

[illegible]

Thursday, April 29, 2021

Read the rest of
Rotary
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Max Meyer does not agree with Max Meyers

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter written by Max Meyers in the April 22 edition of Willits Weekly. I have received several phone calls about this letter, which I did not write and do not agree with.

My name is Max Meyer. I have lived in Mendocino County since 1939. I was involved in or associated with the lumber industry my entire working career. We still have a lumber industry in this county which employs people with good-paying jobs.

My understanding is that Jackson Demonstration State Forest was set up for good logging practices and sustained forestry.

The biggest environmental problem in the county now is the pollution and environmental degradation caused by illegal marijuana grows. I wish environmentalists would focus on this.

Max Meyer, Willits

Quantum Level Health Open House

To the Editor:

Hello everyone, we are inviting you to come to an Open House on May 1 from 11 to 2 pm, at Quantum Level Health, in the Little Lake Grange in Willits, 291 School Street, room 4.

I am looking forward to seeing you, and introducing you to the studio under its new name, "Quantum Level Health," and to my two fellow natural healthcare practitioners Earlene Gleisner and Rosa Pena. After many beautiful years of collaboration with Michelle Champion, I am restructuring, since Michelle moved to Lakeport.

We would like to see you, physically distanced, at our "Meet and Greet Open House." Mask-wearing will be required, and we have certain limits with occupancy, but we would like to mark these new beginnings. Please come say hello, bring your questions! You can call for more info: 707-371-6103. See you there!

Quantum Level Health is your central natural healthcare studio, at the Little Lake Grange; all services are by appointment only, including telehealth appointments. I will continue to offer specials for local services.

Claudia Wenning, Willits

Cannabis Program Information Session April 27

From the County of Mendocino Cannabis Program

The County of Mendocino Cannabis Program will be holding an informational session for the public on Thursday, April 27, from 3:30 to 5 pm. We will be covering the following topics:

- Communications with MCP
- Application Resubmittals
- Appendix G Checklist
- Sensitive Species Habitat Review & Contiguous Expansion Affidavit
- Compliance & Correction Notices.

To join via Zoom please use the following link: <https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/81839117937>

Blue Zones Project meeting May 3

From Adventist Health Howard Memorial

Adventist Health Howard Memorial invites you to learn more about a potential Blue Zones Project in Mendocino County. Blue Zones Project is a community well-being initiative designed to unite our worksites, grocery stores, restaurants, schools, city leaders, and residents toward one common goal: making healthy choices easier.

Join us on Monday, May 3 at 4 pm to hear national speaker, Nick Buettner, share the history of Blue Zones and how the research of the world's longest-lived cultures is creating a blueprint for well-being across North America. Other opportunities to learn more and contribute your ideas and input are available from May 4 through May 7. Visit go.bluezonesproject.com/mendocinocounty to learn more and RSVP. All events are virtual.

CalFire helicopter training underway

Submitted by CalFire Mendocino Unit

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Mendocino Unit will be conducting Basic Helicopter Operations and Safety and Air Rescue training in the areas of Lake Mendocino and Ridgewood Ranch. Training will be conducted periodically between the dates of April 26 and August 1, 2021.

The aircraft will be training in the Lake Mendocino, Ukiah Valley, and Ridgewood Ranch (Golden Rule) and surrounding areas, at various days and times of the day.

This training for CalFire MEU Helicopter 101 firefighters will include a combination of classroom training and operational exercise with a focus on safety. They will learn and practice the skills needed to work specifically as a firefighter assigned to a helicopter.

CalFire will be conducting this training with the cooperation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Every effort will be made to not impact the public's use of Lake Mendocino, the trails around the lake, or any impacts to nearby residences. All water pulled from the lake for training will be dropped back in due to low water levels.

The training will be conducted under very tight restrictions for the personal safety of firefighters and area residents. CalFire reminds all residents that their safety is of the utmost concern. To learn more about CalFire aircraft visit: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/fireprotection/aviation-program/> and view the CalFire Firefighting Aircraft Recognition Guide: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4950/aviation-guide-2019-access.pdf>

For more information about how you and your family can prepare for wildfire visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org.



