

## Fire board looks to the future

Joanne Moore  
Reporter  
joanne@willitsweekly.com

The move into the new firehouse is “very very close.” Progress is good on the launch of an “Explorer program” to train the next generation of firefighters. And there’s lots of calls for help.

Such was the substance of the November meeting of the Little Lake Fire District’s Board of Directors.

On the firehouse, “there’s just a lot of little odds and ends that they just have not finished,” board member Skip Lucier informed his colleagues. “And we’re not going to sign off on it until the general contractor has completed their obligations.

“It’s frustrating for us, as a committee, because it’s sitting there,” he continued. But, “they do have some time left because of changes that have taken place, through no fault of theirs or ours.”

Also perhaps frustrating, the district is still looking at March or April for delivery of their new Wildlands Type 3 fire engine, because of delays the manufacturer is experiencing in getting parts.

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

## Eel River’s Lone Pine Ranch protected for conservation, public access

Posted by the Center for Biological Diversity

Oak Glen, California – After a 2.5-year effort and with support from private donors, volunteers, state agencies, partner organizations and elected leaders, the Wildlands Conservancy, a California nonprofit, has secured the 29,600-acre Lone Pine Ranch – which will be known as the Eel River Canyon Preserve.

The property includes fantastic geology, 18 miles of river frontage, carbon-sequestering forests, herds of Roosevelt elk, and significant wetlands.

Today’s (November 17) acquisition includes 21,600 acres acquired by TWC and roughly 8,000 acres acquired by national nonprofit the Conservation Fund, in a unique and collaborative conservation victory.

“This acquisition continues our focused effort to protect the National Wild and Scenic Eel River, with a vision of free public access along the future

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



Above, from left: Inmates from Parlin Fork Conservation Camp help load turkeys and other Thanksgiving dinner fixings into the truck to take back to the camp where they will prepare the upcoming Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Little Lake Fire’s Aaron Branscomb helps cart turkeys to the waiting truck. Birds, potatoes, celery, stuffing and more are loaded up. Below: The frozen fowl (and a motivated ham) take their last flight before becoming a part of the upcoming Community Thanksgiving Dinner.



## Turkey Toss 2021

### Annual fun of flinging the frozen fowl kicks off Thanksgiving holiday at Willits Community Services and Food Bank

As it rounds the end of November, that can only mean one thing: It’s time for turkey ... or at least pumpkin pie ... and luckily both – and much more – will be available for free again this year to anyone wishing to come pick up a hot meal on Thursday, November 25.

The Willits Community Services and Food Bank crew, along with many volunteers in the community and the crew from CalFire’s Parlin Fork Conservation Camp, are prepping and cooking now, getting ready to serve the community at the drive-through event from 11 am to 3 pm at the Willits Senior Center, located at 1501 Baechtel Road. The meal will consist of turkey, ham, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, yams, green beans, cranberries, a slice of pie, and a drink.

Parlin Fork inmates were escorted to the food bank to pick up the raw ingredients for this year’s dinner, including

46 turkeys, 200 pounds of potatoes, 5 pounds of butter, 4 bunches of celery, and 20 bags of stuffing and seasoning.

The Little Lake Fire Department donated 10 spiral-sliced hams, and the Willits Police Officers Association donated 37 pies (including apple, berry, pumpkin, and more).

Anyone is welcome to come and eat for free, although donations will be accepted from anyone wishing to contribute. While the event is a drive thru in concept for the majority of the public, there will be tables and tents set up behind the Little Lake Grange for anyone in the homeless community to get and enjoy a meal at a table.

COVID precautions will be required at both sites, with masks required for drivers while in line. More info: 459-3333.

– Maureen Jennison



Above: The Turkey Toss group poses together including, from left: Parlin Fork inmate Brian Leas; Officer Robert Smith; Little Lake Fire Department’s Training Chief Eric Alvarez; Willits Community Services and Food Bank Executive Director Ruthanne Volz; inmate Joshua Jorgensen; Little Lake Fire Department Firefighters Association President and Safety Officer Aaron Branscomb; inmate Joseph Dominguez; and Officer Shaun Follosco.

At left: Officer Bennett of the Willits Police Department delivers 37 pies to the food bank for the Community Thanksgiving dinner.

Below, left: Little Lake Fire’s Eric Alvarez hands one of the 10 hams donated by the association to inmate Jorgensen. Below, right: A food bank volunteer receives pies from WPD officer Bennett.

Photos by Maureen Jennison



## Board OKs final redistricting map

Jennifer Poole  
Editor & Reporter  
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The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unanimously accepted “Draft 12” of a new redistricting map that divides the county between five supervisorial districts at a special meeting November 18. After two more public hearings, on December 7 and December 14, the new map will be officially adopted in the nick of time for the county’s December 15 deadline.

Draft 12 (see Page 13) is very similar to the redistricting map recommended to it by the citizens advisory committee, and supervisors thanked the citizen volunteers for their quick work on coming up with map options.

Redistricting happens every 10 years, after the U.S. Census results are released, in reaction to changes in population growth in different areas. The Third District (Willits, Laytonville, Covelo areas) census numbers showed a large jump in population over the last 10 years, with

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

## Mendocino County expands COVID booster eligibility to all adults

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health Department

November 19 – Mendocino County is opening up COVID-19 boosters to all adults 18 years and older. No adult who seeks to strengthen their immune systems in advance of the holiday season will be turned away under the new guidelines.

Everyone who received the two-shot Pfizer or Moderna vaccine may now get a booster as long as at least six months have passed since their second dose. Expanding booster eligibility aligns Mendocino County with California Department of Public Health guidance this week, stating patients can self-determine their risk of COVID-19 exposure. Previously, only certain categories of higher-risk individuals were eligible for boosters under state guidelines.

All recipients of the

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



What do YOU think?
Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Carbon holidays
To the Editor:
It is exciting to see the forests being used for carbon reduction in attempts to change our heating environment.

At this holiday season, perhaps we can look at how to express our joy with a non-electric holiday season. The more we light up properties, besides our home holiday tree, the more we are making a massive contribution to global warming.

Holiday celebrating is joyous; yet it was done long before electricity existed. Many may like the electric decorations ... but they may like living safely more.

David Pollin, Willits

Humane Society seeks volunteer wreath makers
Posted by HSMC
"It's the most wonderful time of the year...."
Wreath making is starting the day after Thanksgiving at the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County, and we need MORE HELP!
If you don't know how to make our holiday wreaths and want to learn, please come to the shelter Saturday, November 27 from 11 am to 2 pm to learn from Mary Miller. Join our team of wonderful elves and help us raise money for the animals at HSMC!
Volunteers need to dress warm and to bring their own gardening gloves and pruning shears.
To order your wreath visit: https://mendohumanesociety.com/events or call the office at 707-485-0123.
Foster homes for pets needed
We are in the cold months of the year now. We are in need of foster homes to open their doors and welcome a furry friend in! Our friends don't ask for much. Just a cozy place to crash, food in their tummies, and some love! They will pay their rent in kisses, snuggles, and of course cuteness! Do you have some extra space to spare?
Sign up to foster today!
Scroll down for an electronic application at: https://mendohumanesociety.com/volunteer%2Foster; or call 707-485-0123; or email: Dogfosterteam@hsimc.org (Dog foster coordinator: Kelsey) or Catfosterteam@hsimc.org; (Cat foster coordinator: Michelle).

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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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, starting at 12 pm and now closing at 12:45 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Price is \$5 through December.
Wednesday, November 24: Pasta Carbonara, Veggie, Garlic Bread
Thursday, November 25 & Friday, November 26: Center Closed – Happy Thanksgiving!
Monday, November 29: Country Fried Chicken w/ Country Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie, Roll
Tuesday, November 30: French Bread Pizza, Green Salad
Wednesday, December 1: Chili Burger, Barley Salad, Fruit
Thursday, December 2: Hot Open-Faced Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Green Salad
Friday, December 3: Eggs Benedict, Hash Browns, Fruit

WCT to hold auditions for 'Deathtrap'
The Willits Community Theatre will be holding auditions for the well-known thriller, "Deathtrap," on Saturday, December 4 from 11 am to 3 pm, and on Monday, December 6, from 6 to 9 pm.
"Deathtrap" will be directed by Jason Edington, will rehearse from mid-December until mid-February, and will open on February 11.
Director Edington is seeking three men, aged 20s, 50s and 60s, and one woman between 45 and 60 years of age.
For more information or for a digital copy of the script, call the director at 367-2116.

