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Donations Accepted Edition No. 382

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
willitsweeklv@gmail.com

Read the rest of
Removed
Over on Page 15

Read the rest of
Covelo
Over on Page 13



Above, from left: Roxie was happy to watch decoration prep work in the Roots Engine House for the upcoming Saturday Santa Express Display. The massive Christmas tree harvested from the Mare Pass on November 27 that will be illuminated in the open-air car riding on the loop at the Roots yard on Saturday. Roots' William England checked and untangled twinkle lights before helping hang them about. Below: England, and his mom and fellow Roots volunteer, Alexis, help decorate one of the cars for the Saturday event.

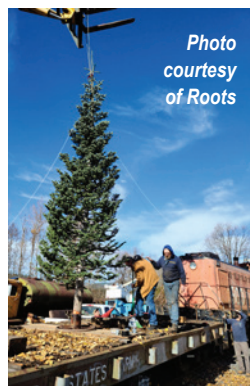


A chunk of East Commercial Street will be illuminated for the delight of holiday goers this Saturday, December 5 when Roots of Motive Power and the Mendocino County Museum will light up for the evening. Due to the coronavirus, the buildings will not be open, but the community is welcome to drive by between 5 and 8 pm to see the displays. Please, stay in your vehicles to help ensure a safe holiday!

– *Maureen Jennison*



At top: Briana Brooks helps adjust the wreath on the balcony rail of the Mendocino County Museum. Above: The museum is decorated with lights from top to bottom. Below, from left: Willits Librarian Nicole Bird, left, helps museum curator Karen Mattson add lights. Alexis England searches the tubs at Roots for decorations. The Roots tree towers above the other antique equipment at the Roots yard. At bottom: The group who selected and cut the Christmas tree that will be a part of this year's Santa Express Display.



Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

November 3, the county's
Read the rest of
COVID
Over on Page 13

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of
Election
Over on Page 15

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

A special thank you to everyone for your support during the Willits United Methodist Church's Fall Bazaar in November. We were able to raise enough money to support Christmas gifts for a family with four children.

Also, some of our members met last week via Zoom and decided that we would like to encourage everyone who can, to show they're thankful to our community businesses by shopping locally to help support them during this time of the pandemic.

Don't forget the restaurants. A good idea is a local business gift certificate, and it's easy to mail. Remember, we are a stronger community working together.

Wishing you all a very Happy Holidays,
Lynn Williams, Willits

Mental Wellness Center vision

To the Editor:

Almost two years ago, I made this 3 minute presentation of a vision for a Mental Wellness Center to be located at the old Howard Memorial Hospital site in Willits, to the Measure B. Oversight Committee which as tasked with creating and coordinating mental Health services here in Mendocino County using funds approved by the taxpayers.

Here we are having spent a great deal of money on reports, architects, coordinators, and so far, nothing on much-needed services. I want the board of supervisors and the oversight committee to know that the public still cares.

This is the 2/2020 Original 3-minute vision ... a work in progress. Still a good idea. What do you think?

As I entered the old Howard Hospital, I experienced a wave of feelings. Many family members and friends' lives were helped and saved here. This old building is filled with loving memories and such potential.

I was pleasantly surprised to see how clean and well-kept the building is. Over 30,000 square feet of space on over 3 acres that have been beautifully maintained. I took about 60 photos as

we studied the map, remembering so many of the rooms and imagining what could be there now.

First, we would like to think of this as the Howard Memorial Mental Wellness Center, offering a wide range of professional services and activities that promote good mental health. Residential programs are ideally suited to this property. There are 14 bay-windowed rooms with bathrooms.

Good mental health begins with good health which begins with good nutrition. Classes in cooking, nutrition, supplements, and diet can be here. The kitchen has the potential to become a culinary arts training program in addition to feeding staff, clients, visitors. The Seabiscuit Cafe could offer healthy food to go.

There are conference rooms for meetings and support groups that could be used for needs from young folks to seniors. There is plenty of room for services for those who are dealing with substance abuse, depression, psychological needs, homelessness, unwed mothers, abusive situations and more.

Because of a lack of time to expand on these exciting ideas for using this space to promote wellness, here is just a list of intriguing thoughts.

A variety store, a thrift/craft shop, where items made by clients can be sold, hair salon /barbershop, classes in knitting, crocheting, handicrafts, use of herbs and growing herbs on site, cleansing and detox programs, relaxation techniques, yoga, tai chi, Qi Gong, juggling, meditation, dance and movement, drama groups, music, and art therapy, computer skills classes, a game room for quiet games, ping pong and small pool table, library, and more.

Just think about what makes you happy and healthy. This is a kind, caring community and we can – with the help of Measure B funding, county support and perhaps state matching funds – do something very special right here in Willits, which may give people a reason not to bypass this town and opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Emmy Good, Willits

THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

November 2020 update

By Supervisor John Haschak

In this time of thanksgiving, I am continually amazed at how volunteers help our communities survive and thrive. Whether it is preparing and serving Thanksgiving dinners, putting up holiday decorations, or helping with the numerous advisory boards, commissions, and Friends groups, I want to express my appreciation for people who get things done. The Third District has many wonderful people working each and every day towards making our communities better for us all.

My Third District appointee to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board resigned, so there is a position open. Please contact me if you are interested in this important role in creating better mental health services in our county. There is also an opening on the Climate Action Advisory Council. Again, contact me if interested.

We passed the tobacco retail license ordinance update. This will ban flavored tobacco products, which aligns with the state regulations. Cotton candy, bubblegum and Mandarin Mint tobacco products are the new Joe Camel approach to hooking youth on nicotine. When I say we, I mean it – it was a fantastic coalition of people who worked long and hard on this issue, and I am grateful that they persisted and I could sponsor this health care item.

The BOS created a Public Safety Advisory Board. The overarching goal is the identification of specific problems that affect Mendocino County and also identify solutions to deal with these issues. This will be done by creating greater communication between county law enforcement agencies and other agencies such as mental health and social services, improving communication to and from the public, and increasing transparency in areas of concern. Supervisor Gjerde and I were the ad hoc committee working on this issue. Sheriff Kendall was a co-sponsor of the item that we took to the BOS. He has been a fantastic partner in this process. We also worked with a dedicated group of people from Tribal leaders, LatinX communities, and Black Lives Matter as well as other members of the public.

Wishing you all the best and feel free to contact me at haschakj@mendocinocounty.org or 707-972-4214.

What's new on KLLG 97.9 FM

Submitted by Earlene Gleisner, KLLG programmer



If you are in earshot of KLLG 97.9 in Willits during the month of December, every Thursday at 6 pm and Saturday at 8 pm, we will be airing the beautiful and touching radio version of "A Christmas Carol" adapted by Kevin HC Moore and starring Rod Granger as Scrooge.

Every Tuesday at 10 am, tune in and listen to our local expert Wolfgang Ronnefeldt as he takes callers on air and helps them interpret their dreams. He will also be teaching the language of dreams. The call-in number is: 459-5554 (KLLG). Episode 1 of "Dream Time" is already on the air.

A memoir by Hari Myers, "Hariyana," will be a new feature on Authors Spotlight at 10 am on Wednesday, December 2 and will run for two weeks. His book recounts his experiences of being an early traveler on the Enlightenment Road in India during the late '60s.

At 11 am and 7 pm on Tuesdays, Authors Spotlight now has encore presentations of Earlene Gleisner's show. On December 16, Memoir Writing Class No. 4 will begin its two-week broadcast. If you wish transcripts of previous classes so you can contribute to the online reading of your work, contact her at reiki@mcn.org.

The ultimate new and hard rock show will broadcast at 1 pm every Friday and 11 pm every Monday. Audio Ink Radio with Anne Erickson brings together greats like Linkin Park, Tool, Evanescence, and Incubus, as well as greats like Staind, Tool, Grunge, Nu Metal, 2000s Rock.

Saturdays at 7 pm the popular syndicated sketch comedy show "The Mike and Mari Show" will be airing. In the comedic tradition of Nichols and May, Burns and Allan, and Bonnie and Clyde, The Mike and Mari Show offers a satirical look at how political upheaval, societal tensions and tech befuddle and displace the common person. The Mike and Mari Show unites pointed sketch comedy with music from the dynamic house band The Tiger Club, led by the

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

Mendocino County Library Publishes Second Annual Report

Submitted by the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

The Mendocino County Library has published its second Library Annual Report for fiscal year 2019-2020. This edition is filled with photos and a special report from each library branch as well as the Bookmobile.

The Ukiah Library, Fort Bragg Library, Willits Library, Coast Community Library, Round Valley Library and Bookmobile share stories on how this unusual year has unfolded before and during the pandemic.

The report demonstrates how services were provided in new ways throughout the year before and after the pandemic started, such as the "Wild About..." programs, Nicole's Test Kitchen, Sam's Virtual Toddler Time, and new digital databases which are available 24/7.

The finance section illustrates the need for additional funding for capital improvement projects, and there is exciting news about the Mendocino County Library joining

the CENIC high-speed education broadband network.

In the statistics section, it is evident that despite the shelter-in-place restrictions, the library kept providing services to the Mendocino County community.

The report also includes messages from outgoing County Librarian Karen Horner, and from the chair of the Board of Supervisors, John Haschak.

