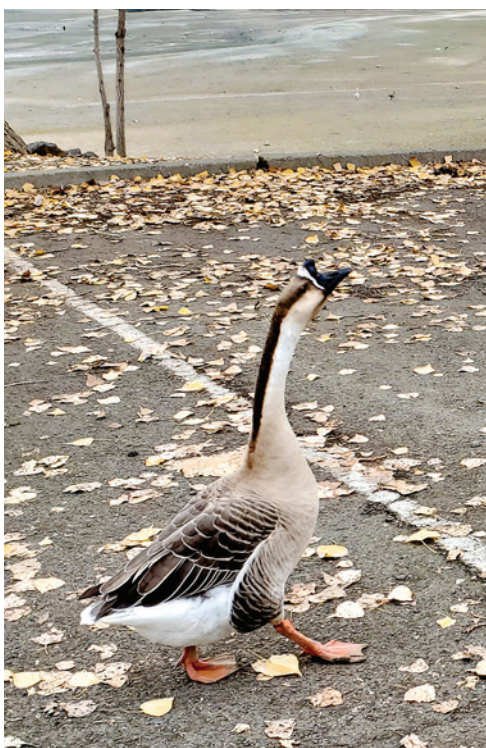
The state of the state's drought was represented well visually, looking at Lake Mendocino on Sunday, November 22, as it resembled a puddle more than its usual "lake" standing.

The south boat ramp, shown in photo at top left, was totally exposed, including the extra ramp, and the waterline still fell far further out into the lake bed.

Looking south towards the dam, at left, bottom photo, the lake is almost totally dry of its 122,400 acre-feet capacity.

Some spots in the deepest areas (133 feet) still hold some water, which birds and other wildlife continue to enjoy.

Brown Chinese Geese, photo below, frequent the area and squawk loudly to remind visitors to have a happy Thanksgiving and stay safe this holiday season – oh, and to ask for any bread or crackers one might just have on hand.



– Maureen Jennison

At right, top: Wind / sun charms from Julee Walker come in several colors. At right, below, left: Live trees will last through many Christmases. At right, below, right: Gardening hats come in many varieties.

## The rest of Sparetime | From Page 12

"We thought we would turn this building, which was just being used for storage, into a store," explained Harrison, manager of the nursery.

"It was quite an undertaking, gutting, cleaning, and removing everything that was in here and creating a totally different space," she said. "We will have a variety of things from both Sparetime and community members.

"I've reached out to 17 people at this point," Harrison continued, "that usually do the craft fair and asked if they would like to sell their stuff here on consignment. We're taking 20 percent and paying the sales tax, so we're not making much on it. It's basically just to be able to pay someone to be here all the time. We thought it would be helpful to have a place for them to be able to sell, and really fun for the community.

"We have our cut Christmas trees, so people can pick their tree with their family, come here, and check out the shop," she said. "We're going to do this in a really safe COVID way. We're going to sanitize every hour, only allow six people in here at a time. The artisans don't have to sit in here with their goods. We do that for them. Hopefully it's a really safe positive thing for people to do for the holidays."

Free gift wrapping will also be available with a suggested donation to the Willits Rotary, from which Harrison has procured one of their barrels used for the Rotary Toy Drive. Attendees are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy or articles of clothing to the store to place in the bin.

For those who have to wait a few minutes to get in the store due to the COVID restrictions of six people in the store at a time, there will be a 9-foot inflatable Santa and wooden sled, along with a decorated Christmas tree to take family photos in front of, as well as hot chocolate and cider to keep the kids warm. Holiday music will set the mood.

Well-known local artists have committed their work, in addition to the Revelry bags, Swiss Army knives, Kershaw knives, and other giftables from Sparetime. Bonnie Riley will be showing her rustic Edison lamps and other wood and metal crafts. There will be mugs and rice bowl pottery from Gregg Lindsley, and homemade bags and pot holders from Karen Gridley.

Wolfgang Ronnefeldt is bringing his natural salves and remedies. Misty Blough will be

showing soy candles, and Ashley Lopez has crocheted goods. Jackie Pelletier is bringing woodwork and crocheted critters. Don Kennedy, via Diana Hosford who bought up his remaining stock, is offering polished and shaped stonework that is ready for plant arrangements.

Mary Ann Underhill will be showing hand-tooled leather earrings, holsters, knife sheaths, etc. Anne VanderHorck is bringing her familiar knitted dolls and other useful decorative household items. Ann Maglinte will be offering prints of her artwork, and Julee Walker has some unique wind / sun charms.

