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Donations Accepted Edition No. 404

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously – twice – during their Monday, May 24 special meeting to approve using Measure B funds to build a PHF facility. The first go-round instructed staff simply “to construct a psychiatric health facility with the Measure B funds.”

The Whitmore Lane building, a skilled nursing facility in the past, was built in 1965, has 26,601 square feet, and is situated on 1.37 acres in the unincorporated Ukiah area. Mendocino County bought the property using federal 2020 CARES Act funds, for a potential COVID quarantine location.

As per a memo by

Read the rest of **PHF**
Over on Page 11

Mendocino County Planning & Building Services Code Enforcement Division has published several recent "Code Enforcement News" press releases about cannabis abatement and penalties for unpermitted cultivation.

"In the third week of April 2021, the Mendocino County Code Enforcement Division conducted investigations regarding non-permitted commercial cannabis cultivation at the listed locations below.

“The Code Enforcement investigation confirmed that commercial cannabis cultivation was occurring in non-permitted structures, without a County Cultivation Permit, or State Cultivation License. The responsible parties voluntarily abated the cannabis plants being cultivated, and thereby

Read the rest of
Enforcement
Over on Page 2



Whether it be roses, lavender or a mock orange, wonderful fragrant flowers attract bees, butterflies and humans alike, to enjoy their sweet aroma in the early summer sun.

The Cecile Brunner rose, above, is an amazing climber and produces dozens of small, blousy pink colored blooms with a lovely scent. The mock orange, below, left, grows as a smaller bush or up to a towering hedge or even a tree.

The large white blooms are just ornamental, but have an amazing scent. And who doesn't love lavender, I mean, really? The blooms and bushes let off a lovely smell which can be enjoyed now, or saved for later as potpourri. The complete stems can be woven into wands, and the buds can be used in the lining of relaxation pillows once dried.

– *Maureen Jennison*



Seven Willits teachers honored for 'Cultivating Minds and Healing Hearts'

Submitted by the Willits Teachers Association

The Willits Teachers Association honored seven Willits teachers as “WTA Educators of the Year” for the 2020 / 21 school year. The awards were given on May 11, California Teachers Association’s “Day of the Teacher,” and the theme of this year’s awards is “Cultivating Minds and Healing Hearts.”

This list of the honorees includes comments by some of their fellow teachers.

**Sherwood School:
Laurie Burghardt (retiring this year)**

I remember just a few weeks into school knowing we had someone really special at our site when I read a sign posted in Mrs. B's room that read, "I love being a middle school teacher." As most everyone knows, this can be a tumultuous time in a student's life, filled with new worldly knowledge, complicated interpersonal relationships, and the ever-infamous "teen angst" as my own teenage sons have lovingly named it.

Mrs. B is a teacher who has mastered the art and craft of working with this age group. Her creativity and enthusiasm are contagious, both among students and staff. She inspires students in history through the arts, and various group projects that keep students engaged and excited about learning.

Most of all, she understands the importance of building relationships with her students. Her sense of humor and special ways of reaching out to each student individually and connecting with them makes coming to school and learning a pleasure. We are both happy for her and her retirement, but also saddened that this will be the last year of having her on staff at Sherwood School. We love you and will miss you Mrs. B! – **Lisa Bowles**

**Brookside Elementary School:
Devon Jones, special education**

Miss Devon goes above and beyond for her students. Her kindness and dedication is evident in everything she does. She truly has a huge heart and Brookside is very lucky to have her. – **Sandy Lucier**

Willits High School: Brian Bowles

It is no wonder why Mr. Brian Bowles was voted "Teacher of the Year" by those of us who have the pleasure to work with him. He is one of my favorite people and, by all accounts, a great colleague and friend. He has a way of brightening up any occasion with his great sense of humor, charismatic smile, and infectious school spirit.

Mr. Bowles is admired by all who know him, especially his students, and is one of our finest teachers on campus. He's a great role model who inspires and brings out the best in his students. This is evident in the fine work they've been able to create even through a pandemic. He also goes above and beyond by coaching our

Read the rest of **Teachers** | *Over on Page 5*



Above: Laurie Burghardt .
Below: Devon Jones.



Forrest Glycer
Reporter
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Mendocino County Public Health Officer Andy Coren warned at the board of supervisors meeting Tuesday that the county's COVID-19 numbers are surging, and if the trend doesn't change, the county could be in danger of slipping back into the orange tier, which could trigger the reimplementa-

Dr. Coren also expressed these sentiments in an "open letter to Mendocino County residents" recently.

"We were among the first counties to enter the yellow tier, and I believe we may be among the first to be sent back to orange," he said at the meeting.

In his letter Coren said that when the numbers were at their lowest, Mendocino County had less than 15 new COVID-19 positive cases per week. He said Tuesday that the last two reported weeks both showed around 45 new cases.

The latest dashboard from the Mendocino County Public Health posted May 25 shows an average daily case during the previous

Read the rest of
COVID
Over on Page 11

Forrest Glyer
Reporter
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The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has officially passed the new cannabis facilities ordinance for the county, which among other changes, outlines regulations for cannabis activities such as farm tours, lodging, and special events including farmers markets and outdoor festivals.

After winding through the process with input from county staff, the planning commission and the supervisors, there was only a brief discussion about the ordinance at the May 25 meeting, where it was on the consent calendar, before it was unanimously approved.

There has not been nearly as much controversy or heated rhetoric for this ordinance as there has been for the new cannabis cultivation ordinance, titled Chapter 22.18, which is expected to be voted on by the supervisors at a special meeting coming up on June 2.

Under the new facilities

Read the rest of
Rules
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Pedestrian safety

To the Editor:

To the Willits City Council: I was nearly hit by a car crossing Main Street, in the crosswalk from The Book Juggler to the Savings Bank. A truck was stopped in the northbound lane, waiting to turn left onto Wood Street. An impatient driver passed the truck on the right and almost hit me.

From what I read on social media, this occurs often since the removal of the turn lane. Simply asking drivers to slow down and be more alert isn't working. And now that Covid restrictions are easing and the weather is warming up, there are more people out and about, including children.