The report is available online at <https://lindd.adobe.com/view/b5144979-07b7-455b-923b-796a3d44a843> and as a downloadable PDF version through the Library website.

For more information, visit us at www.mendolibrary.org, call your local branch: Ukiah Library, 463-4490; Fort Bragg Library, 964-2020; Willits Library, 459-5908; Coast Community Library, 882-3114; Round Valley Library, 983-6736; and the Bookmobile, 234-2874, or contact the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency at 234-2873.



Above, from left: Vince, Michelle and Tanner from Novato enjoy taking selfies in front of Malakai Schindler's painting, "Are you the real Santa?" asks a young boy. Willits Skunk Train Operations Manager Aaron Fultz stands in the gift shop. At left: Most of the families spend their time in the open-air car. Below: Santa Claus listens to the toy requests. At bottom: The Christmas Train crosses Main Street near the arch.



Magical Christmas

Skunk Train offers safe family activity for the holidays – and a chance to see Santa

The Christmas Train may be a bit scaled-down this year due to the rigors of the COVID-19 pandemic, no elves or snowball fights, no giant teddy bear, but still a lot of fun for kids and families who want a safe outdoor Christmas activity for the entire clan to enjoy.

Santa still makes his visit to answer questions from the children and take their orders for their favorite toys, bikes, games, dolls, and everything they could ever want, at that age. But the best part of the day is the train ride itself.

Winding through the beautiful hills and valleys, loudly declaring its presence as it traverses roads, the Christmas version of the popular Skunk Train delightfully evokes sights and sounds of an era past.

It is an antique and unique journey through countryside that remains much the same as when the railway was used to transport lumber to the coast at Fort Bragg to meet up with the boats that would take the materials to market and construction. Building the railway was an engineering challenge, having to construct the tracks with many twists and turns and trestle bridges in order to level out the extreme rises in elevation. In some cases, the tracks would have to go as much as eight miles to go only one and a half miles in actual distance.

One of the kids was heard to say, "Why do they call this the Skunk Train? It doesn't smell." True, but that was not always the case. According to the Skunk Train brochure, "the nickname 'Skunk' originated in 1925, when motorcars were introduced. These single unit, self-propelled motorcars had gasoline-powered engines and pot-bellied stoves burning crude oil to keep passengers warm.

"The combination of the fumes created a very pungent odor," the brochure



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Available for groups of 10 people or less on
December 7th, 8th & 9th
from 6 pm - 7 pm
Reservations are required and can be made by phone at 707-459-1214 or on our facebook page.

SENIOR SHOPPING

Saturdays from 9 am - 10 am
Each senior is welcome to bring a relative or supportive companion to shop with.

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The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

9x9 grid for Sudoku puzzle

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

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!

WINTERTIME WORD SEARCH

Word search grid containing winter-themed words

4x4 grid for word search clues

10x10 grid for crossword puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Opposite of west
5. ___ Caesar, comedian
8. Helps little firms
11. A way to censor
13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights
14. Chalcedony
15. Type of sword
16. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
17. Attired
18. A sequence of winding turns
20. Pal
21. Expresses pleasure
22. Amendable
23. Clear
30. A way to cut off
31. Indigenous Thai person
32. Pale brownish yellow color
33. Aquatic plants genus
38. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
41. Merchants
43. Fix a chair
45. Throws into disorganization
48. Famed German composer
49. Keyboard key
50. Oral polio vaccine

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One point south of due east
2. Wings
3. One point south of southeast
4. The shirts on our backs
5. One who works on the seas
6. Select jury
7. Small intestines parts
8. Plant of the heath family
9. Extrasolar planet
10. Creates more of
12. Before
14. Forms over a cut
19. Runs down

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

November 23 to November 29

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 142 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 23
7:01 am: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
9:53 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1200 block of Locust Street.
4:20 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Mill Street.
7:20 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.
9:21 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street.

November 24
11:32 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive and issued a warning.
10:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 500 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

November 25
12:04 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
7:33 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Margie Drive and Alice Drive.
8:13 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 400 block of East Valley Street.
12:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 300 block of Robert Drive.
1:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of School Street.
6:03 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

November 26
9:41 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.
12:31 pm: Officers responded to a report

of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Shell Lane.
1:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
10:23 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.
November 27
2:02 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Baechtel Road.
2:55 am: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Baechtel Road and Willow Lane.
7:19 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.
10:10 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1100 block of South Main Street.
11:56 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.
6:25 pm: WEAR, Aaron James (33) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 23152 (A) VC (Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol), 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation, felony), and on misdemeanor charges of driving with a suspended license which was revoked for drunk driving and/or refusing a chemical test.
9:29 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1600 block of Elm Lane.

COMMUNITY SING FOR PEACE
TUESDAY, DEC. 22, 6:30pm
Hosted by INLAND VALLEY WOMEN'S CHORUS
Join us in singing old and new songs of the season and songs of peace, hope, and light. People of all ages, voices, and traditions are invited to sing along. This is our 22nd annual FREE community Solstice event - this year by Zoom (different but still joyful!)
Join Zoom Event: https://tinyurl.com/y63tuxrp
To get email or for more information, contact Madge Strong, mstrong@willitsonline.com or (707) 459-1493.
Gathering in person in 2019. Hoping to do so again in 2021!



From the Library
Willits branch offers curbside pickup of books and movies for patrons, and plenty of online resources for kids

During the pandemic, have you wanted to check out books or DVDs from one of the Mendocino County Library branches? The great news is they're open for curbside pick-up of orders.
The Willits Library staff has been keeping up with up to 22 people per day coming by to receive their book and movie orders. That combined with their many other daily tasks, including COVID-19 protocols, has been keeping them busy.
Willits Librarian Nicole Bird explained how it's been for her and the other library staff, "The curbside pick-up started slow, but then it really picked up. Probably because more people are getting used to figuring out how to use [the curb-side pick-up feature on the website]. They want their books and they want their movies."
People can use the library catalog on the www.mendolibrary.org website to find what they're searching for. There it explains that requests are now available from any location but it may take a bit longer due to your request being quarantined, in transit or it's already on loan.
Visit www.mendolibrary.org/books-materials/curbside-pickups for specifics on curbside pickups.
The main library requests that people submit only one form per week. You can make several requests on one form. Then wait for an automated email, text or phone call that lets you know your order is ready. After you receive that notice, get back on the library website and fill out the curbside pick-up form. Since the pick-up time is by reservation only, branch staff will contact you to set up your time.
Don't have internet? No worries. Just call them. The Willits Library has made it easy for patrons to get what they need and want. "Definitely with Willits, it's 'Call us up.' Tell us what you need and we'll try to make it work for you," Bird assures. Sometimes you can get your book or movie on the same day if they have them at their branch.
When you pick up your order at the library during your 15-minute time slot, please be masked and stay socially distanced. One of the library staff will meet you, fully masked and gloved, and hand you a bag filled with your order. The website asks people not to congregate with others nor approach the library staff. All this might sound complicated, but it actually runs pretty smoothly.
There are worlds of discovery found at our libraries

Above, left: Outside the Willits Library door, Library Technician Will Minor delivers a curbside delivery to a customer. In most cases, when they're able, people walk up to the library door for their sanitized and bagged orders. Above: For the "Make It, Own It, Work It" video, Delotch demonstrates making a Meditation Jar using current color schemes. "This is exactly how I wanted it to look. It's very festive. Very fall," she said of the swirling liquid made with water and clear glue infused with different color and size glitter.
Below: If you're looking for a library card for somebody's Christmas stocking, Bird said to just give the Willits Library a call. She or one of her staff will walk you through the quite easy process.

Photos by Ree Sloucum
At bottom: Willits Library Assistant Julie Castillo flourishes her witchy Halloween delivery to a patron. The library made "Happy Halloween from the Willits Library" stickers for the holiday.



A Season of Light
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Christmas Trees & Wreaths are Available
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WE WILL BE CLOSED from 2pm Thursday, December 24th through Monday January 4th 2021 Open at 8am
Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm
Sunday, Dec. 6th 10am - 4pm
Accepting Donations, Unwrapped Toys, Winter Clothes for the Rotary Club of Willits

explains. "The old-timers living along the line said these motorcars were like skunks: 'You could smell 'em before you could see 'em.' To ride the Skunk Train is to take an enjoyable ride through history."

By far, the favorite car of the four that are utilized on the Magical Christmas Train is the open-air car at the head of the train, right behind the mighty engine. From this vantage point, the kids can watch the countryside go by, see the "moo moos" (cows), feel the breeze, smell the trees and fresh air, and even have room to run and dance.

This car seems to create a penchant for family selfies, memories to take home. The families on this second day of the Christmas Train were mostly from the North Bay area, Novato, Marin, San Rafael. One of the fathers expressed that he was missing getting out with his family and thought of the train, an activity that they could enjoy safely.

Another family, consisting of two identical twin sisters, their husbands, and five kids, loved the open-air car. They delighted in taking many photos, mostly of their family members with the countryside slowly creeping past in the background. By far the favorite moment of the trip for the kids, aside from meeting Santa Claus, was plunging into the tunnel, which came closer and closer until it engulfed the train in almost total darkness. The darkness lasted only a couple minutes but seemed like an eternity until the train once again emerged into the light of day.

