

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 421 **Thursday, September 23, 2021**

EST. 2013

Online & Print

Willits
cover
show
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letters
Good
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Happy
Fall!

BOS approves fees for Little Lake fire district

Forrest Glycer
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Last week the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved a mitigation fee resolution which will give the Little Lake Fire Protection District an estimated \$1.6 million in additional funding over the next 20 years according to Blair Aas, a consultant with the company SCI who works with Little Lake as well as other nearby fire districts.

Aas said that the fee system would charge about 98 cents per square foot for new construction of most buildings in the district. He said it would not add any additional fees or taxes on current property owners, unless they added development which increased the square footage of structures on their land.

He added that the City of Willits had already approved the plan and fees for new developments in town, and the county supervisor vote was to approve it for the unincorporated area in the fire district.

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

Brooktrails water at 60% capacity

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

On September 14, at 7 pm, the full Brooktrails Township Board met. Due to COVID concerns the meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Director Tina Tyler-O'Shea announced the formation of a Women's Disc Golf Group that meets on Thursday evenings at 5 pm at the Brooktrails Golf Course. She said: "All ages and abilities are welcome. Participation has been solid for the past several weeks. It's a supportive environment for newbies and fun for everyone involved."

Tyler-O'Shea also announced, "The Blue Zones Project has launched in Mendocino County. I and the local team are leading this community well-being initiative, and we would love to work with our local community as part of this project to get Mendocino County certified as a Blue Zones Community. If you would like more information I could get a team member to do a special presentation to the board."

Read the rest of **Water**
Over on Page 4



Tasty Tomatoes

Make the best of late summer's tomato selection with a delicious sauce filled with veggies and flavor

INGREDIENTS :

Tomatoes	Oregano
Zucchini	Thyme
Onions	Garlic
Garlic	powder
Rosemary	Salt and
Basil	pepper

DIRECTIONS :

Heat a heavy-bottomed pot on the stove, and sauté chopped onions and garlic in a small amount of olive oil or butter until translucent. Add chopped tomatoes and chopped zucchini, and continue cooking over medium heat. Add spices, to taste, fresh or dried, and mix well. Cook until tomatoes are broken down and have released juices, and the sauce begins to reduce. Turn off heat and pour into blender or use immersion blender to make smooth. Serve over noodles, on toast, or cook into a lasagna or eggplant Parmesan. Enjoy!



At top: Doesn't matter what kind of tomatoes you have inundating your garden and eventually kitchen counter; make sauce!

Above: Chopped up and stewing down, tomatoes cook away into sauce on the stove top.

Below, far left: A few of the still-green tomatoes enjoyed the rainfall over the weekend.

Below, left: The inside is just as beautiful as the outside of heirloom tomatoes.

At bottom: Sauce is the perfect place to also "hide" or just plain include with celebration (depending on your kids' or husband's vegetable preference!) veggies, too. This sauce also gained flavor and color – and nutrients – from the addition of yellow zucchini.

Photos by
Maureen Jennison

Search starts for new Willits fire chief

Joanne Moore
Reporter
joanne@willitsweekly.com

Chugging along, moving ahead, and getting things done with reports and updates mostly describes the September 14 meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

New firehouse and new fire engine news, August calls and training, Explorer program progress, and money matters were all on the agenda.

And who's going to sign, now that the chief is gone?

Chief Chris Wilkes' last day on the job was September 11, and "we need someone to sign on behalf of the fire department," said administrative assistant Michelle Schnitzius, as she introduced a resolution empowering board president Tony Madrigal to sign "between Little Lake Fire Protection District and the awarding contractor for the building of the new Fire Station 54."

The resolution was approved.

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

New health order for bars, restaurants requires signs by November 1

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

With the urgent need to reduce transmission of the aggressive COVID-19 Delta variant in Mendocino County, Public Health Officer Dr. Andrew Coren has announced a new Health Order. Businesses that serve food or drink indoors, where the virus is more easily transmitted, will display one of three signs that explains what precautions that business is taking to limit the spread of the virus.

The order is based on two factors: 1. whether the employees are vaccinated or, if not, whether they test weekly for the virus; and 2. whether patrons who are not vaccinated are allowed to dine inside.

The establishment will post the sign that is color-coded to reflect the varying level of risk of transmission based on vaccinations and testing for employees and the patrons.

If employees are either vaccinated or test weekly

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

How public education works

By Michelle Hutchins, Mendocino County superintendent of schools

Recently, the Mendocino Voice published a summary of the 2020 Mendocino County Grand Jury report focused on distance learning. Because of the pandemic, changes in education have come at lightning speed, so many of the Grand Jury's recommendations have either been addressed or efforts are underway to do so.

In some cases, things have changed so much that the recommendations don't make sense anymore. For example, distance learning requirements from last year are no longer in place. Instead, many of the requirements have been folded into independent study.

Legally, the Mendocino County Office of Education must address each finding with the Grand Jury before we can publicly share this information. We're in the process of doing so. In the meantime, I thought it would be worthwhile to explain who makes which decisions regarding education for local students.

In California, decisions about public education are made at a hyper-local level. According to the California School Boards Association, school boards for each district have five primary responsibilities: setting direction, establishing effective and efficient structure, providing support, ensuring accountability, and providing community leadership as advocates for children, the school district and public schools.

In practice, this translates into decisions about curriculum, when the school day begins and ends, how many and what types of classes are offered, and how money is spent. As long as policies comply with state law, district school boards have a lot of flexibility. By maintaining control at a local level, the idea is that a community's values and priorities will be reflected in the public education provided there.

County offices of education, on the other hand, serve as a local representative of the California Department of Education. COEs provide fiscal oversight and educational support to districts, and through budget allocation, can have some influence on broad educational priorities. COEs are also responsible for instructional programs that serve

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



The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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New 2021-22 Grand Jury sworn in

Submitted by Mendocino County Grand Jury

The 2021-22 Mendocino County Grand Jury was sworn in to service by Judge Jeanine Nadel on Friday, September 17, 2021, at the Superior Court in Ukiah. This year some members were also sworn in via Zoom.

Members of the 2021-22 Mendocino County Grand Jury are: Ukiah residents David Bennett, Darline Bergere, Jerry Cardoza, Phyllis Dockins, Diana Frediani, Betty Hook, Fred Nickel, Chris Philbrick, Tim Prince, and Carol Rosenberg; Petra Buchanan, Laytonville; Pam Hudson and Kathy Wylie, Albion; John King, Redwood Valley; Dan Lowden, Mathew Isaac, and Janice Winters, Willits; and Barbara Ortega, Fort Bragg.