Second quarter 2021 surge in taxable sales boosts state and local communities
Submitted by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration
Sacramento – California businesses reported a record high of \$216.8 billion in taxable sales during the second quarter of 2021, increasing 38.8% over the same period last year and 17.4% from the pre-pandemic second quarter of 2019, reports the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.
"This is positive news for California's economy and a sign that business owners found creative ways to adapt during a difficult year," said California Department of Tax and Fee Administration Director Nick Maduros. "An increase in taxable sales results in additional tax dollars going back to our communities to provide essential services such as transportation, public safety, and health services programs."
In contrast to this \$216.8 billion in taxable sales in second quarter 2021, taxable sales in the second quarter of 2020, during the depths of the pandemic, were \$156.2 billion. In 2019, second-quarter taxable sales were \$184.6 billion.
Increases in taxable sales varied by industry during the second-quarter months of April, May, and June 2021. Clothing stores saw the most significant increase in taxable sales, at \$11,788,471,155, up 144.5% from second-quarter 2020 at \$4,822,146, and up from second-quarter 2019 at \$10,421,242.
Food services and drinking places, which includes restaurants, bars, and food trucks, saw an 81.1% increase in taxable sales; and gasoline stations reported a 77.8% increase. When compared to pre-pandemic levels of 2Q19, furniture and home furnishing stores saw the highest increase at 27.9%; building material, garden equipment, and supply stores saw a 26.8% increase from pre-pandemic levels.
Despite the increases, some industries, such as food services and drinking places and gasoline stations, still have not rebounded to pre-pandemic levels.
Read the rest of Taxable Over on Page 15
Read the rest of Schedule Over on Page 15

COLUMN | MCOE: A Perspective on Education
Choose a career in education without a college degree
By Michelle Hutchins, Mendocino County superintendent of schools
When we talk about jobs in education, most of us think of teaching. The truth is education requires a whole host of people doing all sorts of jobs to provide students with the support they need to succeed. We transport children to and from school – with bus drivers. We feed students – with food service employees. We give them additional attention and support – with paraprofessionals (instructional aides). We provide clean, safe environments for learning – with custodians and maintenance workers.
When students returned to the classroom after more than a year of remote learning, schools began hiring for vacant positions, but fears about COVID reduced the number of applicants. I'm here to let you know, schools are a great place to work – specifically because they have so many safety measures in place!
In October, the Mendocino County Public Health Department hosted a meeting of local K-12 leaders where Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren complimented attendees on how well schools had minimized the risk of infection.
COVID does exist in our communities, but schools are safer than many workplaces. On school campuses, everyone wears masks indoors, schools continue to clean and disinfect high-traffic areas, and regular testing occurs. And with the approval of COVID vaccines for students as young as 5 years old, we have another layer of protection for students and staff.
So, this is a great time to consider a career in education. Here are some options.
Bus Driver
Schools throughout Mendocino County need bus drivers. Being a bus driver requires special training and a special license, and because drivers interact with students, they must pass a rigorous background check and drug screening. The work is done via a split shift
Read the rest of College Over on Page 15

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. Seniors age 60 and above may call the Senior Center to order Thanksgiving meal delivery by Meals On Wheels before Thanksgiving Day.
Thanksgiving Bake Sale: Get your tasty Thanksgiving goodies the day before the holiday, at the Senior Center Bake Sale, 8 am to 1 pm, on Wednesday, November 24, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 707-459-6827.
Thanksgiving Dinner: The Senior Center will host Willits Community Services & Food Bank's annual Thanksgiving Dinner as a drive-up affair this year: The free, to-go drive-thru dinner will be given out on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 25, from 11 am to 3 pm, at 1501 Baechtel Road.
Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments.

Mendocino County Winter Holiday Department Schedules
Submitted by Mendocino County Executive Office
All Mendocino County offices will be closed November 25 and 26, 2021, December 24, 2021, and December 31, 2021.
The following offices will be closed to the public on the additional days identified below.
The public is urged to call a department's office number in advance to confirm the availability of services. Please visit the county's website at https://www.mendocinocounty.org/ for departmental contact information.
Agriculture: Closed November 24 at noon, December 20-23, and December 30 at noon
Air Quality: Closed November 24 at noon, December 20-23, and December 30 at noon
Animal Care Services, Ukiah Facility: Closed December 24 at 1 pm
Citizens looking for lost animals either leave a message at 463-4427 or go to the below web-site address to file a lost animal report: https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/animal-care-services/lost-animal-report-1801#//
Animal Care Services, Fort Bragg Facility: Closed December 24 at 3 pm
Citizens looking for lost animals either leave a message at 961-2491 or go to the below web-site address to file a lost animal report: https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/animal-care-services/lost-animal-report-1801#//
Staff will be checking voice messages and receiving the lost reports via emails to see if lost animals can be reconnected with their owners over the holidays.
Assessor/Clerk-Recorder: Closed November 24 at noon, December 23 at noon, and December 30 at 2 pm
Auditor-Controller: Closed November 24 at noon, and December 20-23
Cannabis: Closed November 24, and December 20-23
Child Support Services: Closed November 24 at noon
County Counsel: Closed November 24 at noon, December 20-23, and December 30 at noon
Cultural Services Agency: November 24 at 3 pm, December 23, and December 27-30
Executive Office: November 24 at noon, December 20-23, and December 30 at noon
Human Resources: November 24 at noon, December 20-23, and December 30 at noon
Library: All branches are closed November 24 at 3 pm, and on Winter Holiday from Friday, December 24, 2021 to Monday, January 3, 2022
Museum: Please visit the Museum "Visit" page for any updates on holiday closures: https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum/visit
Retirement Association: Closed November 24, and December 20-23



Above, from left: The Fort Bragg Humane Society sells ugly Christmas ties, stockings and bandanas. Colorful rings and pendants are sold by Nadith Hannah. Santa Calderon, another regular Friday Night Live vendor, has been perfecting her paper-craft flowers. At left: Gateway Games brought a varied selection of interesting, fun games and figures: from left, owner Tony Pearce, Mikayla Franklin, and Branden Simpson. Below: Santa enlisted Coast Hardware Manager Pamalee Thrift to pose as Mrs. Claus.

Shopping with St. Nick
Coast Hardware hosts Family Fun Fair on Saturday, with vendors, dog adoptions, a bounce house, and Santa pictures

It was a gloriously lovely day on Saturday, November 20, perfect for the inaugural Coast Hardware Family Fun Fair. The sun was shining and the temperature was reasonably warm for a mid-fall day in Willits. Families looking for a great way to spend some time doing their Christmas shopping in the open air wandered to the parking lot behind the store to find the pre-Thanksgiving Christmas event filled with Santa and snowmen blowups, furry friends waiting to be adopted, Santa and Mrs. Claus with their elf friend, an Indian taco truck, vendors from the Friday Night Live group, computer and board games, a bounce house, and slush.
The part of Mrs. Claus was played by Pamalee Thrift, manager of Coast Hardware and co-instigator of the event. She and Gloria Westby came up with the idea of having a family-oriented outdoor craft fair a couple of weeks ago, and after careful consideration of timing, as to not compete with the myriad of other holiday-themed events that occur this time of year, they decided on this date, although they had only a week to put the festival together.
"Two Fridays ago, we came up with the idea of having our own event fair," said Thrift. "Our boss said, 'Yeah, go ahead. Pull the trigger. Let's get something going.' We looked at dates that other people were doing things and didn't want to compete with them, so we ended up pulling this together in about a week. We decided to do our own thing, just dip our toes in and see where we go."
Westby called the vendors who normally show their wares at the now monthly Friday Night Live craft event and had them all lined up in 30 minutes.
For animal lovers and those looking to adopt a loving shelter animal, the Fort Bragg Humane Society brought four furry friends with them for people to pet and fall in love with. They additionally offered some very colorful ugly-Christmas ties for sale as well as bandanas and stockings.
Sonya Houston sat with her friend Rex, a supposed shepherd-chow mix. "We have a Borrow a Buddy program on the coast," explained Houston. "People can come and get paired up with a dog. We give them the tools for the day. They can take them out to the beach, the Coastal Trail, out on a hike, to town. We put the adoption vest on them and it's really good exposure for them to
Read the rest of Fair Over on Page 12

NOVO THEATRE
ENCANTO (PG) 1 hr 39 mins
Fri.: 3:45, 6:10, 8:30pm
Sat/Sun.: 1:20, 3:45, 6:10 & 8:30pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 3:45, 6:10 & 8:30pm
GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE (PG13) 2 hrs 4 mins
Fri.: 5:15 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun.: 2:30, 5:15 & 8:00pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 5:15 & 8:00pm
HOUSE OF GUCCI (R) 2 hrs 37 mins
Fri.: 4:15 & 7:30pm
Sat/Sun.: 1:00, 4:15 & 7:30pm
Mon.-Thurs.: 4:15 & 7:30pm
Movie Times for Nov. 26 thru Dec. 2
Masks Required
Tightwad Tuesday Title for Nov. 30th is in Red. All tickets for all ages \$6!