Cannabis Culture

Emerald City Museum explains how marijuana has shaped the history of the region

Mathew Caine

Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

The modern history of Little Lake Valley is inextricably tied to the cannabis culture and industry. This was very much in evidence at the recent opening of the Emerald City Museum. The museum is dedicated to the preservation and understanding of the manner in which the plant has played a part in shaping the ethos of the city of Willits, and of the Emerald Triangle: Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties.

Richard "RJ" Jergenson, along with other archivists, artists, manufacturers, attorneys, and well-known cannabis activists, have created a wonderland of memories and exhibits, which can be viewed on Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 5 pm. The Emerald City Museum is located in the old Rexall store at 90 South Main Street. The space was donated by local entrepreneurs Pete Swanton and Steve Marsden of Shanachie Pub and Flying Dog Pizza. It will be set up until the end of June, and then hopefully travel to various locations and act as a catalyst for the understanding of the history of the region and its relationship to cannabis.

"I've been working on this for about 50 years," explained Jergenson. "I came of age in the '60s. The late '60s was a very exciting, turbulent time. Everything seemed to be kind of exploding on the scene. Our country was involved in a very unpopular war, the Vietnam Conflict. If you weren't in college or university, you stood the chance of getting drafted and becoming cannon fodder.

"I was one of the lucky ones," he said. "When my lottery number was drawn, it was 365, the last one. I dropped out of a local college. I wanted to have some experiences first before settling into learning a vocation.

I moved to San Francisco to join my brother, Phil, who had just relocated there to launch a pipe dream, the Proto Pipe. San Francisco was a very exciting place to be. I began to get immersed in the culture. It was a very visual culture so I just started collecting objects, posters and books and memorabilia. Unlike a lot of people, I was able to hang on to most of it. That's become the foundation for this collection."

Jergenson went on to explain the relationship of cannabis to the hippie movement and the back-to-the-landers who shaped much of the culture of the area. "The back-to-the-landers, with the death of the hippie movement in 1967, fled across the Golden Gate Bridge. The further north you went, the more affordable the land became. Many settled in Mendocino County. Some of the heartier ones settled in Humboldt, and the really hearty ones settled in Trinity County, comprising the Emerald Triangle.

"They found out," he continued, "that where the redwoods grow, cannabis grows really well. The back-to-the-landers settled. Many of them bought a trailer, added on to the trailer as their kids started showing up. They were living with kerosene lanterns. The game changer for all of us was when the photovoltaic solar panels showed up. These folks who were able to grow a few plants, basically to keep their kids in shoes, new tires on the truck, were able to start buying new solar systems. So, for a while, Willits was the solar capital of the world. We had more retail and wholesale businesses in Willits because we're geographically the center of the county."

A soft opening on April 18 was for invited guests and included a talk from legendary

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



At left: Invited guests listen to a speaker at the Sunday opening of the Emerald City Museum. Above, left: Cannabis icon Pebbles Trippet introduces crusading attorney Ed Denson. Above, right: Author Wendy Reed reads from one of her soon-to-be-published works.



Above: Richard Jergenson, Pebbles Trippet, and Mickey the Clown are friends of many years. Below, left: Laura Muzzy, a worker at Proto Pipe, lets people know that they are having their 50th anniversary. Below, right: Swami attends the opening on Tuesday to support Amy Fisher.



At left: Some of the art by Lilianna Susskind is on display. Below, left: Mosaic artist Elizabeth Raybee shows two of her creations. Below: A recreation of a typical hippie crash pad is set up inside the museum.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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www.agapebilechurch.com

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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

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Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
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St. John Lutheran Church

Karl Bliese, Pastor
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following the service.
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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707-459-5714
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https://willitsca.adventistchurch.org
All are welcome!

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Herb Walk

Learn the many benefits of consuming wild herbs while exploring local trails with expert Beth Riedel

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
matthew@willitsweekly.com

"I've been teaching and leading herb walks since 1985," explained Riedel. "I still have much to learn about. There are plants I don't know and plants I only know a little about and don't use much, but I can sort of tell how to use them, but you only need so many plants in your life. Most of the weeds that we hate are useful herbally. I once took an integrated pest-management class at Santa Rosa Junior College. I was supposed to learn 50 'hated weeds.' At least 35 to 40 of them were medicinal for liver and kidneys and others. I was a pest in that class.