Kathy Wylie was named Grand Jury foreman. The county Grand Jury operates under various California penal and government codes, and its oversight is generally limited to local government activities such as county departments and agencies, cities, special districts and school districts. Court operations and federal or state governmental agencies are outside the scope of local Grand Jury review.

Each year the county Grand Jury must perform oversight on county correctional facilities as well as examine the operations of at least one county department. A series of reports is issued to the public, and findings and recommendations are listed in the reports. Grand Jury report recommendations require departmental responses under PC §933.05.

Last year's Grand Jury published reports on: "All Mail-In Balloting," "MCRPD Lost Almost Three Million Dollars in Grant Funds"; "Orr Street Bridge"; "Mendocino County Information Technology"; "Need for Housing"; "Distance Learning"; and "Homelessness."

The full reports and the responses can be found at: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury/2020-2021-reports

Investigation topics are generated internally via committee work, or via citizen complaint. A complaint form is located here: www.mendocinocounty.org/homeshowpublisheddocument/3158/637332528237200000

Each of California's 58 counties swears a new Grand Jury in to service each year. The Mendocino County Grand Jury has existed over 100 years, and must operate under a strict code of confidentiality required by law. Under misdemeanor penalty, Grand Jury members are forbidden from divulging identities of complainants or those providing information to the grand jury, nor to name any sources in any public reports.

The 2021-22 Mendocino County Grand Jury will be busy training, considering new citizen complaints and reviewing the various departmental responses from last year's Grand Jury reports in the coming weeks.

Repeal of commercial cannabis ordinance celebrated by referendum organizers

Submitted by Kate Marianchild, Ellen Drell and Sherrie Ebyam for the People's Referendum Steering Committee

In a stunning policy reversal, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted 5-0 on September 14 to rescind the Commercial Cannabis Activity Land Use Development Ordinance. It had adopted the ordinance only 11 weeks earlier by a 4-1 vote.

The remarkable turnaround was the supervisors' response to a successful citizen-driven referendum campaign that gave the board two choices: to rescind the ordinance or to put it to a vote of the people.

"We are thrilled," said Kate Marianchild, referendum steering committee member. "We're gratified that the four supervisors acknowledged the strong and persistent opposition from a majority of their constituents. We are really fortunate that in California we have referendum as a tool to use when our elected officials fail to include the full spectrum of their constituents in their discussions and decisions."

The contested ordinance would have expanded the allowable size of cannabis cultivation sites from 1/4 acre to as much as 10 percent of parcel size, and would have opened an unknown number of parcels to new cannabis cultivation in the county's rangeland zone – the wildlife-rich but dry and fire-prone hills in the eastern portions of the county.

Prominent among the public's objections to the ordinance were the scarcity of water, the board's choice to avoid doing a countywide environmental

Read the rest of **Referendum** Over on Page 10

Senior Center drive-through, walk-up lunches

Willits Senior Center's indoor dining room is closed, but the center is still serving drive-through and walk-up lunches, Monday through Friday, from 12 to 1 p.m. outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$5 through December.

"We are also providing home-delivered meals to anyone who wants a safe food delivery option via our Meals on Wheels Program," center Director Richard Baker said, noting a 203% increase in demand for home-delivered meals during the pandemic.

Meals on Wheels

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Deb at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

Thursday, September 23: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, September 24: Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggie, Cranberry Sauce, Roll

Monday, September 27: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggie, Roll

Tuesday, September 28: Turkey ala King/Noodles, Veggie, Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, September 29: Carnitas Tacos, Rice, Beans

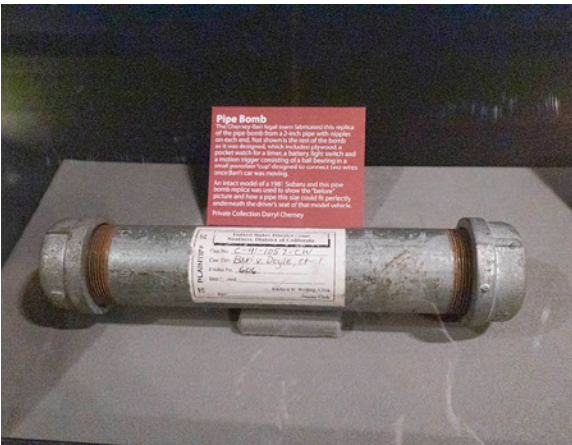
Thursday, September 30: BBQ Chicken Bacon Sandwich, Cajun Rice & Beans, Green Salad

Friday, October 1: N/A

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



Above, from left: Alicia "Littletree" Bales, Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney protest in Oakland in 1996. The car in which Bari and Cherney were injured by the pipe bomb is disturbing to look at. A replica of the pipe bomb planted in Bari's car that was used as evidence is on display. At right: The panel discusses Judi Bari: from left, Darryl Cherney, Karen Pickett, Naomi Wagner, Tracy Kattleman and Dave Walsh. Below: This photo from the exhibit depicts the Judi Bari puppet, used in a demonstration at the Oakland courthouse after her death.



Redwood Summer

Judi Bari is remembered through discussions and an exhibit, including her bombed car, at the Mendocino County Museum

"Then Judi got bombed and everything changed," was the sentiment expressed by the panel at the grand opening of "The Car Bombing of Judi Bari: A Community Remembers" exhibit at the Mendocino County Museum in Willits. A sizable crowd showed up, many of whom were participants in the discussion of the Redwood Summer (with an emphasis in the participation and leadership of Bari).

Others were social and political activists who wished to learn more about the era and the people who affected lasting change on the way corporate logging is conducted in Mendocino and Humboldt counties, perhaps to ascertain methods by which their own agendas might be more effectively operated.

The driving rain at the outdoor event, much-needed and somehow very appropriate for the ecologically themed day, was evocative of the four days of rain following the bombing of Judi Bari.

Rarely in a generation does a leader appear to a movement that both unifies and stimulates the imaginations of the public and the participants and goad them to action as did Bari, a feminist, an ecologist, an advocate for non-violent action, a leader, and ultimately a martyr. The exhibit at the museum was originally planned for last year in honor and remembrance of the 30th anniversary of the unsolved bombing of Bari's car in Oakland, in which she was

riding with her fellow organizer Darryl Cherney. While Cherney escaped major injury, the bomb, which had been placed under Bari's seat, pulverized her pelvis and caused several other injuries, from which she never totally recovered.