T and T TOWING
RADIO DISPATCHED 24 HR TOWING
IS OFFERING WILLITS AND UKIAH AREAS
FREE JUNK CAR REMOVAL SERVICES
WE WILL REMOVE YOUR JUNK VEHICLES AND PROCESS YOUR DMV PAPER WORK
FOR INFO CALL: 707-459-9116

Community Dinner
FREE Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings
Nov 25th 11am-3pm
Senior center drive through at 1501 Baectel Road.
Additional questions (707)354-3960



Willits Weekly's  
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

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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!



Above: A Pomo woman weaves a basket in this painting by Grace Hudson, recently given to the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah by the Palm Springs Art Museum. Below: This painting by Grace Hudson, which hung in the Palm Springs Art Museum until now, was gifted to the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah.

Grace Hudson  
art comes home

By Mike Geniella for Grace Hudson Museum

A prized collection of artist Grace Hudson's paintings are returning home to Mendocino County in a unique agreement reached with the Palm Springs Art Museum in Southern California.

The pact provides for the direct gift of 16 Hudson artworks to the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah, and a long-term loan of two other oil paintings.

The Palm Springs collection includes two oil paintings Hudson did in 1901 during a transformative sojourn in Hawaii. Her work from that period is rare.

Also in the gifted collection are five sepia portraits (bitumen on canvas) of local Pomo elders in the 19th and early-20th centuries, and oil paintings that depict a sweat lodge, hop fields, and an Ukiah Valley landscape with the subtle presence of a figure carrying wood in a Pomo burden basket.

There are two unfinished portraits, "Indian Girl" and "Head of Indian Girl," that the Grace Hudson Museum staff believes will be useful for research purposes. Lastly, there are two small landscapes of historic Todd Grove, and the old fish hatchery that once existed along Gibson Creek on Ukiah's west side.

Costs associated with the transfer of the paintings was underwritten by a grant from the Miner Anderson Family Foundation in San Francisco. Author / filmmaker Robert Mailer Anderson has deep ties to Mendocino County, where he graduated from Anderson Valley High School. An uncle, Bruce Anderson, is editor / publisher of the Anderson Valley Advertiser.

Norma Person, a Sonoma County philanthropist and widow of former newspaper publisher Evert Person, pledged her support if needed for the transfer agreement with the Palm Springs Museum in addition to making a generous contribution to help ease pandemic related financial losses at the Hudson. The Persons to date are the single largest financial contributors to the Grace Hudson Museum.

"We are happy to help return this special collection to Mendocino County," said Robert Mailer Anderson.

Palm Springs Art Museum staff contacted the Grace Hudson Museum about the possibility of gifting the collection last May.

Rather than sell the individual Hudson art works to collectors on the open market, senior staff at the Palm Springs Art Museum decided that gifting the artwork to the Grace Hudson Museum would be the best outcome for the public, scholars, and art historians.

"Palm Springs believed that by keeping the paintings in the public trust rather than selling them to private collectors was the right thing to do," said Grace Hudson Museum Director David Burton.

The Miner Anderson Family Foundation awarded a \$40,000 grant to the Grace Hudson Museum to cover the expected

transfer costs of the Palm Springs collection. Sotheby's estimated the collection could bring up to \$200,000 if auctioned.

The Palm Springs Art Museum is shifting emphasis to modern and contemporary art, leading to its decision to gift the Hudson work. The museum in the early 2000s decided to move away from an art mission first defined in the 1930s. For decades the Palm Springs museum focused on natural history, the surrounding Cahuilla Indian culture, and later fine art.



Senior Palm Springs staff realized as the museum's new direction evolves that the important Hudson collection would mostly likely remain in storage, and out of view of the public.

During the discussion between the two museums, Palm Springs staff asked the Grace Hudson Museum to pay all transfer-related costs associated with the gift of the paintings.

Director Burton said he, current curator Alyssa Boge, retired museum director Sherrie Smith-Ferri, and former curator Karen Holmes reviewed the collection, and evaluated its potential importance. Burton traveled to Palm Springs to personally view the paintings and he found them to be in "good or excellent condition."

"We concluded the Palm Springs collection would significantly expand and enhance what we do here", said Burton.

The Ukiah museum is the single largest repository of artist Hudson's work and is known nationally for the breadth of its collection of Hudson paintings and Pomo artifacts collected by the artist and her husband, John Hudson, a noted ethnologist.

How the Palm Springs collection of Hudson paintings was assembled is a study in art history.

Eleven Hudson paintings were donated to Palm Springs by C. Frederick Faude, a wealthy fine arts and antiques dealer who had showrooms in San Francisco and Sausalito. At the time, Faude's collection of Hudson paintings was considered one of the country's largest. Faude also was a benefactor of the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, where a gallery is named in his honor.

Faude and his partner, San Francisco restaurateur Louis Foerster, lived in San Anselmo in Marin County where they donated 14 acres of land for a public park that is named in his honor.

Three of the Hudson paintings coming to Ukiah were gifted to the Palm Springs museum by a trust established by the late actor and artist George Montgomery. Another Hudson painting was given by a trust of actor William Holden.

The newly acquired paintings from Palm Springs are to arrive at the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah in early January. Museum Director Burton said they will be the centerpieces of a new exhibit highlighting recent acquisitions, scheduled to open in February.

Turkey  
Trot

Six students receive turkeys  
for 1.5-mile trot

There were big winnings for six trotters in the 8th annual Turkey Trot at Baechtel Grove Middle School: the raw materials for the main-stage dish of Thanksgiving dinner, turkey!

The run at BGMS has become a tradition for the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students after it just started out as a way for Athletic Director and physical education instructor Matt Moratti to make running more fun.

"Now, the Trot has turned into an annual event the students really enjoy," said Moratti. "Each student writes their name on a raffle ticket and each class runs approximately 1.5 miles preceded by the drawing where one student wins a Turkey."

This year's winners included: Cheyanne Stutsman, Isabella Whitehurst, Nikolus Bloyd, Alexandra Ramos, Clint Jewel and Nikolai Richley. Turkeys were donated by Tara Moratti of Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty.

– Maureen Jennison



Cheyenne Stutsman.



Isabella Whitehurst.



Nikolus Bloyd.



Alexandra Ramos.



Nikolai Richley.



Clint Jewel.



Is a food assistance program. You can be on Social Security, have money in the bank, own cars and still receive CalFresh benefits.

Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment to see if you qualify.

707-459-6826



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CLUES ACROSS

- FDNY's union
- Hideout
- Trent Reznor's band
- Old World tropics plants
- Places to stay
- Group of organisms from a common ancestor
- TV character Goodman
- Not around
- Title of respect
- Ceramic jars
- British legal authority (abbr.)
- A companion (archaic)
- Where groups of people live
- Indigenous person of NE Thailand
- Red-brown sea bream
- Ridge of jagged rock
- Meat from a pig (French)
- A way to save for the future
- Opposite of bottom
- A term of endearment
- Weight used in China

- You need it to hear
- Frighten
- Basics
- Computer data collection (abbr.)
- The best point of something
- Jewelled headdress
- Spoke
- Mammary gland of female cattle
- Midway between north and northeast
- Defunct European economic group
- Foul-mouthed Hollywood bear

CLUES DOWN

- In tune
- Ending
- Ring-shaped objects
- Equal to 10 liters (abbr.)
- Removes from record
- The lowest point
- Plant cultivated for its tubers
- Dry or withered analysis (abbr.)
- Stony waste matter

- Speedometer reading
- Each of two or more forms of the same element
- Basics
- A baseball stat
- Corporate PR exec (abbr.)
- Insures bank's depositors
- Made dim
- Uncultured person
- Paddle
- Currency of Cambodia
- Pitching stat
- A place to put mail
- God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 10 years
- Resinous substance secreted by insects
- Losses
- S. American plants
- Void of thought or knowledge
- Stout-bodied moth
- Transferred property
- Russian pop act
- Accept
- A retrospective military analysis (abbr.)
- A type of center

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Above: Willits Wild Bunch members smile alongside their bikes – ready to have a great time at this year's Toy Run event!