Kinsey Barlow has painted skulls, and Morgan Rex brings his fanciful copper fountains and wind chimes. Pam Parrish is showing neck, back and eye warmers. Handmade jewelry is on display from Jacqueline Standley, and Laura Buckner has Happy Woman Jewelry. Lynda Schmidbauer is showing holiday crafts and more.

Contests are also part of the Sparetime holiday plan. "We are going to do the '24 Days of Christmas,'" stated Harrison. "I'll be sharing an item from in the store, one a day for 24 days. If people follow and like us on Facebook and they like, comment and share that post of that day, they'll be entered in a drawing each day to either win a \$20 gift certificate or a gift item from the store.

"We're also going to do 'Spin-the-Wheel Sundays,'" she added. "We had a prize wheel made. Participants can win whatever of the 12 possible prizes on the wheel they land on, from candy canes all the way up to prizes like hats and T-shirts and gift certificates."

When the families come for the gift shop, they can also bring home a beautiful tree. There is a variety of both live trees, that can be used year after year or planted after the season, or cut trees that range up to 7 or 8 feet, at reasonable prices. Sturdy stands are also available.

The Christmas store opens on Black Friday, November 27 and runs through December 24 at 2 pm when Sparetime will close for a week to allow their employees time to spend with their families. They will be open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm and on Sundays, 10 am to 4 pm.



## The rest of Warrant | From Page 1

was issued by a Modoc County Superior Court Judge and had a \$1,000,000 set bail.

Deputies made multiple attempts to locate Beck and arrest him on his warrant at various locations in the general Willits area.

This included attempting to locate him at his daughter's residence in the 26100 block of Peacock Road. The daughter, Renee Beck, age 24, had been made aware of her father's wanted status.

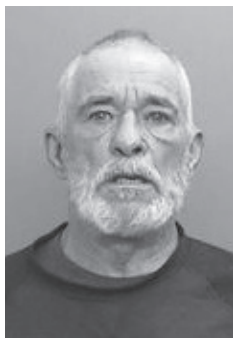
On November 20, deputies received information that Ricky Lee was in fact at his daughter's residence and responded there.

Deputies contacted both Renee and Ricky Lee at the residence.

Renee initially denied her father was there and then tried to claim that the individual later confirmed to be Ricky Lee was a different person, in an attempt to assist her father in avoiding arrest.

Ricky Lee was ultimately identified, arrested and transported to the Mendocino County Jail where he was booked on the Modoc County arrest warrant.

For attempting to assist her father in avoiding capture, and having prior knowledge of his wanted status, Renee was arrested for 32 PC (accessory) and booked into the Mendocino County Jail where she was to be held in lieu of \$15,000 bail.



Ricky Lee Beck of Willits.

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## The rest of Budget | From Page 1

after the close of the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Angelo said that the \$6.13 million carry-forward came largely because of the shutting down of a large part of the county operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The reason the board approved the distribution of \$4.52 million and not \$5.66 million, was because Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde did not agree with Angelo's proposal that the county make a \$1.14 million payment to the county employee health insurance fund.

Under Angelo's proposal, the county's contribution would have been \$1,140,734, which would have represented a 20 percent increase over the current contribution. The county's employees would have been required to shoulder a 3 percent increase.

Gjerde pointed out that doing this would mean that the county's contribution would be nearly seven times the employees' contribution, which would be a violation of the agreement between the county and its employees, which provides that the county contribution will be three times the employees' aggregate contribution.

After Angelo and her staff had presented the First Quarter review, Gjerde moved that all of Angelo's recommendations be approved, except for the health insurance item, and that staff come back with a cost-sharing proposal that is in keeping with the agreement between the county and its employees. Gjerde's motion was approved unanimously.

Apart from the health insurance question, Angelo's list of recommendations includes some big ticket

items, including \$1.8 million for providing salary and benefit increases to employees; \$190,000 to repair the power line to the Mt. Sanhedrin microwave station; \$200,000 to repair the facility itself; \$100,000 as a local match to the cannabis unit's equity program; \$120,000 to the Trak-It reporting system in use by the cannabis unit; \$100,000 for a county-wide strategic plan; \$50,000 for the second segment of a county parks system needs assessment study; and \$250,000 as a down payment on an estimated county match for costs for debris removal from the Oak Fire and the August Complex Fire.

## Board looks at PG&E settlement

Gjerde also brought up using some part of the \$22.6 million settlement paid to the county in July, 2020, by PG&E, after a court found that its equipment had caused the 2017 Redwood fire.

He said that it would be appropriate for the county to use a portion of that money to defray costs for the county's disaster response programs or its efforts to upgrade and modernize its emergency communications systems.