The panel discussed how the FBI had taught a bomb school in Humboldt County at an old Louisiana-Pacific clear-cut site just weeks prior to Bari's bombing. "They found a car. They blew it up and they practiced responding. They did that with the assistance of some timber-company security personnel," remarked Alicia "Littletree" Bales, program director at KZYX and one of Bari's closest companions and confidants.

"So, there is an intersection several weeks before both bombings but a couple weeks before Judi was bombed," said Bales, "where you see LP security folks and the FBI at the same scene, blowing up a car and practicing responding. I think if you wanted to find out who put the bomb in her car, that would be a good place to look. Also, several of the same agents who arrived at the scene in Oakland were at that incident and the bomb school was taught by the lead agent at the scene of the bombing."

The story of the bombing is deep and mysterious and complex, with no clear answers, but after the incident, many of the

Read the rest of **Bari** Over on Page 9



At left: Part of the collage of incidents and news articles about the Earth First! movement and the trial that hangs on the museum wall. Below: Attendees peruse Bari's car, some of the evidence, and the collage.

Photos by Mathew Caine



WILLITS CENTER FOR THE

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willitscenterforthearts.org/artists

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Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

Sudoku grid

Word search: AUTUMN WORD SEARCH

Crossword grid

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

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
September 13 to September 19
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 150 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

September 13
6:47 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

September 14
9:11 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 700 block of Central Street.
9:14 am: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street.
11:44 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Barbara Lane.
6:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Brookside Drive and Hawthorn Lane.
8:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East Van Lane and South Humboldt Street.

10:16 pm: MOHAN, Sanjay (47) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order).

September 15
9:02 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of South Main Street.
2:58 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

September 16
12:05 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of South Main Street.
3:14 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 400 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

The rest of Water From Page 1

General Manager Tamara Alaniz reported on the water supply reliability and stated: "We are currently at 60% of our capacity. We can compare our situation this year as very similar to last year, and that is good news on that front."

Alaniz further stated: "Regarding Brooktrails Fire Department, we were deployed out to the Caldor Fire and returned with the water tender last week. Upon our return there have been several other fires where our crews and equipment have gone and provided assistance, and that includes the Calpella fire, the Hopkins fire – and we also assisted on the fire in the Geysers area, southeast of Hopland in the rugged terrain. Our water tender is doing just what our board intended for that piece of equipment to do; to provide assistance for our neighbors and to bring money into the department."

The board then unanimously approved

The rest of Education From Page 2

students with highly specialized needs, including severely disabled students, incarcerated and expelled youth, and students who are also parents.

In small, rural counties like ours, COEs can provide additional operational support like information technology services and telecommunication infrastructure. Finally, we provide advocacy at the state level, so the needs of rural students and educators are represented thoroughly and accurately.

The Grand Jury reported that distance learning adversely affected public education in Mendocino County. They're not wrong, but I don't think anyone expected schools to be able to shift to highly effective remote learning with no warning, no training, and no infrastructure. Even so, we did see some heroic efforts by teachers; we also saw several situations where students thrived. As the pandemic wore on, educators gained the knowledge, experience, and tools they needed to teach better remotely.

The upside of being forced into video conferencing is that districts can put those tools to good use long after the pandemic

11:46 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of North Main Street.

6:24 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 500 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

September 17
1:08 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued several citations.
5:43 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of South Lenore Avenue.
7:16 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.
8:28 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 400 block of East Valley Street.
11:40 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of South Main Street.

September 18
12:19 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
2:32 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of East San Francisco Avenue.
6:05 pm: ALVAREZ, Jack Steven (59) of Ukiah was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

10:15 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

September 19
7:40 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of South Main Street.
1:23 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of North Main Street.

the August 24, 2021 Accounts Payable: \$129,771.56 and the September 14, 2021 Accounts Payable: \$162,033.98.

Director Tyler-O'Shea moved to approve Resolution 2021-10, Authorizing the use of additional PG&E settlement money as payment for the replacement fire department squad vehicle. Director Ed Horrick seconded the motion, and the board voted to approve the resolution.

Finally, the board addressed Resolution 2021-11, Declaring specific property owned by the district as surplus and authorizing its donation. The specific equipment was identified as two old vehicles that require maintenance work done on them to make them fully operable, and they will be donated to a charity. Director Horrick made the motion to approve the resolution and Director Ralph Santos seconded the motion. The board then voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

subsidies. Our county has a big geographic footprint, and some districts have better access to resources than others. Improved technology infrastructure may help reduce that gap.

Overall, the challenges related to distance learning are not over and won't be until the pandemic subsides. Unfortunately, well-meaning California legislators who wanted to make sure students returned to in-person instruction changed the law, adding numerous requirements for independent study programs. Now, districts must either try to hire more teachers when the state is in the midst of a severe teacher shortage, or burden classroom teachers with also teaching students remotely.

Each family must determine what is best for their students and continue to advocate for their students' needs. As they advocate, I hope they can remember that schools are doing the best they can under difficult circumstances. We all need to be patient and remember that eventually this pandemic will end.

Michelle Hutchins is superintendent of schools in Mendocino County.



Above, from left: A colorful display of peppers from Inland Ranch is eye-catching. Jars of pickled jalapenos with carrots and apple cider vinegar are available from Green Uprising. Sara Stapleton waits on a customer at the New Agrarian Collective's booth that is full of heirloom tomatoes, bags of fresh salad greens, cucumbers, onions, cantaloupe, watermelons, and more.

At far left: Tobin Steiskal and Denise Jessie are two new faces seen under the library's popup tent; they are spreading the news about September being National Library Card Signup Month.

At left: Clarinetist, saxophonist and aerophonist David Scollin, the newest musician playing at the Willits Farmers Market, has electronic backing tracks that spice up the smooth sounds of his jazz choices.

Photos by Ree Slocum

Fall Flavor
Produce offerings abound at Willits Farmers Market, while cold-weather vegetables, chocolates, and more are soon to come

The snappy evenings and mornings with warm sunny days are favorite weather for fall crops like broccoli, cauliflower, kale and lettuce. Winter squashes ripen along with melons of all kinds. Those are some of the produce promises you'll find at the Willits Farmers Market as October nears.

This past Thursday's market sported newness sprinkled among familiar places.

