

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
Donations Accepted Edition No. 334 Wednesday, November 27, 2019

County responds to 2016 MRC letter

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The County of Mendocino has written a letter to Mendocino Redwood Company, in response to the company's July 6, 2016 letter to the county regarding the company's claim that it is exempt from the provisions of Measure V.

Measure V was a citizen-driven voter initiative that was approved by 62 percent of the voters who voted in the June 2016 primary election. It provides that trees, taller than 5 meters in height, which have been intentionally killed and left standing in the forest for longer than 90 days, are a public nuisance.

In its June 6, 2016 letter, MRC Executive Vice President for Forestry Dennis Thibeault wrote that he believed MRC was exempt from Measure V because several California laws provide that agricultural operations in California cannot be deemed a public nuisance, if they have been going on for more than three years and if they were not a public nuisance at the time they were begun.

In the county's letter
Read more of **MRC**
Over on page 6

New Coastal Valleys contract to come with a price hike

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

A new contract with Coastal Valleys Medical Services is coming, and over a three-year period, Mendocino County will be paying it nearly four times as much as the county currently pays the agency.

That's the upshot from a presentation made by Health and Human Services Director Tammy Moss Chandler to the board of supervisors on November 19.

Coastal Valleys is the county's current local emergency medical services agency, aka LEMSA, a state-mandated agency that is responsible for overseeing and regulating the various emergency medical services that are available in the county.

Although as a company Coastal Valleys does provide ambulance services in some locations, as a LEMSA, Coastal Valleys is not responsible for providing ambulance services in

Read the rest of **Contract**
Over on page 13



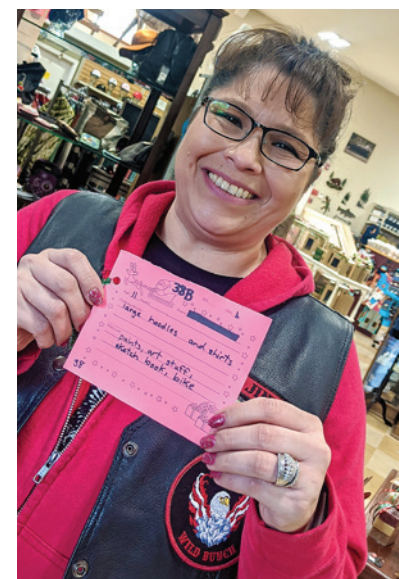
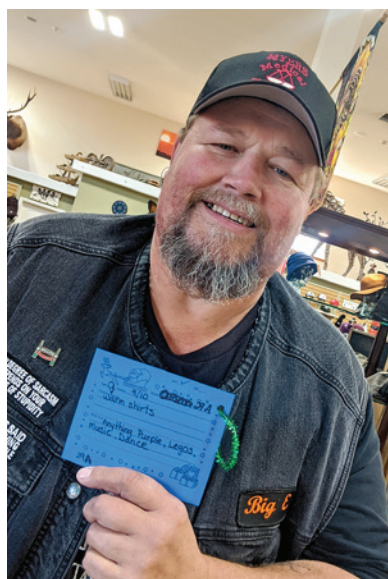
Above: Willits Wild Bunch's Gloria "Jinxy" Westby and J.D. Redhouse's Jake Whitehurst know that hula hoops make great gifts! Below: Cat hats and magic wands do, too, as shown off by Jerry "Kitty Kat Top Hat" Harris.



Below: Fun and festivities at the 2018 Toy Run includes community-filled tables, fancy and festive costumed members of the Willits Wild Bunch, and a mountain of toys to be donated to the Christmas effort. At bottom, from left: Erik "Big E" King shows off one tag for a little boy. Tim "Superman" Westby thinks a sparkle beanie would be a great gift. Gloria "Jinxy" Westby shows off a tag for a girl.



Photos by Mathew Caine



At top: Everyone loves checking out the wishes of kids in the community that dot the tag trees around town to select the perfect one to fulfil, including J.D. Redhouse's Taylor, at left and Willits gals Makiah and Ashley, right. Above: Willits Wild Bunch members, including, from left: Jerry "Top Hat" Harris, Tim "Superman" Westby, Erik "Big E" King and Gloria "Jinxy" Westby are all excited for the annual Toy Run, coming up on December 1, that will help gather hundreds of toys used to fill many of the tag requests.

Christmas is just around the corner

Willits gets ready to make sure every kid in community has a happy holiday with annual Toy Run and Tag Tree programs

The dusting of snow in the higher elevations of the Willits area and the cold toes of even the valley-floor dwellers on Tuesday makes it all of a sudden feel like Christmas is coming ... and yes, coming it is, indeed!

Along with the weather change, the real marker of the holiday's approach is the annual Toy Run event, scheduled this year on Sunday, December 1. Willits Wild

Bunch bikers and friends will meet up with the fire departments at the Evergreen Shopping Center at noon and caravan down Main Street towards the Little Lake Grange where the party will commence.

For the admission fee of just one unwrapped new toy, event attendees will be offered an

Read the rest of **Toy Run**
Over on Page 6

Little Lake Fire board hears updates at November meeting

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

At their November meeting, the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors heard about how pre-positioning of a local strike team has decreased fire danger, how public safety power shutoffs have increased fire danger, and how county ambulance service is still in disarray, and also news about new funding sources on the way and firehouse construction that "is happening."

Mendocino County has
Read the rest of **LLFD**
Over on page 6

Good news in first-quarter budget report

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

At the first-quarter budget report, which was presented to the board of supervisors on November 19, county CEO Carmel Angelo told the supervisors that the county had a \$5.4 million carry-forward from the 2018-19 fiscal year.

During discussions on that day, the supervisors reviewed a list of possible areas in the county program where they might put that \$5.4 million, and adopted a plan to allocate most of the CEO's recommendations. With that allocation, the

Read the rest of **Budget**
Over on page 13

Sheriff's Report

Willits man arrested on meth charges

On November 15 at approximately 2:38 am, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy on uniformed patrol observed a subject seated in a vehicle that was parked in the 1300 block of North State Street in Ukiah.

The deputy contacted Willits resident Russell Harmon, 50, who was seated in the driver's seat of the parked vehicle.

The deputy learned that Harmon was on pre-trial release with a search waiver condition. Deputies searched Harmon's clothing and the vehicle, which resulted in the discovery of a large amount of suspected methamphetamine. Further investigation lead the deputy to believe Harmon possessed the controlled substance for sale.

Read the rest of **Sheriff**
Over on page 4

Sonoma Clean Power offers incentives for smart thermostats and heat pump water heaters

Submitted by Sonoma Clean Power

Sonoma Clean Power, the public electricity provider for Sonoma and Mendocino counties, has added two new smart devices to its demand-response program, GridSavvy.

SCP first launched GridSavvy in 2017 to experiment with the unique opportunity that smart home devices present for controlling the local demand for electricity during hours of the day when California's grid is stressed.

"Through GridSavvy," says Rachel Kuykendall, senior programs manager with SCP, "we're able to partner with, and provide financial incentives to, Sonoma Clean Power customers that use their smart devices as a resource, working to get the last bit of carbon out of SCP's electricity portfolio."

In addition to free electric vehicle chargers, SCP will now offer generous incentives for smart thermostats and heat pump water heaters. The new options include two thermostat products by ecobee and a heat pump water heater by Rheem.

Once any of the three technologies are installed in an SCP customer's home or business, they are eligible to join the GridSavvy Community and receive a \$5 per month bill credit.

Demand-response programs, like GridSavvy, have the ability to serve as a major tool for accelerating the use of renewable energy and balancing

California's electricity load.

In partnership with its program administrator, Olivine, Inc., a company which assists utilities, Community Choice Aggregators, and other energy service providers in designing, developing, and operating community-based distributed-energy resources programs, SCP can manage multiple technologies and remotely control when these smart home devices use electricity.

When there is excess energy on the grid, primarily during the middle of the day when solar generation peaks, SCP can encourage the smart devices to charge or pre-heat themselves. When there are spikes in the demand for electricity and non-renewable energy sources are being used, SCP can delay the devices to operate when the grid is cleaner.

Not only does GridSavvy provide a solution for stabilizing the state's electricity grid, but it can also help local households save a significant amount of energy each month. Heat pump water heaters, in particular, can be up to two or three times more energy-efficient than conventional gas or electric resistance water heaters, which can immediately reduce utility bills.

As smart home devices continue to rise in popularity, SCP hopes to expand and utilize GridSavvy's capabilities to the fullest potential.

To learn more about GridSavvy and the integrated technologies, visit: www.scpgridsavvy.org.

Brooktrails Fire now issuing burn permits

Effective 1 pm Monday, Brooktrails Township Fire Department is issuing burn permits for the residents of Brooktrails, Spring Creek and Sylvandale (Brooktrails' legal fire district).

Some important changes this year are as follows:

▮ BTFD burn permits will only be issued at the Brooktrails Fire Station. (It is best to call 459-4441 to ensure staff is available.)

▮ Only 4x4 pile (dooryard) permits will be issued by BTFD.

▮ The Sherwood Ranch, The Gates and other areas outside the Brooktrails fire district must obtain burn permits from CalFire or from Mendocino County Air Quality Control District, which are available on-line at www.mendoair.org.

▮ BTFD burn permits are valid on permissive burn days during the hours directed by Air Quality Control. This information is given when you call the burn-line listed on the burn permit. You can check burn day status each day at www.mendoair.org – see top right corner.

▮ All BTFD burn permits expire June 1, every year.

Please contact Brooktrails Fire at 459-4441 for clarification or questions.

Would you like to submit a letter to the editor?

Easy! Email it to us at willitsweekly@gmail.com!

