

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

EST. 2013



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 384

Thursday, December 17, 2020

COVID cases continue to rise

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Total cases of COVID-19 in Mendocino County passed the 2,000-case threshold on Monday, December 14 when the county Department of Public Health recorded 27 cases in one day. Those cases brought the number of cumulative cases in Mendocino County to 2,019. Tuesday's total of 32 new cases brought the case count up to 2,051.

In recent updates, Mendocino County reported 57 new cases of COVID on December 9, 38 cases on December 10, 22 new cases on

Read the rest of
Cases

Over on Page 10

Brooktrails garbage rates to rise 1.38%

Barbara O'Reardon

Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board voted to increase garbage rates by 1.38 percent at their December 8 meeting. Resolution 2020-11 - Establishing rates for Solid Waste of Willits refuse collection and recycling services proposed the increase in order for Solid Waste of Willits to continue to provide the necessary services.

Director Ed Horrick made the motion, and Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea seconded. The vote was unanimous in support of the rate increase which will result in an annual increase of \$6.24 (per typical weekly 35 gallon usage) for an individual residential bill.

Board reorganization and committee assignments were briefly discussed, and

Read the rest of
Rates

Over on Page 11

Climate Action committee update

The Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee met on Friday, December 11, and made plans for a future appearance before the board of supervisors. Fourth District representative and committee Chair Marie Jones told the committee that she has a tentative agreement with Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsey Daugherty to have time scheduled before the supervisors in a meeting in early February.

Jones suggested that the presentation cover four topics, and the committee discussed which members should present on which topics. First District representative John Nickerson was appointed to present on the status of the committee's baseline study, which is a proposed study of the amount of carbon dioxide that the county is putting out into the atmosphere now. Currently, the committee needs financial support in order to obtain information on carbon dioxide production in several sectors of the county's economy.

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
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Fourth District representative Michael Potts was appointed to present on the committee's "First Policy Recommendations." This is a list of actions which Potts, and other members of his subcommittee, have agreed to recommend to the supervisors as a way that county government could address climate change. Potts and other committee members frequently referred to the First Policy Recommendations as "low hanging fruit."

New committee member Randy McDonald, who is from the First Supervisorial District, was asked to present an overview of "the latest in climate change."

Jones said she would present to the supervisors on the potential benefits of grants to the work of the committee.

The committee also decided to direct various committee members to write letters to various agencies in support of positions favored by the committee. Third District

Read the rest of

Climate

Over on Page 10



Adventist Health Howard Memorial's Director of Pharmacy, Dr. Matthew D'Anis, left, and Inpatient Pharmacist Dr. Victor Loi, excitedly await the arrival of the vaccine.

Photos by
Maureen Jennison

Waiting on pins and needles ... and syringes

Adventist Health waits excitedly for arrival of first shipment of Pfizer coronavirus vaccines for Mendocino County

Like the rest of the world, the anticipation is mounting here in Mendocino County, too, as the first shipments of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine are due to arrive any day now, allowing the first sectors of the community to start to become immunized to the virus that has gripped our lives during most of 2020.

Maureen Jennison

Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

FDA issued an emergency use authorization for the first COVID-19 vaccine on Friday, December 11, and Mendocino County is currently expecting 975 doses to arrive any day. The doses will be the first of two needed for 975 people, with second doses arriving on a scheduled shipment from Pfizer within the appropriate time window.

Read the rest of

Vaccine

Over on Page 11



City says goodbye to city manager

Forrest Glyer

Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

At last week's Willits City Council meeting, several councilmembers and city staff gave heartfelt statements to outgoing City Manager Stephanie Garbrant-Sierra who was serving at her final council meeting, and will be retiring at the beginning of January.

Garbrant-Sierra likewise has many kind words for the staff and council she has worked with during what she called "a hectic, crazy, wonderful, and sometimes heartbreaking three years."

"We did a lot in the last

Read the rest of
Goodbye

Over on Page 11

Little Lake Fire board hears positive update

Joanne Moore

Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

Projects in motion keep on moving, people are rescued, fires are put out, and good works are accomplished.

In other words, business as usual was the message for the board of directors of the Little Lake Fire Protection District at their December meeting.

The new firehouse "is good ... steel going up ... a building going together," said Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, who has estimated completion hopefully by Frontier Days in July.

"Staff doesn't have a single item on the whiteboard for our response on the project ... the big things on our plate are completed," he added.

Read the rest of

LLFD

Over on Page 10

McCowen, Brown bid farewell

Kudos and congratulations gushed forth as the board of supervisors and local political figures bid farewell to longtime Mendocino County supervisors John McCowen and Carre Brown at the board's last meeting of 2020.

Mike A'Dair

Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, State Senator Mike McGuire and State Assemblyman Jim Wood briefly zoomed into the December 15 meeting to congratulate and thank Brown and McCowen, both of whom have served on the board for the past 12 years.

McGuire said of Brown: "Both the assemblymember and I have a deep, deep respect for Supervisor Brown, and her commitment to this community, as well as her lifelong commitment to public service."

"Supervisor Brown, I think we would all agree, has dedicated her life to the betterment of others. She has been committed to promoting and defending Mendocino County agriculture, and helped

put viticulture, and our wine region of Mendocino County, on the map as the executive director for the Mendocino County Farm Bureau for over two decades.

"Carre constantly has given back to this community, whether it is her time on the Eel-Russian River Commission, where she helped lead our commission to craft its water policy for both rivers. She secured millions in Quagga mussel funding as well as drought relief funding.

"She has spent years on the Redwood Empire Fair board. She has constantly given back to local youth in 4H and local schools, and she has been dedicated to the cultivation of the next generation of female leaders here in Mendocino County.

"People know if you want to get something done in Mendocino County, you go to Carre Brown, and we are going to miss her deeply," McGuire said.

Assemblymember Wood said of John

Read the rest of

Supes

Over on Page 10

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Rotary Student Loan Debt Assistance

To the Editor: Are you one of the many who struggle to make ends meet due to student loan debt?

Rotary Club of Willits has recognized the problem of college graduates leaving college with sometimes huge student loan debt. To help alleviate the pressure of these loans on Willits area residents, we have created a new program called the Rotary Club of Willits Student Debt Assistance Program.

The committee developed an application and the criteria for choosing a Willits area college and/or career technical school graduate to receive help with their student loan debt for a year. The goal of SDAP is to encourage local college or career tech graduates, who are active in the community, to stay in the Willits area.

Applications became available December 10, 2020, and the deadline for the completed applications is February 12, 2021.

Preliminary funding for 2021 was donated by an anonymous donor for the 2021 program, but our club welcomes donations to this fund so we can serve more Willits area residents in need of student loan assistance. You can send checks, with a notation that they go to the "Willits SDAP account." Rotary Club of Willits is an IRS 501(c) (3) charitable foundation.

Please check out the new Internal Revenue Service special coronavirus tax provision for the 2020 tax year, that will allow more people to easily deduct up to \$300 in donations to qualifying charities. This provision expires at the end of 2020.

For more information contact Jenny Senter at 707-888-7834.

To donate, please send checks to: Rotary Club of Willits, P.O. Box 787, Willits, CA 95490.

For applications, please send an email to: willitssdap@gmail.com

Our best to you and yours during this holiday season.

Joe Bratt, program chair, Willits Rotary

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

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 8, Number 384
3,500 - 4,000 copies printed by Western Web on Thursdays

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COLUMN | Journal

‘She needed help, not prison’

The other day I was listening to an interview with the gifted young attorney, Brittany K. Barnett, on National Public Radio's program "Fresh Air." Barnett's book "A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom" has been named the Best Book of 2020 by Amazon. She's been responsible for getting Presidents Obama and even Trump to commute the sentences of several people who committed non-violent crimes and were sentenced to unusually harsh punishments.

One such person was Barnett's own mother, a registered nurse who became addicted to crack cocaine. Once released from her incarceration, she was clean and sober and returned to nursing, specializing in helping others with drug abuse issues.

One thing that particularly caught my attention in Barnett's interview was her comment about her mother: "She needed help, not prison." Former Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman has said this many times regarding inmates in county jail. That was the reason tax payers voted to tax ourselves with the Measure B initiative – to help fund solutions and urgent help for people with mental illness, including substance abuse.

Incarceration costs taxpayers much more than effective therapy and rehabilitation. About five years ago, Allman spearheaded an intensive campaign to pass Measure B. Measure B's intended purpose was to create a much-needed support system for our county's mental health system and its overworked, underpaid personnel.

Allman warned time and again about how various county and local policing agencies had become the de facto caretakers for many people who are mentally ill and need help, not a prison cell. Unfortunately, the Measure B Advisory Committee, although peopled by some very well-intentioned people, has failed its mission, along with our county board of supervisors, in respect to mental health care.

The committee meets only two hours per month and has an unwieldy 11 members. Millions have been spent on studies and acquisition of inadequate real estate to plan a facility that will treat less than 10 people at a time; while our county's mental health needs increase exponentially.

Currently the United States has the highest number of incarcerated individuals of any county in the world, with more than 2.12 million people in prison. Number two on the list is China, with well over a billion more people than the U.S. The "prison for profit" system currently in place in the U.S. is in itself a crime – often literally with government-sanctioned criminal behavior on the part of companies' treatment of prisoners, many of those prisoners suffering from various mental illnesses.

County and city governments would do well to create general plans and tax incentives that effectively address our social and mental health issues, such as encouraging development of affordable housing and vocational training in schools for a changing work force. Good planning creates targeted goals that focus spending of scarce human resources and public funds.

Many people are becoming homeless now, oftentimes because of our COVID-19 recession. Old age, lost jobs, illness, children in need – these are not crimes. Tax legislation that transfers trillions of working-class dollars to the super wealthy, political edicts that undermine Social Security and Medicare / Medicaid – these are genuine crimes.

Can you imagine what today's medical personnel as well as service professionals are going through? Burn-out, COVID infection, separation from family. Arrogant, angry people continue to go out in public without even wearing a mask. They still have big gatherings, crowd airports and some religious facilities – spreading COVID-19 and causing, currently, as many deaths each day in the U.S. as died at the World Trade Center – every day!

When my very loving dad was very young, just age 17, he lied about his age and joined the Army. After a few weeks of basic training, he was shipped off to fight the war, World War II, in the Pacific. He loved his country. He never spoke about what happened to him in the war, but he suffered from depression and alcoholism for the rest of his life.

When I spoke with his nurse at the VA hospital during my dad's last days before he died, the nurse said, "Guys your dad's age are all dying of the same things: addiction to alcohol and tobacco." He forgot to mention chronic depression.

Should those guys have been locked up in prisons? Many were. Today many military veterans, both women and men, have returned from our country's "endless war" profit-machine to become homeless, suffering from traumatic brain injuries, depression, addiction, poverty, and epidemic suicide. They are often shamed for "not being man enough."