Halfway through the trip, Santa emerged from the engine to meet the kids. Although several of the youngsters expressed concern that this was not the "real" Santa Claus, they, nonetheless enjoyed pelting him with questions and requests, and posing for photos with this Santa substitute.

What did they ask for? "I asked him for a kitten!" beamed one little girl, while her brother required Santa to bring a remote-controlled X-Man. Whether or not Santa fulfills their wishes depends solely on the largesse and better judgement of the parents who were rolling their eyes at the requests.

The Skunk Train, in addition to its regular trips, has several special trains during the year, among them, the annual Magical Christmas Train, the Pumpkin Express, the Easter Express, the Mushroom Train, and others. Eventually, the electric rail bikes that are being utilized out of the Fort Bragg station will be available for use from the Willits station.

In the more distant future, the tunnel that connects Willits to Fort Bragg will be opened in a couple years after the latest cave-in has been stabilized and made safe. Until then, the trips from Willits are delightful for the whole family. "I liked the cookies and hot cocoa and popcorn and I liked seeing the moo moos," said young Tanner from Novato.

To learn more about the train and to book a ride: www.skunktrain.com, 707-964-6371. To learn more about the history of the railway: www.american-rails.com/skunk.html.

Solstice Sing for Peace

Keeping the tradition alive, we will gather by Zoom this year to celebrate Solstice, Christmas, & other winter holidays, by singing in community on Tuesday, December 22, at 6:30 pm.

This will be our 22nd year! All are welcome. Members of Inland Valley Women's Chorus will lead traditional and new songs of the season, hope, peace, and joy; the community will sing along (muted) from your homes.

It won't be quite the same as in person, with all the trimmings, but nonetheless it's an important way to share in celebrating and sending prayers for peace and health in the new year ahead.

Here is the tinyurl link to our Zoom sing-along: <https://tinyurl.com/y63tuxrp>

Or email or call Madge Strong, mstrong@willitsonline.com or 459-1493 to get a link by email.

— **Madge Strong, for Inland Valley Women's Chorus**



Have you seen me?

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

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At left, top: Conductor Malakai Schindel waits for the time to board.

At left, below: The children love going into the tunnel.

At left, bottom: The car with the food and drink is one of the most popular.

Below: The kids say hello to Santa prior to letting him know what they want for Christmas.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Wreath sale, craft making, and live-streaming carols at Grace Hudson

By Roberta Werdinger for Grace Hudson Museum

While Mendocino County and the entire state of California continues in quarantine, the weekend of December 5 and 6 will bring an example of the resilience of the holiday spirit at Grace Hudson.

Saturday, December 5 will bring a Holiday Wreath Sale, offered by the Sun House Guild. Wonderfully aromatic wreaths and swag from the folks at McFadden Farms will be available between 10 am to 2 pm for purchasing curbside or by pre-order. Visit the museum's website, www.gracehudsonmuseum.org, and scroll down the Events page for a pre-order form, or just stop by on Saturday. All proceeds from the wreath sales benefit the Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House.

The festivities continue Sunday, December 6, when a Virtual Holiday Program will be live-streamed from 3 to 4 pm. There will be an hour of storytelling, carols, and craft making. The Grace Hudson Museum will be distributing craft-making kits beforehand to enable people to make simple kid-friendly holiday crafts as demonstrated on the program. Call the museum at 707-467-2836 for more details about the kits. And then visit the website a few minutes before 3 pm to access a link to the Virtual Holiday Program.

The Grace Hudson Museum is located at 431 South Main Street in Ukiah.



Above: Wreaths like this will be for sale at the Grace Hudson curbside sale on December 5.

Below: The Grace Hudson Christmas tree.



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Above, from left: Willits Harrah Senior Center Executive Director Richard Baker works on getting the ham ready for the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. One hundred pies are unpacked so they can defrost prior to cutting into six slices. Turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy are included in the to-go boxes, in addition to salad and pie. Below, left: Mickey Fernandez, Melissa Perez and Don Lind work at preparing the to-go boxes. Below, right: Tamara Adams, of Emandal – A Farm On A River, prepares the salad. At bottom, left: Food Bank Director Ruthanne Volz gives meals to the walk-up diners. At bottom, right: Richard Baker checks the turkey supplies.



Community Thanksgiving

Willits Food Bank and Harrah Senior Center pair up to prepare and distribute over 500 meals

The Willits Community Services and Food Bank annual community Thanksgiving dinner is a traditional feast where many members of the area can get together and enjoy a hearty turkey and ham meal together, talk, laugh, and simply enjoy amiable company while they get their fill of this traditional meal. This year, however, due to the COVID-19 protocols, a large indoor gathering was not possible. Instead, the event had to be produced as a drive-thru dinner, with bags of dinners given out to those in the cars, plus one dinner if needed.

The people could take the dinners home to enjoy with their families in a more intimate setting, in front of the early Christmas trees or the televised football games or just some conversation with those in their family bubbles.

In addition to the over 500 meals distributed to those in the automobiles lined up down Baechtel Road and those who walked up to the outside tables at the Willits Harrah Senior Center, 138 deliveries were handed out to shut-ins and the homeless. The Meals-On-Wheels crew from the senior center, along with several enlisted volunteers, worked diligently to make sure those who could not get down to the center could enjoy the Thanksgiving meals.

Shannon Demuth and daughter, Simantha Karp, of Community Crossroads of Mendocino County, a homeless outreach program, brought meals to their clients so that even those without a roof could feast on the nutritious meals.

Thirty-six turkeys were turned into over 600 meals, along with 10 hams, 100 pies cut into six slices each, dressing, mashed potatoes, and salad to round out the comestibles, all that was needed to evoke a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The program was helmed by Ruthanne Volz, director of the food bank and Richard Baker, executive director of the

Read the rest of **Thanksgiving** | Over on Page 11

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Above, left: Melinda Clarke brings a dinner bag to a properly masked recipient.

Above, right: Simantha Karp, came with her mother Shannon Demuth to pick up meals to distribute to the homeless.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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At right: Fire Captain Erika Enslin of the Sacramento Fire Department. Captain Enslin with her son, Weston. Ensign will speak on women in the fire service.



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF WILLITS

Third Tuesday Speaker Series

Soroptimist International of Willits (SIW) Third Tuesday Speaker Series invites the public to their Tuesday, December 15 Zoom at noon.

Speaker will be Fire Captain Erika Enslin of the Sacramento Fire Department. RSVP to: SIWWillits@Soroptimist.net for the Zoom link.

"Right now," Fire Captain Enslin says, "my passion is girls firefighting camps and women's empowerment in the fire service."



Above: Diza Hope, "Anderson Valley Hills." At right: Nancy Finn, "Turquoise Pendant." Below: Bonnie Belt, ceramic "Branch Teapot and 2 Cups."



At right, top: Bikers from all over Northern California enjoy bringing gifts and toys for the kids. Tiffany "Pickles" Wake has been involved in many of the Toy Runs. The Toy Run winds its way through Willits on its way to go around the bypass.

At right: Richard "Pops" Venturi gives a thumbs up for all the toys.

At left, top: Wino's Crew from Fort Bragg participates in the Willits Toy Run. At left, below: By noon, close to 100 motorcycles, loaded with toys, met at the Evergreen Shopping Center.

Below: Close to 100 bikes take part in the Toy Run.

At bottom: The bikes are loaded with toys for the children of Willits.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: Two living Christmas trees, Lucy and Helen Kramer, add their support.

Below: Steve Summers and a very excited Cal join the festivities.

Below, right: Close to 100 bikers take part in the Toy Run.



Toy Run

Bikers visit from nearby cities to help Willits Wild Bunch collect gifts for kids and parade through town

On a beautiful cool, clear day, in the autumn sun, close to 100 motorcycle enthusiasts and club members amassed at the Evergreen Shopping Center, their bikes festooned with colorful toys bungee-corded to gas tanks and saddle bags, for ultimate distribution to the children of the Little Lake Valley.

The weather gods cooperated with a lack of what Richard "Pops" Venturi, president of the local Willits Wild Bunch, likes to call "liquid sunshine," rain in other words. The bikers came from as far as Sacramento to participate in this yearly event called the Willits Toy Run, now in its 28th year, organized by the Wild Bunch for the last several years.

Bikers from such clubs as the Too Much Fun Club of Sacramento, the Willits Wild Bunch, Wino's Crew of Fort Bragg, the Kick Asphalt Club of Potter Valley, and others got together to ride, have fun, and more importantly, to make sure needy children had toys.

This year, as they could not party indoors due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Toy Run wound its way through town, with the Little Lake Fire Department's engines in the lead, up to Commercial Street. Once the fire department broke off, the bikers continued down Main Street to the bypass, which they took south to the exit, and rode back on Main Street to Little Lake Auto / Napa Auto Parts, who generously allowed them to utilize their entire parking lot for the attenuated celebration.

Even without the usual hard-driving King Snake Blues Band, the down-and-dirty auction, and the vast array of foods provided by the Willits Rotary and others, the party went on. DJ Mike Tobin provided the tunes. The Ramirez Taco Truck offered their familiar array of Mexican food and the Elves Lives Matter bar made sure that everyone had enough to wet their whistles. A trailer was available to fill with the donations of toys, games, clothes, dolls, and other kiddie delights.