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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P.O. Box 1698 Willits, CA 95490 / 707-459-2633; 707-972-7047
willitsweekly@gmail.com / www.willitsweekly.com

Jennifer Poole, publisher and editor /

willitsweekly@gmail.com / 707-459-2633

Maureen Moore, art director and photographer /

maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047

Mathew Caine, photographer / calendar editor / features writer /

mathew@willitsweekly.com

Forrest Glycer, reporter / forrest@willitsweekly.com

Joanne Moore, reporter / features writer / joanne@willitsweekly.com

Ree Slocum, features writer / ree@willitsweekly.com

Jenny Senter, features writer / jenny@willitsweekly.com

Holly Madrigal, reporter / features writer / holly@willitsweekly.com

Danya Davis, features writer / police log / danya@willitsweekly.com

April Tweddell, ad sales / 707-972-2475 / april@willitsweekly.com

Jenn Drew, ad sales / 707-354-1670 / advertising@willitsweekly.com

Jackie Cobbs, features copy editor

Justin Stephens, webmaster

Ad Inquiries: call 707-972-7047
or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

COLUMN | Medicare Notes

How Medicare can help you manage pain

By Greg Dill, Medicare regional administrator

If you have Medicare, there are covered options to help you manage pain safely and effectively.

Medicare covers prescription pain medications under Part D. In addition, Medicare Part B (medical insurance) helps pay for services that may help you manage your pain with less reliance on drugs, such as:

- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Manual manipulation of the spine (when medically necessary)
- Behavioral health services

Part B helps pay for medically necessary outpatient physical therapy and outpatient occupational therapy. And Medicare no longer limits how much it pays for medically necessary outpatient therapy services in one calendar year, so beneficiaries can get the number of visits they need.

Medicare doesn't cover other services or tests ordered by a chiropractor, including X-rays, massage therapy, and acupuncture.

(If you think your chiropractor is billing Medicare for chiropractic services that aren't covered, you can report suspected Medicare fraud at www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/help-fight-medicare-fraud/how-report-medicare-fraud.)

Besides a yearly depression screen, Medicare can also cover behavioral health integration services like psychiatric collaborative care, and chronic and complex care management. Inpatient treatment and professional services can be provided by physicians, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, nurse practitioners / specialists, and physician assistants.

Prescription opioids like hydrocodone and oxycodone can be used effectively to help relieve moderate-to-severe pain. Your doctor may prescribe opioids following surgery or an injury, or for certain chronic health conditions.

These medications are an important part of treatment but they carry serious risks. If you're using opioids for chronic pain, ask your doctor if you might also need a prescription for naloxone,

an overdose-reversing drug that is covered by Medicare. Before starting or while taking opioids, talk with your doctor about all of your pain treatment options. Your doctor should tailor treatment according to your personal needs.

Some Medicare Part D drug plans have certain rules to help you use opioids safely. You can get more information on drug plan coverage rules at www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/what-medicare-part-d-drug-plans-cover/drug-plan-coverage-rules.

If you're in a Part D drug plan and take medications for different medical conditions, you may be eligible for a free Medication Therapy Management program. This program helps you and your doctor make sure that your medications are working to improve your health.

For most Medicare-covered pain management services, you pay 20 percent of the Medicare-approved amount for visits to your doctor or other healthcare provider to diagnose or treat your condition. The Part B deductible (\$185 in 2019) applies.

If you get your services in a hospital outpatient clinic or hospital outpatient department, you may have to pay an additional copayment or coinsurance amount to the hospital.

For more information on safe and effective pain management, visit:

Medicare, at www.medicare.gov/coverage/pain-management or call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227); TTY users can call 877-486-2048.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, at www.hhs.gov/opioids/prevention/pain-management-options/index.html.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/patients/options.html.

Administration for Community Living, at www.acl.gov/programs/addressing-opioid-crisis.

Greg Dill is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by visiting www.Medicare.gov or calling 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227).



Photos by Maureen Moore, Ree Slocum, and Mathew Caine

At top: Roots of Motive Power holds its annual Holiday Express event December 7!

Above: the 2019 Toy Run will be held December 1; win prizes and see motorcycles galore during the 27th annual fundraiser. Below: Shop, shop, shop local during Small Business Saturday and maybe enjoy a treat at Brickhouse Coffee.

Holiday Fun

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas with upcoming events around Willits

With a turn in the weather finally coming, it's officially time to start feeling like the holidays, and it's just in the nick of time, too, since several weeks of fun are on the horizon.

First in the lineup are Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, where local shops will help customers save big with specials and sales throughout town.

Small Business Saturday is sponsored by the Willits Chamber of Commerce and begins at 8 am with a continental breakfast at the Center for the Arts. Goodies will be given out, and "Shop Small" passports will be issued. Get the passports stamped at

Read the rest of Holiday | Over on Page 15

At left: Come sing and watch the lighting of the big tree near the Mendocino County Museum on December 7. Twinkle Thursdays will be back this year with local shops staying open late on Thursdays – look for the twinkle light-filled Mason jars at participating businesses!



BLACK FRIDAY SALE

20% OFF

OUR ENTIRE

GIFT

DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER 29TH

8AM - 7PM

707.459.9630

500 S. MAIN ST.

Eclectic,
Unique
and
Affordable.

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TIE-DIE
CANDLES
HATS, GLOVES
& SCARVES
GAMES
KIDS TOYS
BOOKS
KITCHENWARE
& MORE

Mariposa Market
Organic & Natural Foods

December 6, 7 & 8 at J.D. Redhouse

SANTA PHOTO TIME!

Fri: 5 to 7 pm, Sat: 12 to 3 pm &

Sun: 10 am to 12 pm



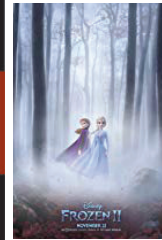
Maureen Moore pho-tog-ra-phress 707-972-7047

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www.noyotheatre.com

COMING SOON:

JUMANJI: The Next Level



Movie Times for 11/29 thru 12/5

FROZEN II

(PG) 1 hr 43 mins

Fri/Sat:

1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm

Sun:

1:00, 3:30 & 6:00pm

Mon-Thurs:

4:00 & 6:30pm

FORD vs FERRARI



(PG13) 2 hrs 32 mins

Fri/Sat:

1:30, 4:45 & 8:00pm

Sun:

12:30, 3:45 & 7:00pm

Mon-Thurs:

3:45 & 7:00pm

KNIVES OUT



(PG13) 2 hrs 10 mins

Fri/Sat:

2:30, 5:20 & 8:15pm

Sun:

1:30, 4:20 & 7:15pm

Mon-Thurs:

4:20 & 7:15pm

Tightwad Tuesday Title for Dec. 3rd is in RED - All tickets now: \$6

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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

SHOPPING DAY WORD SEARCH

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

ADVERTISEMENT	COUPONS	GROCERIES	RETAIL
AISLE	CREDIT CARD	MALL	RETURN
BAGS	DEALS	MEMBERSHIP	SALE
BROWSING	DISCOUNT	MERCHANDISE	SHIPPING
BUDGET	ELECTRONICS	PACKAGES	STOCK
CART	EMPLOYEE	PARKING	STORE
CASH	EXCHANGE	PRICE	TOOLS
CLOTHING	EXPERIENCE	PURCHASES	TRANSACTION
COMPARISON	FITTING	QUEUE	

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21				22		23			
				24		25					26			
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35				36				37				38		
39								40				41		
42						43					44			
45					46						47			48
				49				50				51		
52	53	54				55					56	57	58	59
60						61				62		63		
64						65						66		
67						68						69		

CLUES ACROSS

- Vital part of a lock
- Adherent of Zoroastrianism
- European river
- Nonprofit public health group
- Make law
- Three-banded armadillo
- Monetary unit
- Sandwich-like dishes
- Sicilian city
- Finger millet
- Of she
- Bullfighting maneuvers
- Lawyers
- A place to relax
- Often said after O'Heo
- Supervises flying
- Cheer of approval
- Something spiders twirl
- Aggressive dog
- Long-legged gazelle
- Mogul emperor
- Baltic peninsula
- Fencing sword
- A reward (archaic)
- Pigeon sound
- Type of groove
- Inquire too closely
- Nine Inch Nails' debut (abbr.)
- An often unwelcome guest
- Something you can draw

- Songs to one's lover
- Eastern Cairo mosque
- A partner to cheese
- Absorption unit
- A type of sandwich
- Herbaceous plant
- Chinese temple classification
- Native person of central Volga
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Some take them up
- South American nation
- Threaten persistently
- Morningwear

CLUES DOWN

- German courtesy title
- Samoan capital
- A type of carpet
- Upper bract of grass
- Al Bundy's wife
- In a careless way
- More uncommon
- Expressing contempt
- Belonging to a thing
- Adventure stories
- Copycats
- Farewell
- Greek mythological builder
- Colorless, volatile liquid

HOW TO SUDOKU

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

The rest of Sheriff From Page 1

The deputy also found four suspected methamphetamine smoking pipes during the search. During the investigation, deputies observed Harmon showed objective signs of recent controlled substance use.

Harmon was placed under arrest for possession of controlled substances for sale, possession of drug paraphernalia, and disobeying a court order.

Harmon was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$40,000 bail.

Disturbance on Poppy Drive

On November 16 at approximately 6:30 pm, deputies from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a disturbance at a residence in the 25500 block of Poppy Drive in Willits.

It was reported that a male juvenile, 17, was wrestled to the ground and physically assaulted by Gary Wyatt, 38, who left the location on foot. Deputies responded to the residence and interviewed the uninjured juvenile male and another witness. It was determined that Wyatt assaulted the juvenile during an argument over property at the home.

Deputies located Wyatt a short distance away from the residence on Poppy Drive. Wyatt exhibited signs of being under the influence of a controlled substance. During the investigation, deputies determined Wyatt to be in violation of child cruelty and under the influence of a controlled substance. Wyatt was placed under arrest for the listed charges without incident.

Wyatt was subsequently booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

Negligent discharge of a firearm

On November 20 at approximately 8:35 am, deputies were dispatched to a report of a person in possession of a firearm at a business in the 44900 block of North Highway 101 in Laytonville.

Deputies responded and contacted Niko Steffen, 38, inside the business. Deputies interviewed Steffen and noticed he showed objective signs of being intoxicated. Deputies later contacted a 7-year-old juvenile at a separate location. Deputies learned that Steffen had allegedly pointed a firearm at a juvenile while at the business and negligently fired the firearm in the juvenile's presence.

During a search of the business, deputies located a 44 magnum handgun, spent casings, and other evidence to

indicate the handgun was discharged inside the business. Deputies also located and secured video footage of the incident from the business surveillance system. It was later discovered that the recovered handgun was reported as being stolen and Steffen was on probation with terms including no alcohol and to obey all laws.