Walking through the market past the Willits Weekly's table manned by Mathew Caine and neighbor Deborah Knole's table with delicious chai teas, was Galina Arlov of Wolf Lodge on Mount Konoceti in Lake County. She's new to the Willits market and serves micro greens. You can get some so fresh they're cut on the spot.

Sara Stapleton with the New Agrarian Collective was very busy helping customers. The booth had some newer produce offerings like greens, cantaloupe, strawberries and fall flowers.

Reza's Breadery had 67 boules of their delicious sourdough breads that were selling quickly as usual. He said he's been increasing how many loaves he makes and brings to market since he sells out early. He makes about 10 boules an hour and

said, "I start at 2 am. It's a lot of work!"

About the fresh produce in her booth, Allegra Foley from Green Uprising Farm told Willits Weekly, "We're going to have all of this stuff for a long time because we have hoop houses. So, we'll still have the tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and we always have kale and chard. As long as we don't have a bunch of freezes in a row, we'll continue to have this stuff. We'll also start having radishes, turnips, all the Asian greens. We try to go heavy on the greens in the fall." Next Thursday might be the last time to get their sweet and juicy Bartlett pears.

The newest addition to the music venue was David Scollin with his alto and soprano saxes and an aerophone. He hails from Ukiah where he plays the clarinet in the Ukiah Symphony and saxophone with the Dirty Dozen "from time to time." He has backing tracks for his smooth-jazz style music. It sounds like he's playing with a full band and is very compelling, encouraging some people to dance.

Inland Ranch has lots of produce as well as eggs, lamb, pork and beef for sale. "I'm hoping to stretch out the summer crops because we've had early frost for the last

Read the rest of Market Over on Page 9



Above, left: Jessie Taaning from Inland Ranch in Redwood Valley is standing with one of her small watermelons. She has other melons along with an array of summer and late-summer veggies and meats.

Above, right: Both Cyndee Logan, left, and Claudette Britton buy cranberry walnut boules from Reza's Breadery. According to Reza, the sourdough garlic rosemary is the most popular.

At left: Lexi is showing a card with different vegetables on it – a game from the library table where kids find the different vegetables and get a prize.

CLUES ACROSS

- One of the four Vedas
- Part of (abbr.)
- At the peak
- African antelope
- Expression of satisfaction
- Yankees' ace
- Belittled
- A baglike structure
- Utah Jazz coach Snyder
- Actress Tomei
- Explosive
- Formal for 'on'
- Cruelties
- Country singer Brad
- Make very happy
- Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal
- Albanian currency
- Subatomic particle
- Type of salt
- 007's creator
- Emerging
- Railroad flare
- Observed
- Capable of reproduction
- Indicates adjacent to

CLUES DOWN

- Crease
- 'Honey' actress Jessica
- Broad volcanic crater
- Product safety watchdog of criminal charges
- Part of a church
- Perceptible by touch
- Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges
- Hairpiece
- Variety acts
- 'Mystic River' actor Sean
- Remove salt

50. Legendary Notre Dame coach

51. Not wide

56. An embarrassing mistake

57. Pearl Jam's debut album

58. Denotes passerine birds

59. Stumble

60. Midway between east and southeast

61. W. Indian trees

62. You

63. Pigpen

64. Be aware of

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WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS
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PRIZES FOR HIGHEST OLLIE AND BEST TRICK
WITH PERFORMANCES FROM
DEATHWISHKID
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Above, left: Jes, with baby Louis, and Keith Michalak of Buttercup Farm, part of the New Agrarian Collective, out in their fields. Keith is holding a greens harvester, which was acquired through a previous Gleaner grant. Above, right: Ruthie King of Headwaters livestock (formerly New Agrarian Livestock) is shown out at Ridgewood Ranch with her sheep protected by donkeys and fencing financed in part by Gleaner grants.

Grateful Gleaners awards grants to local agriculturalists

By Karen Gridley, for Grateful Gleaners

The Grateful Gleaners spring plant sale raised sufficient funds to award grants to four local agriculturalists, all of whom are contributing to a more sustainable local food economy here in Willits and beyond.

Ruthie King, the first awarded, operates Headwaters (formerly New Agrarian Livestock), one of the businesses within the New Agrarian Collective based at Ridgewood Ranch. Headwaters is a multi-faceted business with meat, wool and sheepskins produced for sale, but the foundation of the business is the flock of sheep and the practices used to integrate them with the land. Ruthie's use of regenerative grazing practices has been facilitated by the Grateful Gleaners for two years in a row, for the purchase and maintenance of electric fences. These fences allow for rotational grazing, which aids fuel reduction, and they also protect the flock against predation. Ruthie says the grant allows her to cover more ground and helps her realize her goals of building soil, sequestering carbon and invigorating plant growth on her land.

Buttercup Farm, a CSA (community supported agriculture) farm operated by Jes and Keith Michalak (and baby Louis) and also a member of the New Agrarian Collective, was selected by the Grateful Gleaners for the third year in a row. This year's

grant will be used to purchase equipment and materials that will enable the couple to operate their CSA in a more efficient manner, and includes a second garden cart, irrigation pipes that will double watering capacity, and the purchase of reusable cloth produce bags made by one of their CSA members.

The purchase of an electric food and herb dehydrator will help the couple streamline the way they dry food, herbs and flowers for direct sales to herbalists and for wholesale sales to the Food Hub, again strengthening our local food capacity.

The third project to receive a grant was a first-time applicant: the **Mendocino Grain Project** that was acquired by Rachel Britten in February 2020. The Mendocino Grain Project is committed to producing staple crops like wheat, rye and lentils locally. The growers involved are dry farmers, which means that they rely on seasonal rainfall to irrigate their crops.

Rachel informed us that one of the challenges of grain farming is that she uses farm equipment to harvest tall dry grass in the heat of the summer. Fire danger becomes a real concern, and she and the other farmers do take measures to mitigate the dangers, such as early spring mowing around all of their fields and mounting fire extinguishers on all of the equipment.

But given the extreme conditions this year and likely in years to come, Rachel felt that it was necessary to expand precautions while operating machinery in the field. She requested funds to purchase two water pumps with 30-foot hoses, which will allow for a quick response to any fires that ignite due to machinery. Rachel says the fire pumps will ensure safety in the field while the Grain Project continues to increase local food security in the face of a changing climate.