"Science tends to take plants apart and go for specific constituents in them," said Riedel. "Valerian contains valeric acid, which does nothing by itself, but if used herbally, it is useful as a sedative and helps with pain. Sometimes, I get excited because science has found out that a plant is actually useful. Some plants are toxic but in minuscule doses can be useful. Plants also have energy. I get a lot of information from other herbalists."

The walk on Saturday, April 24, took place at the Par Course in Brooktrails, an easy one-mile loop through the redwoods, tan oaks and madrones, with tons of green plants that normally rest unnoticed by the hikers and bikers that frequent the trail.

Riedel, though an expert on the use and identification of herbs and other beneficial plants, is not opposed to "normal" Western medicine. "I'm not saying that I don't like allopathic (modern Western) medicine," she assured, "because war medicine is one of the best things we have. They can do wonderful things, but also there are things that herbs can do that they can't. What makes the difference is the quality of the practitioner, their knowledge, their experience, their understanding of the workings of the body. Herbalists also specialize in different things."

Riedel explained that "way back when, within 60 feet of your backdoor was everything that you needed." Historically, herbalists have either been considered the healers or have been reviled as anti-church, even burned as witches. According to Riedel, much of the ancient knowledge of herbs was destroyed when the library at Alexandria burned.

There are many ways to prepare herbs for use as medicines or salves.

Some herbs are used as a tea and prepared as such. Some are made by a process of "decoction," when you take an herb, usually a thick leaf, such as a manzanita leaf, or a root or a bark," explained Riedel. "You put the herb in cold water in a pot that's stainless steel or Pyrex or enamel, cover it and bring it to a slight simmer for 30 to 40 minutes. Then you strain off the herb and the liquid is your decoction. For an infusion or a regular tea, because it's an herbal tea and you want to get all the qualities from it, you bring water to a boil, especially for things like rose hips. You pour the water over it just like you would a normal tea and then cover it to preserve the aromatic qualities."

No matter how they are processed, many plants found in the area have qualities which create many benefits for people, other than the aesthetic beauty of the natural growth. Bark from redwoods and madrones can be used in decoctions for their aromatic and soothing qualities.

Walking up the trail, the group encountered such plants as miner's lettuce, which can be utilized in salads; poison oak, which, although one needs to avoid touching the plant, is "good for people who have trouble keeping boundaries, people who can't say 'no' to others;" horsetail, which has male and female genders and is good for hair growth, fingernails, bones and osteoporosis in their young states.

Dock leaves can be steamed or used with other greens in salads to help the body absorb and reuse iron. Dock roots "are good for people who are anemic and for fat digestion. I use it if I'm going to eat fatty foods or meats." Tan oak can be used to seal up oozing wounds. California wild ginger works with the digestion and is "good for hot, dry bronchial problems and head colds."

Cleaver is a lymphatic cleanser and can be used for swollen glands. Dandelion is "one of the best liver cleansers. Very gentle. Can be used in small doses for kidney problems and hepatitis." California bay leaves have several uses; they're "good for drawing out poisons like in bee stings. Put them under where pets sleep, for flea eradication or as a flea wash. Good for headaches when used as a tea. Put in a porous bag in the bath for sore muscles or arthritis."

These are just a few of the beneficial plants that can be found, just in one section in Brooktrails. There are many more that can be identified and utilized, plants that most people might not even give a second glance to. It takes knowledge and the desire to learn. Riedel, with her years of experience and experimentation, is able to impart much of this knowledge to her students on her herb walks. Two more walks are scheduled for this year: Sunday, May 23 and Saturday, June 5, 10 am to 12 pm. Call 459-1810 for more info.

Above, from left: Beth Riedel talks about the identification and preparation of herbs found in the Par Course. Fetid adder's tongue is for wound healing and skin ulcers. Female horsetail can be used for healthy hair, fingernails and bones. At right: Beth Riedel explains the identification and use of one of the plants at the Par Course.



At top: Water cress is good for use in salads.