Many others growing up in poverty suffer from homelessness, hunger, poor education, stress, low self-esteem, the evils of prejudice, substance abuse, and chronic unemployment. Some of you reading this may be suffering from depression, addiction, some form of dementia, schizophrenia, or a mood disorder – or may know someone who is. Prison, or treatment and rehabilitation? Those words haunt me, "She needed help, not prison."

Bill Barksdale was a 2016 inductee into the Realtor® Hall of Fame. He is a referral agent for Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty Inc. CADRE# 01106662.

Read more of his articles at his blog at BBarksdale.com

Solstice Community 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 for the Solstice Community Sing for Peace! 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.

Everyone is welcome (free).

Here is the tinyurl link to our Zoom sing-along: <https://tinyurl.com/y63txurp>

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

Mendocino County residents can now send 9-1-1 emergency text messages

By Lieutenant Quincy Cromer, MCSO

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to announce that people in Mendocino County now have the ability to text their emergencies to 9-1-1 using a cellular phone.

Text to 9-1-1 is designed for hearing- or speech-impaired members of the community, those in a situation where it is too dangerous to make a voice call to 9-1-1, or those in an area of the county with limited service where a voice call cannot be made, but a text message can be delivered.

"Call if you can – Text if you can't" is the slogan developed by the Federal Communications Commission as the new technology makes its debut in parts of California.

People should always contact 9-1-1 by making a voice call if available and possible.

If a person is unable to make a voice call to report an emergency, they can enter "911" in the destination field of their texting platform, then send their location and a brief description of the emergency in the message area.

The dispatcher may receive the longitude and latitude of their location, however they will not have an exact address. Including an exact location when texting 9-1-1 is crucial to get the person appropriate assistance, and as GPS location accuracy varies carrier by carrier, it should not be relied upon. Below are some more key elements to remember when sending a text to 9-1-1:

Messages should be sent in plain English; please do not use acronyms, short code messages, abbreviations, or emojis.

At this time there is not a translation line for Text to 9-1-1, so text messages must be sent in English only.

A text or data plan is required to place a text to 9-1-1, and text to 9-1-1 is not available if you are roaming.

Text messages including photos and videos cannot be sent to 9-1-1 as they are unable to be received at the 9-1-1 Centers at this time. The entire text message will not be delivered if a photo or video is attached.

Text to 9-1-1 cannot be sent to more than one person at a time. Do not text a group message to 9-1-1 as the text will not be delivered to the 9-1-1 Centers.

If you text 9-1-1 and the service is not available from your location, you will receive an automated return message advising you, "Text is not available, please make a voice call to 9-1-1."

Much like when making a voice call to 9-1-1, a text to 9-1-1 may not route to the correct Public Safety Answering Point. These 9-1-1 emergency texts may need to be transferred to the appropriate agency, so please understand the dispatcher may advise that your text is being transferred.

If you have questions about Text to 9-1-1 for the jurisdiction where you live, please contact your local public safety agency.

For additional information regarding Text to 9-1-1, please visit the following websites:

https://www.911.gov/issue_textto911.html

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/what-you-need-know-about-text-911>

Read the rest of 9-1-1 Over on Page 10

Willits High School presents virtual Hot Winter's Night this year

Willits High School is proud to announce that we will be hosting the first-ever virtual Hot Winter's Night on Friday, December 18, from 7 to 8 pm. The night will be filled with amazing performances from WHS students, staff, and alumni.

"We have a fun show planned," said WHS art teacher and Hot Winter's Night producer Carolyn Bakewell. "There will be music, art, dance, poetry and skits!"

"AcaDeca is reciting a poem, Spanish students are singing 'Feliz Navidad,'" the football, volleyball and soccer teams are dancing, and we have musicians, singers and dancers, plus a teacher skit that promises to entertain and a virtual art gallery during intermission."

Hot Winter's Night will feature special guest appearances by Sarah Hughes Gettys and by alumni musician songwriter Palmer Runberg (whose just-released music video to "Remember Us" has some familiar Willits locales). See it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uifsO8lfxTk>

RSVP to the 2020 Hot Winter's Night by signing up on the link below to receive the access code to the show. <https://forms.gle/MpcNbAMnJWkLMWGP8>

Make yourself a cup of hot chocolate, cozy up, and enjoy the show on Friday, December 18, from 7 to 8 pm.

– Willits High School

Sherwood Craft Fair

Rain holds out long enough for Pomo crafters to sell their handmade gifts

The Sherwood Christmas Craft Fair was held outside on December 12 from 10 am to 3 pm on the grounds of the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians headquarters, adjacent to the Sherwood Valley Casino. The fair coincided with the free COVID testing event at the center.

Seven booths chanced the uncertain weather at the craft fair. The organizer, Lucy Stanley, a tribe member who brought a variety of native crafts, intends to make this an annual Christmas tradition, showcasing local artisans and their mostly Indian arts.

Staged outdoors due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the regulations of the state and county, the event luckily occurred at a lull between the rains of the weekend. The air was cool, but the sky clear and benign. The participants came to have fun, get out of the house, meet other people in a safe and inviting environment, and to sell their primarily homemade objects d'art.

Santa Calderon, who can be found at many events and craft fairs, as well as cupcake and soup competitions, brought her son, Dimitri, to enjoy the fresh air and show her variety of knit goods, including her first attempt at a Teenage Ninja Mutant Turtle doll. Her work was a colorful array of caps, scarves, and other soft crafts.

Lucy Stanley brought a variety of crafts, comestibles, and her original dream catcher eyewear. Her goods included other dream catchers, pin cushions, potholders, painted acorns, fabric Christmas tree ornaments, jars of "Apple Pie Jam," and handcrafted native arts.

Mehan Gunter showed a series of "fluid art" pieces, paintings created by the manipulation of the paints with different objects. "I use almost anything," she shared. "I use combs, balloons, whatever I can think of. I haven't tried spinning them yet, but I'm considering trying it."

Youngsters Bobbie, Immy and Kayla Nuñez hoped to sell their handmade lip balms (made of coconut and essential oils and sugar) and bracelets.

Kelly Viss, along with Bella Larue as well as her son, Avey, came dressed as forest animals to add a festive touch to their display of different plant medicines, tinctures, and salves. I have some bath soaks that are really good for those achy muscles and a bunch of feather art. I make


Read the rest of Sherwood Over on Page 13



Above, from left: Wallace Clark visits to support his wife, Lucy Stanley, at her booth at the Christmas Craft Fair. Mehan Gunter created these "fluid art" paintings using strings. Even Santa Claus, aka Jeff Weston, showed up with Jessica England after working on the COVID test site at the tribal headquarters. Below, left: Lorna Smith displays her colorful native crafts. Below, right: Dreamcatcher eyewear, designed and created by Lucy Stanley, come in many colors. At bottom, left: Kelly Viss, Bella and Avey Larue, and Zoe the dog dressed up for the occasion. At bottom, right: Coleen works with abalone that her husband dives for.



Photos by Mathew Caine

<div><div>MENDOCINO COLLEGE COVELO EDUCATION SITE</div><div>— CLASSES —</div><div>ROUND VALLEY CLASSROOM 76300 GRANGE STREET COVELO, CA 95428 (707) 405-0072</div></div>									
SEC NAME	TITLE	UNITS		DAYS	TIMES	INSTRUCTOR	BLDG.	ROOM	
AGRICULTURE									
0018 AGR 181	Sustain Spring Vegetable Grow	2.0	LEC LAB NET NETB	M TThF TBA TBA	2:35-3:25pm 2:35-3:25pm TBA TBA	Gowan, Monica	RVHS RVHS ONLN ONLN	GRDN GRDN ONLINE ONLINE	
(02/01/21 to 05/21/21) Section 0018 is a Late Start HYBRID course designed for Round Valley HS students. The majority of the class will be delivered on ground face-to-face meetings but will also include online instruction. This course meets on MTThF 2:35-3:25pm at the Round Valley HS Greenhouse. Students must follow social distancing protocols while in class, including wearing a mask at all times. Log in the first day of class (2/1). Consult the web page for log on instructions and additional information:									
COMPUTER SCIENCE									
0210 CSC 201	Computers and Computer Appli.	3.0	LEC LAB NETB	TThF M TBA	12:40-1:30pm 12:40-1:30pm TBA	Gowan, Monica	RVHS RVHS ONLN	13 13 ONLINE	
(02/01/21 to 05/21/21) Section 0210 is a Late Start HYBRID course designed for Round Valley HS students. The majority of the class will be delivered on ground face-to-face meetings but will also include online instruction. This course meets on MTThF 12:40-1:30pm at the Round Valley HS room 13. Students must follow social distancing protocols while in class, including wearing a mask at all times. Log in the first day of class (2/1). Consult the web page for log on instructions and additional information:									
ENGLISH									
0065 ENG 65	Academic Literacy	2.0	NET LEC	TBA TTh	TBA 3:35-4:25pm	Shepherd, Dennis	UPM ONLN	3 ONLINE	
(02/01/21 to 05/21/21) Section 0065 is a LATE START Hybrid course designed for Round Valley HS students. Students must also enroll in ENG 200, section 0021. The majority of the class will be delivered on ground face-to-face meetings but will also include online instruction. This course meets on TTh 3:35-4:25pm at the Uptown Mercantile classroom 3. Students must follow social distancing protocols while in class, including wearing a mask at all times. Log in the first day of class (2/1). Consult the web page for log on instructions and additional information:									
0021 ENG 200	College Composition	3.0	NET LEC	TBA TTh	TBA 2:35-3:25pm	Shepherd, Dennis	UPM ONLN	3 ONLINE	
(02/01/21 to 05/21/21) Section 0021 is a LATE START Hybrid course designed for Round Valley HS students. Students must also enroll in ENG 65, section 0065. The majority of the class will be delivered on ground face-to-face meetings but will also include online instruction. This course meets on TTh 2:35-3:25pm at the Uptown Mercantile classroom 3. Students must follow social distancing protocols while in class, including wearing a mask at all times. Log in the first day of class (2/1). Consult the web page for log on instructions and additional information:									
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE									
5546 ESL 3	ESL: Oral Skills	2.0	LEC NET	T TBA	4:00-4:50pm TBA	Swanson, Catherine	UPM ONLN	RM 1 ONLINE	
(02/01/21 to 05/21/21) Section 5546 is a LATE START hybrid class. Optional on ground sessions will be held Tuesdays, 4-4:50pm for the FIRST THREE WEEKS, in Room 1, Uptown Mercantile, Covelo. The remainder of the coursework will be completed in an online environment. Students must follow social distancing protocols while in class, including wearing a mask at all times. Log in the first day of class (2/1). Consult the web page for log on instructions and additional information:									
5548 ESL 503B	ESL: Oral Communication B	0.0	LEC NET	T TBA	4:00-4:50pm TBA	Swanson, Catherine	UPM ONLN	RM 1 ONLINE	
(02/01/21 to 05/21/21) Section 5548 is a LATE START hybrid class. Optional on ground sessions will be held Tuesdays, 4-4:50pm for the FIRST THREE WEEKS, in Room 1, Uptown Mercantile, Covelo. The remainder of the coursework will be completed in an online environment. Students must follow social distancing protocols while in class, including wearing a mask at all times. Log in the first day of class (2/1). Consult the web page for log on instructions and additional information:									
5551 ESL 503B	ESL: Oral Communication B	0.0	LEC NET	T TBA	5:00-5:50pm TBA	Swanson, Catherine	UPM ONLN	RM 1 ONLINE	
(02/01/21 to 05/21/21) Section 5551 is a LATE START hybrid class. Optional on ground sessions will be held Tuesdays, 5-5:50pm for the FIRST THREE WEEKS, in Room 1, Uptown Mercantile, Covelo. The remainder of the coursework will be completed in an online environment. Students must follow social distancing protocols while in class, including wearing a mask at all times. Log in the first day of class (2/1). Consult the web page for log on instructions and additional information:									
5552 ESL 503B	ESL: Oral Communication B	0.0	LEC NET	Th TBA	4:00-4:50pm TBA	Swanson, Catherine	UPM ONLN	RM 1 ONLINE	
(02/01/21 to 05/21/21) Section 5552 is a LATE START hybrid class. Optional on ground sessions will be held Thursdays, 4-4:50pm for the FIRST THREE WEEKS, in Room 1, Uptown Mercantile, Covelo. The remainder of the coursework will be completed in an online environment. Students must follow social distancing protocols while in class, including wearing a mask at all times. Log in the first day of class (2/1). Consult the web page for log on instructions and additional information:									
5554 ESL 503B	ESL: Oral Communication B	0.0	LEC NET	Th TBA	5:00-5:50pm TBA	Swanson, Catherine	UPM ONLN	RM 1 ONLINE	
(02/01/21 to 05/21/21) Section 5554 is a LATE START hybrid class. Optional on ground sessions will be held Thursdays, 5-5:50pm for the FIRST THREE WEEKS, in Room 1, Uptown Mercantile, Covelo. The remainder of the coursework will be completed in an online environment. Students must follow social distancing protocols while in class, including wearing a mask at all times. Log in the first day of class (2/1). Consult the web page for log on instructions and additional information:									