At left: Decorated Christmas trees hang around town with wants and wishes from area children that will be filled by the Toy Run and Willits Kids Christmas Program.

## Toy Run

2021's outdoor event set for Saturday, November 28 at Willits Carnival Grounds on Commercial Street

It's time for those tag-tree requests to turn into toys, and the Willits Toy Run aims to help do just that during its annual rain-or-shine toy-collection event.

The run will start at the Evergreen Shopping Center where friends and members of the Willits Wild Bunch and other motorcycle riders will be escorted by Little Lake Fire and Brooktrails Fire departments north through town down Main Street. This year will also include a lap down the bypass, too.

"Once past the Sherwood Road intersection, the pack will continue north onto Highway 101 and to Reynolds Highway," explained Willits Wild Bunch's Richard Venturi. "Then we will take Reynolds Highway to Hearst-Willits Road to East Commercial, to the parking at the lot by the ball fields."

Once at the carnival grounds (the large lot next to the Willits Frontier Days arena and across from the ball fields), the outdoor party will begin, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Entrance into the event is one unwrapped toy, and/or a \$10 donation.

Requests for toys on trees this year include: Dolls, "LOL" stuff, My 'Lil Pony, girl and boy Lego sets, 10- to 14-year-old girl crafting kits, Playdoh, 0- to 2-year-old baby toys, crafting kits for girls and boys aged 9 and under, fishing poles and tackle, Nerf guns, scooters, 10- to 14-year-old boy-appropriate toys, all size jackets girls and boys, socks, underwear, hats and scarves. "We have plenty of cars, trucks and motorcycles!" noted Venturi.

A variety of vendors will be offering lunch, food and drinks, and additional booths will be set up for local businesses selling trinkets and goods.

Hand-washing stations, bathrooms, tents, and more will be set up to help keep the party clean and safe.

More info: willitswildbunch@gmail.com

— Maureen Jennison



At left: Local Jacki Pealatore of Picaro Gordo Woodcuts, draws and hand cuts – on a woodsaw – wooden puzzles, portraits and ornaments of animals. Below: David Rice, also known as "The Pickle Man," will be back with his varied and delicious creations. Rice has been making pickles for more than 27 years.



## 34th annual Willits Holiday Crafts Fair set for December 10 and 11

Willits Center for the Arts presents the 34th annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair, with beautiful hand-crafted items from local and regional artists, crafters and epicurean vendors. The fair is set for Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11 at two locations: the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street and the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

The crafts fair is open Friday from 11 am to 7 pm at the WCA, and Friday from noon to 7 pm at the Community Center, and both venues are open Saturday, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Holiday shoppers will see a selection of locally made items perfect for holiday gifts for loved ones – or for treating themselves.

The list of 2021 vendors include old favorites and new vendors, too, including: Teri Appleberry, Wood Cutting Boards; Bonnie Belt, Ceramics/ Pottery; Garry Colson, Watercolors/ Paintings; Irene Engber, Artisan Garlic Products; Cherilyn Evans

Read the rest of Crafts

Over on Page 11



At left: Jeweler Steve Nepove is bringing his beautiful sterling silver pieces featuring hand-cut stones to the Willits Holiday Crafts Fair. Below: JandE Crafts of Ukiah (Juliet and Erwin) forges their own knives and creates redwood burl magnetic knife blocks and other pieces of "functional art."



## SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

### Agape Bible Church

290 S. Lenore Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Where love is first and the Bible is central.  
Sunday Services:  
10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Awana: Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Info? 707-459-1905  
www.agapebiblechurch.com

### Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church

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

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

265 Margie Drive  
Willits, CA 95490  
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Sacrament Meeting  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom

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•Membership Discourses  
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•ECK Light & Sound Services  
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Call 530-224-8703  
www.eckankar.org

### Grace Community Church

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

### St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave.  
Willits, CA 95490  
Father Aaron Bandanadam  
Mass times:  
Confessions by appointment:  
459-2252  
Sunday Mass inside:  
9:00 a.m. English  
10:30 a.m. Spanish  
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Covid guidelines apply.  
We welcome All Walks of Faith

### St. Francis Episcopal Church

1 North Main Street, Willits  
707-272-0177  
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.  
In-person and on Zoom  
Call for information.  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
The Rev. Betsy Brineau

### St. John Lutheran Church

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

### Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

707-459-5714  
Saturdays: Meeting place  
at church located at  
399 W. Mendocino Avenue  
Bible Study - 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.  
https://willitsca.adventistchurch.org  
All are welcome!

### Willits United Methodist

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286 School St. (at Pine)  
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor  
Worship Celebration  
Sundays - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.  
459-2855  
Facebook: www.facebook.com

If you want to be included in this column please call:

April Tweddell  
(707) 972-2475  
april@willitsweekly.com



Date/Time	Location	Vaccine Availability	Other Information
Mondays & Wednesdays 12:30pm – 4:15pm	Public Health 474 East Valley St, Willits	All adult vaccines available	Sign up at Myturn.ca.gov Or Walk-ups welcome 472-2759
M-F 9am -11:30am 1:30pm-4:30 pm Sat 9am-3pm	Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic 1245 S. Main Street, Willits	Adult & Child Pfizer and Moderna	Best to make an appointment. Do not need to be a patient. 459-6861
M-F 9am -11:45am 12:45pm-3 pm	Little Lake Health Center 45 Hazel Street, Willits	Adult & Child Pfizer and Moderna	Best to make an appointment. Do not need to be a patient. 459-9600
M & F 2 pm – 4:30 pm	Adventist Health Redwood Medical Clinic 3 Marcela Drive Suite C, Willits	All Adult vaccines and Child Pfizer available	Appointments required. 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> doses do not need to be patients. Boosters are for patients only. 459-6115
M-F 10am -12:45 pm 2 pm – 7 pm Sat 9 am -1 pm 2- 5pm Sun 10 am – 1pm 2-5 pm	Safeway Pharmacy 845 S. Main Street Willits	Adult Pfizer & Moderna	Walk ups welcome on weekdays for 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> doses. Appointments required for boosters and on weekends. 456-1790
M-F 9am -8 pm Weekend 10 am – 6pm	Rite Aid Pharmacy 1730 S. Main Street, Willits	Adult Pfizer & Moderna	Appointments Preferred. 459-0554

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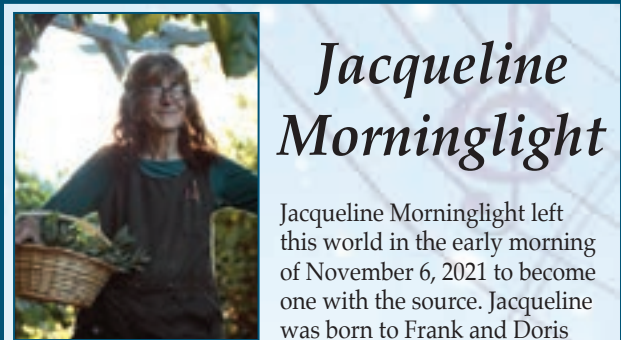


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## Jacqueline Morninglight

Jacqueline Morninglight left this world in the early morning of November 6, 2021 to become one with the source. Jacqueline was born to Frank and Doris

Buchanan in New York City in 1946. She spent her early years in Toms River, New Jersey, where she loved to play with her cousins Rob, Terry, and Sally Then in the pine barrens behind her house, and at the nearby Atlantic shore.

In 1960, the family relocated to Los Angeles, where Jacqueline learned to play guitar and started a band with two of her classmates, called “We Three.”

In 1966 Jacqueline married Vern Osterander, and the couple spent the next few years serving as volunteers in the Appalachian Mountains. They moved to Willits in 1976, where they built a home on Foster Mountain and raised their three children: Crystal, Jessie, and Tucker.