In addition, the Gleaners gave a small grant to the **Willits Farmers Market**, under the direction of Michael Foley, which is being used for a new canopy and misters for weary shoppers on hot days, new signs and advertising efforts, and to refurbish the storage trailer where all the market equipment is kept.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our plant sale in the spring, enabling us in turn to support our local food economy.

Homecoming Activities at Willits High School

Night rally: Wednesday, September 29 at 7 pm on Maize football field - public welcome to attend!

Homecoming Spirit Week: Monday, September 27 through Friday, October 1.

Homecoming dance: Saturday, October 2.

2021 Homecoming football at Willits High School



Willits High School hosts its 2021 Homecoming Week football game at home, on Friday, October 1, against Cloverdale High. WHS junior varsity game starts at 5 pm, and WHS varsity game kicks off at 7 pm at Maize Field, behind Willits High School, 299 Main Street.

Future WHS football schedule is:

10/8: Kelseyville - Away - 5 pm/7 pm

10/15: Middletown @ Home - 5 pm/7 pm

10/22: Lower Lake - Away - 5 pm/7 pm

10/29: Clearlake - Away - 5 pm/7 pm

11/5: Fort Bragg @ Home - 5 pm/7 pm



Above: Third District Supervisor John Haschak represents Willits, Brooktrails, Laytonville, Covelo and surrounding areas.

Haschak Town Hall on September 26

This weekend's Town Hall with Third District Supervisor John Haschak will take place by Zoom on Sunday, September 26, at 4 pm. Here's the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/484d2pb>

This event is hosted by WELL (Willits Economic Localization) as part of a series of Town Halls with our supervisor. It's a great opportunity to hear what's happening at the county and to dialog with our elected representative. Please join with your questions and comments!

Contact mstrong@willitsonline.com if you need info on other ways to access the meeting.

– Submitted by
Willits Economic Localization

Bucket Challenge

Mendo Mill customers fit as many items as possible into a five-gallon bucket to receive 20 percent off and support WHS sports teams

Just a drop in the bucket, or rather, drop it in the bucket. This year's Mendo Mill Bucket Challenge brought some needed funds to the athletic programs at Willits High School. As it does each year, the hardware-lumber-and-garden store on East Commercial generously offers a deal to customers who wish to participate.

As explained by members of WHS football and cheerleaders on Saturday and the soccer team on Sunday, a customer is encouraged to purchase one of the five-gallon plastic buckets for \$5, which they can then "fill" with anything from the vast array of tools, plants, etc. (with the exception of power tools) in the store. When they get up to the registers, they will receive a 20-percent discount on those items. In addition, Mendo Mill will donate \$10 per bucket to the high school athletic program in order to support their needs, mostly for new uniforms.

The challenge part of the Bucket Challenge comes when filling the buckets. Shoppers have been very creative in their use of the term "in the bucket," finding ways to get at least a portion of some extremely large items to fit within the confines of the containers.

"I've seen people put 16-foot sections of molding in the bucket," mused Manager Holly Vega. "I've seen people putting whole gallons of paint in the bucket. Last year we had someone buy a ladder. They put one leg in the bucket. It's been a lot of fun."

Two years ago during the challenge, Mendo Mill's TK Warner noted "interesting things in the buckets. Someone put a giant magnet in the bucket with wheels on it. It's amazing how they play Tetris in order to fill the bucket up and get as much as they can for the 20 percent off."

People are allowed and encouraged to purchase as many buckets as they would like and fill them to the brim. Lids are \$3 extra for those who actually utilize the versatile buckets at home. Mendo Mill does

this game every year to support the communities in which they operate, with participating stores in Willits, Ukiah, Clearlake and Lakeport. Typically, the Willits store brings in the most participants. According to varsity soccer coach Martin Rodriguez, "Every shift they were selling about 30 to 40 buckets in the two hours. We had four shifts per day. We estimate in the two days we sold about 240 buckets."

This should bring in about \$2,400 for uniforms, not quite as good as the \$4,000 from a couple pre-pandemic, rainless years ago, but the funds will go a long way toward purchasing jerseys and uniforms. The uniforms are purchased on a four-year cycle, wherein each major sport gets new uniforms every four years.

Many of the customers expressed pleasure at their discounts, as well as the ability to help out the town's sport teams. Dave Parmenter "got a lot of things that were never on sale here before." Fran Gardner went all in and purchased two buckets, which she loaded into a shopping cart in order to carry as much as possible, buying "potting mix, batteries, a towel, paper towels, flowers, big metal flower spinners for the garden, moth repellent, for the one suit we have that we wear once every 10 years, hummingbird feeder, Taste of the Wild dog food, doggie fruit chews. This is great fun! I got a lot of things I didn't even need. If I get home and find I still need something, I'll come back. I only live five minutes away." Daniel Haley, the junior varsity soccer coach, had an artichoke plant in his bucket, as well as a fire log, some cat food, and a kitten harness.

The Willits High School senior class took the opportunity to set up a COVID-safe bake sale outside the Mendo Mill doors for the purpose of helping to finance this year's senior trip to Santa Cruz. Lily Barrett brought the famous Barrett Chai Cupcakes, which win awards at the annual Cupcake Wars. There were also gluten-free cookies, orange cupcakes, parfaits, and a good variety of sweet baked goods. Should anyone wish to contribute to the trip, the class posts their fundraisers on Instagram: www.instagram.com/classof2022whs.

The soccer team that was attending the Bucket Challenge display is rather proud of their record this year. So far, they have six wins, two losses, and one tie. They play on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons with home games taking place on the football field.

The next promotion planned by the Mendo Mill stores is their 79th anniversary celebration in October.



Above: Willits High School soccer players Luka Ritchley and Torin Fraser work the morning shift, handing out buckets and explaining how the promotion works.



At left: Nikolo Anderson finds a moment to goof around with some of the items from the display.



At top: The Willits High School senior class holds a bake sale outside to raise money for their senior trip to Santa Cruz.

Above, left: Dave Parmenter makes sure to fill his bucket with needed items.

Above, right: Randy Gonzalez works the afternoon shift at the WHS Bucket Challenge display at Mendo Mill.

At left: The Willits High School Wolverine mascot is placed in the promotional display at the front of Mendo Mill.