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

Table with 9 rows and 9 columns for a Sudoku puzzle. Some cells contain numbers, others are empty.

DECEMBER HOLIDAYS WORD SEARCH

Word search grid containing letters for finding holiday-related words.

Table with 4 columns listing holiday-related terms: AFRICA, BIRTH, BLESSING, CANDLES, CELEBRATION, CORN, DREIDEL, EIGHT, EVE, FAITHFUL, GELT, HALLEL, HANUKKIYAH, HARAMBEE, IMANI, KISLEV, KUJICHAGULIA, KUUMBA, KWANZAA, LATKES, LIGHTS, MACCABEE, MENORAH, MIRACLE, NIA, OIL, PARTY, REDEDICATION, RELIGION, RESOLUTION, SHAMASH, SUFGANIYOT, TEMPLE, UJIMA, UMOJA, YULE.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

CLUES ACROSS

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

CLUES DOWN

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

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!

POLICE LOG

November 30 to December 13

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 189 incidents in this 14-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 30

- 1:06 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.
3:31 am: Officers responded to a report of a prowler in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
11:21 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

12:54 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

1:59 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

December 1

9:03 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

5:01 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 500 block of Redwood Avenue.

December 2

11:43 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Baechtel Road.

6:25 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Hellums Lane and issued a warning.

December 3

7:22 am: PATTY, Franklin Arthur (54) of Willits was contacted in the 200 block of Margie Drive. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation.

2:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

3:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

10:07 pm: NOVO, Samantha Jane (25) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of Baechtel Road and South Main Street. She was arrested on felony charges of failure to appear.

December 4

(nothing to report)

December 5

9:10 am: FALLIS, Ambrose Sky (21) of Covelo was contacted in the 1500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 11364 HS (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia) and on felony charges of violation of probation.

10:39 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.

11:55 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.

12:02 pm: CAMARILLO, Esteban Jorge (28) of (town not available), California was contacted in the 300 block of South Lenore Avenue. He was arrested pursuant to 243 (E) (1) PC (Domestic Battery) and 422 PC (Criminal Threats).

11:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

December 6

2:52 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

3:35 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

11:56 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

1:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.

3:51 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 200 block of East Commercial Street.

4:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

9:46 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of Coast Street.

December 7

3:47 am: Officers responded to a report

of a suspicious person in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

9:09 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of North Main Street.

11:18 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

4:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:43 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance near the intersection of Monroe Street and South Main Street.

December 8

9:06 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block Gregory Lane.

9:52 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 300 block of East Commercial Street.

1:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

1:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

3:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

3:56 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:36 pm: FLORES, Christian Izac (24) of Mastic, New York was contacted in the 1300 block of South Main Street following a reported robbery. He was arrested pursuant to 211 PC (Robbery), on felony charges of sale/transport of marijuana and conspiracy to commit a crime, and on misdemeanor charges of resisting arrest.

10:01 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 400 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

10:26 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

December 9

2:57 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

7:42 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

11:58 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 21000 block of Baechtel Road.

3:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 700 block of Central Street.

4:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 300 block of South Main Street.

December 10

12:11 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

2:33 pm: LANGENDERFER, Vance Tylor (29) of Laytonville was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on felony charges of violation of probation.

December 11

4:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of North Lenore Avenue and issued a warning.

10:02 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

December 12

9:35 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of Margie Drive.

December 13

9:13 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 200 block of East San Francisco Avenue.

11:44 am: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 23000 block of Primrose Lane.

7:51 pm: Officers responded to domestic disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.



Photo by Jason Edington

Willits Community Theatre celebrates Christmas traditions and themes online

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

Christmas traditions and themes will be spotlighted in six one-act plays available for free online viewing from Willits Community Theatre starting Friday, December 18. The popular "Scripted" series includes comedic, suspenseful and romantic plays selected from more than 130 scripts submitted from across the country and produced in 2015 with local directors and actors.

In addition, WCT will also be presenting a children's production of holiday favorites titled, "Go Tell It on the Mountain," available for free viewing starting December 19. Directed by Fernando Silveira, the production includes classic Christmas songs, letters to Santa, a recitation of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," and an excerpt from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss.

The show includes the songs "Jingle Bells," "O Holy Night," "Holly Jolly Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and others. The young performers include: Allegra Rose Silveira, Bronach Bowles, Aria Eva Silveira, Bella Christensen, Andante Silveira, Adagia Silveira, Miles Mattson, Jerrett Nelson, Hayden Christensen, Paris Hansberger and Jherek Ford.

Among the Scripted plays, "Outsourcing Christmas" by May Steelsmith follows a brother and sister returning home for Christmas only to find that their parents have gone off to the Bahamas for the holiday and in their place are a stand-

in elderly couple that provides for some sharp comedy.

In "Angela's Restaurant" by Chip Bolcik, hard times have fallen on a generous restaurateur preparing to close her business for good, until she serves one last patron, a homeless woman who turns out to be her angel of mercy.

A humorous satire emerges in "The True Meaning of Christmas" by Kate Danley when shopping mall employees argue over whether a zombie Santa Claus and vampire reindeer are appropriate for the season. "Two Turtle Doves" by Hal Corley finds two apartment neighbors meeting romantically for the first time on Christmas day when one knocks on the other's door.

In "Joe & Eddy's" by Jim Gordon, a bartender is eerily visited by a spirit from his past. The origin of a favorite Christmas carol shows up in "No Sound of Music" by Seth Freeman. Directors for the plays include Damian Sebouhian, David Partch, Don Samson, Virginia Handley, Liz Dellett and Kevin Klay. On-stage actors include Kelly Kesey, Christopher Martin and Bruce Andich, among many other local talents.

The six Scripted plays and "Go Tell It on the Mountain" production will be available for free viewing at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

Advertisement for Little Lake Health Center. Text: 'Now more than ever... Don't delay your child's vaccines.' Image of a child blowing bubbles. Contact info: (707) 456-9600, 45 Hazel St., Willits. Services: SE HABLA ESPAÑOL, WE ACCEPT MEDI-CAL, MEDICARE, PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INSURANCE.

Advertisement for John Ford Ranch. Text: '707.459.5193, JOHN FORD RANCH, RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF, No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California'.

Advertisement for C Browns Corner. Text: 'Groceries, Beer & Wine, Gas & Diesel, Pay at the Pump, 7am - 10pm, 459-4854, 1799 So. Main St., P.O. Box 428, Family owned since 1983'.



At left: Directors for the holiday "Scripted" show include: from left, Virginia Hanley, Damian Sebouhian, David Partch, Kevin Klay and Don Samson. Above, left: Bronach Bowles performs in the children's production of Christmas songs, letters to Santa, and other holiday favorites. Above, right: The Silveira kids perform in a production of holiday favorites: from left, Allegra Rose, Aria Eva, Adagia and Andante.

Advertisement for Willits Power & Hardware. Text: 'Do it Best WILLITS POWER & HARDWARE, HONDA • HUSQVARNA • STIHL • MQ • CARHARTT, Lawn & Garden Equipment, Generators, Sales, Parts & Service, Pick-up & Delivery, 1600 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490, Sales/Parts: 707 459-6420, Service: 707 459-0596, Fax: 707 459-6369'.

Advertisement for Willits Mini Storage. Text: 'Happy Holidays and a safe and healthy New Year, 261 FRANKLIN AVENUE • WILLITS • 707-459-2529, OPEN 7am - 7pm • 365 DAYS A YEAR • WWW.WILLITSMINISTORAGE.COM'.

Advertisement for J.D. Redhouse & Company. Text: 'J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY, A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE, Holiday Savings, NOW THROUGH CHRISTMAS EVE, DON'T MISS OUR SALE, HAPPENING NOW!, 12 Days of Christmas December 13TH-24TH, Toys • Gifts • Housewares • Clothing • Footwear • Accessories, Pet Supply • Pet Food • Hay & Grain • Wildlife, Holiday Hours: Monday - 9am to 7pm, Tuesday - 9am to 7pm, Wednesday - 9am to 7pm, Thursday - 9am to 7pm, Friday - 9am to 7pm, Saturday - 10am to 7pm, Sunday - 10am to 7pm, Senior Shopping Saturdays, December 12th & 19th, 9am to 10am, May bring companion., Orders can be placed by phone and picked up in our drive thru barn. A face mask or face shield is required to shop inside the store., 212 S. Main St. • Willits, CA • 707-459-1214, www.jdredhouse.com, JD Redhouse & Company, jd.redhouse.co'.

Advertisement for Coburn's Construction & Cabinetry Inc. Text: 'COBURN'S CONSTRUCTION & CABINETRY INC., CA LIC #392108, Preview your completed project with our 3-D Computer Image, Randy J. Coburn, General Contractor, P.O. Box 616, Willits, CA 95490, 707-459-9719/FAX 707-459-4984, coburn_randy@yahoo.com/coburnsconst@gmail.com, Custom Homes, New Construction, ICF Structures, Remodeling, Cabinetry, Kitchens and Baths, Blueprints, Plan Drawing, Design'.