In 1980, Jacqueline met her future husband, Richard Tootreese Jeske, while marching in the Fourth of July parade as part of the Willits Guitar Marching Band. They married in 1985 and gave birth to a daughter, Annelise, the next year.

Jacqueline had been working as a graphic artist at Brian White Company in Hopland. In subsequent years, JacqueLINE worked in her home as a family child care provider. She later worked as a facilitator for the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program and spent several years working with her close friend Linda Matz at The Cat’s Meow / Trillium.

For the past 30 years, Jacqueline has provided herbal skincare remedies with her cousin Terry through their business East Hill House Herbs.

In addition to her passion for herbalism, JacqueLINE cultivated a rich musical and creative life. She was a singer songwriter and served for many years as a music minister at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church. She also played percussion and harmonica with Richard in the Willits Farmers Market Band. She was a wonderful artist who was skilled in graphic design, calligraphy, pen drawings, watercolors, oils, carpentry, faux painting, jewelry making, and dance.

As a community organizer, a healer, a musician, and an artist, Jacqueline was known throughout the community as a friendly face with a loving demeanor who was driven to connect. She rooted her spiritual path in love, which led her to be incredibly honest, compassionate, loyal, and accepting. In her work and creative life, she was known to be resourceful and observant, capable of just about anything.

She was loved by many and gave so much to her family, this community, and the world. She will be long remembered and much missed.

Jacqueline is survived by her husband, Richard, her four children, Crystal Horn, Jessie Morninglight, Tucker Morninglight, and Annelise Jeske, and grandchildren Michael and Falecia Horn, Auden and Levi McCarty, and Azalea Morninglight. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, December 4, beginning with a funeral mass at St. Anthony’s Church in Willits at 10 am, and followed by a community memorial at 1 pm at the Little Lake Grange in Willits. Masks are required for both events.



**Randy Cantua**  
Insurance Agent  
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The rest of **Fair** | From Page 3

get out into the community. People can get in touch with us by going on our website at [www.mendocinocoasthumane.org](http://www.mendocinocoasthumane.org) or they can call 707-964-7729. We’re open seven days a week from 8 am to 5 pm and we’d love to have people come and adopt some dogs. And we have a lot of cats.”

The usual vendors from Friday Night Live were in attendance, enjoying a bonus day in which they could show their wares to the public. Darrell McCarty brought his fine array of handcrafted walking sticks to show. McCarty is working on a new type of top-secret metallic walking stick, which he will soon show after working out the bugs.

Well-known-around-town knife maker and teacher Cory Brown, his red beard in stunning contrast to the metallic works on his table, offered some well-made, handsome kitchen knives and a chance to sign up for classes to build knives in his studio. He can be found on Facebook at “CJBrown Forge and Knife Works.”

Other Friday Night Live vendors in attendance included Nancy Butler’s Beads-n-Stuff, selling crocheted items, beads, and an eclectic array of preserves ranging from the usual apple butter to spicy habanero blackberry watermelon or chili lime mango. Shamrock Artisan Cheese offered samples to the passersby. Yi Ping Hsieh of Ukiah Succulents, in addition to her normal line of succulent plants, created wooden Christmas-tree ornaments with embedded small succulents that could be planted after the holidays. Lindsay Decker of Lindsay’s Fascinators and Fancies brought her line of Christmas wreaths and other holiday-themed goods. Santa Calderon offered her new art of paper flowers.

The bounce house was generously provided by Party Pros of Ukiah. For those hungry shoppers, Tasha Nickita’s Turtle Island Tacos provided a variety of Indian fry bread choices with a plethora of fillings and toppings. And for dessert, Amy’s Wicked Slush fulfilled the necessary sweet-tooth satisfaction with its strawberry lemonade, sour watermelon, cola, horchata, sour apple, mango, and sour blue razz flavors.

Attendees were also invited to purchase raffle tickets to support the efforts of the Willits Toy Run in providing toys and other goods to the needy children of Willits. Prior to the Run, occurring on November 28, raffle tickets can be purchased at Coast Hardware. “We’re also raffling off baskets for the Willits Toy Run,” said Thrift. “NAPA Auto Parts donated a tool kit. We have a family ice cream kit. We also have coffee and booze to raffle off for those over 21.”

OBITUARY |

## Gary Wierman

Gary D. Wierman sadly passed away on Monday, November 9, 2021. He was born in Cassville, Missouri on February 15, 1950, and passed away November 9, 2021 at his home in Willits, California.

Gary proudly served in the United States Navy for four years on the USS Blue Ridge in Vietnam.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Vicky Wierman; parents, Carl and Lucille Wierman; and his sister, Gwen Walters. He is survived by his sisters, Margaret Balz and Carla Ashworth; his brother Carl Wierman; and many nieces and nephews.

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

OBITUARY |

## Helen Cogburn

Born March 20, 1931, in the Fort Bragg/Comptche area, Helen M. Cogburn passed peacefully on October 8, 2021, at the age of 90.

Helen was married to Doyle Cogburn from July 24, 1948 until his passing in April 2010. She loved gardening and was well-known for her flower arrangements and gardening skills. Helen was an active long-time member of the Willits Garden Club as well as Willits Soroptimists.

Helen is survived by her daughter, Leslie Cogburn Scaglione, (Robert Scaglione); Grandchildren Lanae Lamkin, (Luke Lamkin); Curtis Shuster, (Kate Shuster); Great Grandchildren Lijja, Hayden and Blighe Lamkin; Son Russell Cogburn, (Tammy Cogburn); Grand Children Jefferey Cogburn, (Melanie Cogburn), Great Grandchildren Gunner, Aiden and Savana Cogburn; Ami Cogburn Wegner, (Andrew Wegner); Great Grandchildren Lawson and Claira Wegner.

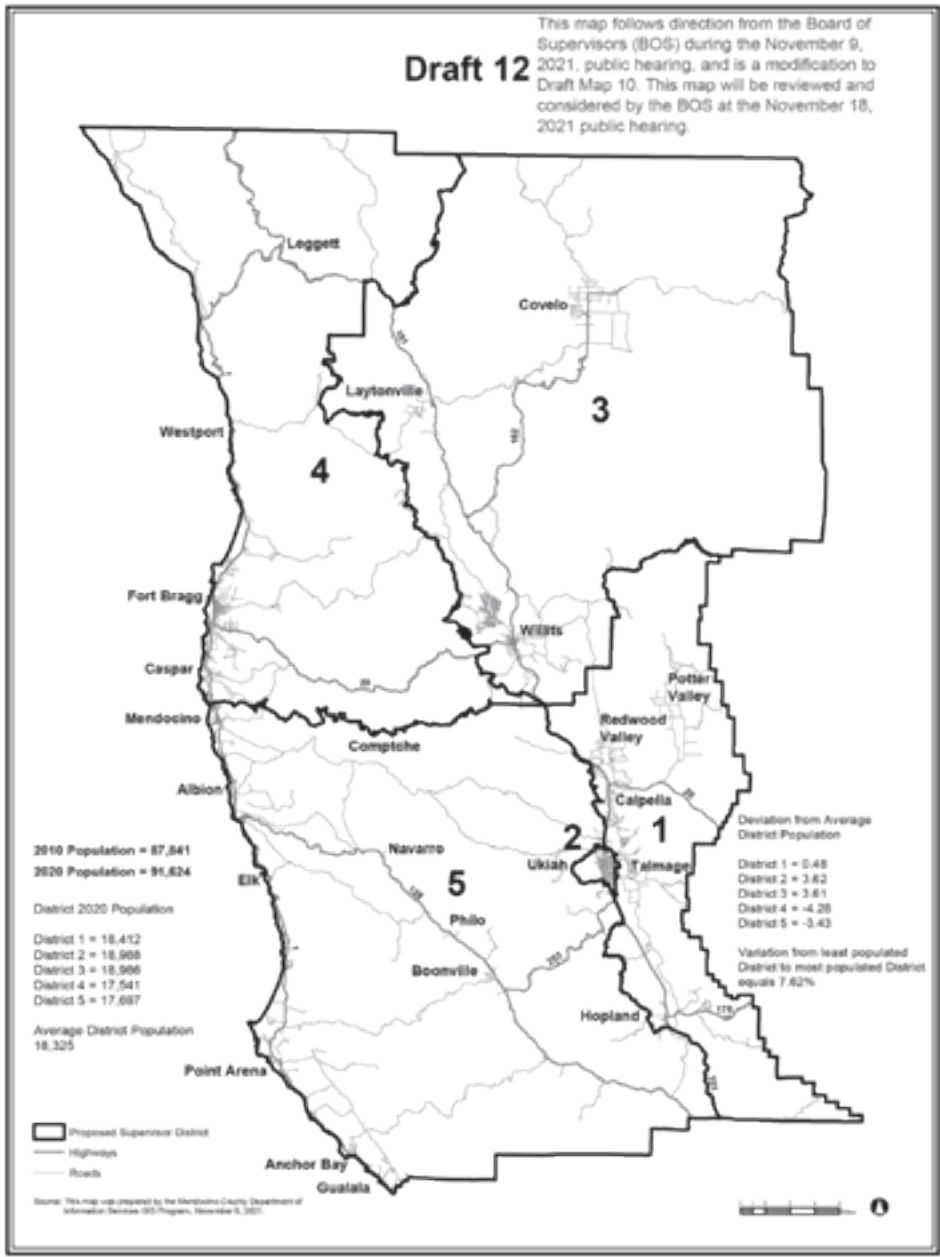
No services are planned. Donations may be made in Helen’s honor to the Willits Garden Club and/or the Alzheimer’s Association.