I applaud and appreciate everyone who is working to create a vibrant and people-friendly downtown, but if it's dangerous to cross the street, that's a big problem. I'm not sure what the long-term answer is, but can we start with more Willits Police Department presence and enforcement?

Thanks for all you do for our community.

Elizabeth Hart, Willits

Sober Grad Party

To the Editor:

Hello Willits – Willits Sober Grad checking in. We want to update the Willits Community about our plans this year for our Sober Grad Party. Last year it was a virtual party to abide by the restraints of COVID-19.

This year things are looking up, and we have been approved by the Mendocino County Health Department for a limited outdoor party.

This party will be held on Friday, June 11 at the Willits High School Ag Farm. It will begin at 9 pm and conclude at 1 am. All graduates from Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School and Willits Charter School are invited. Masks will be required for all participants. Temperatures will be taken, and a form will need to be completed. Grads will need to be checked in by 10 pm.

The Class of 2021 has chosen a very apt theme for this year: "A Year Like No Other!" Decorations include a carnival theme including a Midway (in place of our Casino), where graduates will play Midway games and can cash their winnings in for prizes.

There is also once again a ton of "swag" for graduates to win! There are General Prizes with a value of \$50 where every grad who attends wins one! There are also Higher Value Prizes, Mega Prizes, Cash Prizes, Volunteer Prizes, and two (2) Grand Prizes of \$1,000 each!

And if graduates stay the night, they will get a check for \$50; that check will be \$70 if they have helped throughout the year. Grads must be present to win any of these great gifts!

So, grads go to <https://forms.gle/SHpncSFSJU3THU6M9> and sign up!

Now to put on an in-person party we need lots of volunteers to help decorate, to set up, to chaperone

the night of, and to clean up the next morning! To help with set up and decorating, please join us at the Ag Farm at the following times:

• Thursday, June 10 starting at 8 am and continuing throughout the day.

• Friday, June 11 starting at 8 am and continuing throughout the day.

To chaperone at the party on Friday, June 11, please check in at 8:30 pm at the Ag Farm to find out where you can help. Park in the school parking lots, walk across the bridge south of the buildings, and you are there!

To clean up on Saturday please show up at the Ag Farm at 9 am. Clean up will continue until completed, at least 2-3 hours! Come when you can!

If you can join us it would be helpful to contact us at WillitsSoberGrad@gmail.com or call Davina Sentak at 707-841-7549 and let us know how you can help.

Even though we have purchased gifts for the grads to win from monies earned at our fundraisers, it is not too late to donate to the Sober Grad Party and to the grads! Checks may be sent to P.O. Box 2277, Willits, CA 95490. If you have an item to donate, contact Davina at 707-841-7549.

If you have any questions please contact us through one of the above methods. Once again, thank you for all your support throughout the 2020-2021 school year and throughout the last 35 years! You are the best!

Joyce Waters,
Willits Sober Grad

Eel River creeks show signs of drought

Submitted by Eel River Recovery Project

The Eel River Recovery Project began its 10th year of water-temperature gauge deployment on Sunday, May 10 and found signs of ecological stress caused by the 2020-2021 drought already. Reconnaissance started in Outlet Creek and followed in the Tenmile Creek watershed that surrounds Laytonville. Studies in the latter basin by ERRP related to flow are part of a California State Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 grant that also includes erosion control.

The Sunday, May 10 survey began where Outlet Creek meets the main Eel River and proceeded upstream to the headwaters above Willits. The ERRP managing director was joined by volunteer Phill Hosking. No fish were seen at the mouth, and only two steelhead or trout juveniles were seen at 11 sites visited. One young of the year steelhead was sighted just downstream of Highway 162 near the Highway 101 junction, and the other in the headwaters of Outlet Tributary Cherry Creek, where the fish was likely a resident trout.

Upper Baechtelt Creek had served as a steelhead refuge until the reach dried up in late 2020, and no fish were seen there this visit, indicating that spawning at this location was not possible in the previous spawning season due to low flows. Locations such as Outlet Creek at Bloody Run Creek and lower Long Valley Creek had profuse algae blooms and no observed fish life. Such dense blooms can cause dissolved oxygen depression, elevated pH, and even toxic levels of ammonia.

On Monday, May 10, a visit to Cahto Creek downstream of the Cahto Reservation found numerous very small young of the year steelhead or native trout and several other age and size classes. Algae blooms were much less dense and the fish community was still dominated by steelhead. The warm water adapted, non-native California roach were present but fewer in number, which will change with the season as the water warms.

On Tuesday, May 11, ERRP's Pat Higgins was joined by University of California Berkeley post-doctoral researchers Philip Georgakakos and Gabe Rossi and they visited lower Tenmile Creek and tributaries Streeter and Big Rock creeks. Once again, young of the year trout were present in high numbers, however, they were also accompanied by warm-water roach and invasive green sunfish at the main Tenmile Creek location. The greatest positive surprise was the identification and documentation of juvenile Chinook salmon in lower Tenmile Creek by the UCB scientists, which indicates that late-fall run Chinook had excellent spawning areas just upstream in January.

Unfortunately, without some unseasonal late-spring or summer rain, Tenmile Creek and many of its tributaries may go dry later this summer. ERRP is working to design and permit water expanded-storage systems that would allow saving enough water over the winter, to allow forbearance of streamflow during low-flow periods. Best-practices consultant Noah Cornell returns to ERRP service to help Tenmile Creek watershed residents to conserve water and devise water strategies, and he may be reached at 707-972-9503.

This week's Eel Zoom No. 8, which is Friday, May 28 at 5 pm, features "Thomas Ketter ... a retired Six Rivers National Forest archaeologist who is one of the foremost authorities on the least known Eel River sub-basins - the North Fork." Go to www.eelriverrecovery.org to sign up for Eel Zoom. Monitoring assistance can be requested by calling Pat Higgins at 707-839-4987. Field photos are available on the ERRP Facebook page and videos on their Vimeo channel.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Bikers are mean, drugged-up outlaws that victimize the innocent, steal, sell drugs, and generally terrorize the populace. Oh wait ... that's in the movies. The Willits Wild Bunch and other semi-local biker clubs are too busy gathering and distributing toys for children, supporting foster programs, and creating goodwill to be concerned with fomenting mayhem in the Willits area.