From reviewing the surveillance footage from the business, deputies determined probable cause existed to arrest Steffen for child cruelty / endangerment and negligently discharging a firearm.

Steffen was placed under arrest for arrested for willful cruelty to a child; possible injury / death, discharge of firearm in a grossly negligent manner, receiving stolen property, and a revoked probation.

Steffen was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

Meth bust in Covelo

On November 14 at about 5:12 pm, a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy conducted a traffic enforcement stop on a vehicle for traffic-related violations in the 76000 block of Highway 162 in Covelo.

The deputy contacted the driver, who was identified as Carlos White, 34, of Covelo. The deputy knew White to be on state parole, with a search and seizure clause. White was asked several times to exit the vehicle, but refused and was acting strange.

The deputy approached the vehicle, opened the driver's door, and verbally instructed White to exit the vehicle. White complied and was immediately placed in handcuffs and detained.

A search of White was completed for weapons. During the search, a loaded .45 caliber handgun was found on his person, a digital scale, .45 caliber ammunition, and several baggies of suspected methamphetamine were also found.

White was arrested, and a state parole officer issued a pick-up order for violation of parole.

White was charged with felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance while armed, possession of a controlled substance for sale, violation of parole, and violation for carrying a loaded firearm, not the owner, and was booked into the Mendocino County Jail where he was to be held without bail pursuant to the parole hold.

This report was based on press releases from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.



Russell Harmon



Niko Steffen



Gary Wyatt



Carlos White



At top, from left: The Willits Library offers books for every taste. Library Technician Giselle Delotch displays the day's art project, a Thanksgiving turkey wreath. A selection of computers are available for public use at the Willits Library, for research or entertainment. At right: Lily, with her mother, Rose, show off their finished product. At right, center: Christina Orasco is almost ready to be able to teach spinning to new attendees. Far right: The Willits Library offers a comfortable setting to read books, newspapers and other publications.



Below: Ruby Gamble and Lotus Baker of the Saturday spinning and knitting group. At bottom, left: Julie Castillo, library assistant, checks in a pile of returned books. At bottom, right: A student class project for Native Heritage Month on display.

Not just books

The Willits Library also offers arts, crafts, Storytime, and special interest programs for kids, teens and adults

The Willits Library has books, lots of them, and even more books are available thanks to the reciprocal lending system with other county and regional libraries. "People don't know that we're connected to Lake and Sonoma county libraries, so anything that they have, we can get here," explains Giselle Delotch, library technician at the Willits branch library.

"We can request materials to be shipped here. We're not a very big library, but because we're connected to the Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma county branches, we're able to provide a much bigger catalog," she said.

There is a world of knowledge and entertainment available to the residents of this town. But the library has more materials and services to offer than books. The Willits Library is a place of programs, projects, talks, DVDs, books on CD, art, and much more. The staff is constantly coming up with new methods of imparting information and engaging underserved populations. It is, in short, a community center of activity and learning.

There is an abundant schedule of weekly and monthly programs to choose from. Many of these entertaining programs are designed for younger patrons, but adults can find something to enjoy about them as well. Each week, on Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, the library offers the popular "Lego Club," where all that is required is bringing your imagination. Four tubs of Legos are plenty to keep a roomful of kids engaged in building their visions and

stimulating their need for self-expression.

"Play Group," a self-directed playtime, 11 to 11:45 am on Wednesdays, allows the littlest library lovers to utilize some of their boundless energy and provides a meeting place for families with small children. At 2:30 to 3 pm on Wednesdays, "Storytime" allows kids 3 to 6 years old to enjoy listening to a good story or a song.

Program options on other days include "Wiggle Time" on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4 pm, where kids can explore movement; and "Therapeutic Coloring" for kids and adults on Fridays from 3:30 to 4 pm (you don't have to color in the lines; supplies provided).

"Saturday Write Live," 11 am to noon on Saturdays, provides teen and adult participants with a prompt "they can write about," explained Delotch, who is in charge of the program. "It's a writing creativity program, an hour every Saturday. I don't put limitations on it. If someone wants to come in and draw something based on the prompt, they can do that as well. My focus is on the writing but if someone wants to come in and enjoy the creative atmosphere, they can explore.

"Every week we have a different prompt," Delotch continued. "It's their choice if they want to read their assignment out loud. We can make time for that and offer little critiques. It's a very positive and welcoming and gets everybody's creative juices flowing."

For those who can't make it down to

Read the rest of Library Over on Page 15



At left: A combination of toilet construction paper and a metal ring creates a Thanksgiving decoration.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Advertisement for Willits Weekly's Real Estate Section, featuring a large key graphic and text about local editorial content, open house advertisements, and property listings. It also mentions a special offer for a 5" wide x 3" tall color display ad for \$60.

Advertisement for Northwest Sporting Goods, featuring a logo with a mountain and animals, and text about hunting, fishing, camping, and outdoor recreation. It lists the address 1637 South Main St. in Willits, CA 95490, and contact information for Gregg, Jason, Dave or Joel at 459-0565.

Advertisement for Farmers Insurance Agency, featuring a photo of Randy Cantua and text about various insurance services including auto, home, life, health, and business. It lists the address 16 W. Valley Street in Willits, CA 95490, and contact information for Randy Cantua at 707-459-3276.

Advertisement for Do it Best Willits Power & Hardware, featuring a logo with a power drill and text about lawn and garden equipment, generators, and more. It lists the address 1600 S. Main St. in Willits, CA 95490, and contact information for sales/parts at 707-459-6420 and service at 707-459-0596.

Advertisement for NC Financial Group, featuring a photo of Nicholas Casagrande and text about various financial services including taxes, investments, insurance, real estate, payroll, and bookkeeping. It lists the address 675 S Main St. in Willits, CA 95490, and contact information for Nicholas Casagrande at 855.240.6606.

Advertisement for Happy Holidays from our family to yours, featuring a festive image of red ornaments and text about a special offer for 261 Franklin Avenue in Willits. It lists the phone number 707-459-2529 and the website www.willitsministorage.com.

Advertisement for Tree Lighting Celebration, featuring a large Christmas tree and text about a wine tasting, spiced cider, and holiday treats. It lists the date DEC 6TH from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM and the location Barra Mendocino at 7051 N State Street / 707.485.0322.

two strike teams and Fire Chief Chris Wilkes asked Deputy Fire Chief John Thomen, the county's "lead strike team leader," to tell the board about the "last two years of deployment."

Thomen explained that CalFire and five federal agencies work with the California Office of Emergency Services, which office sends local fire resources to fight fires on state and federal lands when needed.

Thomen said they'll "put either five type 3 engines throughout the county together as a strike team or four type 3s and a water tender as a task force, and we'll go. No way they could do these fires on their own."

CalFire has been "doing [pre-positioning] for years," he said. "For local government, it started in 2018."

Pre-positioning happens "when red flags come up with the weather service, [and you] move into the spots where the high winds are going to be ... trying to keep the fires small if they do break out," explained Thomen.

"This year, we were in Lake County for four pre-positions for the wind events, and they had a fire only two blocks from the fire house.... We come out, the winds were ripping about 45 mph, and it was on."

The Clearlake fire chief told Thomen "if he hadn't had us there, they would've lost at least 12 structures. Who knows how big that fire could have gone."

Pre-positioning not only keeps fires small ... it means a faster response to fires that are getting big or are already big.

"The last pre-position in Lake County we were on in 2018 ... we're already assembled, and were dispatched to the Camp Fire where we spent 13 days," said Thomen.

The last one they were on in Lake County this year, on October 21, put them ready to roll on October 23 when the Kincadee Fire broke out.

"We were initial attack, right there, assembled, ready to go, in the heat of the battle, right off the bat," he said.

Pre-positioning is definitely a step forward in heading off and fighting big fires.

PG&E's public safety power shutoffs are arguably two steps back.

"Let's just be clear that PSPS does not decrease our fire danger," said Chief Wilkes. "In my opinion it increases our fire danger."

During the power shutdown this year in early October, there were three structure fires in the course of two days, and that's not normal.

"No time have we had a group of structure fires in that short a time," said Wilkes. "Certainly not this year."

Some highlights serve to educate and impress.

"The first structure fire was roughly 3 am, up in Blackhawk up on top of the ridge. When we got there it was fully involved. It was a total loss," said Wilkes.

"While we're in the middle of that fire we get a call for a structure fire at Wagon Wheel Trailer Park.... You could actually see the glow over the tops of the trees from the firehouse. Cypress trees were torching ... 40- or 50-foot complete trees torching behind that structure," Wilkes continued.

"All of our resources are up on top of Blackhawk," but there was a "water tanker below Howard Forest at the water reservoir getting filled up to head back up the hill," and a volunteer "called down on the radio [and said]: 'Chief, I got the water tanker right here at the reservoir. You want me?'"

"'Let's do it,' Wilkes said.

"And we made an initial attack ... just to protect the structure next door ... and Eric [training chief Eric Alvarez] started releasing resources he didn't need from Blackhawk.... I expected we'd lose three to four

houses before we could get assembled to stop that fire."

Then ... talk about serendipity.

"And out of the blue, a CalFire strike team ... they were staying at the motel across the street ... [and they realized] – that's a big fire over there," said Wilkes. "So their strike team leader saddled 'em up and headed 'em over, and the next thing you know we've got five engines ... self-dispatched to our fire, and they worked ... and we kept it to one structure."

The "Brooktrails fire chief showed up" too. Brooktrails Fire Chief Jon Noyer was "able to go down the back side of the houses on Muir Mill Road and slow down the extension of the fire through the cypress," Chief Wilkes said.

"So we think we're all done ... and then get a surprise structure fire the next day out on Eastside Road.... It was "a major structure fire on what I'm going to call 'the wrong side' of the valley for us for afternoon winds," said Wilkes.

Initially, he said, "we weren't doing anything to attack the fire, we had nothing available ... [we were] in damage control for spot fires," he said. "Literally, at one point you couldn't count the spot fires. They were happening faster than you can catch them. There were fires here, here, here, here, here, here. Everybody's back was to the structure looking for the next spot fire.