Under the auspices of the Willits Rotary Club, the Christmas Program has provided, along with the help of the Willits Wild Bunch, and others, gifts to many children of the area. Trees on which there are tags describing what the kids would like for Christmas are placed in prominent locations.

Participants can take the tags and bring the items, unwrapped to the old Howard Hospital, for distribution on Christmas Day. This year, Marcy Barry and Ann Hammond will be running the program, having taken over from Laura Sleeper.

Venturi was pleased by the turnout this year. He owes the great participation to the fact that "all the other clubs around northern California have cancelled their toy runs this year. The only toy run we know of is us, other than Lake County who will be having one in a week or so.

"We have folks from Sacramento," he said, "that came over because Sacramento cancelled all their toy runs. We have five or six members from the Too Much Fun Club Sacramento chapter because they have brothers here in Mendocino County."

Because the Wild Bunch could not have an auction this year, they alternately set up a GoFundMe to raise money to purchase additional toys. At the time of the Toy Run, they had brought in \$3,920. For anyone who wishes to make a donation to this fine cause: www.gofundme.com/t/willits-toy-run-and-christmas-program/donate.

After the party at Little Lake Auto, there was a sad incident. One of the bikers, Uriel "Uri" Lopez, who works for Family Tree Service, was involved in an accident with a truck and lost his life. He was just 24 years old and was looking forward to his birthday, according to Family Tree Service, Inc. who put out a statement. Please be careful on the roads this holiday season. There is no hurry to get anywhere. It is more important to get there alive and well. Keep the season merry and healthy.

Learn the 'art' of gift-giving by shopping the WCA's online gallery

The Willits Center for the Arts' online gallery offers over 400 unique items made by 50 Mendocino County artists. It's a great way to buy gifts for art lovers while supporting the art center and its artists.

"We have the best artists from all of Mendocino County," said WCA Curator Gary Martin. "We have Lauren Mattson, Bonnie Belt, David Weitzman, Jazz-minh Moore, Laura Fogg, Judy Hope, Jonah Ward, Linda McDonald, Marjo Wilson, Nancy McHone, Tom Zephyr ... to name a few."

Browse through the assortment of paintings, photos, quilts, ceramics and more at www.willitscenterforthearts.org/artists.

The WCA's "Members Small Works Show" is now open as well. The show is a pop-up store of unique gifts and art for the holidays made by WCA artists. Stop in Friday through Sunday 11 am to 5 pm until Christmas Eve (closed at 2 pm on Christmas Eve).

Handsome Timber

Timber is a 1-year-old male, weighing in at a handsome 67 pounds. Like most huskies we've met, Timber is a talker! He loves to explore his surroundings and will make a great hiking or jogging partner. Since huskies are usually not couch potatoes, an active guardian is a must for this fine-looking dog.



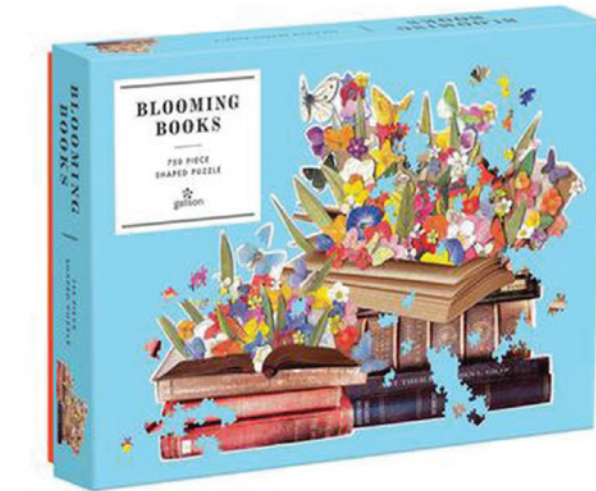
To see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and for information about services, programs, events, and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendocinoshelter.com. For information about adoptions please call 707-467-6453.

Dog walkers wanted

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is looking for dog walking volunteers. "We all need more love in our life! Dogs are the definition of true love... so come and get some love!!!"

Join our team by emailing dogteam@hsmc.org. If you are a current volunteer give us a call so we can get you signed up to help. We need all the help to make sure every dog gets out everyday! Visit <https://mendocinohumanesociety.com/> to learn more about HSMC.

— Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County



At top, from left: Fairall's Farm of Redwood Valley offers an assortment of jams, preserves and relishes. Chevre and feta are produced in the heart of Mendocino County by Shamrock Artisan Goat Cheese. Treat your loved ones to a ride on the famous Skunk Train. Above: The Book Juggler offers books, calendars, puzzles, games and more. Below: Dogs will love Odin's Organics freeze-dried healthy treats made by Shannon Furr of Willits.



West Business Development Center launches online Mendocino holiday gift guide

Submitted by West Business Development Center

West Business Development Center (West Center) is excited to announce the launch of its first online Holiday Gift Guide this week at www.westcenter.org/holiday-marketplace. In an effort to give an assist to local businesses that have a robust e-commerce presence, West Center has developed a dedicated page on their website featuring uniquely Mendocino products, experiences, and arts and crafts. Each listing features a selection of images, a short description of the business offerings, and a direct link to their online store.

Small businesses across Mendocino County – and around the world – are suffering due to the continued onslaught of the pandemic. New shelter-in-place orders and shutdowns are forcing businesses of all stripes to limit access by the public, revise their operational strategies, and rethink how to survive the coming winter months.

West Center recognized an opportunity to assist the small businesses in Mendocino County during what will surely be a holiday season like no other. West Center CEO Mary Anne Petrillo noted,

"This holiday season will be a challenge for us all, and particularly our business community. Our solution was to develop an online 'marketplace' that could bring in a little extra revenue and showcase some of our businesses successfully demonstrating their e-commerce capabilities."

West Center plans to promote the site with a digital marketing campaign to the Bay Area and Sacramento markets. "We want to reach those people who love Mendocino and couldn't make a trip this year but now they can make a purchase and share a Mendocino memory."

The marketing goal is to drive traffic to the West Center portal and, in turn, send potential buyers to Mendocino County businesses during a season when shoppers will be reluctant to go out unnecessarily and instead choose to shop from the safety of their homes. This year, projections are that 2020 holiday shopping is expected to increase by 1 to 1.5 percent, amounting to up to \$1.152 trillion during the November to January time frame.

West Center has opened this

seasonal online opportunity to Mendocino County businesses with an online store that accepts payments via credit or debit card, or other payment methods, such as Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, Google Wallet, etc.

Businesses who would like to be listed are encouraged to contact Alison de Grassi, director of marketing at alison@westcenter.org, who will assist with getting the business listed. West Center is not able to accept listings advertising alcohol or cannabis. If businesses don't yet have an online store but would like to get one set up, they should contact West Center at 707-964-7571 for assistance.

About West Business Development Center: West Center is a U.S. Small Business Administration funded non-profit business development center that provides reliable no cost confidential counseling and relevant training programs to entrepreneurs throughout Mendocino and Lake counties. West Center hosts the Mendocino Small Business Development Center and the Mendocino Women's Business Center. Visit www.westcenter.org for more information.



Above, left: Harwood Hall acts as a backdrop for the myriad vendors at the Bud Harwood Ballfield. Above, right: Knitted items at this stall include vibrant, cozy hats and even a baby Yoda. Below: The Pickle Man, David Rice, is stocked up on sauces and a variety of pickled foods. At bottom, left: A shopper checks out the herbs, salves and creams by Harvest Garden. At bottom, right: Colorful candles and homemade peach jam are on display from Bell Springs Candleworks.



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LITTLE LAKE HEALTH CENTER

Annual art and crafts fair held outdoors – it was chilly but the tradition lives on

The Laytonville community was determined to have their annual holiday arts and crafts bazaar despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Laytonville Healthy Start, Harwood Memorial Park, and Family Tree Service recreated the event outdoors at the Bud Harwood Ballfield in a safe, compliant manner, instead of inside Harwood Hall where it is usually held.

They decided to schedule the event a couple of weeks earlier than the traditional Christmas Craft Fair in hopes that the weather would be more hospitable, and so renamed it the Holiday Fall Arts and Crafts Bazaar. Even with the earlier date, the bazaar did need to be rescheduled once due to rain. As luck would have it, Sunday, November 22 was cool, but not too cold, clear and lovely.

Over 30 booths were set up on the ballfield with sufficient space to allow for social distancing. As shoppers entered



Handmade dolls are one of the myriad of knit products sold by Ann VanderHorck.

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Above, left: The vendors are set up with ample space to socially distance. Above, right: Everyday Alchemy Tonic Co. sells their tonics and herbs. Below: Selena Rowan of Nine Sisters Botanicals works the Mendocino Herb Guild Booth. At bottom: An eclectic selection of bird and bat houses are for sale.



The rest of Bazaar

the grounds, their temperature was tested with a no-touch laser thermometer. Phone numbers were taken for easy access to the shoppers in the event that contact tracing was required. Masks were required for vendors and attendees. Hand sanitizer was available for use by anyone who asked.

There was a wide variety of vendors, from such staples of the local crafting world as David Rice, The Pickle Man who never met a vegetable he would not pickle as long as it fit in a jar, to other regulars like Anne VanderHorck, providing traditional hand-knit dolls and other useful items. The Mendocino Herb Guild, who will be holding their own expo on December 6 in Willits, at the Rexall parking lot, was represented by Selena Rowan of Nine Sisters Botanicals, showing various tinctures, salves and remedies.