The Wild Bunch's primary event to bring in funding and toys for the kids is the Willits Toy Run. Each year, the Toy Run brings in bikers from as far as Sacramento to ride, party (open to the public), and gather playthings and clothing to brighten the Christmases of hundreds of kids who may not have the opportunity to partake in this joyful time of the year.

This is not to say that the Wild Bunch members do not enjoy a great ride and a raucous party. They do. But there's always an opportunity for participants to show their generosity and goodwill through the club's annual raffle in which a locally handcrafted item is awarded each year at the Toy Run.

There are also opportunities for other games of chance which bring in funds to pay for the altruistic activities for which this group has their raison d'être.

The Wild Bunch, being a social club as well, has been missing their large gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the recent lifting of restrictions, especially outdoors, they have begun to hold their monthly "Bike Nights" once again, in the parking lot of Scoops Frozen

Yogurt and Deli at 110 North Main Street, on Thursday nights.

Lisa Davis, owner of Scoops, provides a typical comfort-food dinner at a reasonable price for the group. The first such gathering, last month, featured pulled-pork sandwiches as well as some side dishes. The party attracted 50 bikes and about 60 people. Last Thursday's party, at which meatball sandwiches were served, had about 35 participants, on an unseasonably cold evening.

"This is the second Bike Night we've done this year," said Richard "Pops" Venturi, president of the club. "We did our first one on April 15. We had a fantastic turnout. It was probably the best Bike Night we've had. People are tired of being cooped up. They want to attend events."

"It's mainly a social gathering. We did a 50-50 raffle. We're doing that again but we're also going to start to promote our Willits Toy Run raffle grand prize. We're going to sell tickets throughout the year and have our drawing at the Toy Run,

November 28. It's a hand-forged knife from one of the local bike-makers here in town, Cory Brown.

"Mary Underhill made a custom handmade sheath for the knife. Clint Wyatt, who is one of the deputy sheriffs from Mendocino County, does woodwork. He made a really beautiful wooden box with a glass top for the knife as a display case. That's our raffle for the year, so it will be at all the different events that will be taking place in town like the Hometown Celebration, Frontier Days, and others. We'll be selling tickets for that all year."

"Cory also put together for us, as a little special item, that we'll be giving away at the Bike Night, a hand-forged herb chopper." The chopper was won by Sarah Miles. The 50-50 raffle was won by local biker, Wrench, who gifted his winning back to the coffers of the club.

As always, DJ Mike Tobin spun the tunes, mostly a collection of much-loved oldies, to get the blood flowing and set the party mood. Other biker clubs joined

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

Bike Night Willits Wild Bunch members gather at Scoops to socialize and fundraise

At top, from left: Bob Fry stands next to his gleaming red three-wheeler, tricked out with GPS and satellite radio.

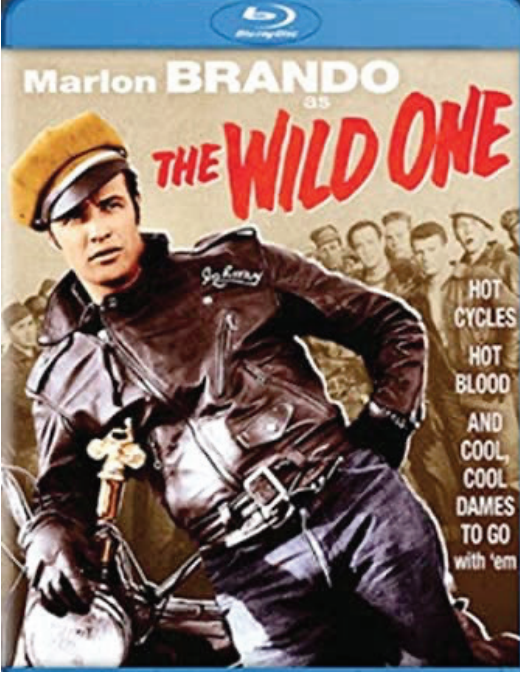
Scoops Frozen Yogurt and Deli provides a contrast to the rows of chromed and powerful Harleys.

Tiffany "Pickles" Wake holds the hand-forged herb chopper, the prize of the evening's raffle.

At right: "Big E" and "Pickles" sell raffle tickets to participants from several counties.

There will be a private showing of "The Wild One" at the Noyo Theatre for the July 14 Bike Night.

"Big E" of the Willits Wild Bunch helps with the tickets and raffles.



The Rules: LETTERS

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

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



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The rest of Enforcement

From Page 1

avoided the associated penalties:

5/13/21: 8900 block of West Road in Redwood Valley, 500 cannabis plants abated.

5/17/21: 30200 block of West Highway 20 in Fort Bragg, 810 cannabis plants abated.

05/19/21: 10600 block of Monterey Road in Redwood Valley, 144 cannabis plants abated.

05/19/21: 3200 block of Ridgeview Road in Willits, 96 cannabis plants abated.

"Code Enforcement intends to take additional action as needed to achieve compliance with the non-permitted structures.

"The Code Enforcement Division receives all cannabis and general code violation complaints in the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County. Complaints can be made in person at our offices [860 North Bush Street, Ukiah, or 120 West Fir Street, Fort Bragg], or by visiting our website at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/planning-building-services/code-enforcement> to file an online complaint. Cannabis specific complaints can also be filed by calling the Cannabis Complaint Hotline at: 844-421-WEED (9333)."

May 14 Report

On May 14, the Code Enforcement News reported on two different grows that were cited with penalties, one in the 400 block of Hardwick Lane in

Ukiah and the other in the 8900 block of West Road in Redwood Valley.

"In April of 2021, the Mendocino County Code Enforcement Division conducted an investigation regarding non-permitted commercial cannabis cultivation at the Hardwick Lane, Ukiah location," the report states.