Photos by Matthew Caine



*At top: A living Christmas ornament from Yi Ping Hsieh of Ukiah Succulcy is available in addition to other succulent plants. Above: Paige Brown, owner Tasha Nickita, and Kevin Ostverg Warriner work the Turtle Island Indian Taco stand at the Coast Hardware Family Fun Fair on Saturday. Below: Indian tacos are a local favorite, with many different fillings and toppings.*



The rest of **Map** | From Page 1

Fourth District, to the west, reporting the smallest number of current residents.

Draft 12 retains Laytonville in the Third District, but does move the Fourth District boundary closer to Willits in the west and the south in some sections, and cuts through parts of Spy Rock and Bell Springs.

The new Third District boundary will in some sections run along or near Muir Mill Road, Walker Road, and Black Hawk Drive near Willits, Ridge Road near Brooktrails, and Spy Rock Road north of Laytonville.

Another big change will place Hopland in the First District with other inland communities, instead of being part of the coastal Fifth District.

BOS Chair Dan Gjerde asked County Geographic Information Systems Administrator Leif Farr to go over the various efforts the advisory committee made to retain “communities of interest” together and to respond to public comment on various potential maps, while ensuring the populations of the five districts were within the allowable variance of populations.

Farr said there was a 7.62 percent variation between the least populated and the most populated districts. “So that’s good. We have a cushion between that and the 10 percent we have to stay below, and that gives us a good population to work with here. It’s balanced – we have not split any of the census designated places or incorporated cities.”

“I’d like to thank the commission for their work on this,” said Third District Supervisor John Haschak. “They really listened to the people. With all the iterations of the maps, it shows that the people were listened to, and the board is accepting, I think, the work that the commission did, so I really appreciate that.” Supervisor Haschak was a supporter of having a citizens advisory committee for redistricting, instead of relying on county staff to come up with new maps.

Haschak told an anecdote about a couple students he’d talked to during a recent visit to Laytonville High who both lived on Spy Rock Road but on opposite

The rest of **Booster** | From Page 1

one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine should also get a booster two months after their previous dose, a criteria that remains the same.

Anyone in a higher-risk group – including seniors 65 and older, people with underlying medical conditions, people who work in high-risk settings, and all Johnson & Johnson recipients – is especially urged to get a booster as soon as possible.

“We are expanding eligibility for COVID-19 boosters because we want to avoid the holiday surge in cases that happened last year,” said Dr. Andy Coren, Mendocino County’s Health Officer. “We are already seeing an increase in cases, which could put more vulnerable people in the hospital, even if they are fully vaccinated.

“We have been stressing that boosters are essential for higher-risk individuals,” Dr. Coren continued, “but now it’s clear that we need many more people to receive a booster dose to slow the spread of the virus.

“Getting a booster will help protect you, your family, your

sides of the road. “One was going to be in Chair Gjerde’s district, and the other would be in my district. It’s unfortunate that this is happening, but it is a numbers game, and we need to do what the numbers dictate, too.

“I’m sure that Chair Gjerde will give really good representation to the people in Bell Springs and Spy Rock and that area,” Haschak continued, before announcing that he supported the Draft 12 map.

According to the new numbers, Mendocino County’s population rose to 91,624 in 2020, compared to 87,841 residents in 2010. The average district population in 2020 is 18,327 residents per district, with District 1 at 18,412 (deviating 0.48% from average); District 2 at 18,988 (deviating 3.62% from average); District 3 at 18,986 (deviating 3.61%), District 4 at 17,541 (deviating -4.28%); and District 5 at 17,697 (deviating -3.43%).

First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty also thanked members of the redistricting commission and staffer Farr for their work. “I’m glad we have the Russian River villages all together,” he said, “communities of interest which are Hopland, Talmage, Calpella, Redwood Valley, Potter Valley.

“And finally,” Supervisor McGourty continued, “I’m glad that the Fifth District still comes down into the Russian River watershed, because I think having three supervisors working on, and aware of, Russian River issues makes more of an impact to Mendocino County.”

Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams echoed the supervisors’ thanks to the citizens who volunteered for the advisory committee, and made a point of thanking Farr, too “for putting maps together quickly, I think even sometimes on evenings and weekends, it is noted.”

Supervisor Williams then moved to approve the Draft 12 map, and was seconded by Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren, and after one more public comment supporting the new map, all five supes voted “yes.”

friends and our community.”

People should seek appointments at their primary care providers and at pharmacies. Vaccines are also available at the county’s fixed and pop-up clinics: See the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Schedule here:

[www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations/vaccination-clinics](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations/vaccination-clinics)

You can also find a link to a list of Willits vaccination opportunities here: [www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument/45930/637683432597270000](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument/45930/637683432597270000)

As of November 15, more than 10,000 residents have received a booster in Mendocino County since they were authorized in September. The county will continue to prioritize first doses for the 27 percent of our eligible population who are not fully vaccinated.

For more information, including the latest vaccine numbers, who’s eligible for a vaccine, and how to receive a vaccine, visit [www.mendocinocounty.org/covid19](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/covid19), or call 707-472-2759.

## Drought Persists

*Submitted by the Mendocino County Water Agency*

The November 23, 2021 edition of Mendocino County Water News, reports: Despite recent above average rainfall, two years of cumulative rainfall deficits keep Mendocino County in a state of either severe or extreme drought.

One need only look at the current state of Lake Mendocino for evidence. At only 37% of target water supply, a recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle noted that “Lake Mendocino could be the first major reservoir in modern times to go dry” if drought conditions continue this winter.”

“The Russian River watershed is at high risk for a deficient water supply in 2022,” notes Elizabeth Salomone, general manager of Russian River Flood Control, in Mendocino County Water News. “Lake Mendocino provides some storage, but it is greatly dependent on water transfers from the Eel River through the Potter Valley Project. We don’t know what the coming months will bring. If you have the capacity to store water in a pond or tank, do it.”

According to the State of California’s November 22 “California Drought Update”: “the water year that ended Sept. 30 was the second driest on record.... Hydrologists say it will take 140 percent of average precipitation this winter to produce anything close to average runoff into rivers and streams due to the deficit in soil moisture. Californians are being asked to reduce their water use by 15 percent over 2020 levels to protect water reserves and help maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife.”

To prepare for the future, the County of Mendocino is pursuing funds to create a Water Resiliency Plan that will take a flexible and multi-pronged approach to drought preparation and response, including infrastructure upgrades, additional storage capacity, agreements between local governments, improved technologies, and water conservation across sectors. Local water agencies and tribes are also submitting grant proposals for water system improvements, positioning Mendocino County for water security in future droughts.

According to a recent press release, “Sonoma Water has filed a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure that its already depleted reservoirs are not further affected by reduced flows from the Potter Valley Project due to a mechanical failure at the PG&E hydroelectric facility....

“Sonoma Water has filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition requesting that the water supply condition and associated minimum instream flow requirements be determined based on storage thresholds at Lake Mendocino.... Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma remain at or near their lowest levels for this time of year since filling in 1959 and 1986, respectively....