Both Deputy CEO Darcie Antle and County Counsel Christian Curtis told Gjerde they believe there are some restrictions on how the settlement money can be spent.

Antle told Gjerde she has not had time to study documents associated with the settlement, and so she is not yet able to say what those restrictions are. Antle told the board she would likely be able to report to the board on how it can spend the money by March of next year.

## The rest of Unchanged | From Page 1

that an approved permit application is deemed to have passed CEQA – for the county, but not for the state.

The state and the county agreed on a document called Appendix G, which, if filled out by the applicant and vetted by someone, would be a bridge between the county's view of reality and the state's view.

But neither the county nor the state has the staffing to assist applicants in filling out Appendix G, nor in "ground-truthing" the statements on the forms to make sure that the applicant is telling the truth.

Mendocino County Counsel Christian Curtis told the board of supervisors on September 22 that he believes getting compliance on CEQA is a state responsibility, and not a county responsibility.

Haschak said in a telephone conversation on Monday, November 23 that CDFA has had a conversation with the state's Office of Research and Planning, which told CDFA that assuring compliance with CEQA is a county responsibility.

Asked if he thought perhaps it might be wiser at this point to re-do the ordinance, and to cast it as a land-use-based discretionary ordinance, as has been advocated by Second District Supervisor John McCowen and by Planning and Building staff, Haschak pointed out the limitations of that approach.

"If we went to a land-use process, we don't have the staff that could do that amount of work. I mean, we'd have to process 1,100 people. Humboldt County can do 70 a year, and they have twice as many staff as we do. Lake County does 50 a year. At that rate, doing 50 a year, it would take us 20 years just to do the permits we already have," Haschak said.

Haschak said the final decision on which way to go is up to the board of supervisors, and he doesn't know which way the board will want to go.

"I don't think the board knows what is going on," he said. "They haven't been privy to our conversations with the state, and I don't think staff has been as forthcoming as they might have been."

Haschak said he is going to ask Planning and Building staff for a white paper that lays out all the parameters of the situation.

In addition, Haschak said that he and Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams are going to ask the county to hire an outside counsel, so that the board can get expert legal advice on the county's CEQA situation. Haschak said that request could come as soon as the board's next meeting on December 1.



# Cran Orange Scones

For breakfast or dessert, cranberry orange scones are the perfect way to start or end your Thanksgiving Day

<b>Ingredients:</b>	1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour	1/4 tsp. maple extract
2 cups cake flour	1 1/2 sticks butter
2/3 cup demerara sugar	1 cup cream
2 tbs. baking powder	2 eggs
1 tsp. salt	1/2 tube almond paste
1 tsp. cinnamon	1 cup dried cranberries
	1 orange or 2 tangerines

## Directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line two baking sheets with Silpat silicone baking mats or parchment paper. Wax paper is NOT the same thing.

Sift together both flours, sugar, baking powder, salt and cinnamon.

Cut cold butter into small pieces. Use a food processor or two knives to cut the butter into the flour until crumbly. Return to a mixing bowl.

Zest citrus into the mixture using a microplane, being sure to get only just the outermost orange peel, not the white pith. Save the zested citrus for juice!

Add eggs, cream, extracts and juice from zested citrus into a separate bowl and whisk together before adding to flour mixture. Add in dried cranberries and combine until all is incorporated.

Dump mixture out onto counter. Break up almond paste into chunks, and add to dough. Knead on counter very lightly until it comes together.

Press into an even square about a half-inch thick. Using a sharp knife, divide the dough into equal portions. I was able to get 24 mini-scones from this recipe.

Transfer the squares to the baking sheet, brush with more cream, and sprinkle with more sugar.

Into the oven, for about 15 minutes. Rotate top to bottom, front to back at the halfway point. Pull when scones are golden and set in the center. Enjoy with coffee or ... Amaretto.



At top: Cranberry Orange scones are perfect for breakfast or dessert! Above, from left: Assemble the ingredients and sift the dry goods. Below, from left: Cube butter, and pulse with flour mix in food processor until crumbly. Zest is just the orange part, don't go into the white! Ah! Don't forget the cream! Mix wet ingredients. Add to flour, add cranberries, and combine until just incorporated.



Above, from left: Crumble in the half-tube of almond paste. Knead on counter until just together. Flatten into even square. Cut individual scones with sharp knife. I was able to get 24 from this recipe. Below, from left: Transfer scones to Silpat-lined baking sheet, brush tops with cream, and sprinkle with more sugar. Into a 425 degree oven. When they're golden brown and just set, they're ready to enjoy!



Photos by  
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