Above: This Haehl Creek house is modestly decorated but lovely. At right: A snowman invites the neighbors to enjoy the Christmas lights. Below, left: Santa is taking a break before heading off on his around-the-world journey. Below, right: This North Street house always has a brilliant display of lighted animals and moving projections.



Above: A large blow-up Santa at this Haehl Creek house is tall enough to walk under. At right: A snowman offers lighted gifts.



Photos by Matthew Caine



It's Getting Ugly with Sweaters!

Howard Memorial Hospital celebrates the season with Ugly Sweater Costume Contest for employees

Log on to the Adventist Health Howard Memorial Facebook page to cast your vote for the ugliest sweater by commenting on the photo you want to vote for! Vote by this Friday!



The Willits Senior Center has See's Candy year round!

Peanut Brittle (1.5 Lb.)	\$23 ⁵⁰
Lollypops (each)	\$1 ⁰⁰
Lollypops (1.5 Lb.)	\$23 ⁵⁰
Chocolates (1 Lb. Box):	
Milk	\$23 ⁵⁰
Dark	\$23 ⁵⁰
Assorted	\$23 ⁵⁰
Soft Centers	\$23 ⁵⁰
Nuts & Chews	\$23 ⁵⁰



1501 BAECHEL RD.
WILLITS
707-459-6826

DINNERS TO GO FROM EL MEXICANO
Get a meal for the whole family and enjoy at home!

ENCHILADAS
(with house meat)
ONE DOZEN - \$27

STREET TACOS
ONE DOZEN - \$24

166 SOUTH MAIN ST
10AM - 8:30PM
MON - SAT

Restaurant El Mexicano

Christmas Lights

Take a night drive through the neighborhoods of Willits for a COVID-safe holiday treat

According to Smithsonian Magazine, the record for "lights at a home, lawn included, is 601,736 bulbs." That is probably more than all of the Willits Christmas house lights combined. However, the intrepid denizens of the Little Lake Valley can be counted on to provide a whimsical, brilliant and beautiful display of holiday characters, packages, sleighs, or simply stringing the glowing bulbs over their eaves and doorways in an artistic and colorful manner.

This year, the number of houses utilizing these lighted pieces of Christmas joy seems to be less than previous years, when there was no pandemic with which to contend. However, a tour of the streets in the residential areas of Willits provides several joyful discoveries.

The Haehl Creek area is one section where the residents have created their pastiches of lights in this suburban section of the town. The displays are not difficult to find there and do not disappoint. There are brilliant arrays of light and Santas and reindeers on the roofs and lawns. The trees drip moving-light icicles, and projected colors adorn the house fronts.

A few lighted homes can be found in the area of the Sherwood Valley Casino as well as the section of Willits around North Street. Other displays are dotted about the town and valley. A family might enjoy taking a Christmas light safari on one of the nights leading up to Christmas, a fun and COVID-safe trek.

The usual walk-through event at the brilliant community display of lights at the Frank R. Howard Foundation's

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



A traditional-looking scene of a Christmas past is set up outside.



VISIT OUR WILLITS OR FORT BRAGG DEPOTS FOR GIFT CERTIFICATES, ANNUAL PASSES, AND OTHER GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS!

Christmas TRAIN
Magical Journey

COME FOR THE TRAIN, SURPRISE THEM WITH SANTA

Celebrate a safe and Magical Christmas this season aboard the Skunk Train.

skunktrain.com | 707.964.6371

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
208 E. San Francisco Ave. (707) 459-6791

Come Shop at our Holiday Store
featuring
Fresh Handmade Wreaths Unique Gifts
Handcrafted Wares by Local Craftsmen & Artists

Holiday Store Hours
Monday - Saturday 9am - 6pm
Sunday 10am - 4pm

WE WILL CLOSE at 2pm Thursday, December 24th for the Holidays and Reopen Monday, January 4th, 2021 at 8am

Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm Sunday, Dec. 20th 10am - 4pm

Accepting Donations, Unwrapped Toys, Winter Clothes for the Rotary Club of Willits

Help light up the holidays

SUNDIAZED
is accepting cash donations now through 7 pm on 12/20/20 for

TOYS FOR TOTS

2601 N. State Street, Ukiah
http://sundiazedukiah.com

Ring in the NEW YEAR

Virtual Drawings Every Half Hour from 6 PM to 2:30 AM (midnight is a cash drawing for \$2,021.00) for \$221 in Free Play!

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

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

Non-transferable. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Player's Club Members are required to present their postcard with valid I.D. and Player's Club Card. Management reserves the right to cancel or modify any promotion at any time without notice. For complete rules and details please visit the Player's Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.



Chungus loves hugs

Chungus is a 10-year-old love bug. He can happily sleep in his bed when you are not around, but if you are, he loves to be up on your chest, getting hugs. If you like cat hugs, he is the guy for you. Chungus is the perfect companion and a pretty easy keeper. He only wants breakfast, dinner, and hugs in between.

He has been with us for 11 months! Can you help this wonderful cat make up the year he lost in the shelter? Apply to love Chungus for the rest of his forever at www.mendohumanesociety.com

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsmc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsmc.org. Visit "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, and visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.

Friendly Audi

Audi is a mixed-breed male, who's a year old and weighs 60 pounds. Audi is a lap dog and likes to cuddle up. He came in with a small dog who may have been his housemate. When Audi met Arrow, another shelter guest, he was friendly and wanted to play. When out in the play yard exploring, Audi is quick to come when called, and we are pretty sure he is house-trained. Handsome as can be and good manners, too!

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.mendocinimalshelter.com. For information about adoptions please call 707-467-6453.



Santa Claus listens to the toy requests.

Photos by Mathew Caine

Discover a Winter Wonderland aboard the Magical Christmas Train

California Western Railroad, aka Skunk Train

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

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

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

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

Please remember:

- Facial coverings are mandatory

- Please practice 6 feet social distancing
- Wash hands frequently
- Dress warmly

If you feel ill please do not make your reservation, or if already made, notify us via telephone or email

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

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

You can find more information and purchase tickets at our website, www.skunk-train.com or call the Fort Bragg Depot at 707-964-6371. (Ask for your local discount!)

WW295

NOTICE INVITING BIDS WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. Notice is hereby given that the Governing Board of the Willits Unified District, of the County of Mendocino, State of California, will receive sealed bids for the WHS Main Building Classroom Replacement HVAC up to, but not later than, 1:00 p.m., on January 4, 2021, and will thereafter publicly be open and read aloud the bids. All bids shall be received at the office of the Superintendent, California.

2. Each bid shall be completed on the Bid Proposal Form included in the Contract Documents, and must conform and be fully responsive to this invitation, the plans and specifications and all other Contract Documents. Copies of the Contract Documents are available for examination at the office of the Superintendent, 1277 Blosser Lane, County of Mendocino, California and on Willits Unified School District Website.

3. Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, a cashier's or certified check, or a bidder's bond executed by a surety licensed to do business in the State of California as a surety, made payable to the District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the maximum amount of the bid. The check or bid bond shall be given as a guarantee that the bidder to whom the contract is awarded will execute the Contract Documents and will provide the required payment and performance bonds and insurance certificates within ten (10) days after the notification of the award of the contract.

4. The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the Labor Code pertaining to payment of the generally prevailing rate of wages and apprenticeships or other training programs. New legislation signed in June 2014 for California, requires contractors to comply with new labor compliance procedures as defined in State Bill No. 854. A piece of this new legislation significantly changed procedures governing the enforcement of prevailing wage requirements for all public works projects in California, including all school districts projects. The requirements begin with registration as a public works contractor at the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) web site; <http://www.dir.ca.gov/PublicWorks/PublicWorks.html>. Each contractor submitting a bid will be verified by the Willits Unified School District through checking the DIR website for proper registration.

5. The schedule of per diem wages is based upon a working day of eight hours. The rate for holiday and overtime work shall be at least time and one half.

6. The substitution of appropriate securities in lieu of retention amounts from progress payments in accordance with Public Contract Code §22300 is permitted.

7. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §4104, each bid shall include the name and location of the place of business of each subcontractor who shall perform work or service or fabricate or install work for the contractor in excess of one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) of the bid price. The bid shall describe the type of the work to be performed by each listed subcontractor.

8. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening for bids except as provided by Public Contract Code §95100 et seq. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding.

9. Minority, women, and disabled veteran contractors are encouraged to submit bids. This bid is not subject to Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise requirements.

10. This Contract is subject to a Labor Compliance Program as described in the Labor Code and Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Subchapters 4 and 4.5.

11. This Contract is not subject to a Compliance Monitoring Unit program as described in the Labor Code and Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Subchapter 4 and 4.5.

12. Each bidder shall possess at the time the bid is awarded the following classification(s) of California State Contractor's license: C10, C20, and C38.

13. The Governing Board has found that the Project is substantially complex and therefore requires a retention amount of 10%.

14. XXX No Bidders' Conference.

15. Site Walk through on 12/28/20 at 9:00am Willits High School Office.

WILLITS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Signed by: Terry McIntire, Director of Maintenance
DATED: December 15, 2020
PUBLICATION DATE: December 17, 2020

LEGALS

WW294

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2020-F0568
The following company is doing business as Quantum Level Health, 291 School Street, Suite 44, Willits, CA 95490.

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

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

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

/s/ Claudia Wenning

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

OBITUARY |

Jurgen Schmidt-Petersen

Jurgen Schmidt-Petersen of Willits passed away November 20, 2020 at the age of 92. He was born in Germany to Asmus O. Schmidt-Petersen and Ingeborg Schmidt-Petersen in 1928.

He was a pharmacist licensed in California in 1959, working in the Bay Area until he retired. He moved to Willits in 1991. Jurgen married Dorit Mewes on October 06, 2000 in Ukiah.

He was a member of the "German Hermanns Sons Lodge." He enjoyed traveling, dancing, singing, and walking. He is survived by his daughter, Karin Schmidt-Petersen; his wife, Dorit Schmidt-Petersen; and members of the Schmidt-Petersen family.

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

OBITUARY |

Bob Terry

Robert Wayne Terry was born on September 15, 1932 and grew up in Nebraska. He died on November 26, 2020, age 88, in Santa Rosa, California. Robert was the oldest of 10 children.

Before graduating from high school, Bob worked in the hay fields and achieved Eagle Scout. He enjoyed flying model airplanes and stamp collecting, and excelled in track. Some of Bob's early jobs were selling fireworks, airplane kits, and making sodas at the local drug store.

While serving in the Army, he met Sherry at a USO dance and fell in love and were married in 1954. They just celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary.

Bob and Sherry moved to Lincoln, Nebraska where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Nebraska. He worked in design and innovation for Westinghouse in Lima, Ohio. He served in the National Guard.

Bob came to California to specialize in aerospace, later owning his own exotic metals machine shop. He enjoyed assisting Angela's Mexican folk art company, traveling to visit the artists, trade shows, computer work and fixing everything that arrived broken.