Other booths included photographers, knit items, tonics from Everyday Alchemy Tonic Co., candles, and many other eclectic mélanges of colorful, useful and decorative art. One of the most notable exhibits was a display of handmade bird and bat houses, in case one wishes to make the lives of their flying neighbors more comfortable.



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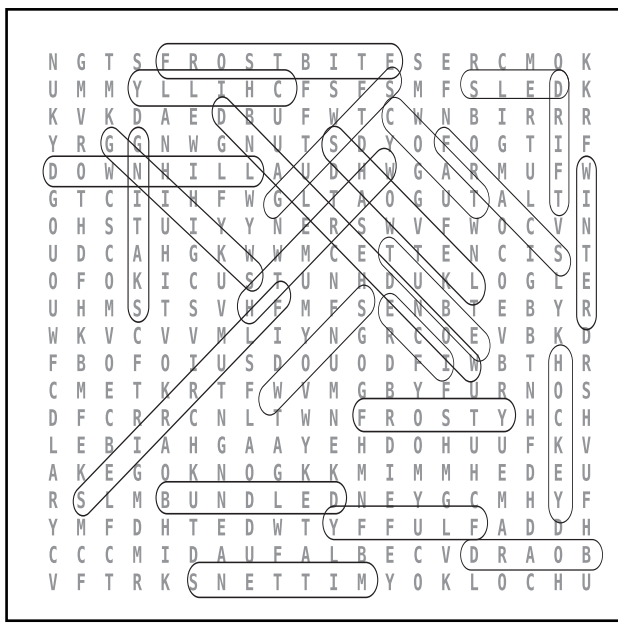
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The following company is doing business as Quantum Level Health, 291 School Street, Suite #4, Willits, CA 95490.
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FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on November 19, 2020.
/s/ Claudia Wenning
Publication dates: 11/25, 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17/2020

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

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EOE



The rest of Thanksgiving

senior center. Baker allowed use of the facilities to prepare and distribute the food. Both expressed their gratitude to the myriad volunteers without whom the event could not have occurred. "Our volunteers are working so hard," said Volz. "And they don't have to. They could stay home, but we're an essential service. They could just say it's too dangerous."

"We have a lot of really good Meals-On-Wheels drivers right now," Baker added. "They really like the job. They get the big picture. I like to let them know how important they are to us. We couldn't survive without them. We'd have to shut our doors if we had to pay all our volunteers."

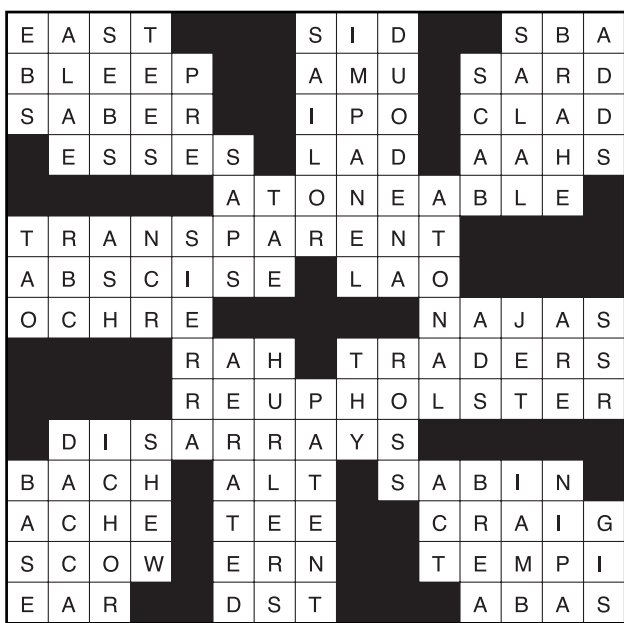
Each year, the inmates of Parlin Fork Conservation Camp come into town, pick up the turkeys, cook them along with the mashed potatoes and dressing, and deliver the food the day before the feast. This year, however, due to COVID-19, only the guards were able to pick up the food. The prisoners still prepared the turkeys and other goodies, which were delivered by the guards.

Baker and Volz spoke about the heightened need for their services during the pandemic. "There are a lot of anxious food-insecure people in general right now," Volz continued. "They don't know where they're going to get their next meal, if there's going to be enough by the end of this month. Funding is getting low. Supplies are getting low."

"Luckily, up here, we're getting most of what we need," she said. "Our main supplier is the Redwood Empire Food Bank. They supply from Santa Rosa to the Oregon border. They oversee a lot of food banks. They're the mothership."

The Redwood Empire Food Bank additionally supplies the commodities for the senior center food distribution on the third Tuesday of each month and the Community Food Distribution on the first Tuesday of the month.

Food is one of the basic needs for life. It is also a focus for get-togethers of family and friends in a time of sharing. Both the Willits Community Services and Food Bank and the Willits Harrah Senior Center are dedicated to making sure that people of the community have this valuable commodity. Both of these services run on donations and grants and the generosity of people. The food bank distributes food at their facility at 229 East San Francisco Street, Wednesday and Friday 1 to 4:30 pm, 459-3333. The senior center offers low-cost healthy complete meals at their window, Monday through Friday, 11:45 am to 1 pm, 1501 Baechtel Road, 459-6826.



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Willits Food Bank Open
Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be made to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

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



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8	3	9	2	7	5	4	6	1
6	2	1	3	8	4	7	9	5
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At left: Rainwater that collected in a cement fountain last month froze hard Thursday morning, trapping a few oak leaves partially and fully submerged in the ice.

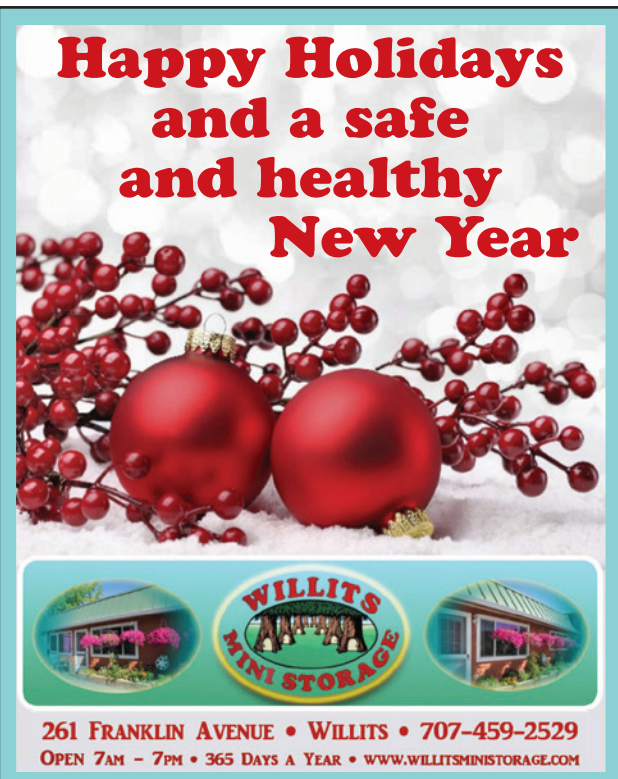
Above: The llamas' thick fur keeps them warm on cold winter mornings, but they still look interested in treats to warm their bellies ... you know, if there's any available.

Below: Frost clung to metal fencing and crisp brown weeds just the same way Friday morning. At bottom: A blanket of ice-lined leaves covered the yard Friday morning.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

CLIMATE STATION PRECIPITATION SUMMARY					
Courtesy California Nevada River Forecast Center					
	Oct. 01- Nov. 30, 2020	% of Normal	Oct. 01- Nov. 30, 2019	% of Normal	Oct. 01- Nov. 30 Normal*
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA					
Medford, OR	3.42	82	0.89	21	4.15
Klamath Falls, OR	1.64	51	0.50	15	3.24
Crescent City	5.99	43	4.17	30	13.97
Eureka	2.96	38	3.26	42	7.85
Ukiah	1.27	20	1.63	25	6.43
Montague/Siskiyou	1.46	35	0.41	10	4.17
Alturas	0.57	20	0.41	15	2.80
Mount Shasta City	1.70	23	2.68	36	7.36
Redding	1.50	23	2.17	33	6.58
Sacramento EXEC Airport	0.54	18	0.65	21	3.03
Sacramento - CSUS	0.87	25	M**	M**	3.48
Blue Canyon Airport	5.84	48	2.94	24	12.26
Santa Rosa	1.44	21	2.24	33	6.72
San Francisco	0.50	12	1.47	34	4.28
SFO International Airport	0.31	9	1.29	39	3.33
Oakland Airport	0.17	5	1.16	32	3.65
Livermore	0.33	11	0.12	4	2.90
San Jose	0.13	5	1.00	38	2.66
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA					
Stockton	0.09	4	0.89	35	2.51
Merced	1.08	54	2.18	110	1.99
Fresno	0.28	16	0.72	42	1.70
Bakersfield	0.39	41	1.07	114	0.94
Salinas	0.37	19	1.09	55	1.98
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA					
Santa Barbara	0.05	2	1.46	62	2.36
Los Angeles - USC	0.11	6	2.12	125	1.70
Irvine - John Wayne	0.37	19	2.32	116	2.00
San Diego - Lindbergh	0.38	24	2.72	172	1.58
Riverside	0.16	13	1.81	141	1.28
Palm Springs	0.04	4	0.79	81	0.97
Barstow - Daggett	0.03	6	0.44	85	0.52

*Normals are 1981-2010 averages. **Missing data.
Visit us on the web at: www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/index.php



The rest of COVID | From Page 1

average daily new case rate was 4.4. On Tuesday, December 1, it was 22 new cases per day – more than three times the number 7 cases, the threshold that separates the purple ("widespread") tier from the red ("substantial") tier.