Photos by
Mathew Caine

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

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Willits, CA 95490
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Sunday Services:
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Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.
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www.agapebiblechurch.com

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707-303-5456

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25 Hazel Street, Willits
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10 a.m.
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for now.
For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252

Sunday Mass inside:
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10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
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St. John Lutheran Church

Karl Bliese, Pastor
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following the service.
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24 Mill Creek Drive
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Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714
Saturdays: Meeting place
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Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
<https://willitsadventistchurch.org>
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Above: The People's Referendum seven-member steering committee and 10 of the 115 signature gatherers celebrate the submission of 6,239 signatures to Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie. Ellen Drell and Kate Marianchild hold flowers in front. Below, left: Steve Scalmanini, Ellen Drell, Kate Marianchild and Sheila Jenkins, steering committee members of People's Referendum to Save Our Water, Wildlife, and Way of Life, carry boxes of petitions prior to turning them in to the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder. Below, right: Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie goes through petitions prior to giving proponents of the People's Referendum a receipt for 6,239 signatures.



The rest of Referendum

From Page 2

impact report, the opening of rangelands to new cultivation, and the county's failure to control illegal cannabis operations.

The cannabis ordinance had been the subject of strong opposition since its public unveiling late last year. By March, hundreds of letters objecting to it were submitted to the board of supervisors and the county planning commission. Despite an unprecedented level of opposition, on June 22 the board adopted the cannabis ordinance, with only Supervisor John Haschak dissenting.

The next day, a newly formed grassroots organization known as the People's Referendum to Save Our Water, Wildlife, and Way of Life launched a referendum petition drive aimed at repealing the ordinance. According to state law, the People's Referendum had 30 days to gather approximately 3,400 valid signatures from Mendocino County registered voters.

Despite triple-digit temperatures, COVID-19 restrictions, and even out-of-county paid disruptors funded by corporate cannabis interests, 115 volunteers from across the county gathered nearly twice the number of required signatures in 28 days, turning them in to the county elections office on July 20. On August 27, County Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie

reported that a sufficient number of valid signatures had been gathered.

"This decision by the board sends a clear message to the residents of this county that we can influence our elected representatives," said Ellen Drell, the People's Referendum steering committee member. "Let's not forget that fact or let down our resolve to keep it that way."

"What we want going forward is clear," said Sherrie Ebyam, also a member of the steering committee: "No expansion – and especially none without an [environmental impact report]. We also need improvements to the existing cannabis-permitting program, such as limits on hoop houses and water trucking for cannabis cultivation, as well as limits on the use of road base on valuable agricultural soils. In addition," she added, "we need to hold the county leadership accountable for failing to process hundreds of cannabis permits that have languished in the planning department for years."

"A huge thank you to everyone who helped in this successful referendum," said Marianchild on behalf of the People's Referendum to Save Our Water, Wildlife, and Way of Life steering committee. "This is a watershed event in Mendocino County's history. We hope it will inspire others, including the current and future boards of supervisors, to embrace open dialogue and transparent decision-making, giving them the time and patience they require."



Vaccination policy signs

In response to "transmission of the aggressive COVID-19 Delta variant in Mendocino County," a new county health order requires business that serve food and drink indoors, "including but not limited to, dining establishments, bars, clubs, theaters, and entertainment venues," post their vaccination policies for patrons and workers. Such businesses are advised to post one of these three signs – green, yellow or red – as soon as possible, but no later than November 1. See Page 1 for the press release from Public Health announcing the new order.

Honoring and celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Submitted by Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

Join the Willits Branch of the Mendocino County Library in celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, 2021. We will be holding two special events and featuring a display of books on Hispanic culture written by Hispanic authors.

Events include Amate Bark Painting and a guest lecture by Jaime del Aguila on Mexican culture.

1. Amate Bark Painting will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 2 p.m. Join us in the courtyard behind the Mendocino County Museum and learn how to make Amate Bark Paintings using traditional

folk art techniques from the Mexican state of Puebla; this program uses recycled materials. Please call the Willits Branch Library to reserve your spot 459-5908.

2. Guest lecture on Mexican culture, including food, dance and sports by Jaime del Aguila from Nuestra Alianza de Willits will take place on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 10:00 AM, at the courtyard behind the Mendocino County Museum. All ages welcome! Please wear a mask to enter the building.

For more information, please visit www.mendolibrary.org or contact the Willits Library at 459-5908.

The rest of Signs

From Page 1

AND patrons must be vaccinated to dine inside, that business will display a green sign.

If employees are either vaccinated or test weekly but patrons do not need to be vaccinated to dine inside, that business will display a yellow sign.

If the business has no knowledge of whether employees are vaccinated or if they test AND if patrons do not need to be vaccinated to dine inside, that business will display a red sign.

There is an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 when in an enclosed space and an even greater risk when not masked, for example, when eating or drinking. The purpose of this grading system is to help consumers make smart choices about which restaurants and businesses are following best practices when it comes to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Dr. Coren wants to encourage Mendocino residents and visitors to support our small businesses while protecting their health. "These signs will help patrons make better informed decisions depending on which establishments they enter."

Many California counties are also adopting notice requirements for establishments that serve food or beverages. Marin, Long Beach, Tulare, Contra Costa counties, among others, passed stricter regulations than Mendocino. Some, including San Francisco, now require all indoor dining patrons to demonstrate vaccine status before entering.

"Our community members deserve to be free to choose what's safe enough for them. This is only possible with transparency – which these signs accomplish," explained Dr. Coren.

Everyone inside, both employees and patrons, must keep their masks on except while they are actually eating or drinking. Patrons who have a well-fitted mask may enter the indoor area to place an order or to pick up their "to go" order.

The order requires that owners post the signs to inform their patrons by November 1, 2021. Of course some businesses may choose to post their signs immediately. If they do not, law enforcement could impose fines for non-compliance.

Dr. Coren hopes for compliance without threats of penalties. "Most consumers want to go out and dine locally, but they want to know they are safe." Although this order only applies to restaurants and bars, "some non-food businesses have reached out to me to say they are proud of their anti-COVID practices and are posting a green sign!"

Editor's Note: See graphics at left on page 10 for the green, yellow and red signs.

The rest of Chief

From Page 1

And the search for a new chief has begun – a process that is "involved ... not that easy," said Madrigal when contacted after the meeting. "We've set up an ad hoc committee to hire somebody ... get somebody in place by the first of the year."

"We have to post it for about a month ... go through resumes and applications ... and we'll have an oral review board," he explained, adding that the board had "hired a gentleman to help with the process [which is] customary."

The applicant will have "to have minimum qualifications to apply," Madrigal continued. "At our next meeting we're going to go over what the minimum qualifications are going to be."