In 1993 he retired to Willits, where he designed and built a dream home in Brooktrails. He was proud that he did all the labor himself.

Construction was Bob's passion as he loved a complicated building project. He renovated Susan's first house which was built over a 1,000-year-old redwood stump. Bob mastered design, foundation, framing, plumbing, electrical, drywall, tile, skylights and exotic hardwood cabinetry. His last project was extensive restoration of Angela's home and business. Sadly, this property was destroyed in the 2017 wildfires in Santa Rosa.

WW296

CITY OF WILLITS SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. 2020-03

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 9, 2020 at a regularly noticed meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2020-03.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLITS, CALIFORNIA, EMERGENCY FUNDING ORDINANCE IMPOSING A THREE QUARTER CENT GENERAL TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX

On November 3, 2020, voters in Willits approved a new three-quarters (0.75%) of one cent transactions and use tax for every dollar of taxable sales of goods in the City, and on the taxable storage, use or consumption in the City of goods purchased. The revenue generated by Measure K will be deposited in the City's general fund. The new tax is to be used for funding essential City services including police, parks, street maintenance, sports field maintenance and for other city facilities. As a "general tax," the City of Willits would be able to use tax proceeds for any legal governmental purpose without restriction. The ordinance provides that a committee of community members, appointed by the City Council, will review and report on the receipt of revenue and expenditure of funds from the tax. The City's independent auditors shall, as part of their annual audit of the City's financial statements, will also review the collection and expenditure of revenue from the tax. Measure K will become effective in 2021 and remain in effect for ten (10) years. The tax would expire at the end of the ten-year period unless it is reauthorized by a majority of the voters at a future election that occurs prior to the expiration of the tax.

A certified copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 2020-03 is posted on the City's website, www.cityofwillits.org. Any person wanting a hardcopy of this ordinance, please contact Cathy Moorhead, City Clerk at (707) 459-7121 or mail a letter to the City Clerk's Office, 111 E. Commercial St., Willits, California and one will be mailed to you.

The foregoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting, held on the 9th day of December, 2020 by the following vote:

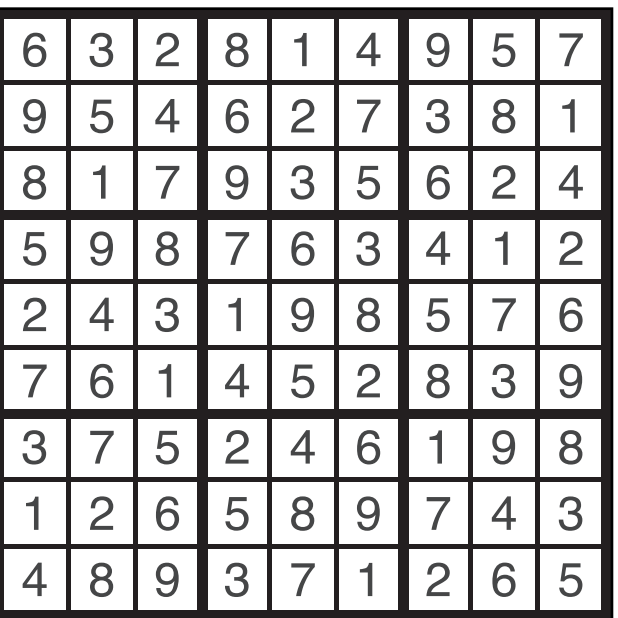
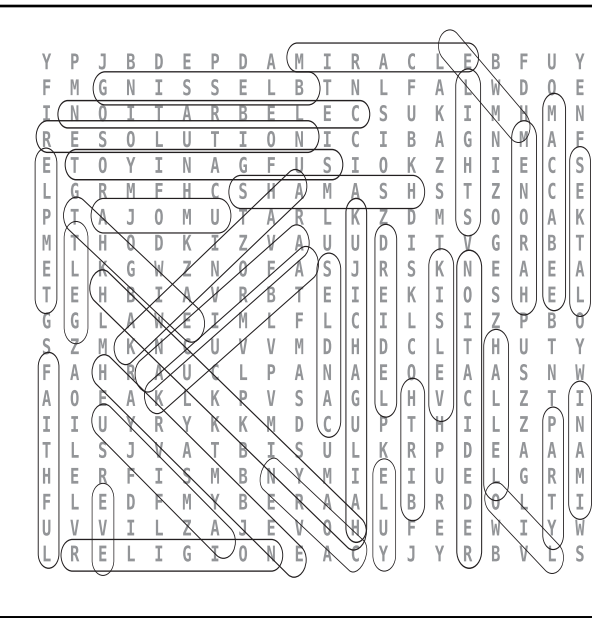
AYES: Gonzalez, Stranske, Kanne, Rodriguez, and Strong.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.

This summary of the adopted Ordinance is published pursuant to California Government Code Section 36933.

s/Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk

Posted: December 17, 2020

Published: December 17, 2020



CLASSIFIEDS

Computer Help

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

Help Wanted

Willits Chiropactic Clinic looking for part-time certified massage therapist and also part-time front desk. Inquire at 1225 S Main St, Willits. Please bring resume.

Cottage for Sale

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

Keith's Structural Repair

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

Firewood For Sale

Fire wood for sale. 4 cords currently available. 2 cords of Oak, 1 Cord Madrone, and 1 cord of Oak/Madrone mix. \$300/cord. Delivery included. Call 707-367-7439.

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.

Stay Safe

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

Help Wanted

Willits USD is hiring custodians, maintenance (skilled trades), bus drivers and Special Ed Instructional Assistants. For information please call Trina Cardillo at (707) 459-5314 ext. 1102.



Current Job Openings:

Account Specialist III
Account Specialist Supervisor
Corrections Deputy
Deputy Sheriff-Coroner I/II
Information Systems Specialist
Program Manager

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

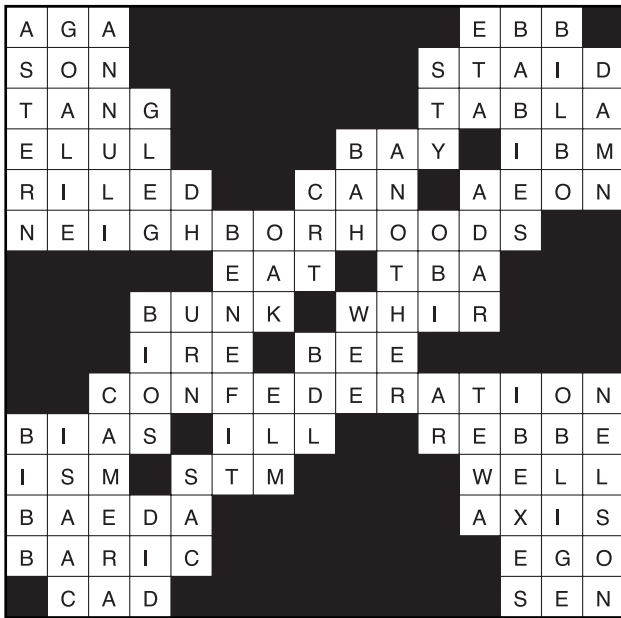
www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources

EOE

He was active in the community: BPOA, CERT, Bicycle charity program, and the Howard Hospital Auxiliary. Bob loved Willits – the nature, feeding the deer, helping his neighbors, watching football; he was an unconventional bridge player, loved Jello, popcorn and apple fritters.

Bob is survived by his wife, Sherry Terry, daughters Angela Villalba and Susan O'Reilly. He also leaves his beloved cat, Charlie.

A Celebration of Life was held on December 6, 2020 at his home in Santa Rosa.



And a new fire engine, which the board approved to purchase at its November meeting, moved one step closer to its new home in the new firehouse, though it won't be delivered until fire season after next.

"We sent a purchase order off to BME [Boise Mobile Equipment]," said Wilkes, adding that the department had saved "roughly \$9,000" by getting the order in before a 3 percent price increase went into effect.

And maybe they'll save even more because the plan is "to work with the USDA to try to get another grant for the engine," he added.

Saving more might also extend to commercial and homeowner insurance rates, given the districts "extremely good" ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating, a rating used by many insurance companies when calculating premiums.

The ratings are based on audits done about every five years; audits that are designed to determine how good fire departments are at putting out fires in their communities.

The ratings are made in numbers that range from 1 to 10, the lower the better.

"We should all be proud of our 3 [urban] and 3Y [rural] ratings," said Wilkes. "I don't know if we can do better ... that we would ever have the ability based on what I see to become better than a 3 as a volunteer fire department agency."

"We're going to try to keep that," he said. "Our goal is to maintain that 3."

Keeping that 3 will depend on the results of the audit currently underway, to be completed in late February.

"It's very involved ... paperwork is actually quite lengthy," explained Wilkes. "And not only just for our engines."

He described the other components under scrutiny: training, fire prevention programs, fire inspections, number of fires, fire investigations, dispatch system, and water availability.

"It's a big deal, a big undertaking for our staff," said Wilkes.

Another big undertaking that has been in the works for quite a few months and is now close to fruition is the assessment of impact fees on proposed new development within the district.

"I know it's a long time coming, but we are getting there," said Wilkes.

The City of Willits and the county both have to approve the fee schedule contained in a study submitted by the district and also have to agree to collect those fees on the district's behalf.

Unlike the county, the city does not have an ordinance allowing it to collect fees, so "they've been working on language to make that happen," said Wilkes.

"On the county side, Anderson Valley has ... the same exact study in their

McCowen: "Supervisor McCowen is a fifth-generation resident of Ukiah. Fifth-generation anything is notable, especially here in California. Supervisor McCowen has done a little of everything. He's been a gardener, a landscaper, a house painter, a property manager, a city councilman, a tireless community volunteer, a board member, and a non-profit supporter.

"The contributions that he has made to the people of Mendocino County have been invaluable, and he has made a lasting impression with those with whom he has associated. It has been an honor working with you," Wood said, "I thank you for your exemplary public service and achievement, and I look forward to working with you in the future."

Ad hocs shut down or carried over

In the final meeting of 2020, the board of supervisors disbanded several ad hoc committees and continued others. Five ad hoc committees which had Supervisor McCowen on them as members were disbanded, due to McCowen's retirement from the board.

Those included the Fire and EMS agencies sustainability ad hoc; the Fire and Fuel management ad hoc; the Homelessness ad hoc; and ad hocs dealing with the question of how to put items on the board of supervisors' agenda and how to distribute funding from the cannabis tax.

Board members said the Fire and EMS agencies sustainability ad hoc and the homelessness ad hoc will be reconstituted next year.

district [also awaiting county action] and ... Chief Andres [Avila] and myself have reached out to our ... supervisors," he said.

Both supervisors "understand the need and ... they're working together and ... willing to sponsor our resolution getting on their agenda as early as possible in 2021."

Back to 2020, Wilkes told the board that call volume for this year, the number of calls responded to, was "on 698 calls now ... a touch down from last year."

"When the pandemic started, we didn't have call volume," he said. "When people don't leave their houses, there are no vehicle accidents for us to go to."