Above: Western colt's foot is good for coughs, asthma, and lung congestion.

Below: Manzanita can be chewed as a treatment for stomach ache and cramps, or for colds and diarrhea.



Paper and Flowers

May show at Willits Center for the Arts features Sandy Strong and Robert Rhoades

Submitted by Willits Center for the Arts

Willits Center for the Arts presents Sandy Strong watercolors and photographs. Also showing are Robert Rhoades' paper constructions.

"For this show," said Strong, "I decided to feature my photographs and watercolors of flowers and their companions, birds and butterflies. I find that their range of colors, size and form present an endless variety of combinations that fascinate me.

"I have lived in Willits for the past 35 years," she continued, "and have taken photos and painted with watercolor all of this time. I am a member of the Willits Photography Club and I have served on the board of directors of the Willits Center for the Arts for the past five years. I love color and the contrasts of light against dark and finding just the right light for my photographs. I usually paint from these photos, trying to capture the beauty that I see and feel."

Rhodes earned his Master of Fine Arts degree in 1980 at the University of New Mexico. He assumed the position of art department coordinator

for the College of the Redwoods, Mendocino Coast in 1982. Rhoades has studied eastern papermaking in Kochi, Japan and non-toxic printmaking techniques in Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada. At CR he has taught painting, color and design, printmaking, paper-making, sculpture, drawing, illustration and art appreciation. He has exhibited extensively in the U.S. and lectured in London at the Chelsea School of Art and in Miassa Japan at the Bunka Center. In recent years he has lectured to small groups in major museums throughout Western Europe.

The Willits Photography Club is also presenting new work in the upstairs gallery.

This show will run April 30 through May 23. The Willits Center for the Arts is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 am until 5 pm.

Gary Martin's Art Talk on American Art will be Friday, May 21 at 6:30 pm.

The Great Room is available for up to 43 people at a discounted rate based on reduced capacity.



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Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9!

Gift Certificates & Summer Appointments Available!

BIKE MONTH MENDOCINO COUNTY MAY 2021

UKIAH
Fix a Flat! Bike Repair Clinics
Thursday, May 20, 5 - 6pm
Saturday, May 22, 1 - 3pm
*Meets at the NCO Parking Lot on N Main Street across from Jan Hayman Studio
Community Bike Rides
Earth Day Ride
Saturday April 24, 1:30 - 230pm
*Meet at the Rail Depot @ Perkins
Thursday, May 13, 5 - 6pm
*Meet at the fountain in front of Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Ave
Bike from Work Day
Friday, May 21, 5 - 6pm
*Meet at the fountain in front of Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Ave
Outreach Booth
City of Ukiah Bike and Pedestrian Plan
Community Input Booth
Saturday, May 8, 9am - 12pm
*Visit our booth at the Ukiah Farmers Market
Riders that are under 18 and in need of a helmet will be provided one following instruction on helmet fitting.

WILLITS
Fix a Flat: Bike Repair Clinic
Saturday, May 15, 11am - 12:30pm
*Meet at Willits City Park on E Commercial across from City Hall
Community Bike Ride
Saturday, May 1, 10am - 11am
*Meet at Willits City Park on E Commercial across from City Hall

Limited attendance for events. Please sign-up in advance: contact Sonja at Walk & Bike Mendocino: sburgal@ncoinc.org or call 707-467-3217

WALK & BIKE MENDOCINO
Celebrating 30 years of community service • 1990-2020
NCO NORTH COAST OPPORTUNITIES
MCC's Walk & Bike Mendocino supports the new QTS public awareness campaign, "Go Safely, California." To find out more about ways to go safely, visit: gosafelyca.org.
public health
MCC's Office of Traffic Safety
GO SAFELY CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY
City of Ukiah

Playful Tigg

Tigg here loves to play. He is very social and wants to be friends with everyone. Tigg is playful with other cats and we think he would do well in a home with children and / or other cats. He is only 1 year old and is a neutered domestic short hair cat.

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



Social Sheba

Life is all fun and games with Sheba! A happy, social girl with a wagging tail, Sheba weighs 80 pounds. She is affectionate, eager and friendly with everyone except chickens, cats, and other small animals, although she is fine with small dogs in the home. She has not met any children yet but she certainly seems like she would be fine with kids.