"That fire was headed to Pine Mountain ...[and I] made a decision to evacuate ... because at the time with the winds ... there's nothing left for us to catch this stuff," he said.

"We did take some social media criticism for the evacuation, but I don't feel bad about doing that. When your ... resources are taking care of a spot fire ... as big as the structure you're trying to save, you can't count on the fact that a dozer is going to be there, and you can't count on the fact that [an] aircraft is going to come blowing through there at 150 mph and dump retardant.

"At that point I really felt that the fire was running up Pine Mountain, and I don't want to be the fire chief that – with only one way out of Pine Mountain – I don't want to pull the trigger late. I'm going to pull it early."

As Lady Luck would have it again, "resources that you don't usually have at the drop of a hat" showed up, and there was an "excellent stop by everybody involved."

That "everybody" ultimately included a dozer that "cut a blade around" the spot fire, a helitack crew, "multiple dumps" from aircraft, a strike team out of Oregon, a pre-positioned strike team from Mendocino County, and Brooktrails and Ridgewood Ranch fire crews.

"I don't know about the middle structure fire [at Wagon Wheel], but certainly the other two structure fires were caused by people doing things that they wouldn't normally do if they had power," said Wilkes.

"The one on top of Blackhawk was caused by a candle. The guy said ... [that] curtains were on fire right where his candles were. He grabbed a fire extinguisher ... couldn't break the zip tie over the pin ... finally found scissors, cut the zip tie and pulled the trigger. And it was old and went 'poof,'" said Wilkes. "And that was that."

And, "the Eastside Road fire was caused by a hookup of a propane stove that wasn't normally used and hooked up that way."

He added that "Fort Bragg had a generator fire [due to a] generator inside a garage," and recommended that people read about generator safety on PG&E's website.

And he made a point of telling the board about how Mendocino Construction Services/Northern Aggregates provided the fire department with fuel during the power shutdown.

When asked for a bill for the "roughly 150 gallons of fuel ... they said they appreciate our work throughout the PSPS, and we

didn't pay for it," he said.

"They're strong supporters of emergency services all the way around, [and] it's important to say publicly that they really stepped up."

Wilkes also briefly covered another and ongoing failure when it comes to public safety – emergency medical services.

"As of December 1, Falck [ambulance service] – what we used to know as VeriHealth – is no longer going to be [operating] in Mendocino county," he said.

"Medstar is working really hard, and they're actually working with Falck to get some loaner ambulances so they can get some new ones themselves in order to provide service locally."

With respect to current county efforts to stabilize inland corridor ambulance service, Wilkes said that "fire chiefs in this county and the central corridor ... have no confidence that anything is going to be fixed. None. It stares us in the face every single day.

"We're at 706 calls right now, and there's a lot of medical aids in there," he said. By the end of the year, "we'll be well over 750."

Increased demands for medical aids are not the only types of service demands that are going up.

With all types of development, there is a need for more infrastructure within the fire department to keep pace with the demand for more services.

To that end, the department is "in the middle of ... a nexus study," which will provide the information and calculations to support the imposition of "impact fees" to be paid to the department when there is new development in the city and county.

"We provide a level of service that's here. If someone wants to come in and build 100 houses, [and] we don't do anything to change the department, we can't serve the rest of the public at that level anymore," explained Wilkes. "If you don't do anything to offset that development, your level of service actually goes down, as you are serving more structures and more people and more infrastructure without changing your infrastructure at all."

The nexus study will determine an appropriate charge per square foot for different types of development, which will be assessed in the permit process and paid to the department. City and county ordinances will have to be passed before implementation.

In particular, one of the new types of development occurring in Willits that is increasing the burden on the department to maintain its level of service is cannabis extraction facilities.

The city imposes a cannabis excise tax on these facilities, and the fire department is in negotiations to get a portion of that tax to help pay for its increased costs in training, equipment, and providing services.

A city ad hoc committee was recently given a "walk through" at two of the extraction facilities.

"Both facilities looked really good, [and] I thought the presentations we got at both facilities from the proprietors were really really good," said Wilkes.

"Once we got everybody in the building, they realized the liability of the fire department and the weight that's on our shoulders that has to do with some of these industrial-type facilities," he said. "It was a lot easier [for them] to see why we were fighting for the percentage we're fighting for."

And finally, the "last step in the plan process" for the new firehouse – the location of the transformer in a PG&E approved spot—has been completed.

No one at the meeting liked the spot but, "it keeps the job moving," said board member Skip Lucier.

The construction schedule contemplates a bid package ready by the end of January, an award by the end of March, and construction completed by April 2021.

to MRC, the county's Acting County Counsel Christian Curtis argued that the exemption from being declared a public nuisance "is not applicable with respect to any timber operation which endangers public health or public safety." Curtis notes this provision can be found in Government Code 5115.5 (b).

"Measure V's factual findings expressly indicate that the nuisance declaration is based on risk to public health and safety, due to increased fire risk and [an] impediment to fire suppression efforts," Curtis wrote.

Curtis added that the risk to public health and safety due to Mendocino Redwood Company's forest practices, especially what they term "frilling" and what critics of the practice term "hack and squirt," is not based only on the added fire risk.

"Measure V indicated that these trees create a danger to firefighters and consequently impede rapid fire suppression efforts. The voters' finding on this issue is consistent with federal law, which identifies each dead tree as a danger tree, for occupational safety purposes. Federal regulations require specific safety measures be employed before logging work can proceed in the proximity of such a tree.

"Accordingly," Curtis continued, "it seems rational to conclude that safety preparations, actual injury, or uncertainty present a meaningful risk of delaying one or more of the various agencies that may respond to fight a wildfire. At this time, we are not aware of any reason why the voters could not validly rely on this factor in determining that the practice [of hacking and squirting or frilling] creates a public safety risk."

Curtis attacked another buttress that supported MRC's claim of exemption. That buttress was, that frilling is a standard timber practice which may be entitled to immunity from being found to be a public nuisance. But Curtis wrote that frilling did not qualify as a timber operation, in the sense the term is used in the statute.

"The Legislature elected to provide special, limited definition of 'timber operation' under Section 5115.5 (c),"

amazing spread of food and entertainment.

The King Snakes Blues Band will be back to play for the crowd, who will be welcome to enjoy a meal – included with admission – made and provided by the Willits Rotary Club, with tri tip, ribs and chicken provided by the Willits Wild Bunch and Mike and Gina Giles.

The Willits Lions Club will be back for the no-host bar for those wishing to add libations to their event experience.

New this year will be the addition of a silent auction. Willits Wild Bunch's Richard Venturi noted that with the outpouring of support, it was only right to add a silent auction to the mix.

"We have so many goodies this year," Venturi said. "I think it's really the best raffle selection we've ever had with so many big-ticket items."

Items on the block this year include a chainsaw donated by Willits Power and Hardware, a kid-sized 22 rifle, a Yeti cooler filled with goodies, a large drum smoker, and a handmade custom stained glass window hanging featuring a Harley Davidson theme made especially for the Toy Run.

Bidders will be able to make offerings until around 2:30 pm when winners will be cemented. Venturi noted that folks do need to be present to win these items.

At the end of the event, toys will be brought to organizer Laura Sleeper and the crew at the Willits Christmas Kids Program to help fill the requests of children in need on Christmas morning.

Toys, clothes and more will still be needed in addition to the donations from the Toy Run, however, and anyone wishing to help can select a tag from any of the holiday trees located at businesses all around town and fill one, some, or all of the requests on the tag. Return the unwrapped toy – and its tag – to a donation barrel, and it will be counted into the list, wrapped, and readied for distribution on Christmas Eve.

For more information, contact Laura Sleeper at 354-1991.

Willits Weekly –
the locally owned
newspaper!



Above, from left: This climbing rose had become a fire hazard to one Williams Ranch subdivision home and was, quite sadly, removed on Friday to keep the home more fire safe. AmeriCorps members Sam Cole, left, Marie Dull and Ruby Zenteno, right, take a moment to pose for the camera as they work on securing a 100-foot pathway. Gabby Braman and Jacob Filburn help lay gravel over weed cloth at another home.



Photos by Ree Slocum

AmeriCorps

Members of the Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council get help with fire hazard abatement projects

A five-person AmeriCorps team worked on fire hazard abatement projects in the Williams Ranch subdivision south of Willits last week. Williams Ranch is located at the end of Black Bart Road and Black Hawk Road.

At one Williams Ranch home, three AmeriCorps members replaced

a 100-foot woodchip walkway next to the house with gravel. At another home, two team members removed a rambling rose that found its way to the roof top, creating a fire hazard. They also raked leaves from the home's perimeter.

Another five AmeriCorps volunteers worked on a different project on the coast. These were the team's first hand-on projects in the county.

This opportunity to benefit from the AmeriCorps service program opened up for members of local fire safe councils when Megan Watson from North Coast Opportunities announced at the Mendocino

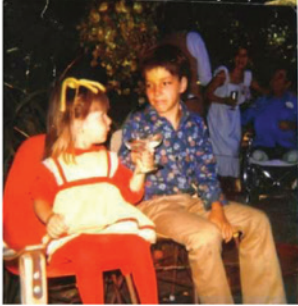
County Fire Safe Council's October meeting that an AmeriCorps team was going to be in Mendocino County. MCFSC represents the neighborhood fire safe councils around the county.

Watson told the council about the program and explained it was a perfect time to get much-needed work done for vulnerable members of local fire safe councils in their "home ignition zones."

Williams Ranch Road Fire Safe Council applied to receive their services. The area is considered vulnerable for having only one ingress and egress route in case of emergencies, and also is populated with some elderly people and people with mobility issues.


The team's hard work was deeply appreciated by the Williams Ranch homeowners. "It's completely delightful," said one, "Getting the word that work was going to happen so quickly was good for

Read the rest of
AmeriCorps Over on Page 13




Dennis Ray Cowart Pappadakis

Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always there.



Happy 50th! Love, Mother Mary, Sister Colleen, Nephew Brendan



Dec 1, 1969 to Sept. 1, 1986

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Appointments are scheduled for our patients for the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month at the Willits Senior Center. Please call to reserve your spot!