People started leaving their houses more, and call volume has been back up for a while.

"We're averaging 60, 67 calls a month," said Wilkes.

And some of them have been tough.

"We had a local resident that ended up getting pinned and drug underneath their vehicle ... which required extrication," he told the board. "Literally, we needed to lift the vehicle off the top of the resident. It was a major ordeal."

A major ordeal, which "leads me to the opportunity," he continued, "to talk about our eDraulic tools.

"The district spent a lot of money to get those battery-operated tools ... where you don't have to run the hoses anymore. You can literally grab the extrication tool and go to work."

"It was incredibly efficient," he said.

"That one eDraulic splitter lifted that entire car enough by itself to allow the Medstar medic and one of our firefighters to get underneath the car."

Fortunately, "everybody's doing well."

"Right after the Toy Run" motorcycle fundraiser though, there was an accident with a different outcome.

"We had a motorcycle vs. semi that was a fatal accident," said Wilkes. "That's always tough for our firefighters, especially when you have such a wonderful event that's really going so well."

The event was the "Toy Run with the Wild Bunch," which Firefighters Association President Aaron Branscomb described as "really cool" more than once.

"We escorted them through town to Commercial Street," he said. "We broke off, and they went around the highway and came back through town and we met at Napa Auto Parts.

"We got four engines out," he said. "The engineer brought his family in the engine so each engine had a family in it.

"It was a pretty cool experience."

And then, as the meeting ended, a firefighter's bedtime story?

"Last night we were certainly up all night. We had multiple fires," said Wilkes. "Everybody's doing a good job. The mutual aid's working."

The ad hoc committees on road naming, on improving road maintenance efficiency, on exploring means to implement Measure V, or to attain the goals of Measure V, on exploring strategies for re-opening the county's businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, on providing for staffing continuity during the pandemic, and on evaluating candidates for the position of Noyo Harbor harbormaster, were all disbanded.

Board Chair John Haschak, who is on the Measure V ad hoc, said that County Counsel Christian Curtis has promised to come forward with some ideas on how Measure V could be implemented. Measure V was passed by Mendocino County voters in 2016, and declared intentionally killed and left standing trees a public nuisance, referring to the timber industry practice of killing standing trees by injecting herbicide.

The ad hoc committees on Second Access and Emergency Evacuation routes, on Information Technology, on exploring alternatives to Wildlife Services' wildlife control methods, on working with the Measure B project, and on cannabis were all continued into next year.

Moving on

Director of Planning and Building Services Brent Schultz and County Public Information Officer Sarah Dukett will be moving on to other jobs. Dukett has accepted a position as legislative advocate for the Rural County Representatives of California, a statewide political organization. Schultz was not available for comment at deadline.

representative Ellen Drell agreed to write a letter highlighting the climate-related negative impacts of the supervisors' decision to allow cannabis cultivation for new growers in Rangeland zoning. Her letter is to go to the county board of supervisors.

Fourth District representative Tess Albin-Smith was asked to write a letter in support of the county adopting an Oak Woodlands Protection ordinance. Her letter will also go the supervisors.

Committee chair Jones was empowered to write a letter opposing a series of coastal timber harvests, which Jones said were slated for portions of Jackson Demonstration State Forest, a 50,000 acre, state-owned forest which lies between Willits and Fort Bragg. Her letter will be sent to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Each of the letter writers agreed to share their letters with all other committee members. Jones said that because of the Brown Act, people wishing to comment on the contents of the several letters could only send their comments to the author. There was to be no serial virtual meeting, which is forbidden under the Brown Act.

December 12, and 38 new cases on December 13.

The average daily case count is now at 28.29, with the testing positivity rate up to 4.90 percent.

Mendocino County is part of the 11-county Northern California region, when it comes to intensive care unit availability. The Northern California region is the only one of five California regions that isn't yet under stricter lockdown, due to lack of ICU capacity.

The percentage of available ICU beds in the Northern California region as of the December 16 update is 28.1 percent. It's when ICU capacity goes below 15 percent in a region that the stricter lockdown regulations are instituted.

With COVID cases growing in the county, the mood of Public Health Officer Andy Coren in his Tuesday report to the board of supervisors seemed gloomier than usual. Dr. Coren said the main cause of the rapid spread of the virus is "minimal compliance" from the public.

"All of our efforts seem to be too little, too late," Coren said.

Coren also said that he believes that that crucial ICU bed availability number will dip below the 15 percent threshold in the Northern California region in the near future, and that this county will go into stricter lockdown in one to two weeks.

Dr. Coren talked about the first two vaccines coming down the pipeline. The Pfizer vaccine was approved by the FDA last week, and the first vaccinations in the U.S. happened on Monday of this week. The Moderna vaccine has not yet been approved but approval is expected soon.

Disaster Response Director Nash Gonzalez told the supervisors that the county is expecting to receive 970 doses of the Pfizer vaccine this week, and 400 doses of the Moderna vaccine next week.

"It may be summer before the vaccines are truly effective," Coren said.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen asked why the percentage of available ICU beds in the county changed so much from 56.25 percent last week, and 37 percent this week.

Coren explained that the change was due to the small number of available ICU beds in the county, which is 16. Coren said that with such a small number of ICU beds, a change of just a patient or two can move the percentage of available beds up or down considerably.

McCowen asked about why the number of ICU beds is being given as 16, when Adventist Health West President Jason Wells said last week that Adventist is capable of going up to 45 beds in a surge.

Dr. Coren said it was because the number 45 is contingent upon the hospital getting additional trained staffing, and, in a widespread surge such as is now being experienced all across the state, and nation, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find trained medical staff or even trained emergency staff, such as National Guard units.

"The plan is for 45 beds and that remains

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 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 Baechtcl 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.

Free smart phone locater app

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would also like to notify the public of a free smart phone application that can assist in locating people if they are not certain of their actual location.

A free app called "what3words" is available for download on major smartphone devices and assigns three random words to every 10-foot by 10-foot square in the world.

If someone is lost and has the "what3words" app on their phone, they can identify the three words assigned to their location, and provide those three words to a public safety dispatcher at the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

The dispatcher can use those words to help pinpoint the person's location within a 10-foot square through the mapping system used by dispatchers. Even the remote areas of our county are mapped using this free app, so it could make the difference in locating people in need during an emergency.

cogent, but what will actually happen remains to be seen," Coren said.

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams asked Coren to evaluate what might happen if the numbers continue to increase in the future, as they have done over the past six weeks, and if other regions start sending their ICU patients here, because we have a few ICU beds available.

"I think, in this situation, if the hospital system truly breaks down and all three hospitals are having trouble managing the numbers of patients that require their services, the ICU, which requires the most people to attend to those patients, will be overwhelmed," Coren said, "And so, what will happen is, they will try and manage some of those patients in other floors, and other rooms, and those rooms will get flooded.

"And what will happen is, there will be a decrease in the number of staff that is required to take care of patients, so the quality of patient care will also suffer. There will be an attempt to relieve that backlog or blockage of people by discharging people perhaps earlier than they should, perhaps turning people away from emergency rooms because there just isn't enough care available, and telling people as much as they can to care for themselves at home.

"And I think as people see that, which I've seen in other epidemic kinds of situations – and it has shown itself to a certain extent in our hospitals – is, people stay away from hospitals and they come in later.

"And we're not just talking about COVID patients. We're talking about people who might have had a heart attack or someone who might have an injury that could become septic, and they will lose their blood pressure and the next day they could die. These are the sorts of things that could happen and it's like a house falling down," Coren said.

COVID-19 update

Since the first case that was confirmed in the county on March 19, 2020, the county has confirmed a total of 2,051 cases of the disease. Of that number, 1,744 have been released from isolation.

As of Tuesday evening, the county has 283 confirmed active cases of COVID-19 in the county. Of that number, 270 are being kept in isolation; 11 are in local hospitals and 2 are in an intensive care unit in the county. A total of 469 people are currently in quarantine, and 24 people in this county have died from the disease.

Looking at COVID numbers from a regional perspective, 1,453 cases reside in the Ukiah valley; 273 live the north county; 195 are from the north coast; 71 are from the south county; and 59 are from the south coast.

The county is now releasing current case totals by zip code. Of the county's 283 active COVID cases Tuesday evening, Willits has 41 active cases, Laytonville has 17, and Covelo has 24.

A total of 38,692 tests have been done in Mendocino County. As of Tuesday evening, the results of 1,779 tests were pending.

"We have already received questions from community members interested in getting the vaccine," said Cici Winiger, communications manager for Adventist Health Howard Memorial. "While our teams eagerly await the first shipment of vaccines to our county, please know our hospitals and staff are just recipients of the vaccine, and that Mendocino County Public Health will be managing the distribution and allocation of the first batch of vaccines, following state guidelines on prioritizing healthcare workers and first responders."

Adventist Howard Memorial's Director of Pharmacy, Dr. Matthew D'Anis, who has worked at Howard Hospital since December of 2014, said that while vaccines usually take some 12 to 17 years to create, the COVID-19 vaccine received the government's full attention, and finances, to fast track its creation, testing and manufacturing the product that is generally going to be accepted as our ticket back to a more normal existence in a post-COVID world.

"The United States government really made getting this vaccine to the public as quickly as possible as their No. 1 priority, and moved it to the top of the list," said D'Anis. "Even with the speed of the production and testing, they were able to do it all without compromising any safety steps, and that makes me certainly confident to get the vaccine as soon as I am able."

D'Anis explained that vaccines go through three phases of testing before being released to the general population. This vaccine was able to expedite through that tier process because they were able to consecutively overlap each tier, moving forward quickly as they passed through the testing process.

"Another key to the vaccine's rapid creation is because they were able to identify the RNA of the COVID-19 so quickly," said Inpatient Pharmacist Dr. Victor Loi, who joined the AHMH family in January of 2018. "It was actually similar to other well-known corona viruses and allowed scientists to follow steps already in place for making those vaccines."

"This mRNA vaccine technology is new, but has been studied for over a decade," continued D'Anis. "This technology is being implemented for the vaccine for COVID-19, and it allows us to take a tailored approach to how the vaccine is introduced into our bodies. You're not introduced to the whole organism like most vaccines, just the portion that your immune system will recognize and fight. What's being injected into your body are things your body already creates – nucleotides, lipids, and electrolytes."

"The mRNA is basically a recipe for making the corona virus 'crown,'" explained Loi. "Once your body makes the crown from this one-time recipe, the body can become immune. Getting vaccinated will be a key player in ending the pandemic and will provide protection for yourself and others. I, too, will certainly get vaccinated as soon as it's my turn."

"This is one of the cleanest vaccines we've seen," continued D'Anis. "I think there is a bad taste left in most Americans' mouths from past issues with vaccinations. The USA has learned a lot in the last 70 years, and I think it is important that we start trusting the FDA again. I recommend getting vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as one's able."