"The Code Enforcement investigation confirmed that commercial cannabis cultivation was occurring in non-permitted structures without a County Cultivation Permit or State Cultivation License. The responsible party refused to abate the 100 cannabis plants being cultivated and Code Enforcement subsequently issued administrative citations with penalties as follows:

1. \$260.00 per day for non-permitted structures used for cannabis cultivation.
2. \$2,000.00 per day for violations of the Mendocino County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance.
3. A \$20,000.00 (onetime) "per plant" penalty for non-permitted commercial cannabis cultivation.

"Code Enforcement intends to take additional action as needed to achieve compliance."

Code Enforcement News reported the below information about the West Road, Redwood Valley grow:

"In August of 2020, the Mendocino County Code Enforcement Division conducted an investigation regarding non-permitted commercial cannabis

cultivation at the 8900 block of West Road in Redwood Valley.

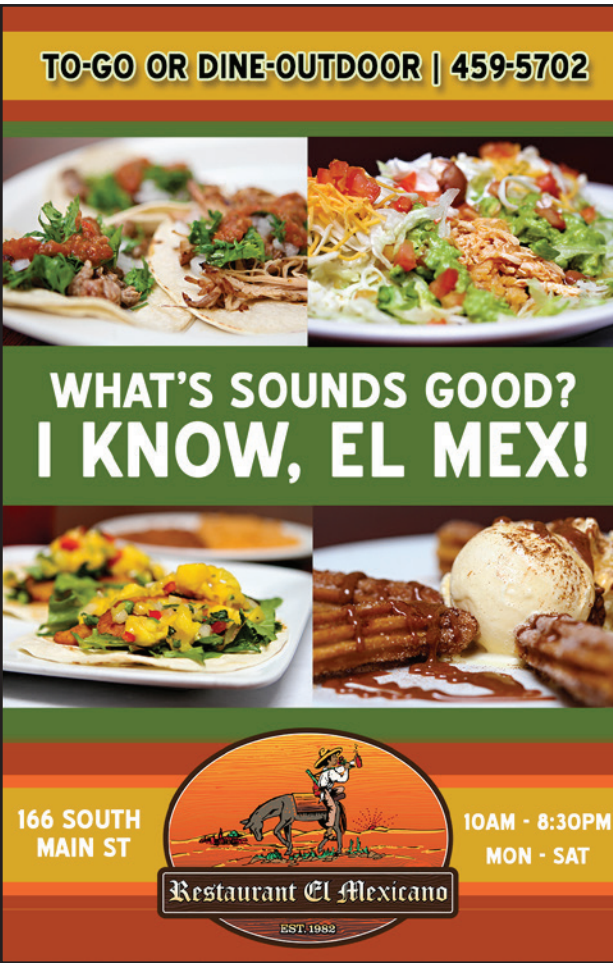
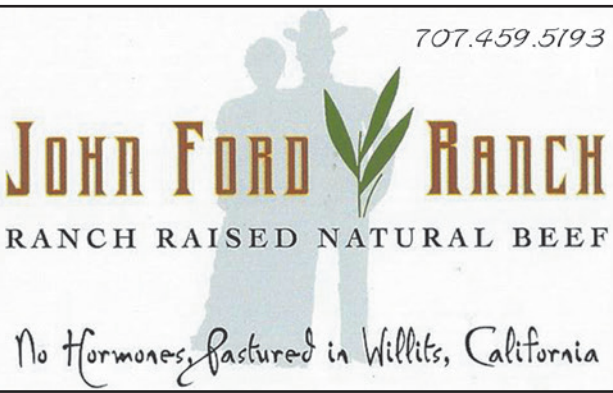
"As a result of that investigation it was confirmed that the violator was commercially cultivating cannabis without a County Cultivation Permit or State Cultivation License. The cultivator abated the violations by removing 1,065 cannabis plants.

"In May 2021, regarding the same address, Code Enforcement confirmed that commercial cannabis cultivation was occurring in non-permitted structures without a County Cultivation Permit or State Cultivation License. The responsible party refused to abate 500 cannabis plants being cultivated, and Code Enforcement subsequently issued Administrative Citations with penalties as follows:

1. \$390 per day for non-permitted structures used for cannabis cultivation.
2. \$2,000 per day for violations of the Mendocino County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance.
3. A \$100,000 (onetime) "per plant" penalty for non-permitted commercial cannabis cultivation.

"Code Enforcement intends to take additional action as needed to achieve compliance."

Sign up for County of Mendocino News e-notification to receive the latest news releases at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/enotification>



Mendocino Transit Authority

Safe, Clean, Friendly & Efficient

STAY HEALTHY MENDOCINO

Providing service to your local health centers

- Adventist Health Howard Memorial
- Little Lake Health Center

Services for Seniors and People with Disabilities

ADA Accessible Transportation, Door to Door Service,

Reduced Fares and Travel Training

MASKS ARE REQUIRED — BUSES SANITIZED DAILY

SERVING MENDOCINO COUNTY SINCE 1976
241 Plant Road, Ukiah, CA 95482
707-462-1422



Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

8	5	2						6
	7	9	2	8			1	5
3								
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SUMMER FUN WORD SEARCH

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AMUSEMENT	CIRCUS	MARINA	SALES
ARCADE	CORNDOG	MIDWAY	SEASIDE
AUCTION	COTTON CANDY	MINI-GOLF	SPARKLERS
BALLOONS	FAIR	MUSIC	SUMMER
BAND	FERRIS	PARADE	SURFING
BARBECUE	FESTIVAL	PARTY	SWIMMING
BAZAAR	FIREWORKS	RACES	TICKETS
BOARDWALK	GAMES	RACETRACK	TOURIST
CARNIVAL	GO-CART	RIDES	WHEEL

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59												
62												

CLUES ACROSS

- A group of sheep
- Of she
- This (Spanish)
- A type of sorcery
- A team's best pitcher
- Port in southern Japan
- Makes very happy
- Trigonometric unit of measurement
- From a distance
- Winged nut
- Consumed
- 'Heat' director
- In all places
- Made improvements to
- St. ___ Girl: brand of beer
- A type of 'seat'
- Wood
- A brief treatise on a subject of interest
- Approval
- Basics
- Where judges sit
- W. African religion
- Commentators
- Having many different functions
- Member of a Semitic people

- Flightless, fast-running bird
- After the seventh
- Small N. Zealand tree
- Health care pro (abbr.)
- Playground mainstay
- Expressing relief
- Records brain activity (abbr.)
- Fishing net
- Beer
- Tooth caregiver
- Japanese beverage

CLUES DOWN

- Garden tools
- Early Syrian kingdom
- 500 sheets of paper
- Information
- Beloved comic strip character
- Distinct form of a plant
- Replenishment
- Semitransparent glassy substance
- Expedition to observe animals
- One who held landed granted by Anglo-Saxon king

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!