On December 1, the county recorded 38 new cases of COVID-19. On November 19, the county notched an additional 50 cases in one day. In addition, the county went from 1,485 cases on November 25 to 1,559 cases on November 27, a gain of 74 new cases over a three-day period.

Both the Mendocino County Department of Public Health and the Willits City Manager have sent out announcements urging people to observe the county's shelter-in-place Public Health orders.

"As a medical professional, it is deeply troubling to see the COVID-19 case and hospitalization rate grow in our county as a result of noncooperation with state health orders," said County Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren said in a statement issued on November 29.

"I want life to get back to normal just as eagerly as all Mendocino County residents do, but if we as a community continue down this path, we will see major consequences. Our hospitals can become overrun like others throughout the country, and our healthcare workers will soon be overworked," Coren said.

The City of Willits issued a similar message on November 25. "The City of Willits would like to urge everyone to continue to be extremely careful about wearing masks and social distancing. Please urge others to do the same and urge businesses not following the health orders to please do so for all of our safety.

"We have been tracking the active COVID-19 cases for the City of Willits for some time," the message from the city continued. "For a long time, we had just one or two per week. However, there is no question we are experiencing a heavy surge in Mendocino County that has reached Willits.

"Three weeks ago, we had three active cases we knew of in isolation. Two weeks ago, we had seven, but this week, we have 18. This is a very fast expansion for our small city. We also have 27 people in quarantine," the message stated.

COVID-19 update

Since the first case that was confirmed in the county on March 19, the county has confirmed a total of 1,632 cases of the disease. Of that number, 1,375 have been released from isolation.

As of Tuesday evening, the county has 234 confirmed active cases of COVID-19 in the county. Of that number, 225 are being kept in isolation; six are in local hospitals and three are in an intensive care unit, either in or out of the county. A total of 23 people in this county have died from the disease, and 398 people are under a two-week quarantine.

According to the Mendocino County Department of Public Health, the county's average daily rate of new cases (over seven days, with a seven-day lag time) is 22. Over the same period of time, the testing positivity rate is 4.21 percent. Like most of the rest of California, the county is in the purple tier, in which the spread of the disease is called widespread.

Looking at disease statistics along racial lines, 986 of all cases are among people of Latinx descent; 346 among whites; 114 among American Indians; seven among Blacks, 13 among Asians; 146 are categorized as "unreported"; and 20 are classified as "other."

Looking at the disease from a regional perspective, 1,203 cases reside in the Ukiah valley; 188 live in the north county; 150 are from the north coast; 57 are from the south county; and 34 are from the south coast.

A total of 871 people who have contracted COVID in Mendocino County were female and 761 were male. That means that slightly over half, or 53.3 percent of the people who contracted COVID-19 in this county were female.

Looking at the disease as broken up into age cohorts: 47 cases have been among people between the ages of 0 and 5; 67 cases between ages of 6 and 12; 141 people between the ages of 13 and 18; 538 people between the ages of 19 and 34; 425 people between the ages of 35 and 49; 258 people between the ages of 50 and 64; and 156 cases have been among people who are 65 or older.

A total of 36,033 tests have been done in this county. As of Tuesday evening, the results of 1,581 tests were pending.

The rest of Covelo | From Page 1

reported assault and possible kidnapping on Oak Lane in Covelo.

An official cause of death for both individuals is pending at this time but Sheriff's Office detectives are investigating their deaths as being homicide-related.

Detectives are continuing investigations at this time and are working closely with the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office in identifying suspect(s) and potential charging/prosecution related to McCartney and Bland's deaths.

No additional information is available for release at this time due to the ongoing investigations.

Once additional information becomes available, it will be disseminated via Mendocino County Sheriff's Office press release.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the following public safety agencies for their assistance in this ongoing investigation:

Mendocino County District Attorney's Office, Round Valley Tribal Police Department, California Department of Justice Eureka crime lab and the California Department of Justice Santa Rosa crime lab.

Editor's Note: According to a December 2 report posted on MendoFever (<https://mendo fever.com/>) by reporter Matt LaFever, the DA's Office has filed a criminal complaint against six Round Valley residents in the deaths of McCartney and Bland, including charges of "murder in the first degree, kidnapping, carjacking, and torture."

COVID relief program awards \$91,000 in grants to non-profits

Submitted by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County

In response to the hardships facing Mendocino County as a result of the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County has created the Non-Profit Relief Program as part of our multi-sector COVID-19 Relief Program. We are pleased to announce that \$91,000 in local non-profit relief grants were awarded to 19 countywide organizations in our first round of grant making.

Mendocino County relies on non-profit organizations for basic needs, arts, the environment, and so much more. However, these critical organizations are experiencing financial and programmatic impacts due to the pandemic and correlating financial crisis.

Non-profits provide a critical safety-net to our communities, and will experience long-term implications directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased costs related to the outbreak, cancellation of fundraising events, and loss of fee for service income. These grants were provided to help mitigate some of the difficulties faced by the non-profit sector in Mendocino County as a result of the pandemic.

Grantees included:

- Acorn Partners in Education
- Alex Rorabaugh Recreation Center
- Arena Theater Association
- Caspar Community Center
- Community Center of Mendocino
- Leadership Mendocino
- Mendocino Area Parks Association (MendoParks)
- Mendocino County Public Broadcasting
- Mendocino County Soccer Academy
- Mendocino Land Trust
- Mendocino Performing Arts Company
- Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association
- Noyo Center for Marine Science
- Redwood Coast Medical Services
- Temple of Kwan Tai
- The Harwood Memorial Park, Inc.
- Westport Volunteer Fire Department
- Willits Center for the Arts
- Willits Daily Bread

The grants awarded were for round one of the program. There will be two additional rounds of Non-Profit Relief open to eligible non-profits in Mendocino County. To find out more about the Non-Profit Relief grant program please visit our website at www.communityfound.org and view the guidelines.

Round Two: Applications due January 15, awardees announced by March 15.

Round Three: Applications due by March 27, awards announced by May 15.

This program was made possible by the COVID-19 Non-Profit Relief Fund of the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. The Community Foundation of Mendocino County is a countywide non-profit organization that administers permanent charitable funds established through gifts and bequests from individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations. For more information, visit www.communityfound.org or call 707-468-9882.

Willits Senior Center Lunch

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

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

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

Home Meal Delivery

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

Willits.

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

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

Monday, December 7: Tamale Pie w/ mixed Mexican veggie

Tuesday, December 8: Pork & Green Chili Casserole, tortillas and green salad

Wednesday, December 9: Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, veggie, garlic bread

Thursday, December 10: Chicken Nuggets w/mac & cheese, 3 bean salad

Friday, December 11: Sausage, sweet & sour peppers & onions over rice

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

Christmas Store at Willits Senior Center opens December 7

Don't miss the ongoing Christmas Store at Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. The Christmas Store is an extension of the Thrift Shop. As items are donated to the senior center throughout the year, Christmas decorations are set aside for the holiday-themed store. The result is a multi-roomed accumulation of artificial Christmas trees, festive linens, wreaths, platters for holiday meals, wrapping supplies, candles, ornaments, holiday cards, advent scenes and more. See's Candies will also be available for sale.

The Christmas Store will be open December 7 through 12, from 9 am to 4 pm. New items are put out regularly, so come see some of the fabulous finds and check back often. All proceeds go to senior center programs. Info: 459-6826.

– Willits Harrah Senior Center

Mendocino County Winter Holiday Department Schedules

Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office

All Mendocino County offices will be closed November 26 and 27, 2020, December 25, 2020, and January 1, 2021. The following offices will be closed to the public on the additional days in December identified below.

The public is urged to call a department's office number in advance to confirm the availability of services. Please visit the county's website at <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/> for departmental contact information.

Agriculture: December 21-24, and December 31 at noon

Air Quality: December 21-24, and December 31 at noon

Animal Care Services: Ukiah Facility: December 24 at 1 pm, December 26 and December 31 at 1pm

Assessor/Clerk-Recorder: December 31 at 2 pm

Auditor-Controller: December 21-24, and December 31 at noon

Child Support Services: December 23-24, and December 31 at noon

County Counsel: December 23-24, and December 31 at noon

Cultural Services Agency: December 24, and December 28-31

Executive Office: December 21-24, and December 31 at noon

Health & Human Services Agency: All emergency services will still be provided 24 hours a day. Some divisions will remain open during holiday dates. Please visit the following link for specific division schedules: www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=38904

Human Resources: December 21-24, and December 31 at noon

Library: Please visit the Library's website for specific branch closures, www.mendolib.org/locations/holidays-closures

Museum: Currently closed due to the State of California COVID-19 guidelines

Retirement Association: December 21-24, and December 31 at noon

Planning & Building Services: December 21-24, and December 31 at noon

Probation: December 24, and December 31 at noon

Public Defender: December 21-24, and December 31 at noon

Sheriff-Coroner: December 24 at noon, and December 31 at noon

Treasurer/Tax Collector: December 21-24

UC Cooperative Extension: December 23 at noon, December 24, December 30 at noon and December 31.