“PG&E officials have indicated that it is unlikely the company will repair the facility given the likelihood that it may surrender its license to continue operating the PVP.” To learn more, go to <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Water-Agency/Press-Releases/Sonoma-Water-Flies-Petition-to-Maximize-Reservoir-Storage/>.

The State Water Board has announced that the temporary curtailment suspensions of water rights will last through December 15, 2021, and may last through the month of December, based on current forecasts. Curtailments may resume in late December or early January unless additional precipitation beyond what is currently forecasted occurs. An announcement

The rest of **Future** | From Page 1

On the not so frustrating front, the fire department is really close to implementation of an Explorer program, a program affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America which the department will oversee. Its purpose is to teach firefighting skills to the next generation.

Despite its name, BSA is for girls too, and young women are welcome to join the new Explorer Post. If they do, and they are expected to, BSA requires that there be a woman leader in the program.

And Kara Garvin has “volunteered to do that,” said Lucier. “She’s ... one of the scout leaders. She’s a great leader, so we’re very fortunate to have her.”

“There are a lot of young people who want to be in the program,” Board President Tony Madrigal said.

“We can take as many as would like to join,” said Lucier. “It’s a great program.”

Though they will never be put in harm’s way, Explorers will be going out on calls. And there are always lots of calls.

“It’s been busy,” Madrigal said.

In fact, three of the usual board meeting attendees who make regular reports, Assistant Chief John Thomen, Training Director Eric Alvarez, and Firefighters Association President Aaron Branscomb, were out on one of those calls, so weren’t at the meeting.

The call they were on was the “propane truck that went over on 162 [Covelo Road],” Madrigal said. “They’re probably going to be out there a little bit longer.... It’s blocking the road.”

So Madrigal stepped in and gave some training and

association updates.

One recent “training was cutting up a car ... a Prius,” he said. “It’s basically taking the doors off, showing the guys where they’re not supposed to cut, and pulling things apart to see what’s up there before they cut.”

A running joke about “cutting up” director Arnie Mello’s Tesla as a training exercise prompted a description of what that might entail.

“The battery’s underneath, and it goes from one side to the other and from the front to the back of the axles. All the wiring runs down the middle. The AC is in the front, and the heater in the back. So everything is pretty much in line,” Madrigal explained.

“The other [electric cars], sometimes they run them along the post so you have to tear all the stuff out from the inside to make sure you don’t cut through one of those posts,” he said.

“The other thing, even if you disarmed it, it can still get you pretty good. You’ve got to be really careful,” he went on.

“Real careful [also], with airbags ... because they can still go off even though you think you’ve disarmed everything,” he said. “The cars are getting more and more dangerous.”

In Firefighters Association news, Madrigal reported the Halloween drive-through as a “great success.

“We filled more than 500 bags,” he said. “And we had to run to Rite Aid twice to get back-up candy



**Winter Craft Event**

**Sunday, December 12th**

**10am-4pm**

Sherwood Valley Casino  
Parking lot  
100 Kawi Pl  
Willits, Ca 95490

Support our local crafters! Check it out!  
Bring the family!

Please note that the event will be canceled if it rains (this is NOT a casino event)



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Dan Essman  
Columnist

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The rest of  
**Drought** | *From Page 13*

will be issued by December 15 confirming whether the temporary suspension will continue through December 31 and whether curtailments are anticipated to resume in January. See the Russian River Drought Response webpage for more information.

To sign up to receive the full Mendocino County Water News, email [mcwa@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:mcwa@mendocinocounty.org).

The next meeting of the Mendocino County Drought Ad Hoc Committee is set for Thursday, December 9 from 4 to 5:30 pm, and can be watched at "Mendocino County Video" channel at [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com). The Mendocino Countywide Drought Task Force is an ad hoc committee of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors made up of Supervisor John Haschak and Supervisor Glenn McGourty.

The rest of  
**Taxable** | *From Page 2*

Taxable sales reflect sales of items subject to sales or use tax reported by businesses on returns filed with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration. The sales noted have not been adjusted for inflation. The last decrease in taxable sales occurred during the Great Recession of 2008, and economic activity took four years to reach pre-recession numbers. Recovery from the pandemic has been much quicker, with taxable sales recovering in less than one year.

Additional information on taxable sales by cities, counties, and industries is available in CDTFA's Open Data Portal at <https://www.cdtfa.ca.gov/dataportal/index.htm>

The data visualization tool at <https://www.cdtfa.ca.gov/dataportal/visual.htm> allows users to search for specific datasets; export data into multiple formats; customize charts in pie, line, and bar formats; or use a map to pinpoint a city or county.

The rest of  
**Schedule** | *From Page 2*

Planning & Building Services: Closed November 24 at noon, December 20-23, and December 30 at noon

Probation: Closed November 24 at noon, December 23 at noon, and December 30 at noon

Public Defender: Closed November 24 at noon, December 20-22, December 23 at noon, and December 30 at noon

Public Health: December 27-30 open by appointment only

Social Services: All emergency services will still be provided 24 hours a day. Some divisions will remain open during the general county closures on

November 25-26, 2021, December 24, 2021, and December 31, 2021. Please visit the following link for specific division schedules at:

<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument/47205/637726837393120330>

Sheriff-Coroner: Closed November 24 at noon, and December 23 at noon

Treasurer/Tax Collector: Closed November 24 at noon, and December 20-23

UC Cooperative Extension: Closed November 24, December 20-23, December 27-29 open by appointment only, and December 30.

The rest of  
**College** | *From Page 2*

(transporting students in the morning and then again in the afternoon with a break in the middle). Most positions are part-time and pay between \$16.06 and \$31.00 per hour Some districts are combining bus driving with maintenance work, so employees have a full-time position, but even with this creative solution, it is difficult to find enough drivers.

### Paraprofessional - Instructional Aide

If bus driving isn't your thing, maybe you'd prefer to become an instructional or special education paraprofessional (aide). Teachers depend on paraprofessionals to assist with several important tasks. For example, in any given subject, students range from proficient to struggling. When a teacher has the support of a "para," the teacher can provide information at a slower pace for those who need it.

Paras also help by preparing materials, grading, working with the class while the teacher attends to a specific situation, and so much more. Special education paras work with students who have developmental disabilities and other challenges. These paras accompany students with special needs to help them overcome learning challenges.

To become a para, you do not need a college degree, but you must pass the paraprofessional exam, which is usually at the educational level of an associate degree. Paras are always under the guidance of a teacher, using the curriculum and instructional plans provided by the teacher. Paraprofessionals usually work part-time, and positions pay between \$13.72 and \$25.50 per hour, depending on the district.