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

May 13 to May 23

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **275 incidents** in this 10-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 13
12:40 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.
2:03 am: PRUITT, Paul David (56) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Marcela Drive. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication), 148 (A) PC (Resisting an Officer), and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).
2:04 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

8:39 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 100 block of Page Court.
12:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.
1:25 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of South Main Street.

May 14
5:35 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.
4:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and South Main Street.

7:59 pm: CHAMBERS, Jacob Logan (23) of Willits was contacted in the 800 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 602 PC (Trespassing).
8:08 pm: AVILEZ NAVARRO, Damian (33) of Redwood City was contacted in the 100 block of Margie Drive. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order), on felony charges of criminal threats, and on misdemeanor charges of resisting an officer.

May 15
9:07 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.
May 16
5:41 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 300 block of North Main Street.
8:51 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of South Humboldt Street.
12:41 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1200 block of Locust Street.
8:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 800 block of South Main Street.
8:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 200 block of South Main Street.

May 17
7:11 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
9:27 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and East Oak Street.
9:53 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Nancy Lane.
11:55 am: ICKES, Cole Randall (30) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 211 PC (Robbery) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).
1:00 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.
7:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1000 block of Locust Street.
7:55 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 600 block of South Main Street.

11:55 am: ICKES, Cole Randall (30) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 211 PC (Robbery) and 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).
1:00 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.
7:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1000 block of Locust Street.
7:55 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 600 block of South Main Street.

Summer Maker's Market June 12

Hello! We are getting ready for the Summer Maker's Market! Join us June 12, 2021, for the Summer Maker's Market in Willits, 90 South Main Street, from 11 am to 4 pm
We look forward to connecting with our community in a safe, healthy, and joyful way. The Maker's Market is free for all!
Please come and check out an array of locally made offerings. Shop handmade local goods made by herbalists, local artists, and artisans. Get free information from local herbalists, tips for cultivating and using herbs. We will have a raffle and free giveaways for the kids to take home.
Physical distancing and mask-wearing will be required. A sanitation station will be on site.
Location Hosts: Pete Swanton and Steve Marston The Mendocino County Herb Guild sponsors the event. See you there!
For further event details and other information, visit <http://www.mendocinoherbguild.com/>

– Mendocino County Herb Guild

The rest of Teachers | From Page 1

champion wrestling team, facilitating building projects on campus like goat barns and bleachers, and now helping to create the "Peace Garden."

We are truly blessed to have Mr. Brian Bowles as part of our great Willits High School team. Go Wolverines! – Carolyn Bakewell

Mr. Bowles is an integral person in the Willits Unified School system and especially at Willits High. He is a kind, caring man who listens to the needs of the staff and students. I have watched as young people who have difficulties with math, reading and writing go into his class and suddenly see how math fits into life by creating tables, bird houses, and even bigger projects.

He builds a rapport with students and discusses all their classes with them, offering them guidance to gain the skills they need to graduate. The confidence they gained then showed up in my computer classes too where they began to see how spreadsheets and logic help support their life.

As a teacher, he helped find solutions for teachers as a department head and union representative. He was a great science teacher and now is a fantastic construction educator who has experience building homes and all the wonderful items one uses inside them. Willits is so blessed to have Brian back as a member of the educational community. – Suzanne Kidwell

Blosser Lane Elementary:
Allison Hanson (5th grade)
and Dawn McClelland (4th grade)

Allison was so helpful in supporting teachers with technology and Dawn made sure that even in a COVID

year, her students were inspired through art and STEM projects. – Margaret Duran

Dawn has gone above and beyond for her students this year! She has spent so many extra hours planning fun STEM and art lessons, even while on distance learning. Her students and coworkers enjoy her positive energy she brings to work each day. – Amy Grooms

Both Allison and Dawn went above and beyond this year in their expertise as teachers and in supporting our learning community. – Margo Singleton
Dawn and Allison embraced distance learning, shared their tech skills with colleagues, and challenged young minds! – Carrie Bauer

Dawn fought hard on behalf of her class staying together when campuses were reopened. Allison is amazing the way she shares technology and keeps extending her growth, competency, and positive sphere of influence. – Mimi Stoll

Baechter Grove Middle School:
Kameron Ludwig, math

Kameron Ludwig is a very caring, considerate and approachable educator and coworker. She is always there to help, is amazing at seeing the positive, and has a way of making you feel more at ease. When you talk to Kameron you truly know that she is listening to you. I am amazed at how many roles she took on this year, and still she manages to have a smile on her face and a cheerful attitude. – Meghan White



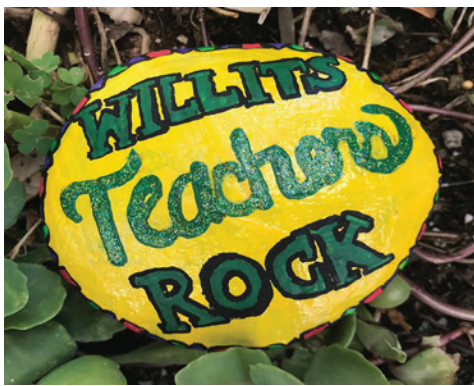
Kameron is always there for her students, not just to support them in math, but to support their socio-emotional needs as well. And it doesn't stop with students; she is constantly modeling those same principals with her colleagues and our students' adults. We are lucky to have her at BGMS and Willits Unified. – Dina Haigounian

As a new staff member to BGMS, Kameron has been nothing but supportive and enthusiastic. Her kindness and human generosity positively impacts students and faculty alike. – Catherine McKay

Kameron is a rock star. She is always available for students and is always willing to support her colleagues. – Conan McKay

Sanhedrin High School:
Yuliya Ritchley

Ms. Ritchley is a highly compassionate teacher. She truly cares for the well-being of our students in the Willits community. She is also a professor for Mendocino Community College. She prepares our students for their future careers. She is also a team player and works well with all of our staff. It is truly a pleasure to work with Ms. Ritchley. – John Horton



Firewise Safety Tip of the Week
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Tip #4 EZ2B Out

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Celebrating the Seniors

Willits Weekly is once again publishing senior photos from the Classes of 2021 of Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School, Willits Charter School and more, leading up to graduation in June. Congrats to all the graduates!