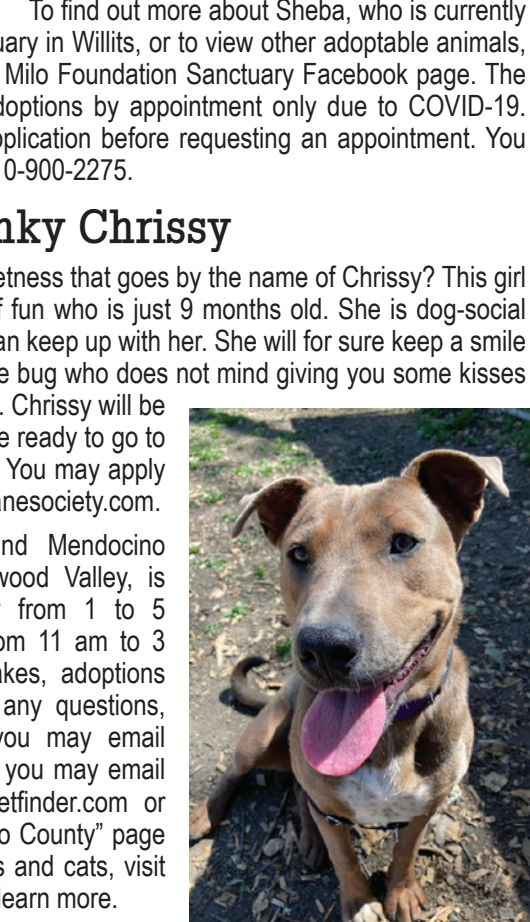
Sheba is playful and likes to play ball. She is athletic and fairly graceful. She needs a yard and would love a companion dog to spend time with if she is going to be alone, away from her people. Sheba does not love to be crated and will cry, whine or bark if she knows you are in the house.

To find out more about Sheba, who is currently living at the Milo Foundation Sanctuary in Willits, or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

Spunky Chrissy

Have you met our chocolate sweetness that goes by the name of Chrissy? This girl is a spunky, sassy, outgoing ball of fun who is just 9 months old. She is dog-social and would love some friends who can keep up with her. She will for sure keep a smile on your face! She is also a little love bug who does not mind giving you some kisses while you give her a good pat down. Chrissy will be getting spayed soon then she will be ready to go to her forever home! Is that with you? You may apply to love Chrissy at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

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



Celebrate Bike Month

NCOs Walk & Bike Mendocino announces community bike rides and bike-repair clinics

Submitted by Walk & Bike Mendocino

To celebrate National Bike Month, NCOs Walk & Bike Mendocino will provide community bike rides and bike-repair clinics throughout the month of May. Community bike rides will include a short review on safe biking techniques and will be at least five miles long. Kids eight and up with on-road biking experience are welcome to join. Riders that are under 18 and in need of a helmet will be provided one, following instruction on helmet fitting.

"We are hosting these community bike rides to share safety tips when riding. That includes how to share the road with cars, how to cross intersections with high traffic volume, and address any other safety concerns that make it challenging for people to ride confidently and more often," said Sonja Bural, program coordinator for NCOs Walk & Bike Mendocino.

Bike-repair clinics will teach participants how to fix a flat tire, also, safely lube and clean a chain. Participants are encouraged to sign up in advance for both rides and repair clinics as attendance is limited. Please contact Sonja Bural to make a reservation: sbural@ncoinc.org or call 707-467-3217.

Safety tips for drivers and bicyclists

Drivers should provide at least three feet of space when passing bicyclists, as required by law. Bicyclists must travel in the same direction of traffic and have the same requirements as any slow-moving vehicle. Parked drivers, opening a car door or pulling out of a parking space, should be on the lookout for bicyclists. Drivers should also yield to bicyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals. Drivers and bicyclists should avoid any distractions, like using their cell phone.

Bicyclists need to use lights from dusk to dawn, with a front white light and rear red-flashing light or reflectors, as well as wear a helmet. Wearing a helmet is required, by law for anyone under 18.