BLACK FRIDAY

SHOP: 6 am - 8 am
All Purchases of \$25 or more from 6 am to 8 am will be entered to win a \$100 Gift Certificate

40% Off Clothing & Footwear
30% Off Toys & gifts

SHOP: 8 am -10 am
All Purchases of \$25 or more from 8 am to 10 am will be entered to win a \$50 Gift Certificate

35% Off Clothing & Footwear
25% Off Toys & Gifts

SHOP: 10 am - 6 pm
All Purchases of \$25 or more from 10 am to 6 pm will be entered to win a \$25 Gift Certificate

30% Off Clothing & Footwear
20% Off Toys & Gifts

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
30% Off Clothing & Footwear
20% Off Toys & Gifts

CYBER MONDAY

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Smart Flash

Flash is a stunning German shepherd who has a calm and independent way about him. Flash walks well on a leash. German shepherds are very smart, and excel at training (ask us about canine classes). Like all dogs, Flash will be happiest with a "job," which can be further training, playing fetch, etc. Flash is a 4-year-old male shepherd who currently weighs 78 pounds.

The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: www.mendocinanimalshelter.com or visit the shelter. For more information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

Help get every dog at the Ukiah shelter out for some exercise at the "Empty the Shelter" pack walk every second Saturday of the month, coming up on December 5.



At left: Audrey Sherf, in front, dives in at the Thankswimming Classic. Below, left: Otters swimmers, from left, Sophie Chavez, Abigail Sherf, and Kali Kristiansen at the Thankswimming Classic meet in Fort Bragg. Below, right: Fisher Kuhn does the back stroke at the Fort Bragg meet, where the Willits swimmers competed against 22 different teams.

Otters give thanks at the 'Thankswimming' Classic in Fort Bragg

Submitted by Arora Chavez for the Otters

The Otters swim team competed in the Thankswimming Classic against 22 different swim teams. Eleven Otters made their way to the coast and placed in many of the events.

Chelsea Jade Hughes and Abigail Sherf ventured out for their very first time in an official competition swim meet. The other Otter swimmers that competed were Judah Kristiansen, Audrey Sherf, Kali Kristiansen, Nikolai Ritchley, Sophie Chavez, Fisher Kuhn, Farrow Lockwood-Chenelle, Mia Chavez, and Aedan Lockwood-Chenelle.

All of the swimmers improved their time in at least one event, and several swimmers (Sophie Chavez, Judah Kristiansen, Kali Kristiansen,

Nikolai Ritchley, and Farrow Lockwood-Chenelle) improved their time in all of their events.

Mia Chavez achieved a "B" time in the 50 breast; Aedan Lockwood-Chenelle won a "B" time in the 50 breast and a "BB" time in the 50 free; Nikolai Ritchley garnered "B" times in the 50 free, 100 free, and 100 back; Farrow Lockwood-Chenelle earned "BB" times in the 100 free and the 50 free; and Sophie Chavez took two "A" times in the 25 free and the 50 back.

The Otters will continue to practice throughout the winter and will be looking forward to the Zone 3 Championships in January with a couple of dual meets with the Ukiah Dolphins during the interim.

Go Otters!

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
Awaana: 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
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor, Burton Jernigan
Information: 456-9668
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive
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- Membership Discourses
- Spiritual Discussions
- ECK Light & Sound Services

More information?
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www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church

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

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Saturday confessions - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-3066
Church Services/ Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Healing Prayer 3rd Sunday
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 Services - 10:45 a.m.
4th Sabbath of every month family potluck at the school.
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459-2855
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If you want to be included in this column please call:

April Tweddell
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REALTY WORLD



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Presented by: Christopher Martin



This is a sweet, light-filled 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on a sunny level lot. Featuring custom cabinetry and trim throughout and custom tile work in the bathroom. Extra wide doors and hallway give a feeling of spaciousness (and wheelchair accessibility). Not just cute, but energy efficient as well! (includes a 3kw grid tied solar array) Good size lot is fully fenced, sunny and surprisingly private. The layout of the house and the generous decks make it great for entertaining friends. Move-in ready. Truly a house you will be glad to come home to.

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

Dec. 5TH-14TH 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CLOSED ON SUNDAY

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Opal Miner Insurance Agency — NOTICE —

From Opal Miner Insurance Agency to all my valued customers in the Willits area. Thank you for your business and for selecting me as your insurance agent and Notary Public! I have enjoyed my entire 66-year career here in downtown Willits. The time has finally come for me to retire from the insurance business. I am turning over all my current personal and commercial accounts to Mehtlan Insurance Agency. Eric Mehtlan is an independent agent and he will be contacting you. His office is in between Papa Murphy's and Safeway, at 873 S. Main Street and can be reached at (707) 456-9209.

After my health gets better I plan to continue being a Notary Public by appointment and with limited office hours. Again, thank you for letting me serve you by meeting your insurance and Notary Public needs through all these years.

— Opal M. Miner



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

OBITUARY |

Mary Brodien

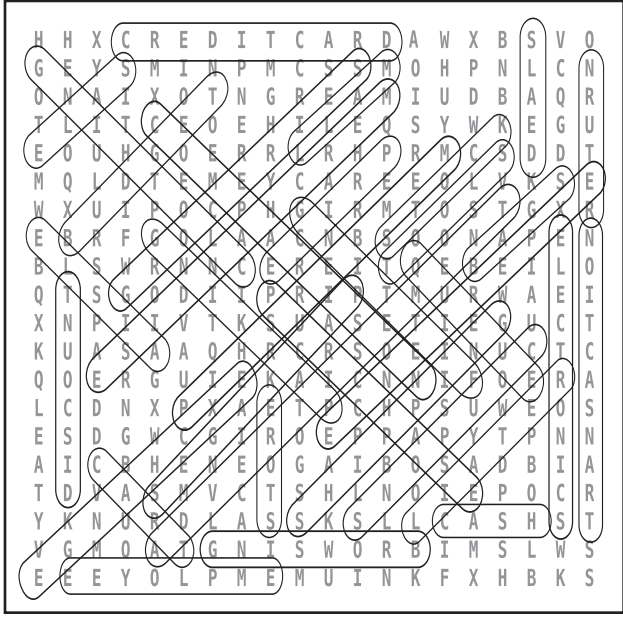
Marion "Mary" Brodien of Willits passed away on October 22, 2019 at the age of 90. She was born in Eusaula, Oklahoma on June 20, 1929, one of 11 children born to William and Rose Small.



Mary was a waitress in Florida and the Bay Area until she moved to Willits in the 1980s to be near her sister, Jo, whom she also worked for at Ridgewood Restaurant. When she could no longer do waitress work, she moved to Merced and attended school to become a manicurist. After passing her exam and getting her license, she moved back to Willits, where she started working as a manicurist in numerous salons until she opened her own salon and worked until she retired in 2011.

Mary was a wonderful seamstress. She enjoyed quilting, crocheting, and going to all the craft fairs with all her goodies that she had made. She was also a house sitter, and took it very seriously, especially where animals were concerned.

She is preceded in death by her son Larry Grochowky and survived by her children JoAnn Pinkerton, Marcia Ingram (Chris), and Cindy Torrence (Matt).



LEGAL NOTICES

WW256 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willits City Council, at its regular meeting on December 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., to be held in Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

PROJECT: City of Willits 2019-2027 General Plan Housing Element Update

LOCATION: The 2019-2027 Willits Housing Element Update establishes housing policies and programs citywide.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The request has been processed through the City Environmental Review Process and it has been determined that the adoption of a housing policy document is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) as CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed 2019-2027 Housing Element may have a significant effect on the environment, since the proposed amendment does not create changes in the physical environment, does not result in any changes to the General Plan or Implementing Zoning Ordinance land use policies, and any development that occurs in the future subject to such standards will undergo an independent analysis pursuant to the requirements of CEQA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Proposed adoption of the City of Willits 2019-2027 Housing Element of the General Plan. The Housing Element describes housing-related needs and resources in the community, particularly the availability, affordability, and adequacy of housing, and establishes a strategy to address housing needs for community members across the economic and social spectrum.

Your comments regarding the proposed project are invited. Written comments should be submitted to the Willits Community Development Department, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California 95490, no later than 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. Oral comments may be presented to the Willits City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Willits Community Development Department or the Willits City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

Additional information regarding the above noted item may be obtained by calling Willits City Hall at (707) 459-4601, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

/s/ Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk
Date Posted: November 27, 2019

WW255 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Willits, at its regular meeting on December 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., to be held in Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California, will conduct a public hearing on the following matter at the time listed or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard:

SUBJECT: Notice of the City's Intent to Prepare a Groundwater Management Plan for the Little Lake Valley Groundwater Basin

APPLICANT/OWNER: City of Willits

SUMMARY: The City intends to prepare a groundwater management plan for the Little Lake Valley Groundwater Basin, as required by Proposition 1 grant funding for the City's "Improving Willits Water Supply Reliability and Drought Resiliency With Groundwater and Conjunctive Use" Project. The objective of the project is to build the infrastructure to provide a secondary source of water for City water consumers to provide resiliency against drought or other emergency circumstances, as well as providing operational flexibility to offer cost-effective, high quality water year-round. The plan will be prepared in conformance with requirements set forth in State Water Code §10750 et seq. (AB 3030, STATS 1992).

LOCATION: The Little Lake Valley Groundwater Basin boundaries can be viewed on the State Geographical Information Center, Interactive Map Application at <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicma/> or by contacting the City of Willits Engineering Department at 707-459-4605.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt a resolution noticing the City's intent to prepare a groundwater management plan.

Your comments regarding the proposed plan are invited. Written comments should be submitted to the City of Willits Engineering Department, 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California 95490, or via email at engineering@cityofwillits.org no later than 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. Oral comments may be presented to the City Council during the public hearing. If you challenge the plan in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Willits Engineering Department or the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. All persons are invited to appear and present testimony in this matter.

Additional information regarding the above noted item may be obtained by calling Willits the City of Willits Engineering Department at (707) 459-4605 or via email: engineering@cityofwillits.org.

/s/ Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk
Publication Date: November 27, 2019

OBITUARY |

Barbara Winters

Barbara Sue Winters of Willits passed away on November 12, 2019 at the age of 69. She was born in Bakersfield, California on July 24, 1950 to Albert and Betty Norris. Barbara and Mark Maurice Winters were married August 22, 1998 in Fort Bragg, California.