"Every department's a little different. We'll figure out where we want to post – in our area, California, nationwide ... just depends on what we want to do," he said.

"And after [all] that, we have to do a complete background check on the new chief."

Whoever the new chief is will have a brand-new firehouse, which Deputy Fire Chief John Thomen told the board still "had a bunch of little things that need to be taken care of, [but] we'll start moving in October 4."

The new fire engine will take a little longer.

Among other things involved in the delay, there's been "trouble getting computer chips," said Thomen. "We hope [to get it] in February, but it could be as late as April."

In any case, it will be "ready to go by next fire season," he assured the board.

Of this fire season, he said it "is really just starting," as a preface to his reporting of last month's calls.

"We had 56 calls – 17 fires, 14 rescues and medical calls, 12 traffic collisions, and six hazardous conditions – 520 total for the year [so far]," he said

"Our responses have been healthy ... getting two apparatus and two chief officers to most calls," he continued. "And when the calls come in our mutual aid zone, we get help."

Continuous training is one of the reasons for the department's "healthy responses," and Training Chief Eric Alvarez gave the board an update on recent training activities.

"We had two 'over the bank' calls last month," he began. "That kind of prompted ... getting back to the basics with the rescue."

"You've got to hit on it every now and then. If you don't use it, you kind of lose it," he said. "After fire season, we're going into the winter, and highways 20 and 162 are big for 'over the banks.'"

"The first class was just classroom, tying knots, explaining the different hardware we use," he said. The following one took place at the hospital, and "was actually going 'over the bank,'" Alvarez said.

"I want to thank [board member and executive director of

The rest of Fees

From Page 1

Just prior to the vote Third District Supervisor John Haschak spoke in support of the fee funding for Little Lake.

"I'd just like to say that this is a long time in the coming," he said. "I think that the Little Lake Fire District is really looking forward to this. I've worked closely with [LLFD] Chief [Chris] Wilkes, who had his last day of work on September 11, and we wish him well. And we had a great opening for the Little Lake Fire Station on Saturday. It's new in Willits on East Commercial Street – if anyone's up in that area, it's well worth checking out. It's a testament to people working together."

The board approved a similar ordinance for the Anderson Valley Fire District just prior to the LLFD vote, though Aas noted that the fees in the Anderson Valley area were actually about twice as much per square foot than in Little Lake.

"That's actually quite common," he said, "because the methodology and approach to determine the fees is based upon the existing level of service. The more rural of a fire district – large fire systems serving a smaller population – ends up having higher fees compared to more urban centers. And so that's why you have a fee for Little Lake Fire Protection District that's a little bit lower."

Cannabis data update

Also last week, the supervisors heard updates regarding cannabis data for both Code Enforcement and for those trying to obtain permits through the Cannabis Department's online "portal" system.

For enforcement, County Code Enforcement Supervisor John Burkes said during a presentation that for the year to date as of September, the department had investigated 165 "non-permitted cannabis complaints," had "abated" 70 of them – meaning they stopped illegal cannabis operations there, had sent out "notices of violation" to 37, and had "referred to law enforcement" 102 of the cases.

Burkes talked about how they decided which complaints to refer to law enforcement.

"Those of course would be ones that may have a criminal element," he said. "Some extenuating circumstances that would not be appropriate for non-peace officers to address, [and could] ruin the potential for a criminal investigation by engaging them prior to the sheriff having an opportunity to look at it."

Supervisor Ted Williams asked Burkes about seeing the results of those referred to law enforcement.

"I get a lot of complaints, and I usually say, 'You need to contact code enforcement,'" said Williams. "And then people come back a month or two later and they say, 'Hey I filed a complaint, nothing ever happened, your county has

the Frank R. Howard Foundation] Arnie [Mello] for letting us utilize the hospital," he said. "It's a good training ground here in town ... wasn't a super steep incline, but it was enough to get the basics of what we're trying to do."

Upcoming trainings include "search and rescue ... and using 'TICs,' ... thermal imaging cameras [that] sense heat ... [which are] really good for going into a blackout environment ... looking for heat signatures," he said.

There will also be training "about the requirements to kill [an electric car] battery," he continued. "I think it took about 30,000 gallons and ... like 24 hours to put a Tesla battery out. I don't think they put it out. I think it just burned out."

School buses are also on the training list, as is an "in-house driver operator class ... once we get our classroom back," he said. "There's some firefighters that have reached that point that we thought could be good engineers."

Training extends out into the community as well, and Alvarez reported "a fire safety chat/talk with ... kids at the museum ... campfires and safety and working around campfires," he said.

Ending on a positive note, he told the board that the district had "got our first nexus payment."

A "nexus payment" is a fee paid to the fire district when plans for new developments within its jurisdiction are filed. The amount of the fee is based on a "nexus study," which was done at the district's direction and awaited city and county approval for many months.

That approval was needed because, depending on where the project is, the city or county actually collects the fee and turns it over to the fire district.

The city approved it months ago. Getting on the board of supervisors agenda has been a longer process.

Finally, though, "we went to the board of supervisors today, and [our consultant] presented the study," Thomen told the board. "They talked about it, and it passed unanimously."

In other money matters, the board heard the treasurer's report, paid the bills, and adopted the budget.

One item that didn't need to be included in the budget was the cost of an "additional insurance policy to cover the Explorer program," which the district is in the process of implementing.

That program, explained board member Skip Lucier, is offered by Learning for Life, which is a branch of BSA, which "used to be Boy Scouts of America," he said.

"They have a two or three page outline of what Explorers can and cannot do, and what they are expected to do," he continued. "And if we're within those guidelines, we don't need additional insurance. It's paid for by BSA."

The Explorer program introduces young adults to major aspects of the fire service and after enough training, they are allowed on actual fire-related emergency calls under certain conditions.

"Learning for Life BSA Explorer Post 54 ... [has] kids ready to go," said Lucier.

no follow-through." I don't think that's true, but I think it's very difficult for people to connect the dots from the time they filed a complaint to something happening to address the problem."

Burkes said he would inquire with the Sheriff's Office regarding what information they felt was appropriate to share for the results of the law enforcement referrals.

The county Sheriff's Office has been issuing more regular press releases recently with information about their recent cannabis enforcement activity.

For "in-program cannabis complaints," Burkes said that county code enforcement had investigated 67 complaints, had abated 7 of them, and had sent out 3 notices of violation in 2021 as of September.

