

Willits Weekly

Online & Print

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 532 **Thursday, January 11, 2024**



It's Real Estate Section Thursday!

Brooktrails board elects new president

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The Brooktrails Community Services District Board of Directors were all present for the final meeting of 2023 at 7 pm on December 12. "Board Reorganization" was the first order of business.

The positions of board president and vice-president for 2024 were to be determined by roll call vote. President Rick Williams called for nominations, and Director Tina Tyler O'Shea was nominated for president by Director Ed Horrick. Tyler-O'Shea accepted the nomination. Williams was then nominated to be president again by Director Ralph Santos.

The nominations were then closed and the vote

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

Sheriff's Office Update

On January 3, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office announced that the Coroner's Division investigation into the "suspicious death" of Christine Ann Randolph, 53, from Eureka was concluded.

The Chief Deputy Coroner classified Randolph's death as an accident, with her cause of death being "Acute Combined Diazepam, Nordiazepam and Morphine Toxicity."

On October 8, 2023, the California Highway Patrol was notified of a reported traffic collision in the area of Sherwood Road and Birch Terrace in Brooktrails.

After the collision, the driver of one of the vehicles, a Toyota Sienna van, fled the traffic collision scene.

The driver was subsequently identified

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

Chamber hosts community briefing

The Willits Chamber of Commerce presents "The State of Things," a community briefing, featuring the "State of the State," with Ruth Valenzuela representing Assemblyman Jim Wood's Office; the "State of the County," with Supervisor John Haschak; and the "State of the City," with Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez.

The briefing is scheduled for Thursday, January 18 at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Refreshments served. Everybody welcome!



Above, left: Stacked "Road Flooded" signs are ready to be put up, if needed, at the intersection of South Lenore and East Commercial Streets. "Frog Pond," in the low-lying portion of Locust Street, was already past the old fence line, getting closer to the road Wednesday afternoon. Below: Drips from the roof drop into puddles filled with fallen leaves..



Veterans urge BOS to stop office move

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

More than a dozen Mendocino County veterans, plus other supporters, showed up at the board of supervisors meeting Tuesday to oppose the county's plan to abruptly move the Veterans Services Office in Ukiah.

Veterans made their comments during the public comment period at the January 9 meeting, as there had been no previous agenda item specifically addressing the move. Veterans said they hadn't heard about the plan until the end of December, and were not happy that stakeholders had not been consulted first.

The Veterans Services Office has been in its own offices in a "cottage" at 405 Observatory Avenue in Ukiah for 15 years. The new VSO offices are in the county Behavioral Health Services / Public Health Building on Dora Street.

Mendocino County Air Quality is moving into 405 Observatory Avenue, according to commenters, who said they were told the reason for the move was that Air Quality needed more storage.

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

Little Lake Fire swears in 3 new volunteers

Annie Evarts
Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Three new volunteer firefighters were sworn in at the December meeting of the board of directors for Little Lake Fire. Brian Amaral, Phillip Laurent II, and Mathew Orozco took their oath to support the constitution of the United States and the state of California, and to respect, honor, obey and enforce the laws and ordinances of the jurisdiction in which they serve.

These three new firefighters are coming off a mandatory probationary period of one year, and as part of their oath, they swore to accept their position as firefighters as long as they are true to the ethics and duties of the fire service.

Personal ethics have a great deal to do with becoming a volunteer firefighter. It is a true act of community service. Folks in Willits will likely know or at least recognize one of the new volunteers. Phillip Laurent has had a 17-year-long career working for the post office in town.

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



At left: Drops of water cling to the first paper-white flower of the season. Below, left: This little succulent drinks up some water, happy to still be nestled into the fallen leaves. Below, right: The level of water in the "Frog Pond" will usually spill over onto Locust Street during heavy rains.

Photos by Maureen Jennison

A Soggy Start to 2024



Ring a ding ding!

It's almost time for the Soroptimist International of Willits' 2024 Willits Community Phonebook

Before the 2024 edition of the Soroptimist International of Willits Community Phonebook hits the streets on March 14, ads, corrections, and number inclusions and removals need to be addressed now.

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
willitsweekly@gmail.com

The local phonebook lists not only local business phone numbers, but also local residential numbers, something that you are hard-pressed to find as easily online. Since the Soroptimists keep up this list on their own, there's no "new version" that comes in the mail to replace the previous years' numbers. This means that the club relies on the public - YOU - to help update the book and let them know if changes are needed.

Since it is made by the club, there's also all sorts of room to include non-traditional listings, too, like phone numbers and emails to the addresses, if desired. You just need to ask and let them know.