Barbara's kind heart and gentle nature served her well as she cared for her clients for the 10 years she worked for In Home Supportive services. She was a woman of faith and a member of The Church of Christ in Willits. Reading and crocheting were pastimes she enjoyed immensely.

Barbara is survived by her son, James Gray; sisters, Shirley and Charlotte; husband, Mark Winters; and beloved nieces and nephews.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

H	A	S	P	P	A	R	S	I	S	A	V	A
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Estate Sale

Estate Sale at 2151 Valley Road. Ongoing thru December 31st. Tools, Art, Furniture, Antiques. Monday through Sunday 9am - 4pm. Everything must go.

Event Spaces Available

Event spaces available at the Artist's Great Room • Classroom • Ceramic Studio For inquiries, email manager@willitscenterforthearts.org or call 459-1726. For additional information visit: www.willitscenterforthearts.org/rentals

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House trailer space for 1 person in Covelo for rent, on beautiful 30 acre private ranch, \$350/month, includes trash, water and septic. Call for details: 707-272-6354.

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Volunteers Needed

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in the gift shop, information/greeting desk, hospitality cart and the garden. Hours are flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

Help Wanted

At Covelo ranch: Exchange ranch and outdoors work for rent. Must have trailer/camper. Man or woman, retiree a plus. Must have good work ethic, be clean, healthy, reliable, with references. Call for details: 707-272-6354.

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Above, left: Jes Pearce and Keith Michalak, who manage the Buttercup Compost Lab at the School of Adaptive Agriculture, stand in front of their above-ground root cellar, which was insulated thanks to a grant from the Grateful Gleaners. Above, right, top: A young girl helps Kimbal Dodge work the Gleaners' apple cider press at the Willits Farmers Market this fall. Above, right: Mike Adams keeps the paths in the garden at Nurturing Seed Farm clear of weeds with a Glaser Wheel Hoe, which he was able to purchase after receiving grant money from the Grateful Gleaners.

What are the Willits Grateful Gleaners up to?

Submitted by the Gleaner Coordinating Team

There was a lot of fruit this year! The season started in late June / early July with cherries from Milane Corr's orchard. The picking intensified in late August / early September with apples, pears, Asian pears and plums from backyards and orchards big and small.

The Golden Rule Garden shared raspberries, tomatoes and basil. The fruit the Grateful Gleaners harvest is distributed to the Willits Community Services Food Bank, Willits Daily Bread, the Harrah Senior Center, the Willits Kids Club summer and afterschool programs, and other community organizations.

In total, we delivered well over 200 boxes of fruit, the highest amount on record! We are grateful to all the volunteer Gleaners who helped us this season, and especially Dianne Carter, Candice Clayton, Tom DeMarchi, Kristen Eschleman, and Pietro DePersiis, who willingly participated in multiple gleanings.

Spring Plant Sale

On a rainy weekend in May, we held our annual Plant Sale. There was a brief shower, but otherwise the sale was well-

Below, left: Mike Adams works the Grateful Gleaners' apple press at the Willits Farmers Market to make cider for several children. Below, right: Roots farmer Maci Rodrigue gets ready to shovel up 7 yards of organic compost in a new wheelbarrow, both purchased with funds from a Grateful Gleaners grant.



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The rest of Budget From Page 1

county's 2019-20 budget now stands at \$317.7 million.

The supervisors agreed to direct \$1.9 million toward replacing the microwave system repeater in the Point Arena area; to funnel another \$350,000 into an account called "County-wide Information Technology priorities;" to purchase a Trakkit reporting system for use by the cannabis unit, at a cost of \$120,000; to spend \$400,000 to apply waterproofing sealer paint in the jail and also at various microwave sites located throughout the county; and to spend \$175,000 to install Americans with Disabilities Act compliant bathrooms and an ADA-compliant entrance at the county museum.

In all, the supervisors directed that \$885,000 be spent on areas addressing fiscal stability, \$295,000 in areas addressing financial sustainability, \$2.26 million on areas addressing organizational development, and \$495,000 on support for emergency services.

The supes directed that the remaining \$1.5 million to go into the Information Technology reserve fund. The vote to accept the budget report and approve the budget adjustments was unanimous.

In discussions associated with the first-quarter budget report, possibly the area of most interest concerned cannabis. It appears, with the reporting of the final numbers for the close of fiscal 2018-19, the county actually made money from its attempts to regulate cannabis.

Revenues from cannabis taxes came in at \$3.7 million, which was \$1.2 million higher than the most recent estimate by county auditor Lloyd Weer. Weer told the supervisors what had happened over the past year and a half.

Grants to farmers

The money we raise at the Spring Plant Sale is used to purchase any equipment that we may need. In the not-too-distant past, we bought an 8-foot orchard ladder, to add to our collection of 10-foot ladders, and some new picking bags. But most of the money is shared with farmers and gardeners who are contributing to the food security of our community. This year, we gave grants to Maci and Bo at Yokayo Roots Farm, Jes and Keith at Buttercup Compost Lab, and Mike Adams at Nurturing Seed Farm.

Yokayo Roots farmers Maci Rodrigue and Bo Wardlow aim to grow flavorful nutrient-dense heirloom vegetables in biologically active soil. They have 1 acre with mixed vegetables, salad greens, herbs and edible flowers. They love to say that they are soil farmers, doing what they can to sequester carbon – the vegetables

Read the rest of Gleaners Over on Page 15

Mendocino County.

Coastal Valleys is also the LEMSA for Sonoma County. In fact, in both previous and the proposed contract for LEMSA services, the contract is actually between Mendocino and Sonoma counties.

The contract with details about what Coastal Valleys will be doing is not yet publicly available. But a look at the old contract contains a list of 30 functions and activities undertaken by Coastal Valley. These include:

- plan, implement and evaluate components of the EMS system in Mendocino County;
- authorize and implement advanced life support or limited advanced life support programs;
- contract with or employ a physician to be EMS Medical Director;
- develop and submit a plan to Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and California EMS Authority for an emergency medical services system;
- assist Mendocino County in developing and enforcing ordinances governing the transport of patients who are receiving care from EMS personnel;
- establish policies and procedures to assure medical control of EMS system, including dispatch, patient destination policies, patient care guidelines, and quality assurance requirements;
- create an Exclusive Operating Area pursuant to request by Mendocino County;
- approve and monitor medical training programs;
- establish more training programs if needed;
- and 10. issue a certificate to those who complete approved training programs and approve training programs if they are found to be in compliance with various Health and Safety Code Sections in the California Code of Regulations.

Beyond these 10 areas of responsibility, there are 20 more.

Chandler said over the past several years, Mendocino County has had a contract with Sonoma County for LEMSA services for \$107,500 per year.

In the wake of the October 2017 fires, county CEO Carmel Angelo became disillusioned with Coastal Valleys. Angelo told the supervisors Coastal Valleys essentially abandoned Mendocino County during the Redwood Fire and focused its attention on coordinating emergency

"Just over a million dollars was budgeted to begin with," said Weer, referring to income estimates that he made in May 2018. "When we came to you at Third Quarter [May 2019] we had only collected \$1.1 million at that point, so we increased the projection to \$1.5 million, because we still didn't know what the seasonal fluctuation was going to be.

"By the time we came to you in early June for the adopted budget, it was about \$2.5 million, so we immediately increased our carry-forward amount to \$2.5, which gave you an extra \$1.5 carry-forward, and I increased the Budget Unit 1920 projection to \$2.5 million, and between then, and the time we closed out the books, which was between June and August [of 2019], another million dollars was deposited. So that's how we fast-tracked to \$3.7 million."

According to the 2019-20 Final Budget, in 2018-19, the county had revenues of \$757,287 from cannabis fees. During the same period of time, the county had expenses of \$873,575 for salaries and supplies, plus \$1,000 in fixed assets. That means that the total negative out-go for cannabis was \$874,575 and the total income, just from fees, was \$757,287, for a before-taxes hit to the county of \$117,288.

Which means, when one adds in the \$3.7 million in revenues from cannabis taxes, the county netted about \$3.6 million from cannabis in 2018-19.

This was done while only approximately 3.7 percent of Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams' unofficial "estimate" of 9,000 cannabis growers in Mendocino County had a permit, and were paying taxes.

Another point of interest in the November 19 discussions concerned the county's various reserve funds. CEO Angelo told the supervisors that the county has \$11.7 million in its general fund reserve, and another \$4.5 million in its pension fund reserve. Yet she added that the

medical services in Sonoma County.

In early 2018, Angelo told the supervisors she was going to look for an alternative provider of EMS services, or an alternative model. She said that she wanted to explore the possibility that the county could be its own LEMSA.

In October of 2018, however, the board of supervisors gave direction to staff to negotiate a new contract with Sonoma County for Coastal Valleys. In addition, staff was to create job descriptions for potential Mendocino County personnel who would become the county's in-house LEMSA, should the board of supervisors decide to go that way.

In her November 19 report to the board of supervisors, Chandler said that a new contract with Sonoma County had been negotiated. "The new contract with Sonoma County reflects full cost recovery and increased expectations from both parties," she said.

In the current year, fiscal 2019-20, the county will pay Sonoma County \$319,492. In 2020-21, the contract goes up to \$399,910. And in the third year, the contract calls for Mendocino County to pay Sonoma County \$409,908.

Chandler also told the supervisors the county has acted to "strengthen and formalize" the county's Emergency Medical Care Committee. And on the same day that Chandler gave her presentation to the supervisors on the new LEMSA contract, the supes approved changing the title and the salary assignment for what used to be called the "public health officer." The new title is "county health officer," and it is now a full-time position.

Chandler said the county health officer would improve the situation. "Increased contract monitoring, reporting, and partnership will occur under the leadership of a full-time county health officer," she said.

Chandler added that the contract with Sonoma County for LEMSA services is due to come before the board of supervisors for its approval at the December 17 board meeting.

Contacted by Willits Weekly, Little Lake Volunteer Fire Department Chief Chris Wilkes said he had "no preference" if Coastal Valleys was the next LEMSA or if the position was given to some other agency.