"At this time," Winiger continued, "we do not have the capability or supplies to vaccinate the community or have an update on when that may happen. We will continue to work closely with and follow the recommendations by our local public health partners. We will share more as we know more."

To learn more about how vaccines will be distributed, Winiger recommended following the Mendocino County Public Health Facebook page or visiting <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus>

three years," she said. "I mean when I looked back at all the things we were able to accomplish as a team it was really stunning, and it really meant all of us [working] together."

Madge Strong – who later in the meeting was selected as the Willits mayor for the upcoming year – praised Garrabrant-Sierra's work in what she described as "a very, very busy three years."

"I just don't want people to forget all these amazing things that happened," said Strong.

She then ran through a long list of noteworthy items which have been accomplished or moved toward fruition with Garrabrant-Sierra as city manager during the challenging last few years.

These included the relinquishment of Main Street to the city and downtown beautification plans; the \$6.5 million Rails to Trails grant; helping secure Willits as a starting location for the Great Redwood Trail; refinancing of sewer bonds to save the city \$2 million; starting the Music in the Parks series at Recreation Grove; the cannabis tax which has brought the city hundreds of thousands of dollars; buying the solar array at the city wastewater plant; plans for putting a conservation easement on the city watershed; implementing a groundwater management plan; and the recent passing of Measure K, the city sales tax measure expected to bring the city upwards of \$1 million a year.

Strong said helping to get Measure K passed was "a crowning accomplishment, and because of that the city is going to be able to stay in business. And we're going to be facing decisions about how to balance our budget rather than how to go out of business.... That was huge."

"And all of this is with her guidance and her managerial skills," she added. "It doesn't mean she did it all, and she is the first to give a lot of credit to an amazing, hardworking, dedicated and very capable staff.... But Stephanie guided the ship. That's not an easy task."

Previous mayor Gerry Gonzalez said the city will be presenting a plaque to Garrabrant-Sierra, and praised her handling of the many recent challenges, including the response to the Oak Fire, PG&E's public safety power shutoffs, and the COVID-19 pandemic and health orders.

"I'll tell you this has been a trying couple years," he said.

Human Resources Manager Karen Stephenson spoke on behalf of the city staff, saying: "Stephanie your knowledge, years of experience and your guidance inspired us to do better. You were not just a boss to us, but a mentor and a friend."

"You challenged us to do better everyday, to reach beyond our comfort zone, and to love the task at hand no matter what the work entailed or how much of it there was," she continued. "You have contributed a lot to this city and you will be remembered for your hard work and contribution to our community."

"It was a pleasure working for and with you," said Community Development Director Dusty Duley. "I want to thank you for recognizing the importance of good planning and your support to all of us here at the community development department. I particularly appreciated your patience and willingness to take the time to explain different approaches that I initially didn't understand."

"And I have a deep respect for your ethics, and you stuck up for what you thought was right even when you knew a certain action could open you up to criticism," he added. "Your moral compass did not waver the entire time, and you should hold your head up high knowing that."

Garrabrant-Sierra also ran through a long list of the city's recent accomplishments as well as the adversity it's overcome, thanking city staff and councilmembers individually for their hard work on various projects and tasks.

"I'd like to thank the city council, staff, and the city of Willits for allowing me the opportunity and privilege to serve this wonderful community," she said. "This is sort of my chance so I just wanted to throw out there my sincere gratitude for the ability to do this job, and I will hold all of you in my hearts for the rest of my life."

She said that the number of resolutions passed per year by the city has tripled in the last few years compared to what it was previously – up to 74 in 2018 – and the number of

it was decided by all to put it off until January. The board voted to keep Rick Williams and Tina Tyler-O'Shea in their respective roles of president and vice-president for the next year, 2021.

Tony Orth reported that the vote for representatives to the LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) board vote was not complete yet. It will be finalized in January, and at that time Orth's election to the board is expected to be official.

In her report to the board, Brooktrails General Manager Tamara Alaniz stated: "Today the county approved its Hazard Mitigation Plan. Brooktrails has been awaiting and anticipating that approval as it will be helpful in future grant applications, such as the Community

items on the staff report has doubled, "which means we doubled our workload," she noted.

"This is due to the hard work of all of us – council, staff – all together we pulled together and did all these things," she said.

Brian Bender, new city manager

A contract for Brian Bender to become the new Willits city manager was approved by the city council later in the meeting.

Bender has been working as chief administrative officer in the town of Deer Lodge, Montana since August of 2016, and said during the meeting that he is currently in the process of moving from Montana to the Willits area.

"It's going to be a great challenge that I'm embarking on, and I'm so [excited] to think about this opportunity," said Bender. "I'm hearing great things about the staff and the community itself and the elected officials and the appointed officials that I'll have the opportunity to work with, and build on those accomplishments and add just more value to those opportunities."

The agenda summary report went through Bender's 18 years of experience working in the public sector, including as a zoning administrator and executive director of the Clinton County Area Planning Commission in Indiana, a planner for the City of Bensonville, Illinois, the planning director for Winona County, Minnesota, and the planning director and floodplain manager for Powell County in Montana.

"He comes with a lot of experience with small cities, and we're thinking it's a really good fit," said Strong. "That he's going to hit the ground running and learn all about Willits and appreciate this very special community."

The agenda report stated that Bender was the city's top choice out of 20 candidates they had considered, which they eventually narrowed down to four who were interviewed.

His contract is a three-year term paying \$124,000 for the first six months followed by \$128,000 per year.

Garrabrant-Sierra said she plans to continue living in the area and will be helping Bender transition into the job. Her contract doesn't officially expire until March, but she has accrued enough vacation time to leave the job earlier, and Bender will officially begin as city manager on January 4.

Strong chosen 2021 mayor

The council selected Madge Strong to be the new mayor for Willits in 2021, and Saprina Rodriguez to be the new vice mayor.

Strong was nominated by councilmember Larry Stranske and approved by a 3-2 vote with Rodriguez and councilmember Greta Kanne voting against. Rodriguez was nominated by Kanne and approved with a 5-0 vote. Kanne had first declined a nomination for the vice mayor position by Rodriguez.

Strong previously served as mayor in 2018, followed by Gonzalez in 2019 and 2020. Stranske was the vice mayor for the last two years.

The council also approved declaring the local results for the election held on November 4 official.

Gonzalez, Strong and Rodriguez all won re-election after having run unopposed, and all were sworn in for another four-year term as councilmembers.

The passing of Measure K increasing the city sales tax was also declared official, having won with a final tally of 65.1 percent voting in favor. A total of 1,308 Willits residents voted to approve Measure K, while 701 voted against.

COVID numbers

During the COVID-19 update portion of the meeting, Garrabrant-Sierra reported that positive tests of COVID-19 in the Willits area had been rising quickly the previous two weeks, just as they have been recently throughout much of Mendocino County.

She told the council the weekly report from county health officials showed that there were 34 people with active COVID-19 cases in the 95490 zip code area that includes Willits – up from eight the previous week and less than five the week before that.

A report from the county website on December 15 showed there are now 41 active cases in the Willits area. For other cities in the county, there are 159 cases in Ukiah, 24 in

Covelo, 23 in Fort Bragg, 18 in Redwood Valley, and 17 in Laytonville.

The council also heard from Bekkie Emery at the meeting last week, the social services director of Health and Human Service in Mendocino County

"The cases are just sort of piling up, and it's very frightening," said Emery. "As far as the current numbers for Mendocino County, we are definitely seeing a massive surge in the number of cases that we're experiencing, and the surge has really hit us extremely hard in the last two to three weeks."

In a December 16 email to Willits Weekly, Garrabrant-Sierra said there is currently no one hospitalized for COVID-19 at Adventist Health Howard Memorial in Willits, but there were 12 hospitalized in Ukiah and two on the Coast.

"With the current surge, we expect an increase of hospitalizations," she added. "One good fact is that Adventist reports that in Mendocino County, not one staff member has been infected with COVID from a patient. So their procedures are working. Adventist is going to be vaccinating their workers first, but it is going to be voluntary."

Emery said contact tracers working for the county have been overwhelmed recently with their workload of making hundreds of phone calls while trying to track down those who have been in close contact with people who have tested positive for the virus.

Councilmember Kanne asked about volunteers from the community possibly helping with the work, and Emery responded that they have been working with volunteers through North Coast Opportunities. She recommended that those interested in that kind of volunteer work go to the NCO website, <https://www.ncoinc.org/> and click on the volunteer link.

Compensation study

The council approved awarding a \$16,500 contract to HR Dynamics & Performance Management, Inc. "to perform a comprehensive total compensation study for the City of Willits."

HR's Stephenson explained that it was common for jurisdictions to do such a study every few years to get a detailed analysis about the comparison of pay and benefits that different locales are offering. This, along with other useful information gathered from the study, would help with HR programs including "recruitment, compensation, training and development, performance management and succession planning."

"The art of compensating employees in a competitive, yet equitable, manner is one of the most challenging tasks for HR, particularly in the public sector," said Stephenson in her agenda report. "The city has probably not performed a 'total compensation' survey in over 10 years. The use of a high-quality, independent 'total compensation' salary survey is a key component in our compensation strategy and helps us stay on target to attract and retain the best talent in our industry."

The resolution passed 3-2 with Rodriguez and Stranske voting against.

Hazard plan adopted

The council also approved adoption of the 2020 Mendocino County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which will enable the city to pursue funding under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program.

In his agenda report Development Director Duley said the City of Willits has been working with Mendocino County and the other jurisdictions over the past 10 months to develop an update to the 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

He said the updated plan "describes the hazards that can affect the City of Willits, assesses the community's risk from these hazards, and provides actions or projects that the community desires to mitigate vulnerabilities."



Rodeo Raffle Basket

This year has been a rough year for rodeo, and the members of California High School Rodeo's District 2 section are feeling the financial strain.

The District 2 section includes members from Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Marin and Napa counties, who, on a normal year, would get to have a big rodeo with other districts and be able to raise money for awards by working at the cook shack. Normally, working refreshments earns about \$7,000.

Due to corona, the contestants are unable to rodeo with other districts, so they had to come up with a different way to raise money this year.

The solution became to make some raffle baskets. Each area has come up with a basket theme with a total of eight different baskets.

Tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and can be purchased from a high school rodeo kid, or at J.D. Redhouse, where the Willits basket is displayed.

All monies raised from this raffle will go to the 2020-2021 rodeo season. Winner will be picked at the January rodeo, no need to be present to win. Kids will pick up and deliver which ever basket is won to its winner.

— Marcy Barry



Help your local fishing fleets – buy some fresh crab for Christmas

"When you see fresh Dungeness crab in the store later in December," said 2nd District Congressman Jared Huffman on his Facebook page, "please buy some if you can! You won't regret it, and it will help support our local fishing fleets who have been hammered by drought, algal blooms, the pandemic, and restrictions to minimize whale entanglements."

Huffman was sharing the latest Commercial Dungeness Crab Update, from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, announcing that crab season is opening December 23. The full text of the update is below:

Proving that the Risk Assessment Mitigation Program is successfully striking a balance between the needs of the commercial Dungeness crab fleet and protection of marine life, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will open the commercial season statewide on Wednesday, December 23, 2020, allowing the fleet a chance to get Dungeness crab on California tables before the holiday season ends.