Photos by Maureen Jennison

MORE WILLITS & SANHEDRIN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Daisy Meza-Mata



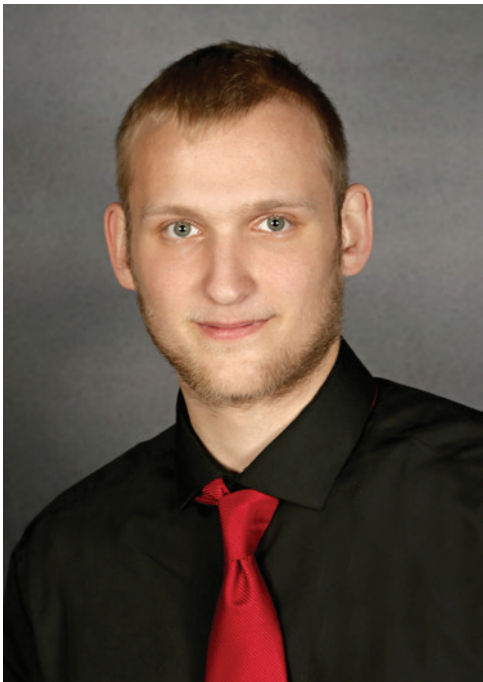
Madison Miles



Zandria Mondo



Claire Case-Brackett



Justin Mullins



Myra Nava



Amanda Nunez



Isabella Nunez



Kenyon Ochs



Julissa Perez



Jordan Porter



Logan Porter



Amarah Potter



Adriana Rodriguez



Angel Sanchez



Briana Sanchez Bejar



Juan Sanchez



Luis Saucedo Urbina



Ethan Schlieff



Gage Schmid



Sakora Scott



Jordan Scroggins



Allegra Rose Silveria



Aria Eva Silveria

WILLITS CHARTER SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021

Submitted images



Gabriel Ahearn



Zoe Alvarado



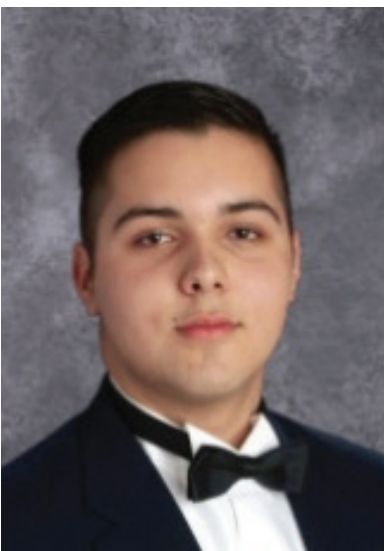
Alexis Blower



Farrah Breen



Sky Greystar



Kolby Johnson



Zoe Jordan



Isabel Mandujano



Heath Moen



Aidan Robertson

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Thurs., June 3 4:30 & 7:30pm
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At very far left: Mixed media by Gail Rushmore.

Above, from left: "Three Goat Vase" by Daphne Gillen. "Circus Act" by Daphne Gillen. "Standing guard" by Gail Rushmore.

At far left: Clay sculpture by Gail Rushmore.

At left: Part of the poster for this month's show.

Below : Low-fired ceramic dog sculpture by Daphne Gillen.

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Burdmandam
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Confessions by appointment:
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10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
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St. John Lutheran Church

Karl Bliese, Pastor
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707-459-5714
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Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
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‘Confabulations’

Gail Rushmore and Daphne Gillen explore ‘made-up memories’ in June show at Willits Center for the Arts

Submitted by Sasha Thomas-Nuruddin, manager for Willits Center for the Arts

The Willits Center for the Arts presents Gail Rushmore and Daphne Gillen in “Confabulations,” a mix of made-up memories.

The team has been waiting two years to present their work at the WCA. Last year’s show was cancelled because of the coronavirus. This year, as we start to see more people coming to the WCA, we see more opportunity to begin evening openings by July this year.

Gillen has been a supporter of the WCA for years, donating to auctions and placing work in group shows. From Redwood Valley, she lives with her husband, Brian, in an art-filled world with sculpture, ceramics and mosaics created by them both. She will be featuring her humorous ceramics of dogs, rams and demons.

Rushmore from Ukiah will display her portrait paintings of women along with ceramics and sculpture. Rushmore tells us, “In my best artistic moments, I am unbound by media and my joy is in the creative process, exploring different ways to tell a story. Being multi-faceted, a true Gemini, I am semi-scattered, yet able to focus. I love the spontaneity of paper and paint, the thought and planning process involved in mixed-media assemblage and the challenges of working in clay.”

“Confabulations” opens May 28 at the Willits Center for the Arts, located at 71 East Commercial Street (next to the Noyo Theatre).