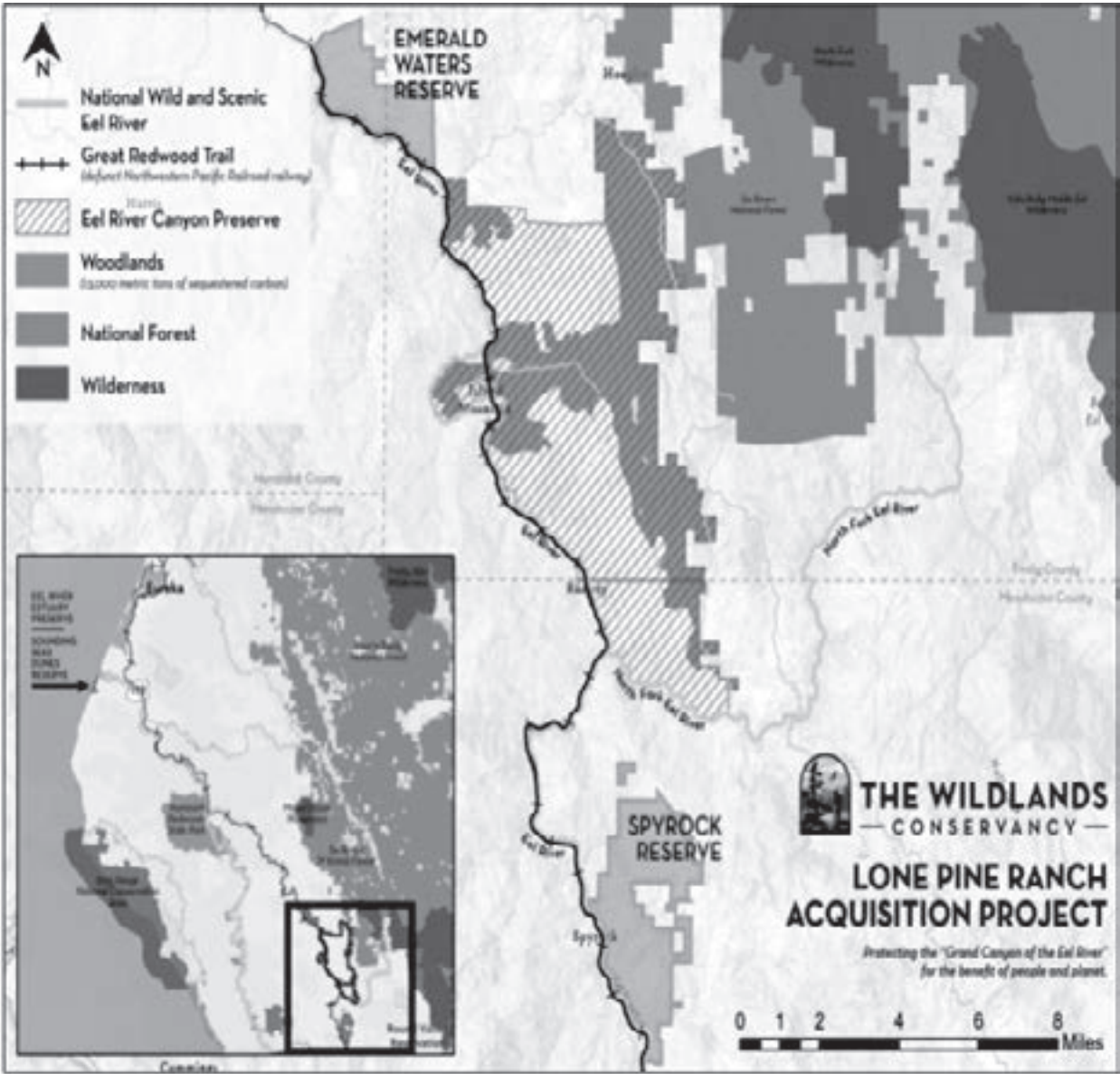
### Food Service

The next job in high demand is a food service worker. Preparing and serving nutritious meals to students provides students with the fuel they need to succeed. Many students throughout the county depend on school meals for good nutrition. In many schools, we provide both breakfast and lunch, and this year, all school meals are provided to all students free of charge. Food service workers earn between \$13.72 and \$25.50 per hour.

### Custodian

Another important job is that of custodian. The great thing about this position is that work is often done after hours, allowing it to serve as a second job. Custodians, in partnership with the daytime maintenance crew, help keep classrooms clean and safe. Custodial work involves cleaning floors, bathrooms, and other areas. Custodians earn between \$14.13 and \$28.12 per hour.

If you're looking for work and like the idea of helping children, consider working in education. They say one of the biggest determining factors of success for children is the presence of a consistent and supportive adult in their life. That could be a teacher, of course, but it could just as easily be a bus driver, a para, or any number of other adults working in education.



The rest of  
**Conservation** | *From Page 1*

Great Redwood Trail," says David Myers, the Wildlands Conservancy's president, "We're grateful to the Witter family for entrusting us with their legacy, and for our partners' support in bringing this acquisition to fruition."

Purchased in World War II by celebrated California financial broker Dean Witter, the land has been cared for by the Witter family ever since, leaving a legacy that will now be permanently conserved and opened to the public for passive recreation.

"Our family is incredibly grateful to be passing this precious property on to the Wildlands Conservancy," says Brooks Witter, who is representing the family. "At every step of this process, we grew increasingly confident in their vision and capacity to preserve this place for future generations. It is an honor to know that the Lone Pine will serve a key role in protecting the vitality and health of the whole watershed."

The Conservation Fund, a national leader in land conservation, is taking a primary role in the project, acquiring 8,086 acres of the preserve. The fund will serve as an interim holder of this portion of the property for up to three years while final acquisition funds are sought by the conservancy.

"The Lone Pine Ranch is one of California's gems, and today's victory is a critical step in the protection of its recreational resources, ecological importance, and stunning scenic beauty," said Steve Hobbs, California state director at the Conservation Fund. "Our partial acquisition of Lone Pine Ranch is an exciting addition to the Conservation Fund's portfolio of impactful land conservation in California, and we're honored to be a part of it."

Generous support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation made this acquisition a reality, as did funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

The Center for Biological Diversity contributed key funds and support throughout the campaign and has been a tireless defender of California's ecological diversity. The center's contribution used funds designated in a recent settlement with Placer Ranch Inc. for the permanent protection of biologically important land:

<https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/Placer-Ranch-agreement/index>

"Protecting 30,000 acres at the heart of the Eel River corridor is one of the most important conservation actions in recent California history," said Peter Galvin, cofounder and director of programs at the center. "This historic conservation purchase will ensure permanent protection for one of the most wild and scenic river stretches in the western United States.

"The 'Grand Canyon of the Eel River' is home to dozens of endangered species and rare wildlife," Galvin continued. "The Wildlands Conservancy's heroic and visionary efforts to restore the Eel River and California's wildlands will be appreciated by generations to come."

A resolute champion for the Eel River, California State Senator Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) has catalyzed the creation of a Great Redwoods Trail, following the route of the abandoned Northwestern Pacific Railroad for 320 miles and linking the San Francisco and Humboldt bays. The trail will serve as a gateway to the scenic countryside and wild backcountry of the Eel and Russian River watersheds.

"The Eel River Canyon is like no other place in the west, and it will be the crown jewel of the Great Redwood Trail,"



Above: The "Grand Canyon" of the mighty Eel River.

*Photo courtesy of the Wildlands Conservancy*

Sen. McGuire said. "The \$10 million that we were able to secure this year helped the Wildlands Conservancy acquire this spectacular piece of earth, Lone Pine Ranch. This amazing property will be opening to the public soon and will feature a breathtaking 12 miles of trail along the Eel River with a total of 18 miles of riverfront. We couldn't be more thrilled."

In 2019 the Wildlands Conservancy used private donations to purchase the first 3,000 acres of the Eel River Canyon Preserve fronting 3.5 miles of the Eel River. This acquisition secured a two-year option to purchase the remaining 26,600 acres for \$25 million, which is being completed in four separate transactions.

The Eel River Canyon Preserve acquisition is part of Eel River Emerald Necklace conservation project, which links a system of preserves spanning the Grand Canyon of the Eel to the estuary. The preserve is a day's paddling journey downstream from the Wildlands Conservancy's Spyrock Reserve, which has 5 miles of frontage on the Eel and is located 80 miles upstream from the conservancy's Eel River Estuary Preserve where the river meets the Pacific Ocean.

The Wildlands Conservancy owns and operates California's largest nonprofit nature preserve system, including the 93,000-acre Wind Wolves Preserve in Kern County, the largest nonprofit preserve on the West Coast. Open to the public free of charge, these preserves offer free hiking, camping, and access to nature. The Wildlands Conservancy recently led the campaign to have land it previously donated to the U.S. Interior Department designated as the 1.6 million-acre Mojave Trails National Monument, one of the largest national monuments in the lower 48 states.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.7 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Now growing faster than the California State Park system, the Wildlands Conservancy acquired seven nature preserves over the past three years, including the Santa Margarita River Trails Preserve along 5 miles of oak-shaded trails next to the Santa Margarita River in San Diego County; a mile of majestic coastline and redwood forest at Seawood Cape Preserve on the Humboldt Coast; and a mile of the West Walker River at Aspen Glen Reserve in Mono County. More information is available at <https://wildlandsconservancy.org>

The Conservation Fund is a national nonprofit that works with public, private, and non-profit partners to protect America's legacy of land and water resources through land acquisition and sustainable community and economic development, emphasizing the integration of economic and environmental goals. Founded in 1985, the Conservation Fund has worked in all 50 states to protect over 8.5 million acres valued at over \$7 billion, including more than 560,000 acres in California. Learn more at [www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org)



**SEPT 3 – FEB 13**

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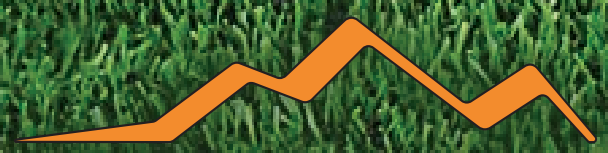
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