"I always recommend that bicyclists develop a habit (when riding on a street) to make eye contact with drivers. Especially when they are at an intersection that looks busy. Eye contact ensures that the driver's

attention is on the road and the bicyclists' safety," said Bural.

Fix a Flat! Bike Repair Clinics

UKIAH: Thursday, May 20, 5 to 6 pm and Saturday, May 22, 1 to 3 pm "Meet at the NCO Parking Lot on North Main Street across from Jan Hoyman Studio

WILLITS: Saturday, May 15, 11 am to 12:30 pm "Meet at Willits City Park on East Commercial Street across from City Hall

Community Bike Rides

WILLITS: Saturday, May 1, 10 am to 11 am "Meet at Willits City Park on East Commercial Street across from City Hall

UKIAH: Community Bike Ride, Thursday, May 13, 5 to 6 pm "Meet at the fountain in front of Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue

UKIAH: Bike from Work Day, Friday, May 21, 5 to 6 pm "Meet at the fountain in front of Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue

Outreach booth:

UKIAH: City of Ukiah Bike and Pedestrian Plan Community Input Booth, Saturday, May 8, 9 am to 12 pm

Learn more about Walk & Bike Mendocino and potential updates to the bike and pedestrian plan and share your input.

Visit the Walk & Bike Mendocino booth at the Ukiah Farmers Market.

Funding for this bicycle and pedestrian safety education program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. NCOs Walk & Bike Mendocino supports the new OTS public awareness campaign, "Go Safely, California."

To find out more about ways to go safely, visit www.gosafelyca.org. NCO is the Community Action Agency that serves Lake and Mendocino Counties, as well as parts of Humboldt, Sonoma, Del Norte, and Solano counties. NCO reacts and adjusts to community needs, including disaster response and recovery. For more information, visit www.ncoinc.org or call (707) 467-3200.

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cannabis crusading attorney Tony Serra, who began by reading a poem by Dylan Thomas: "Do not go gentle into that good night. Old age should burn and rave at close of day; Rage, rage against the dying of the light..." He utilized the poem to exhort the listeners to continue the fight against injustice and intolerance. "We still have ideological foes to fight, battles to win," added Serra.

At the public opening, appropriately on April 20, or 4/20, the day recognized universally as "Weed Day," due to the old police code for "marijuana smoking in progress," much of the crowd had to wait outside for a time because of the COVID crowd-size restrictions. Those in attendance were able to meet with Mickey the Clown, a Circus Vargas entertainer and cannabis activist; Pebbles Trippet, a pioneer defendant in medical-marijuana cases; mosaic artist, Elizabeth Raybee; cannabis artist, Lilianna Susskind with her dog, Dank; and many other such luminaries of the culture.

The featured speaker, attorney Ed Denson, gave an account of his battle

to overturn cannabis tax law and to get funds returned to growers. Additionally, author Wendy Reed read from a recent unpublished book. Amy Fisher, with her Traveling Hemp Museum, was in attendance both days and her exhibit can be found at the Emerald City for the duration.

"Our mission," said Jergenson, "is to continue to collect, preserve and exhibit memorabilia detailing the story of cannabis and the culture of peace and integrity that grew alongside the sacred plant, not only in Mendocino County, the home of the Emerald Triangle but beyond, through the use of exhibits, educational lectures, film, writings, and oral histories. The Cannabis Culture Museum will assist the public in understanding the diverse and complex roles cannabis has played in our culture and history. We need to help lift the stigma of prohibition and the demonization. It was an 80-year demonization and it's going to take some time to shift that perception."

To find out more, visit <http://cannabismuseum.us>.

Specials for the day!

Free bean dip

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REDWOOD COMMUNITY SERVICES

Services are provided to children, youth, adults and their families.

The rest of
Rotary From Page 1

young professionals in our community dealing with student debt.

He formed a Student Debt Assistance Program committee to join him in researching and implementing a project to address this issue. The members then did informal research of friends and family in the area and found many people who knew someone who was struggling to pay off their student loans. Further research showed the committee just how serious the problem of student debt is.