Willits Swimming Pool Information

Summer 2021

June 1, 2021 – August 20, 2021

For more information: (707) 459-5778

Monday- Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:00am–10:00am Lap Swim	6:00am–10:00am Lap Swim	10:00am–12:00pm Lap Swim
8:00am–9:00am Otters Practice	12:00pm–1:00pm Aqua Aerobics	12:00pm–1:00pm Aqua Aerobics
9:00am–12:30am Swim Lesson	1:00pm–3:00pm Kids Club Swim	
12:00pm–1:00pm Aqua Aerobics		
1:00pm–3:00pm Kids Club Swim		
3:00pm–6:00pm Swim Lesson		
5:00pm–6:00pm Aqua Aerobics		
5:00pm–8:00pm Otter Practice		Pool Closed 6/19/21

Admission Price

Lap Swim	\$5
Lap Swim Pass (20 entries)	\$80
Aqua Aerobics	\$7
Senior Discount	\$6
Aqua Aerobics Pass (20 entries)	\$125
Swim Lesson (Sibling discount of \$5.00 per sibling) (Up to 4 Swimmers)	\$50

To comply with County of Mendocino Health Orders

- Encourage wearing cloth face covering for staff and patrons 2 years and over who are not swimming
- The pool will be following socially distanced requirement
 - *Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people
- Proper sanitation for any shared equipment/spaces
- Swimmers must bring their own goggles, caps, towel, and sunscreen
- Swimmers should change clothes and shower at home
- No make-ups & refunds for missed days

The rest of COVID

From Page 1

week of 8.56 which equates to nearly 60 new cases.

Coren said at the meeting that for the week ending May 22 there were 7.5 new cases per 100,000 population in the county which is in the red tier category, while the percentage of positive cases of those tested for the week was 4.1% which is in the orange tier.

“These changes that I’ve demonstrated ... are clear characteristics of a surge in Mendocino that I predict will earn us an orange tier when we are reevaluated and assessed on June 2nd,” he said. “Other considerations will [be included] at that time because I think the state doesn’t really want to send us back to the orange tier.... The burden of disease is going to be measured by hospitalizations and ICU admissions.”

While the number of new COVID cases in California overall continues to decline, the nearby counties of Humboldt and Shasta have also seen significant increases in recent weeks. Coren did note that in the most recent week those other counties’ case numbers have started to drop, while for Mendocino, “our data suggests that it will continue to go up.”

Coren said that there have been no official outbreaks which caused the surge in Mendocino, but some new cases have been associated with schools and youth sports.

“There have been 13 separate cases ... that are related to schools, and one infant,” he said.

“None of these qualified as an outbreak, though it’s important to see that five are related to youth sports in spite of surveillance testing which they’re doing rigorously. And three of those were actually epidemiologically linked to a separate gathering that all three of them attended. But as a result of this, several classes had to be quarantined and closed.”

He said that the new cases continue to be “predominantly household spread and community spread.”

Coren also noted of COVID-19 in the county: “All of these cases that we’ve been talking about, they’re all in unvaccinated people.”

In his letter, Coren stated, “We are living in two worlds, one for those who are vaccinated and are very safe. Another world (over half in Mendocino County) exists for those who are not fully vaccinated.”

Regarding the latest vaccine statistics, Coren said Tuesday that more than 80,700 people doses of vaccine had been administered in the county, and 45,000 county residents have had at least one dose, which amounts to 60% of those over 12 years old.

He said that the Pfizer vaccine is now available in the county for those between 12-17 years old.

“We’re working with the schools and with smaller but more frequent events around the county with our traveling team,” he said. “And they’re doing between one to three vaccine events per day.”

County Deputy Chief Executive Officer Darcie Antle said that the travel team had worked at three different Ukiah schools on Friday, May 21, vaccinating “over 200 young adults.”

The vaccine team worked in Willits on Tuesday at Willits High School and the Willits Community Center, and was planning to be at the Mendocino Presbyterian Church Thursday, May 27 from 4 to 6 pm.

“The schools ... have been wonderful and are looking to hold vaccine events this summer in preparation for the school year beginning,” said Antle.

Coren said Tuesday that 15.5% of those aged 12-17 in the county had received at least one dose of vaccine in the county, compared to 50.2% of those aged 18-49, and around 73% of those 65 and older.

Coren also gave an assessment on COVID variants in the county.

“As far as variants go, the state lab has notified us of the total since July of 150 tests that show 29 variants,” he said, “mostly of the California variety, although the UK variety and Brazilian variety have been found here as well. All of these are transmitted easier than the native one.”

“And the one that’s caused the most havoc in Humboldt County is related to the UK variant which transmits 50% faster than the native variety,” he continued. “We can basically assume that the variants are here in Mendocino. The way to defeat them is continued mitigation with masks, distancing and very aggressive vaccinations.”

Coren said that the combination of variants, increased gatherings, and the “mixed messaging about masking and gathering” has “created a perfect storm” for a COVID surge. He urged the county to continue with outreach and education about taking the proper precautions.

Coren also talked about the hope for “herd immunity” from COVID in the county.

“Though the estimate of herd immunity is theoretical at best, we’ve done some estimates of when we might be able to reach various percentages of our community that could be vaccinated if we can continue to do approximately 2,000 doses per week in our county,” he said. “By June 26, 70% of all, including infants, of Mendocino County’s population would be at least partially vaccinated. And by July 10, 80% could be at least partially vaccinated.”

The May 25 county Public Health dashboard shows that for current COVID-19 cases, 65 are in isolation, three are in the hospital, and two are in the intensive care unit.

The total number of deaths remains at 49, and the total number of cases throughout the pandemic now stands at 4,182.

Promotores de Salud

Among the 46 items the board approved on the consent calendar Tuesday was an amendment for increasing the total funding to Nuestra Alianza de Willits so that they can “continue to pilot the Promotores de Salud program to engage with the Spanish-speaking community to provide COVID-19 prevention and outreach services ... through a new end date June 30, 2022.”

County Behavioral Health Director Dr. Jenine Miller said at the meeting that Nuestra Alianza had been helping the county with various COVID-19 pieces for outreach to the Spanish-speaking community on social media, radio and video.

Third District Supervisor John Haschak praised the work by the group.

“When I went to the event by the Promotores de Salud, they had said that they had convinced hundreds of people to get vaccinated,” said Haschak. “So I think that that is really working. And it will continue on because we just voted to continue that grant. I just think that outreach and keeping that message going is just critical.”

The rest of Rules

From Page 1

ordinance approved Tuesday, a “Non-Storefront Retail Cannabis Facilities Business License” will be needed to sell cannabis at any events, farm tours or lodgings, and additional limitations and guidelines are laid out for such activities as well.