CDTEA reports cannabis tax revenues for third quarter 2020

Submitted by California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration reported revenue numbers last week for cannabis sales for the third quarter of 2020. As of November 16, 2020, California's cannabis excise tax generated \$159.8 million in revenue reported on the third quarter 2020 returns due by November 2, 2020, and the cultivation tax generated \$41 million.

Sales tax from cannabis businesses totaled \$105.9 million in revenue for the same period. Sales tax applies to sales of cannabis, cannabis products, and other tangible personal property. Certain retail sales of medicinal cannabis are exempt from sales and use taxes when the purchaser provides, at the time of purchase, a valid medical marijuana identification card issued by the California Department of Public Health and a valid government-issued identification card.

Total tax revenue reported by the cannabis industry is \$306.7 million for third quarter returns due by November 2, 2020. This does not include tax revenue collected by each jurisdiction. Previously reported revenue for second quarter 2020 returns was revised to \$260.2 million, which included \$135 million in cannabis excise tax, \$30.7 million in cultivation tax, and \$94.5 million in sales tax. Revisions to quarterly data are the result of amended and late returns, and other tax return adjustments. Cannabis tax revenue data is available at www.cdtefa.ca.gov/dataset/cannabis-tax-revenues.

Since January 2018, total program revenue to date is \$1.81 billion, which includes \$906.4 million in cannabis excise tax, \$223.3 million in cultivation tax, and \$682.9 million in sales tax.

In November 2016, California voters approved Proposition 64, the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act. Beginning on January 1, 2018, two new cannabis taxes went into effect: a cultivation tax on all harvested cannabis that enters the commercial market and a 15 percent cannabis excise tax upon purchasers of cannabis and cannabis products. In addition, retail sales of cannabis and cannabis products are subject to state and local sales tax. To learn more, visit www.cdtefa.ca.gov/industry/cannabis.htm.

The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration administers California's sales and use, fuel, tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis taxes, as well as a variety of other taxes and fees that fund specific state programs. CDTEA-administered programs account for over \$73 billion annually, which in turn supports local essential services such as transportation, public safety and health, libraries, schools, social services, and natural resource management programs through the distribution of tax dollars going directly to local communities.



Emile Bruneau

Dr. Emile Gabriel Bruneau, founder of the Peace and Conflict Neuroscience Lab at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, died on September 30 of brain cancer at his home in Philadelphia. He was 47.

Emile was born in Palo Alto in 1972. Shortly after his birth his mother was diagnosed with severe schizophrenia, and he was raised by his father for several years, in a cooperative, creative way that gave him a love of learning, play, and adventure.

In 1984, Emile moved to Willits and went to BGMS. At WHS he played football, wrestled, ran track, was on Academic Decathlon and a Peer Counselor. In 1990, Emile went to Stanford. He got his Masters and PhD in neuroscience at the University of Michigan, and did Post Doctoral research at MIT.

In 2010, Emile married, settled in Philadelphia and had two children. Emile's life long interest was in conflict between people, and how we might learn to feel empathy for one another instead of hatred. He traveled all over the world finding ways to use science towards peacemaking in the world. He was at the height of that work when he died.

Emile is survived by his wife, two children, his father and step-mother, William and Betsy Bruneau, his step-sister Heather McLeod, many friends, and extended family. A recent Op Ed in the New York Times, titled "The World Lost Emile Bruneau When We Needed Him Most," gives a good overview of his work towards peace and his positive and loving approach to the world. An internet search will bring up many videos by him and about him.

"Emile spoke with such kindness and optimism and hope about the world around him, even as his research forced him to focus on some of the most intractable and violent problems that plague us as a people," Annenberg dean John L. Jackson Jr. said in a UPenn tribute.

The best memorial you can give for Emile is to simply care for each other more, show love and compassion when you can, and have some empathy for the other side.

Elouise Belio

On the morning of Tuesday, October 27, 2020 Elouise Swope Belio left her blessings and life on this planet to move to a higher plane of her being, with pride and dignity in her own home with loved ones by her side.

Elouise and her twin brother were born in San Rafael to Ella and Howard Cavanaugh on July 27, 1926. They were the first boy and girl twins to be born in Marin County.

In 1940 the family moved to Willits. Elouise attended school there until she returned to San Rafael to graduate with her senior class.

Elouise returned to Willits and married Jim Whited and had four children. She is preceded in death by her twin brother, Jim Whited, Glenn Swope, and Rene Belio.

She is survived by her four children Sherry Stamps, Bill Whited, Gaylene Austin, and Linda Dean, two step-children Judy Clark and Jayne Noella, grand- and great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Upon her request there will be no services. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Humane Society for her love of animals, or to plant a beauty of nature would be her wishes. Her love for her family and friends will remain in all of our hearts and memories: We will feel her in the beauty of nature being it the stars, moon, sunsets, rainbows, and gardening.

Elouise was full of love and kindness that she gave to all. So dearly loved and missed beyond words. Shine on beautiful soul until we meet again.

We're always here to help make sure holidays are bright!



707-459-9116

T and T TOWING

RADIO DISPATCHED
24 HR TOWING

277 N. Lenore Ave.
WILLITS, CA

**Harrah Senior Center
Christmas Store**

1501 Baechtel Road
**December 7-12
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Volunteers Needed (459-6826)
Masks Required

SEE'S CANDY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Nut N Chews, Soft Centers, Milk, Dark and Assorted
1lb. boxes.

DRIVE THRU PICK UP
CALL 459-6826

See's Candies
Chocolate Covered
Gummies



Winnie Edgar

Winnie Ilene Edgar was born May 17, 1942 in Ukiah, California, to James Luther Bryant and Gladys Ilene Mott. The family resided in Willits. Winnie's sister, Bonnie, arrived in 1943. Their father was killed in a logging accident April 20, 1944.

Their mother remarried in 1945 to Richard Samuel Petty. They had a son, Richard Lee Petty, born in 1946. Winnie went through school in Willits, graduating from Willits High in June 1960. She and David Edgar were married on May 29, 1960. They had two daughters, Michelle Dian born July 1, 1961 and Lori Christine born May 16, 1964.

Winnie lived her life in Willits except for a few years in Arcata and Eureka in the early '60s. She was a working mom most of the time. She and David managed the Willits Sprouse Reitz store from 1967 to 1977, when they bought the Montgomery Ward Agency from Ron and Ethyl Woodruff, and operated it until 1985 when Wards closed all agencies nationwide.

Winnie then worked for the Skunk Train at the depot in Willits until she purchased the Swing Set children's clothing store. When she closed the store in 1994 she went to work for the Willits Unified School District as a teacher's aide at the Brookside and Blosser Lane schools. Winnie retired in 2009 and she and David traveled for several years. Diagnosed with dementia in 2011, she was still able to travel, the last trip in 2017 to see the grandchildren in Montana, Illinois and Oregon.

She was preceded in death by her mother and both fathers; sister-in-law Judy Petty, and brother-in-law William Gerwe. Winnie is survived by her husband, David; daughters: Shellee (Steven) Snyder and Lori (Albert) Redenius; brother, Richard (Denny); and sister, Bonnie Gerwe. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and her two dogs, Foxy & Paco. The family wishes to say a special "Thank you" to Phoenix Hospice, and especially Dennis and Meriam, her caretakers in her final days. Per her wishes, there will be no services.

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



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SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Modified Worship Service
10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended for now.
For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
• Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252
Sunday Mass outside:
8:00 a.m. English
9:00 a.m. Spanish
We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Church Services/ Communion
by Zoom at noon.
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

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

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

Willits United Methodist
A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com

If you want to be included in this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

County seeks residents who have experienced homelessness to review shelter funding requests

Submitted by Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency is recruiting residents with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the review of "Emergency Solutions Grant" emergency-shelter funding requests from local community service providers.

The purpose of the request for funding proposals is to distribute funds authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) passed by Congress for homeless services for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Emergency Solutions Grant.

Funds were released by HUD to the California Department of Housing and Community Development and allocated to Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency for administration on behalf of the Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care. A portion of these funds are made available for the exclusive purpose of funding emergency shelter operations used to respond to COVID-19.

To be eligible to participate on the application review team, persons must be current residents of Mendocino County, have lived experience (former or current) of HUD-defined homelessness (i.e. slept in place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, and / or other similar conditions), and not be currently receiving services from any projects requesting funds.

This solicitation is aimed to retain one to three persons to join members of the Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care, as well as member(s) of Mendocino County HHS Administration in the review and approval recommendation process.

To volunteer or find out more information, please contact Veronica Wilson, program administrator, at 707-468-7071 or wilsonv@mendocinocounty.org by 9 am on Monday, December 7, 2020. The Mendocino County Executive Office's solicitation page for this RFP is www.mendocinocounty.org/Home/Components/RFP/RFP/1812/181.

The rest of **KLLG**

From Page 2

magnetic Baxter Robertson. KLLG is looking for volunteers with radio engineering experience. Please go to our web site, www.kllg.org and click on the link to Jeff Shipp for more information and an application form.