"For us here, Coastal Valleys has been fine," Wilkes said. "Their certification process is fine. Their standard operating procedures has been fine. What bothers me, and what I was worried about, was this situation that the county has been in for the last

county has reserves totaling some \$22 million.

When Third District Supervisor John Haschak asked where the other \$6 million in reserves was located, he was given an answer by Auditor Weer.

"The rest of that is from general fund budget units that have requested that some of that be set aside in a restricted reserve," Weer said.

Haschak tried to translate. "So, within departments?" he asked.

"Correct," said Weer.

In the written version of her budget summary, Angelo included a fairly long quotation from Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde, concerning budget reserves.

"It's a pretty telling story. In the years leading up to the Great Recession, Mendocino County had less than \$6 million in all of its general fund reserves. Today Mendocino County has nearly \$24 million in those same general fund reserves. In the years leading up to the Great Recession, reserve funds outside of the general fund only totaled just over \$1 million. Today those same non-general fund reserves exceed \$13 million.

Overall, Mendocino County's numerous reserves have grown from less than \$7 million in the years leading up to the Great Recession to more than \$37 million today, a growth of \$30 million in Mendocino County's various reserves.

"When you combine this story with the story that Mendocino County has taken numerous steps to curtail future pension costs, eliminate its retiree healthcare costs, and secure new funding for county roads and other infrastructure, there is really no dispute that Mendocino County is in a substantially better financial position than at any other time in a generation," Gjerde was quoted as saying.

The rest of AmeriCorps From Page 7

us. We would have procrastinated doing stuff for a longer time. And to have a crew come here is really very special. They've been so positive, appreciative; they're quiet, they work well together and listen. They get right in there and do it! What more could you ask for?" she asked rhetorically.

Her husband added: "These are people you would really like to invite into your home and have around all your two-leggeds and four-leggeds. They work well as a team. They're able to sort things out and self-assign themselves so just general supervision is required and they go for it."

AmeriCorps is a national service organization very similar to the Peace Corps. AmeriCorps is a parent organization to the National Civilian Community Corps, and the team members in Mendocino County are working as a "disaster preparedness response team" in the NCCC. The DPRT team members commit to the program for 10 months, working on their chosen project in different areas of the U.S.

In September, 260 AmeriCorps members gathered at AmeriCorps' Pacific Region campus, at Sacramento's McClellan Air Force Base, and met other members of their teams. Their ages range from 19 to 24. There are 26 teams with nine to 12 individuals per team. For the first month they were "on campus" for educational training. The teams work in eight Northwest states, including California.

The AmeriCorps team in Mendocino County will be doing projects only in California; by the end of their commitment, they will have worked in approximately 24 vulnerable communities throughout the state.

Each team member found their way to AmeriCorps from a desire or passion to help people. Ruby Zenteno from Texas said: "I just graduated with my master's degree in applied translation studies, and I wanted to follow my passion for helping others and put that first and let it guide my next career move."

Sam Cole is from North Carolina and said she wanted to take a gap year in between getting her master's degree in counseling psychology. "When I saw the disaster preparedness response team," she said, "I immediately applied because you're really going into communities, talking with them and seeing the effects of disaster." She knew there would be people struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder, and envisions meeting and talking with some. After she gets her counseling degree, she sees that these experiences will help her help others experiencing trauma.

Marie Dull from Florida, who graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in fine arts, mentioned that another part of the disaster preparedness response program is called "Listos," which is a public education program, partnered with the Red Cross. "Listos has a curriculum teaching about disaster preparedness in general. It's going to people's homes and teaching about that and not going to their homes to fix things," Dull explained. It's also free to everyone in California.

There are other free programs the 10-member team will be working on in collaboration with Listos and the Red Cross in Mendocino County and other California communities. They include "The Pillow Case Project," which teaches grade-school children important things to put in an emergency pillow case, and the "Sound the Alarm Campaign," a project to install smoke detectors in the homes of vulnerable populations.

"Mendocino is magic," Dull effused. "It's just been so incredible to be in a community of people who really care about the Earth, really care about each other with an amazing spirit of coming together and making it. I've been really touched by that and everyone has been so kind. It's an awesome place to have our first round."

For more information about AmeriCorps, visit: www.nationalservice.gov; for more information about Listos, visit: www.listoscalifornia.org; and to learn more about home ignition zones and other fire-related hazards, visit the National Fire Protection Association at www.nfpa.org.



At top, left: A circle of thanks and fellowship started Sunday's Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck in Laytonville. At top, right: Kale, leek, celery, onion, carrot and parsnip make a hearty vegan late fall stew. Above, from left: A fall salad from the garden featured kale, mustard greens, and watermelon radish, with a dressing made of olive oil, balsamic vinegar, maple syrup, and mustard. A colorful vegan pizza was one dish featured at Sunday's Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck. Baked Kabucha squash with wild rice cooked with cranberries, apples and tangerine zest. Sweet potatoes with a garnish of peanut butter. Below: Two tables filled with vegan comestibles at the 9th annual Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck. At bottom: Frida and her younger brother enjoy the variety of vegan food.



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‘Fall in L.O.V.E.’

Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience offers its 9th annual Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck

Other than the young college student who came to the 9th annual "Fall in LOVE" Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck in Laytonville with his dad, everyone feasted voraciously on the vast variety of tasty non-animal-sourced comestibles.

Even the young lad, who said he was hoping a steak would arrive on the scene sometime soon, seemed to enjoy the items that he picked out of the lineup of 20 or so creative dishes based entirely on fauna. Even honey was banned at Sunday's gathering, co-sponsored by Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience, aka L.O.V.E., and the Long Valley Garden Club, as it is an animal-based food.

What remained was a selection of creative, eclectic choices including (a partial list): sweet potato with peanut butter; vegan pizza; baked Kabucha squash with wild rice cooked in vegetable broth, fresh cranberries, sliced fresh apples, tangerine peel zest, and orange juice; spaghetti squash with olive oil, toasted cashews and macadamia nuts; homegrown salad with kale, mustard greens, watermelon radish, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, maple syrup and mustard; shitate mushroom gravy with sweet onion, olive oil, red beans, Bragg Liquid Aminos, black pepper, and celery seed; garlic mashed potatoes with walnut milk; mushroom and coconut gravy; kale, celery, leek, onion, carrot, and parsnip stew; and for those who were missing meat, vegetarian hotdogs with vegan BBQ sauce. Freshly squeezed apple juice was also available.

The group, under the leadership of long-time vegan, Jon Spitz, meets three times

a year to enjoy the bounty of each other's gardens and the ability to create a healthy, wholesome meal without the negative aspects of animal-based eating.

Originally hosted at the homes of a few friends, the events grew too popular and a move was made to the Long Valley Garden Club. Approximately 50 people attended this year's Thanksgiving potluck on November 24. Spitz proudly pointed out the newly assembled floor in the Garden Club building, made of local hardwoods, madrone and tan oak. Made of discarded materials, the beautiful natural grains of the woods echoed the natural grains of the evening's repast.

Dating as far back as 3300 BC in India, veganism has been practiced in many forms and by many peoples, including such historical figures as Ovid, Seneca, Pythagoras, the poet Percy Shelley and, more recently, several professional athletes, including Venus Williams and Colin Kaepernick to name two. Throughout history, there have been those who advocate a plant-based diet for several reasons. The first of which is health.

Most vegans profess that they have more energy and sleep better and are also free from other health problems, having reduced their intake of processed fats and sugars.

Another reason people go vegan is a love of animals and their belief that animals are sentient, can feel love, and have as much of a right to life as humans. There are many different levels of veganism and vegetarianism. Some vegetarians will eat dairy and other products derived from

Read the rest of **Vegan** | Over on Page 15

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AUTHENTIC MEXICAN DISHES - PREPARED FRESH DAILY

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER

FAMILY OWNED WITH RECIPES PASSED
DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS!

THURSDAYS DECEMBER 5
to **DECEMBER 19:**
Twinkle Thursdays:
Stores open every Thursday
until 8 pm with specials. Look for
lit-up Mason jars.

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WILLITS, CA (707) 459-5702

Restaurant El Mexicano

MON - SAT: 10 AM - 8:30 PM
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

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

participating shops and businesses, return them to the Art Center, and be entered in a raffle for some great prizes.

Sunday, December 1 will host the 37th annual Toy Run, where community members are invited to help provide gifts and merriment to the less fortunate. Bring an unwrapped toy to the Little Lake Grange starting around noon to be granted free admission to the event.

Twinkle Thursdays is back for December shopping starting December 5 and running through December 19; look for businesses with illuminated Mason jars in their windows for participation. These businesses will be open late on Thursdays to accommodate shopping schedules.

On December 6, 7, and 8, Santa Claus will be coming to J.D. Redhouse for the annual Santa Photo event with photographer Maureen Moore. Anyone wishing to come can drop in – there's no appointments necessary – and have their photo taken with Santa for just \$5. Monies raised will be shared with three local groups as a part of these 50/50 fundraisers. Friday, Santa will be available from 5 to 7 pm; Saturday from 12 to 3 pm; and Sunday from 10 am to 12 pm.

There's lots of other fun stuff to do on Saturday, December 7 including Roots of Motive Power's Holiday Express. Free – but donations accepted! - train rides will start around 11 am, and Santa will arrive around noon to the big Engine House. The last train will leave the station around 4 pm, so make sure to come aboard before then!

The popular Rosella's Italian Ice & The Ice Box food trailer will be back again at Roots serving yummy treats, and the Willits High School senior class will be selling hot dogs and hot cocoa as well.

After the conclusion of the Holiday Express, folks are welcome to attend an ol' time Christmas/Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration hosted by the Willits Chamber of Commerce in front of the Mendocino County Museum starting at 4:30 pm. Carolers and singers will start the event, before the illumination of the large tree out front.

Main Street Merchants Holiday Event Calendar

November 28 through December 19

Friday, November 28:
Black Friday: Stores open early with exciting special and sales:

J.D. Redhouse: 212 South Main Street – 6 am to 6 pm. 40 percent off clothing and footwear and 30 percent off toys and gifts. Enter to win \$100/\$50/\$25 gift certificate. See ad on page 3 for info.