The committee decided to create a grant program targeting community members who have completed their education and are employed in healthcare, the school system, or technical careers, as well as first responders. Most importantly, potential applicants should show a commitment to staying in Willits and engaging with the community beyond their work requirements. In other words, people who understand one of Rotary's models: "Service above self."

To start off the project, an anonymous donor contributed \$10,000, and an application was created and posted online in mid-December 2020. By the time the application process closed, 20 applications had been received. The amount of debt for the 20 applicants was over \$1,200,000 or an average of over \$60,000. The committee was stunned and began to worry about how to choose which applicants to help when so many were in need.

After additional generous donations were received, the committee was able to choose 10 applicants that fit the criteria. To offset their loan payments, they will each be awarded with a monthly check of \$300 for one year.

The recipients, who will remain anonymous due to the sensitive nature of their situations, were notified that they would receive help from the Willits Rotary Club, beginning May 1, 2021. There are seven recipients employed in local education, one in healthcare, one in accounting, and one in career technology. Willits Rotary Club is proud to help to keep Willits the vibrant city we all love.

The Student Debt Assistance Program committee, which includes Ann Alumbaugh, Joe Bratt, Alexander Rich, Holly Madrigal, Alisha Rigano and Jenny Senter, realizes that there is a huge need in this community and plans to make this a yearly project. The committee is brainstorming ways to earn money for the future. If you would like to be a part of supporting this endeavor, donations are greatly appreciated. Checks should be made out and sent to Willits Rotary Club, P.O. Box 787, Willits, CA 95490. Please indicate this donation is for the Student Debt Assistance Program. Willits Rotary Club is an IRS 501(c) (3) charitable foundation.

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welcome news, county Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren cautions there is a continued need to control this pandemic. The emergence of more viral variants here in California and increased transmission in other states could set us backwards if we do not continue to wear our masks in public settings and private gatherings, he explained. While certain events and gatherings can now reopen or expand capacity, it is important to continue to gather outdoors or in well-ventilated areas, whenever possible.

"Our high vaccination rates and attention to wearing masks, washing hands, social distancing and limiting indoor activities have all contributed to Mendocino County moving to this yellow tier – the least restrictive tier!" Dr. Coren said. "We as a community have come together to accomplish this goal. As we move towards the June 15 date established by the Governor's Office [for the state to fully reopen], we do need to improve our testing (even after vaccinations) to guard against a surge of variants. But if we keep this up we can move back to living normally."

In alignment with the Minimal (yellow) tier, the following industries are now expanded in Mendocino County:

- Places of worship and cultural ceremonies (such as wedding or funeral ceremonies) may continue to be open indoors with indoor services recommended to operate at 50 percent capacity;
- Attendance to outdoor seated live events (e.g., racetracks) and entertainment with audiences (in-state visitors only) is permitted with advanced reservations required and limited to 67 percent capacity, in-seat concessions only among other specific restrictions, See <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-live-performances-en.pdf>
- Attendance to Indoor Seated Live Events and Performances guidance <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-live-performances-indoor-en.pdf> allows audiences (in-state visitors only) at 25 percent capacity or 300 people in venues serving up to 1,500 (or 50 percent if all guests show recent negative test or full vaccination), with weekly worker testing, digital advanced purchase tickets only, pre-designated eating area with 6 feet social distancing (no eating/drinking allowed in seats), among other restrictions; Private Gatherings guidance (for informal social gatherings) allows a maximum of 100 people outdoors with indoor gatherings strongly discouraged but allowed (up to 50 people or 50 percent capacity whichever is fewer) with modifications (no food/drink except when following certain standards)
- Private Events guidance (for meetings/wedding receptions/conferences), allows a maximum of 200 people outdoors (increased capacity to 400 with proof of recent negative test within three days/ or full vaccination) and indoors (only if all guests up to a maximum of 200 have proof of recent negative test within three days or full vaccination), and requiring certain mitigation measures including purchased tickets/defined guest list, seating chart/assigned seating, no intermingling of multiple private events;
- Restaurants can open indoors with 50 percent maximum capacity, increased to 75 percent if all guests show proof of recent negative test or full vaccination;
- Bars (where no meals are provided) can open indoors

'With this extra money I will be able to pay a larger portion of my debt off faster, as without it I haven't had any extra money to commit.'