PSAs are still available to businesses and organizations by leaving the details at psa@kllg.org. If this is for a specific program or Zoom meeting, please make contact with us two weeks before the date of your event. Donations are gratefully accepted for our ongoing production expenses as well as underwriting. Help us help Willits.

Election

From Page 1

boxes as a feature of future elections. "We collected 13,480 ballots from our out-of-town drop boxes," Bartolomie said, "and we collected 13,359 ballots in our own ballot drop box, here in Ukiah. That's 26,839 ballots that we collected. If we had to pay for the return postage on those, it would have cost the county \$18,500."

Bartolomie said election efforts were helped by new vote counting machines and also by an envelope opening machine, which was a recent purchase.

She also was pleased with her decision to provide a mid-month update on the progress of the vote count. "I know the press likes it, and the candidates like it," she said.

"I don't think the ordinary voter cares much about it, one way or the other. But I know when I ran for office, I wanted to know if I was still in the lead, or not. So it's important to the candidates. We will continue to do that, and as we learn more and as things get better, we will try to do it more often," Bartolomie said.

Final results of the election

For president of the United States, in Mendocino County, Joe Biden received 66.41 percent to Donald Trump's 30.61 percent. For U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd District incumbent Jared Huffman received 70.03 percent of the Mendocino County vote, to challenger Dale Mensing's 29.97 percent.

For member of the California State Assembly, 2nd District incumbent Jim Wood received 68.42 percent of the vote in Mendocino County, to challenger Charlotte Svolos's 31.58 percent.

For First District county supervisor, Glenn McGourty received 57.70 percent of the vote, to Jon Kennedy's 42.30 percent. For Second District county supervisor, Maureen Mulheren received 60.64 percent to Mari Rodin's 39.36 percent.

For Willits City Council, each of the three incumbents were re-elected, as they all ran unopposed. In that race, 77.55 percent of registered voters in Willits voted. Gerry Gonzalez received 1,290 votes or 35.97 percent; Saprina Rodriguez received 1,174 votes or 32.74 percent; and Madge Strong received 1,122 votes or 31.29 percent of all votes cast.

For the two open seats on the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees, 79.49 percent of all registered voters within the boundaries of the Willits Unified School District voted.

Dianne McNeal and incumbent Alex Bowlds were elected. McNeal received 28.78 percent of all votes cast; Bowlds received 26.27 percent. Tracey Douglas received 23.29 percent, and Bryan Mann received 21.66 percent of the vote.

Measure K, the City of Willits sales tax measure, was approved with 65.11 percent of voters voting in the affirmative, and 34.89 percent of voters voting against it. Speaking of Measure K, Willits Mayor Gerry Gonzalez thanked the voters of Willits.

"I'm elated that we didn't have to take the kind of drastic steps that we were contemplating," Gonzalez said. "And I'm glad that the public trusted us enough to vote to support the city, and I hope we can honor that trust with sound financial decisions going forward."

Measure L, the Willits Unified School District bond measure, was approved with 60.04 percent of voters voting yes, and 39.96 percent voting no.

"I am extremely pleased that the community supported the school district in repairing our facilities," said Willits Unified Superintendent Mark Westerburg. "We have old facilities that are in need of repair, but with these funds I believe they can be put in good repair, even though they will still be old."

"I would say 100 percent of the community recognizes the fact that our facilities are old and in need of repair, and it is extremely encouraging that 60 percent of the community said, 'We're going to give you the money to repair these facilities.'"

"That's a very positive thing for the school district," Westerburg said. "And I have already drawn up a list of the first four projects that I want to get going on. And plus, I want to say here that it is my intention, when I go to the school board, that I am going to recommend that the first bond we put out will be for \$25 per \$100,000, instead of \$40 per \$100,000."

"When we wrote this bond we wrote it so that we could adjust the rate of the tax, depending on economic times. Right now, the economic times are tough, and so I am going to recommend that we adjust that bond accordingly."

Removed

From Page 1

water and nutrients to become restricted.

In addition, Coffman reported that "soil saturation and compaction are likely having a negative effect on root respiration." He said that over-irrigation was likely contributing to the soil being overly saturated, and that soil compaction is commonly seen in areas of high foot traffic such as parks.

He also noted in his report that the tree has a lean to the east toward Main Street which increases the risk of it impacting people on the road and sidewalk.

Due to all these issues, his report stated that according to U.S. Forest Service guidelines, the tree should be removed as soon as possible.

"While it may be possible to perform a root excavation to sever the girdling roots and correct the over-irrigation issue, with the level of dieback already present, it is highly unlikely that the tree would recover," said Coffman.

"Given the conclusion that the probability of success of attempting to treat the issues at hand is very low, and that the U.S. Forest Service Tatum Guide suggests immediate mitigation of the hazard, it is my recommendation that the tree in question be removed to reduce the potential for damages when the tree inevitably fails," he stated.

He also said that some of the other sequoias in the park were "exhibiting signs of diminishing health as well," and recommended the city "take steps to remedy the soil saturation issue in the park" to improve their chances moving forward.

Willits City Manager Stephanie Garra-brant-Sierra said that the city does plan to go with the recommendation from NCRM and remove the tree, though they will be sad to see it go.

Brown announces new assistance for businesses impacted by COVID-19

Submitted by the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Billions in immediate, temporary tax relief will support businesses impacted by COVID-19, along with \$500 million in new COVID-19 Relief Grant funding for small businesses and an additional \$12.5 million added to the California Rebuilding Fund launched last week.

As the federal government fails to provide additional financial stimulus support to main street businesses, Governor Gavin Newsom announced Monday, November 30 that California will provide temporary tax relief for eligible businesses impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

The temporary tax relief entails an automatic three-month income tax extension for taxpayers filing less than \$1 million in sales tax, extends the availability of existing interest and penalty-free payment agreements to companies with up to \$5 million in taxable sales, and provides expanded interest-free payment options for larger businesses particularly affected by significant restrictions on operations based on COVID-19 transmissions.

The total tax relief, if fully utilized, is estimated to have billions in impact. These efforts are informed by recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery.

"California's small businesses embody the best of the California Dream and we can't let this pandemic take that away," said Governor Newsom. "We have to lead with health to reopen our economy safely and sustainably while doing all we can to keep our small businesses afloat."

"With this financial assistance and tax relief," continued Newsom, "California is stepping up where the federal government isn't. By providing potentially billions in immediate relief and support, our small businesses can weather the next month as we continue partnering with the legislature to secure additional funding and investments in small businesses in the new year."

Small businesses are drivers of economic growth – creating two-thirds of new jobs and employing nearly half of all private sector employees. California is home to 4.1 million small businesses, representing 99.8 percent of all businesses in the state and employing 7.2 million workers in California, or 48.5 percent of the state's total workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a significant challenge to small businesses, employers and employees. An August small business majority survey data found that 44 percent of small businesses are at risk of shutting down. Data released through the Census Current Population Survey found that minority-owned businesses are disproportionately impacted: the number of active businesses owned by African-Americans dropped by 41 percent, Latinx by 32 percent, Asians by 25 percent, and immigrants by 36 percent.

"California's small businesses continue to struggle as a result of COVID-19, and this latest round of action at the state level will help bridge the financial gaps that are vexing our state's mom-and-pop business owners and nonprofits while we wait for congressional action, and as we prepare for additional legislative action at the start of the year," said Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego).

"From widening access to grants," Atkins continued, "low-interest loans, and tax deferrals, to modifying fees incurred by restaurants and bars, these are critical supports for the small businesses and services that keep our communities going. Now, we need our federal partners to do their part and pass a federal stimulus so these businesses and nonprofits can survive 2020 and the year to come."

"While we wait for Congress and the White House to approve an economic relief package that responds to the current surge, California

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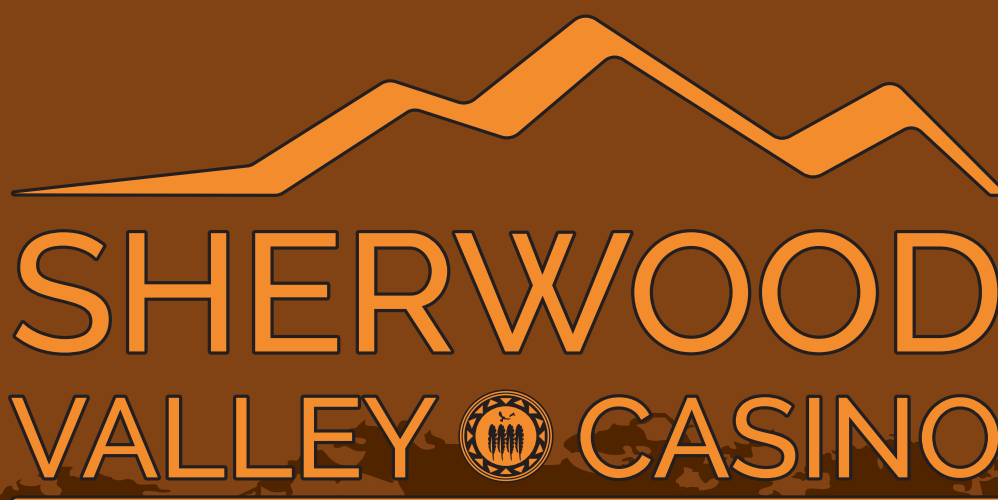
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