Willits Furniture: 775 Central Avenue – regular hours, sale on La Z Boy chairs, up to 30 percent off on select mattresses. See ad on page 3 for info.

Cat's Meow: 29 South Main Street – regular hours, storewide specials.

Mazahar & Enchanted Toy Shop: 38 South Main Street – open 9:30 am to 8 pm, special price reductions, no sales tax.

Monkey Wrench: 154 South Main Street – open 6 am to 6 pm, Buy 1 get 1 free. Specials for the first 10 customers.

Moon Lady: 100 South Main Street – open 6 am to 6 pm, storewide sale.

Spartime Supply: 475 East San Francisco Avenue – regular hours, 20 percent off specials until Christmas.

Toy Depot: 262 East Commercial Street – open 9 am to 7 pm, store specials all day.

Saturday, November 30:
Shop Small Saturday:

Shop small, save big, eat, drink & buy local. Kicks off 8 am to 1 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts. Get your passport at any participating store. Get the passports stamped for a chance to win special prizes.

Thursdays December 5
to **December 19:**

Twinkle Thursdays:
Stores open every Thursday
until 8 pm with specials. Look for
lit-up Mason jars.

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Mendocino College Nursing Program students who were awarded \$1,500 scholarships from the Howard Community Healthcare Foundation. Above, left: Maegan Brassfield and above, right: Erin Hencckell; below, left: Jillian Koski and below, right: Sarah Reeser; and bottom, left: Samantha Schiessl and bottom, right: Daniel Low.



The rest of **Library** | From Page 5

the library, Delotch posts the prompt on the "Willits - Mendocino County Library" page on Facebook each week. Last Saturday's prompt was: "very morning this month you've woken up to find a present hidden somewhere in your home. It would be nice, except you just moved here, you have no friends in the area, and you live alone."

Another popular weekly activity is the "Drop-In Knitting" group ("All you knit is love") on Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, which is not just about knitting anymore. The session welcomes people who are proficient at knitting and spinning, and those who wish to learn the arts. Lotus Baker, who can be seen with her spinning wheel every Thursday at the Willits Farmers Market, is available to help people get started.

These and other programs are available to the public at no cost with materials provided in most cases.

There are also special art workshops during which kids and families can create seasonal art projects together, such as the recent "Turkey Crafts" where the kids (and parents) could make a turkey wreath out of toile, a 6 inch ring, and construction paper. These programs are usually repeated twice in a week, once at night and once during the day.

The library tries to involve people in current events and special celebrations. November was National Native Heritage Month. As this area is rich in native lore and art, the library displayed crafts created by master basket weaver Corrine Pierce, as well as erecting a display with native literature and coloring pages, from Megan Wolf of the Elementary Charter School.

The library enjoys frequent visits from young students of the area so they can find books and games and go on scavenger hunts inside the building where they look for the various materials that the library has to offer, CDs, DVDs, "a book about a state," the Seed Library, a kids computer, etc. to familiarize them with the available materials.

A literacy program pairs up those who need reading help with community volunteers. Library Technician Delotch, in addition to her other duties, heads the Young Adult Programs. She has created a Teen Advisory Board to allow young adults to have input and engagement in what is offered. As an offshoot of this program, a special section of the library has been designated for teen use, almost exclusively, giving them ownership and a place to meet and enjoy reading materials. Delotch observed that this demographic had been underserved.

The Willits Library, at 390 East Commercial Street, is open Tuesday through Thursday, 10 am to 7 pm, Friday 10 am to 6 pm, and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. For more information, call 459-5908 or visit www.facebook.com/WillitsLibrary/ or www.mendolibrary.org/locations/willits-library. A listing of the Willits Library's weekly programs can also be found in the Ongoing section of Willits Weekly's "What's Happening" Calendar.

Mendocino College Nursing Program students awarded scholarships from the Howard Foundation

Submitted by the Frank R. Howard Foundation

Six students attending the Mendocino College Nursing Program were awarded nursing scholarships by the Howard Community Healthcare Foundation last week. The scholarships were made possible by donations from the medical staff at Howard Memorial Hospital, the Frank R Howard Foundation, and the A. B. Guslander Masonic Scholarship Fund.

This year's recipients, who each received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,500, are Maegan Brassfield, Erin Hencckell, Jillian Koski, Sarah Reeser, Samantha Schiessl and Daniel Low.

The scholarship program is available to both first-year and second-year students of the Mendocino College Nursing Program. Upon graduation, recipients agree to work at Howard Memorial Hospital for a period of 12 months.

Additional information and scholarship applications can be found at www.howardfoundation.org/scholarships.

The rest of **Gleaners** | From Page 12

are just a byproduct. They strictly follow no-till growing methods – all seeding, planting and harvesting is done by hand. Their Gleaner grant was used to purchase 7 yards of organic compost and a new wheelbarrow that can handle high mileage and narrow walkways, giving the farmers a chance to continue repaying the crowd-funded Kiva Loan that got them started.

Jes Pearce and Keith Michalak manage the Buttercup Compost Lab at the School of Adaptive Agriculture, where they host workshops and experiment with different compost and fertility management techniques. They also grow food for a community supported agriculture program with members who receive a weekly food box. They built a small shed intended to serve as an above-ground root cellar and seed storage room. The Gleaner grant provided funds to insulate this space to better fulfill its function.

Mike Adams has been working to dramatically increase the food production at Nurturing Seed Farm. This past summer he expanded from 4,000 square feet to more than 12,000 square feet and expects to harvest 2 tons of potatoes. To help him keep the paths between his rows weeded, he used his Gleaner grant to purchase a Glaser Wheel Hoe to reduce labor and increase the time available to do other farm tasks.

Special Gleaner project

With a fall full of apple abundance, apples were pressed into juice through October and November with "Our Press," a manual wooden apple press brought to the Willits Farmers Market and managed by Mike Adams. People brought apples (in addition to those gleaned by Adams) and jars to the farmers market, and enjoyed juice for free or a donation. Over 120 gallons were pressed!

Looking forward

We are already thinking about next year's Gleaners Plant Sale. We will be inviting anyone interested in joining our team to contact us in the spring, closer to the next season of gleanings.

The rest of **Vegan** | From Page 14

animals, and some – "pescatarians" – eat fish. At the other end of the spectrum, there are strict vegans who eschew even the wearing of animal products, or eating honey, or anything that is created through animal life.

Attendees at the L.O.V.E. dinner voiced a concern for the rights of animals to a full life, as well as concern for the environmental effects of the factory farming of animals. Others wanted to avoid the intake of steroids, antibiotics, radiation and other additives and impurities that have been found in animal-based foods.

Activist and singer Rosebud, said: "Veganism is the funnest thing you can do to save the world. Total superpowers are immediately instilled when you start to eat a plant-based diet. Your body, your mind, your heart loves it. You sleep better. Everything just clicks. You look, feel and even smell better. You're being kinder to the environment, the water, all the issues, pollution, pesticides. You're not taking in all the crap that you're taking in as you go up the food chain, the bioaccumulation...."

Ron Elterman, long-time vegan, said: "There are lots of good reasons to be vegan. For me, the primary one has to do with not causing needless pain and death. I do my part by not contributing to the suffering of others. I think if you eat a good vegan diet, that there are health benefits."

There are also environmental concerns. If you pay attention to what you're eating, vegetables and fruits and whole foods, take your vitamin B12, check your vitamin D level, you can be very healthy. Everybody would benefit from knowing a little bit about nutrition."

Thanksgiving is a time of sharing. The group that gathered for the annual Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck knew how to create and share a feast with a great variety of non-animal foods. Many went back for seconds of favorite dishes, or to make sure they didn't miss sampling any of the bounty that was laid out before them.

DECEMBER CALENDAR



CHARGING INTO 2020

EARN ENTRY TICKETS DAILY

NOW – DEC 28 8AM – 10PM
100 points = 1 entry ticket

WEEKEND DRAWINGS

Saturday & Sunday
Dec 1– 28 5PM – 10PM
11 names drawn each day to win **\$100 Free Play** and a ticket into the final drawings.

FINALE DRAWING

Saturday Dec 28 After 10PM
WIN FREE PLAY, CASH & THE CAR

Come play the Charging into 2020 Game Board to win more entry tickets, Free Play and up to \$1,000 Cash! And one lucky winner will drive away in the **new 2019 Dodge Charger SXT!**

Actual make, model and color may vary.

Winner is responsible for any taxes, fees and licensing. Non-transferable. See Player's Club Booth for complete details.



GIFT OF THE MONTH


EVERY SAT & SUN
DEC 7 – 29 10AM – 5PM

Redeem 500 points on Saturdays or Sundays to receive a **Robe and Blanket Set*** Get a different piece each week, while supplies last.

*For guests who did not receive a Gift of the Month postcard.



TUESDAYS DEC 3, 10, 17 & 24



BARRY'S CHARGED UP POINTS

9AM – 9PM

Come play day or night to receive **5X POINTS!**

Get charged up to earn Free Play faster.

— WEDNESDAYS —



Holiday Spin & Win

10AM – 8PM

We will draw 2 hot seat winners each hour. Winners will spin the wheel for a chance to **win \$500 Free Play.** Must have 250 points earned that day to be eligible for the hot seats.

— THURSDAYS —



Flurries of Free Play

8AM – 2PM & 4PM – 10PM

Earn 200 points to get a Flurries of Free Play Scratch Card. If you participated in the morning session, then you can get a second scratch card during the night session by earning 100 points. Or you will need 300 points for the night session only. Every card is a winner and you could **win up to \$1,000 in Free Play!**

— FRIDAYS —



AVALANCHE HOT SEATS

5PM – 10PM

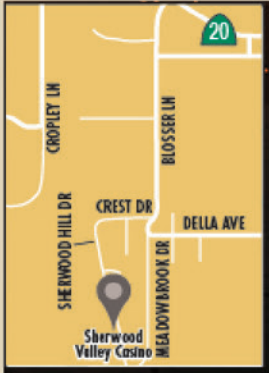
Every 10 minutes, 2 guests will **win \$50 Free Play.** Must be playing with your card in any machine. If we call your name, you'll have 1 minute to claim your prize, or that prize will be forfeited.

Must be 18 & over to play
Gambling a problem?
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