This statewide opener ends delays in place due to meat quality in the northern management area and the potential for whale entanglement in the central management area. It also gives the fleet ample time for planning and gear preparation and promotes an orderly start to the fishery.

For the NMA Fishing Zones 1 and 2, the pre-soak period will begin Sunday, December 20 at 8:01 am and for the CMA, Fishing Zones 3, 4, 5 and 6, the pre-soak period will begin Tuesday, December 22 at 6:01 am.

Available data indicates some whales remain in the fishing grounds but risk is declining and CDFW supports a balanced approach to managing risk and providing opportunity for the commercial fishery that is grounded in expert science.

Whale entanglement risk still exists, but it is low. Thus, the opening declaration is accompanied by a notice to the fleet to use best fishing practices and avoid areas where whales may be congregating including around the canyon edges of Monterey, and between the Farallon Islands and Point Reyes. Crabbers are encouraged to review the Best Practices Guide, www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2020/11/2020-21_BPG_Final.pdf, and remember to minimize knots and line scope when fishing.

Recent survey data indicate most whales have started their annual migration out of the fishing grounds. Based on these data, CDFW made a preliminary recommendation to open the fishery statewide on Wednesday, December 16. The Whale Entanglement Working Group evaluated all available data and did not provide a consensus recommendation to open or delay. After the Working Group meeting, the majority of ports requested further delay of the opener.

"Our recommendation was to open this Wednesday," said CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham. "But after hearing from parts of the fleet expressing a variety of views, and review of additional scientific information provided by Working Group experts, we decided on an additional seven-day delay."

"This gives the fleet extra time," he explained, "to get ready and get their gear in the water, certainly in that we're opening statewide, hopefully the chance to get part of the holiday market and an additional seven days for any remaining whales to migrate. We support any additional measures the fleet or specific ports wish to take to minimize entanglements and also understand the additional hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. CDFW staff, collaborators and partners have worked hard to collect data to inform a unified statewide opener."

Since late October, CDFW in partnership with researchers, federal agencies, and the fishing industry has conducted surveys from the Oregon state line to the Channel Islands to observe marine life concentrations. Based on recent aerial surveys and observation data, whales have begun to migrate out of California waters to their winter breeding grounds, which in turn reduces the risk of entanglement when the commercial fishery opens.

Through the course of the crab season, CDFW will engage regularly with the Working Group to review scientific information and advice efforts to minimize the risk of whale and sea turtle entanglements while maximizing fishing opportunity. Based on that process, CDFW may take additional management actions in response to future risk assessments.

For more information related to the risk-assessment process or this delay, please visit CDFW's Whale Safe Fisheries page. For more information related to the risk assessment process or this delay, please visit CDFW's Whale Safe Fisheries page at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries or for more information on Dungeness crab, please visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/crab.

This report was based primarily on a press release from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.



The rest of
Lights | From Page 6

Commonwealth Garden was, by necessity, cancelled this year. Yet, a family that is journeying to see the lights at Haehl Creek will still see the garden's gazebo festooned with a beautiful array of colors.

And the traditional lighted arch, which served as the entrance to the variety of citizen-made holiday light displays at the garden, can be found at the farm stand on Haehl Creek Drive. The arch is available for family photos which can adorn last-minute Christmas cards, or kept just for Christmas memories.

Holly Madrigal, who is usually instrumental in producing the Holiday Lights event, suggested in a Facebook post on December 4: "In a normal year we would donate the proceeds to a local charity, and times are challenging for many local groups that were unable to hold their fundraisers this year."

"So, we welcome those who would have come and donated," she continued, "to consider giving to your favorite organization. I bet Little Lake Fire Department, Willits Center for the Arts, or Willits Senior Center could use your donations!"



At left: This simple display is reminiscent of the origins of Christmas.

Below: Simple white lights can be attractive and inviting.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Santa Calderon's knit Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle sits among her other work.

The rest of
Sherwood | From Page 3

them into earrings and feather clips. I raise the chickens myself. The chickens don't miss the feathers. They're in the freezer. I try to use every part of the chicken," said Viss.

Lorna Smith showed a large variety of native arts along with her cousin, Coleen, including beaded work and abalone work from Coleen, whose husband provides the abalone by diving on the coast.

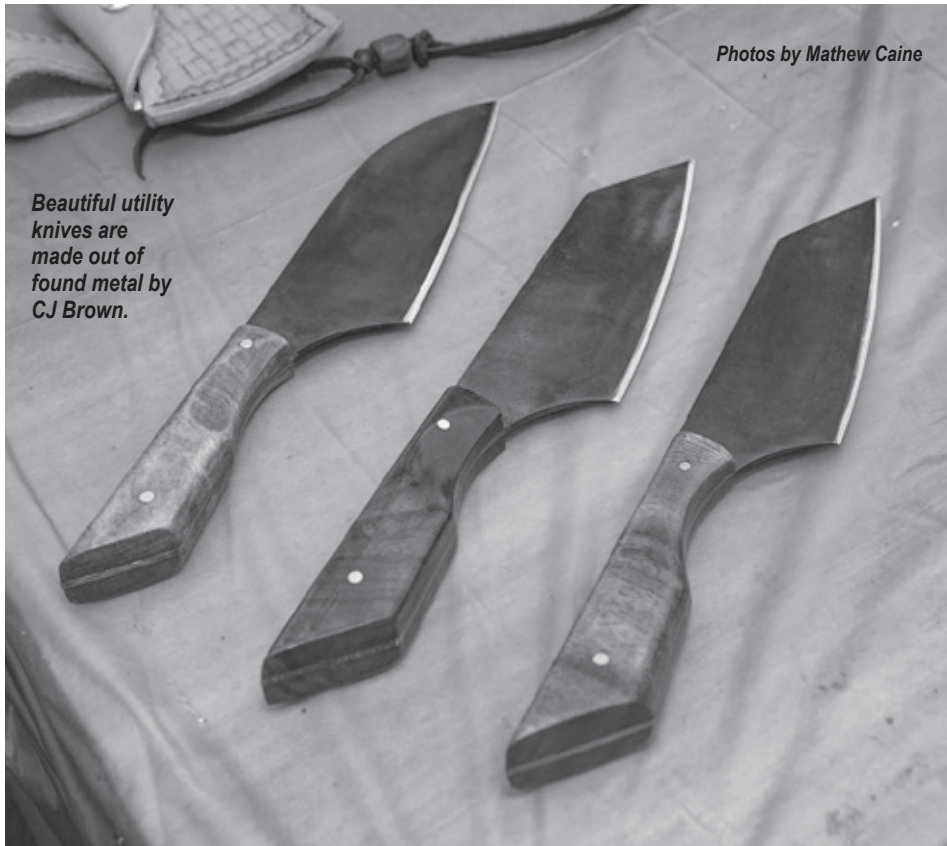
CJ Brown, sharing a booth with Gunter, had a small display of handmade and individually crafted cutlery, including three Japanese-inspired Santoku knives, sharp and sleek in their design. Every piece he creates is an original and made mostly from metal objects he has found in the

fields and barns.

"I make knives when I'm happy," said Brown. "It's a big exchange of energy. A lot of time, effort and energy goes into these. My thing is, if I make someone a knife, I want them to use it, especially my hunting or kitchen knives."

Stanley assured: "I'm going to try and put on this Christmas Craft Fair every year. Hopefully, it won't rain. We wished hard for no rain. If it rains, we're going to have to just pack it up and go. Next year, we hope to be able to do it inside."

So, look for the Sherwood Tribe's Christmas Craft Fair again next year – with a little luck, it will be inside a warm building.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Beautiful utility knives are made out of found metal by CJ Brown.

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Cookie Jar Fundraiser

Entrepreneurial bakers Claire Case-Bracket, left, Hazel Cooke and Danielle Barry, right, have teamed up to continue raising money to pay for fees for their high school rodeo year.

This time they have "Cookie Makings in a Jar," including varieties like: Butter Scotch, Cow Poke, M&M and S'mores.

Jars are \$20 each, and if you are interested in purchasing one for gift giving or just enjoying for yourself, you can contact any of the girls directly: Claire: 707-272-3608; Hazel: 707-354-0985; or Danielle: 707-272-1340. The girls will take orders until December 18 and will have the jars ready for delivery by December 22. The girls would like to thank everyone who has supported them and say: Happy Holidays!

— Marcy Barry



Mendocino County Animal Shelter Canned Food Drive

It's that time of the year again - the annual Mendocino County Animal Shelter Canned Food Drive!

Every holiday season we ask the community to help us get stocked up for the coming year by donating quality canned food for the many dogs and cats who visit our shelter. Canned food is used for a variety of reasons, from giving medication to supplementing special diets.

If you would like to drop off some canned pet food donations, you can do so at either of two locations: The Animal Shelter, 298 Plant Road, Ukiah. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Or at Rainbow Ag, 235 East Perkins Street, Ukiah. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am to 6 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 8 am to 3 pm.

Can't make it in to donate, no problem. Rainbow Ag says: "You can order online and put a note in the comments that it is a 'Donation to Mendocino County Animal Shelter,' and we will add it to their bin!" <https://ukiah.rainbowag.com/products/shop>

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

— Mendocino County Animal Shelter

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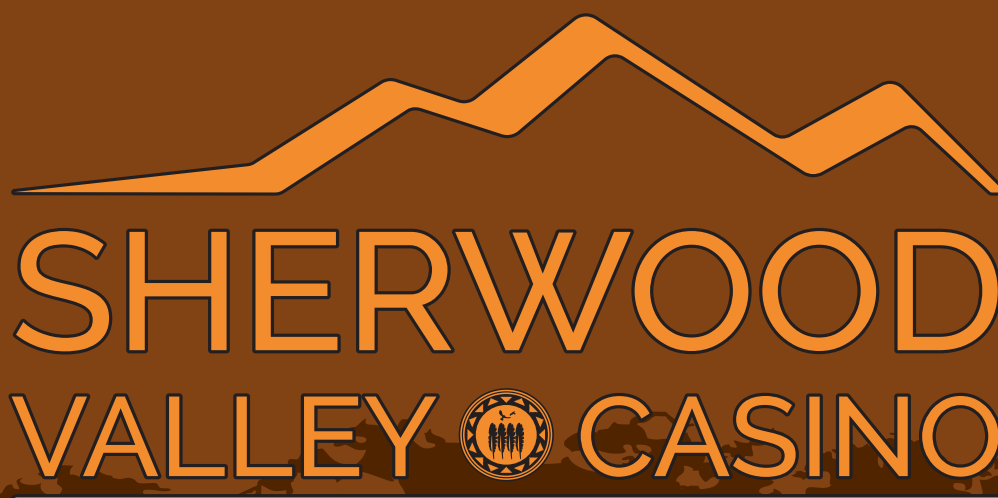
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