For cannabis farm tours in the county, the ordinance states that cultivation sites “on parcels with frontage on a publicly maintained road may have up to three tours per week of no more than 25 persons per tour,” and “parcels without frontage on publicly maintained roads may have one tour per week of no more than 25 persons.”

More tours could potentially be allowed in either type of parcel if a minor use permit is obtained.

Cannabis farmers markets in the county will not be allowed “in a visibly public location, such as a park, street, or on any school grounds,” and cannabis products at the markets must “be compliant with state requirements, including testing, packaging, and retailing.”

Regarding lodging at cannabis sites, the ordinance says that “cannabis and cannabis products shall only be provided to overnight guests,” and “cannabis products shall either be included in the nightly rate of the accommodation or shall be sold separately.”

For licensed cannabis events in the county, the ordinance states that “the parcel on which the event is hosted

shall be located at least 600 feet from any youth-oriented facility, school, and/or park.”

Regarding “on-site consumption” at cannabis events, the ordinance stipulates that “access to the area where cannabis consumption is allowed must be restricted to persons 21 years of age or older,” and cannabis consumption cannot be “visible from any public place or area restricted due to age.”

Another rule in the ordinance is that if a cannabis event either allows attendance of people under 21 years old, or “includes the provision of alcohol,” then any cannabis sales “must be conducted in a secure and secluded location at the event only accessible by a controlled entrance.”

For dispensaries, the sale or consumption of alcohol or tobacco will continue to be prohibited on the premises.

There are several other changes in the facilities ordinance as well. As described in a summary from county staff, these include: “The removal of church as a sensitive receptor, revisions to the manufacturing use type to allow for shared-use facilities, revisions to the retail use type to clarify existing regulations..., revisions to the zoning table for manufacturing and distributor uses, the addition and modification of definitions to better align with State regulations, and the elimination of obsolete sections.”

California is in a crisis for psychiatric beds, and especially for those who take Medi-Cal.”

Miller was also asked about the state of the Whitmore Lane facility, which needs some work, including demolishing parts of the building that need to be rebuilt to required hospital standards.

She told BOS that architects had told her there would be no significant difference in cost between a partial demolish and rebuild and building a new facility on a vacant lot. Any existing building in Mendocino County would require extensive upgrades to meet new and ever-changing Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development standards.

When she asked for an “off the cuff” ballpark estimate of the costs, she was told they were looking at “\$20 to \$25 million to probably demolish and build a facility.”

CEO Carmel Angelo warned that “the most unpleasant” part about the PHF discussion “is the timeframe.... It will be a few years to meet those OSHPD requirements and get licensed.” OSHPD regulations change every couple of years, and no matter when the project starts, it will still be required to follow any new regulations that come into place during construction.

Angelo added: “It’s in the public’s best interest that the county own the land and own the building, so that we are not tied to any one provider for the service for the PHF for multiple reasons, whether it’s cost, whether the service isn’t at an optimal level, we can go ahead and change providers, or if we really needed to, we could hire our own staff and run the PHF.”

Third District Supervisor John Haschak asked about the possibility of locating other services at the Whitmore site, given the size of the building. Director Miller said that with various new regulations expanding required space for services, and issues with required parking, “we’re probably looking at it only as a PHF,” although the feasibility study would offer more information.

Measure B Oversight Committee member Tom Allman asked at the end of the meeting: “With two very important motions passed today unanimously, can the public expect, within 60 days, hearing an update on what the current status of those motions is?” CEO Angelo said she would work with Director Miller to provide monthly updates in the CEO report and at the Measure B Committee meetings.

The rest of Gleaners

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preparations was as wide and varied as the plants themselves.

For the second year, gardener and orchardist Richard Jeske brought cuttings from his numerous grape varieties. He has a wealth of information about grapes, apples, and other fruits and vegetables he shares with the public.

Jamie Chevalier, owner of Quail Seeds, was also in attendance with her organic, open-pollinated seeds. She presented a beautiful poster about the plight of the monarch butterfly and what native milkweed plants to plant in our area. Amongst others, she had the native milkweed seeds on sale at her booth. She encourages gardeners to choose two of the following native milkweed seeds and plant in groups of six: Narrow Leaf, Showy or Woolypod.

Mark is a gardener and farmer from upstate New York who also lives part-time in Covelo. He has fields of milkweed native to New York he never mows because the monarch butterflies continue to come back to his fields year after year. He was at the sale with his girlfriend, Brook Gamble, and was excited to know that gardeners in the county are growing milkweed, too, to help support the struggling species.

Gamble, a biologist, said, “I think it’s neat that we have so many local people who are growing milkweed that’s appropriate for this area. There’s a lot of milkweed that’s sold that’s not appropriate,” she said and added, “It’s great to see tables full of native milkweed plants and people interested in bringing them back [from being an endangered species].”

A new vendor this year was Keith Michalak from Buttercup Compost Lab and his partner, Jes Pearce. They have a CSA that includes fruits, herbs and flowers from their garden on Ridgewood Ranch. Each has years of experience farming and gardening. Michalak worked for Live Power Community Farm in Covelo (a CSA business) and Pearce managed John Jeavons’ farm on Pine Mountain. Their CSA box includes veggies, fruits, herbs and flowers. You can have it delivered or take advantage of their COVID-safe pick-up.

Volunteers of all types are the backbone of the Grateful Gleaners and help make the yearly plant sale a success. Besides working on the day of the sale, many Gleaners grow plants specifically for this sale. Gardeners of all types are encouraged to grow a few more of their favorite plants – unusual species included – to contribute to the sale.

The Grateful Gleaners use the proceeds to donate to local farmers who need help in some way. According to volunteer and organizer Carol Cox, they made over \$3,400. That’s \$1,000 more than last year.

If you make your living as a farmer and need some help, contact the Grateful Gleaners at 707-367-7391. Also use this number if you have more fruits and vegetables than you need. The Gleaners will come to pick the produce and donate it to the food bank. Or call if you’d like to volunteer and work with an enthusiastic group of gardeners.

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