In terms of penalty fines issued, Burkes said that code enforcement had issued \$2,480,980 worth of fines, and collected \$110,640.

Supervisor Haschak noticed that based on the charts shown, it seemed that "investigations" for illegal cannabis operations were going up in the past couple months, but the amount of fines collected wasn't.

"It seems like it should be going up, shouldn't it?" Haschak asked.

"Well ideally no," responded Burkes. "We've been getting a lot more compliance. If we're doing our job, then we shouldn't need to go to penalty collection. Hopefully the community is working with us and they're voluntarily abating."

"Honestly when we did some bigger citations earlier in the summer, that had a tremendous impact on what we do," he continued. "So I hope that these don't go up. If we need to use [fines] as an enforcement tool, we certainly will. And as we have better capacity I think you will see them increase. But eventually, if we mirror what Humboldt's done, I don't know that they've collected any civil penalties this past year."

In a memo Burkes submitted to the supervisors he stated that, based on directives from the board in May to implement the "Enhanced Cannabis Enforcement Plan," county Code Enforcement has hired and trained an administrative assistant and staff assistant, and planned to begin training three additional code enforcement officers on September 20.

Online cannabis portal

The board also heard from Cannabis Program Manager Kristin Nevedal with an update on the statistics for the county's online portal system.

According to the county's website, the portal opened in late July and there was a 90 day window for cannabis applicants to get their permits through the new system.

"We're about halfway through the portal project which is slated to end on October 30, 2021," said Nevedal. "To

date, at the time that we wrote this report, applicants have made a total of 174 submissions to the portal. And because a lot of times applications are deemed incomplete one to two times before they get to a completed status, the 174 permit submissions reflects 100 different applications. And out of those 100 different applications, 42 of them have been determined to be complete."

"We did ... assign just shy of 600 applicants to the portal," she continued. "So we are suspecting that we'll see an uptick in application submissions through the portal as we get closer to that October 30 expiration date for the portal."

Nevedal also said that they had sent out renewal notices to cannabis operators whose annual county permits had expired in the last few years.

"We were at a pretty significant expiration rate of around almost 50% of the annual permits the county had issued were expired," said Nevedal. "We started on July 15 by sending out 30-day notices to permit holders with permits that had expired in 2018, 2019 and 2020. That totaled 78 renewal requests, so far we have renewed 56 of those applicants. We've received some form of communication and information from every one that we sent materials to. However we've put a dozen folks on hold subject to correction timelines."

"We're working currently with [county Information Services] to try to move the renewal process into an electronic system, and also working on writing a program so they can easily notify permit holders 60 days before their application does expire. So we're working towards some better policies I think and notification processes."

Williams asked Nevedal about the success rate for applicants to obtain annual state permits, and she responded that since she was hired in May only about three or four had obtained the state permits.

"The state is pretty backed up," said Nevedal. "So once we certify an Appendix G packet that comes our way and we send it back to the applicant, it seems to be taking almost two months for the state to review those materials and then transition folks into an annual license."

Appendix G is the "Environmental Checklist Form" required by the state for applicants to fulfill in order to get an annual license.

"We're just starting to kind of get more Appendix Gs moving forward," Nevedal added. "So I think it's a little early to really see how viable that process is."

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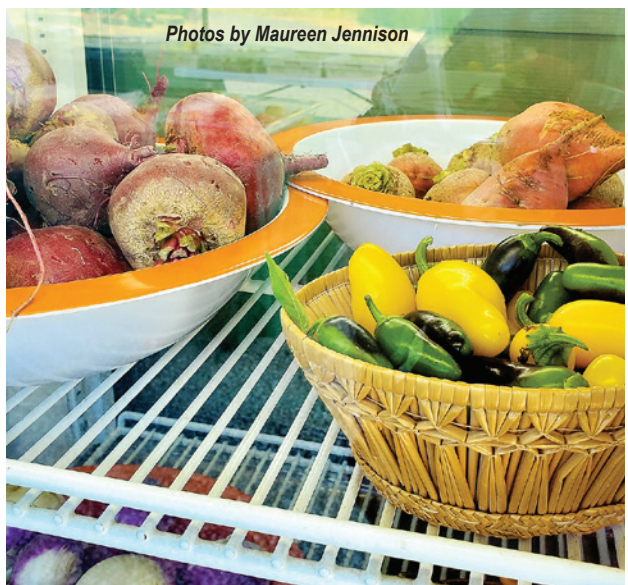
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Above, from left: Tomatoes large and small are ready for customers to take home and enjoy on sandwiches, or perhaps to be made into sauce? (See page 1!) This customer's basket is filled to the brim with leafy greens. Pears, peaches, plums and apples are also available for sale.

At left: Colorful peppers and crisp green beans are displayed on the payment table.

Below: Some goodies including varieties of peppers and beets are kept chilly in the fridge.



Photos by Maureen Jennison



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Garden Grown

Commonwealth Garden at Adventist Health Howard Memorial holds final sale days Friday 9/24 and Friday 10/1

"The farmstand has been a huge success this year," explained garden manager Mellissa Bouley. "Though the season presented many challenges, we were blessed with quality and quantity. Not only were we able to provide produce to the hospital, we were able to make multiple weekly donations to Willits Community Services and Food Bank and provide vegetable starts donations to other community gardens. We would like to thank the Willits community for their continued support!"

And support they have – every sale day, a line quickly

forms outside the gates at the garden located just to the side of Howard Hospital, right where the Haehl Creek subdivision starts. Shoppers hoping for the widest selection get there early to pick the plumpest tomatoes, the leafiest basil, and the ripest peaches.

There are two more chances this year to get your fridge and table filled with the garden goodness: Friday from 10 am to 1 pm on September 29 and then the final sale from 10 am to 1 pm on October 1.

– Maureen Jennison



At left, above: The sign on the road announces the stand. Above, left: A line of customers forms at the payment table. Above, right: One of the best reasons to go to the farmstand sale: the chocolate chip walnut cookies. They're magical. Below, left: Several varieties of potatoes are available at the farmstand. Below, right: Winter squash make an appearance, too, including butternut and delicata.



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Sat./Sun.:
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1 hr 48 mins
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5:30 & 8:00pm
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3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm
Mon.-Thurs.:
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(PG13)
2 hrs 6 mins
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2:00, 4:45 & 7:30pm
Mon.-Thurs.:
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Movie Times for September 24 thru September 30

Masks Required

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