'This assistance will allow me to move my financial plan forward by a few years as far as putting money towards establishing a permanent residence here locally, making it easier for me to remain working in the area, and further developing more longterm plans for establishing myself as an involved member of the community.'

More thanks to Willits Rotary

"First, I would like to say thank you, I am sincerely honored to be selected to receive the financial help. I commit to continuing to provide the best opportunities for a positive educational experience for our students. I am proud to be an alumnus that can pay forward the encouragement and time that was offered to me through my years in Willits Unified. Through your generous support, I will use this money to help pay down my student loan debt. Thank you so very much."

"I am so grateful to be one of the lucky people chosen to receive this student debt assistance from our local Rotary Club. One of the greatest blessings that I have received was gaining my college education. Which I have in turn used in my chosen profession to serve the community that raised me. I unfortunately accrued a large debt to achieve this goal. I can honestly say that this is an answer to many prayers, as I have struggled in the past year and must get my finances in order to afford housing in our community. This gift will help ease my financial burden for the next year. Thank you to the generous donors for helping some of us that are greatly in need of assistance in paying towards our student loan debt. A special thank you to the members of Willits Rotary SDAP committee that took on this extra duty. Your service and commitment to our community is greatly appreciated! I am beyond grateful to be selected."

"I feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to leave Willits and pursue higher education. Despite many scholarships and wonderful work opportunities, I have only managed to pay the minimum amount due on my student loans. I have had to defer payments during difficult financial times. The Willits Rotary Club Student Debt Assistance Program will allow me to make aggressive payments on my loans and lower my debt, while I work towards getting certified to further my career here in Willits. The WRCSAP student loan assistance will be a huge help in making my dreams attainable."

"This assistance is greatly appreciated; it has been difficult paying down the debt despite landing a job in the field of my matriculation. That is because the amount of debt accumulated to get the education for that job can be high. This assistance will go a long way towards helping by adding it to my normal payments so that I can pay off the debt sooner. Thank you, Willits Rotary Club for the help! I have been a volunteer in this community for 10 years, and I can tell you that your organization is valued highly in our community."

"This award will help me immensely to better pay down my loans so I can continue to give back in any capacity I can, including working in Willits to support health care needs as well as shopping local. Thank you for this opportunity."

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greenhouses that are professionally built and in locations that are not visible to the public. Each cannabis cultivator and each site is so unique and dynamic that I really want to give these businesses an opportunity to be successful, just as I would any other business in our county.... I think that the flexibility of making sure that the site is appropriate, that it has enough water, is protecting the environment, could again be done with a major use permit."

Eventually the main direction given regarding greenhouse use were the zoning changes and enforcing the square footage limits on mixed light operations, though McGourty did say he would work on the language for something to possibly add other restrictions.

The supervisors also came to agreement about a requirement recommended by the planning commission that new indoor cultivation and mixed light both use renewable energy sources such as solar energy panels, or sign up for the "Evergreen" option with Sonoma Clean Power which uses local solar and geothermal sources.

The supervisors talked for a while about potentially banning the use of water trucks on new Phase 3 farms, meaning they would have to have on-site water only, except in the case of certain types of emergencies.

The supervisors eventually directed the Planning & Building Department staff to come back at a future meeting with a "tentative solution" to enforce against and "phase out" water trucking for cultivators in all phases of the cannabis ordinances, including Phase 1.

The county has cited June 30 as the target deadline for approving and enacting this new ordinance.

At that point, based on the current version of the ordinance, Phase 1 and 2 applicants will have a 60-day window to apply to transition to Phase 3 before any other new applicants will be accepted.

When discussing drought concerns, County Counsel Curtis said he believed it will take applicants at least six months to fully be approved and become operational, thus avoiding this year's "drought season."

Cannabis Facilities Ordinance

More than 9 hours into the Tuesday special meeting, the board decided to formally "continue" the meeting at another special meeting Wednesday morning, leaving the public hearing and discussion of proposed changes to the "Cannabis Facilities Ordinance" until then. After another 2 hours plus of discussion, the board approved, 5-0, the recommended changes, with some changes to the cannabis farm tour rules.

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