Deadline for these changes, and also to purchase an ad - is February 10.

Ad purchases not only support the creation of the book, paying for printing and more, but also are the Soroptimist club's largest fundraiser, gathering funds to give back to the community in the form of scholarships, awards and more.

Ads are available in four sizes and are out in the hands of readers all year - so really, that's 365 days of advertising for one price. All ads run in black and white, except for three premium, full-color locations: full page inside front cover (\$500), full-page inside back cover (\$500), and full page outside back cover (\$550) - all first-come, first-served.

Regular ads include: business card-sized ad (3.5" wide x 2" tall) is \$100; quarter-page ad (3.5" wide x 4.5" tall) is \$140; a half-page ad (7" wide x 4.5" tall) is \$200; and a full-page (7" wide x 9" tall) ad is \$350.

The Soroptimist International of Willits is a non-profit, and all monies paid to the club can be used as a deduction on taxes. Donation forms are available upon request.

For ad purchases, and any and all changes, please email willitsphonebook@gmail.com.



Willits Senior Center Director Richard Baker smiles as Jamie Wilkes, left, and Heather Walker from Sparetime Supply drop off a \$1,000 donation.

Thanks to Sparetime Supply for Senior Center donation

I think it's important we keep the community informed; in this case, it's the good deeds of Sparetime Supply, which in large part is done behind-the-scenes and often receives no public acknowledgment.

The other day Heather Walker and Jamie Wilkes from Sparetime Supply stopped by the Senior Center to deliver a much-needed \$1,000 donation right before the Thanksgiving holiday.

On behalf of the Willits community and the many worthy organizations and causes Sparetime financially supports year and a year out, I'd like to say, "THANK YOU." A big shout-out to Mike Griggs, Sr. and Andrew Hosford. You are making a difference in the lives of so many people who call Willits home. We are very fortunate and forever grateful for all you do.

- posted by Willits Senior Center



Applications open for StartUp Mendocino 2024

Submitted by West Center

West Business Development Center ("West Center") is pleased to announce that the application window for StartUp Mendocino 2024, its innovative business accelerator program, has opened as of January 8. Now in its fourth year, StartUp Mendocino continues to energize and accelerate entrepreneurial endeavors in Mendocino County.

This no-cost program is designed to give local entrepreneurs the opportunity to participate in an intensive training program that serves as a hands-on training ground. Participants will learn to chart a course for their business, refine their strategies, hone entrepreneurial skills, and develop a plan for growth and success.

The application-based 18-week program is limited to 12 participants who, upon successful completion of the program, will each receive a \$1,000 stipend. Laura Brooks, West Center's director of Strategic Programs, says: "We have found that setting a limit on the number of participants ensures they receive an immersive and personalized experience. It also allows for the creation of cohesive cohorts for continued peer-to-peer business support." The 2023 program launched 11 early-stage entrepreneurs on their path to success.

Earl Chavez, owner of Big Earl's BBQ and one of the program graduates in June 2023, said: "Startup Mendocino connected the dots for us to take our business to the next level. The individual guidance we received from West leadership helped us fine-tune our goals and business plan. We are successful because of them."

The program begins with a kick-off reception on Thursday, February 29 from 4 to 7 pm at Medium Art Gallery, 522 East Perkins Street in Ukiah. Participants will have the opportunity to meet their peers, advisors, and cohort leaders prior to starting the course of study on Tuesday, March 5.

Participants will meet for 90-minute classes every other week via Zoom. On alternate weeks, cohorts will meet for 90 minutes and use their peer-to-peer learning to help solve current challenges for themselves and others. The program will run until June 25, 2024 and will culminate in a graduation celebration where graduates will celebrate their success with friends, family, and the community.

During the program participants will be introduced to new approaches in a series of four modules that address the Foundations of Leadership, Mastering Finance Fundamentals, Building Strong Employee and Customer Relations, and Demystifying Marketing, Creating the Perfect Pitch.

The main criteria for submitting a StartUp Mendocino application include: the business is located in Mendocino County; and the business has been operational for between one and three years. Detailed information about the program can be found at www.westcenter.org/programs/startup-mendo-2024.

The closing date to apply is January 26 at 5 pm. All applications will go before a selection committee composed of business and community leaders and stakeholders and the final 2024 applicants will be announced on February 16.

The rest of Figures | From page 5

Harris explains that her work is also about comparison. "For example, the shoes ... we all know what high heels look like. To see them in clay makes a dynamic image, which in turn makes the viewer wonder."

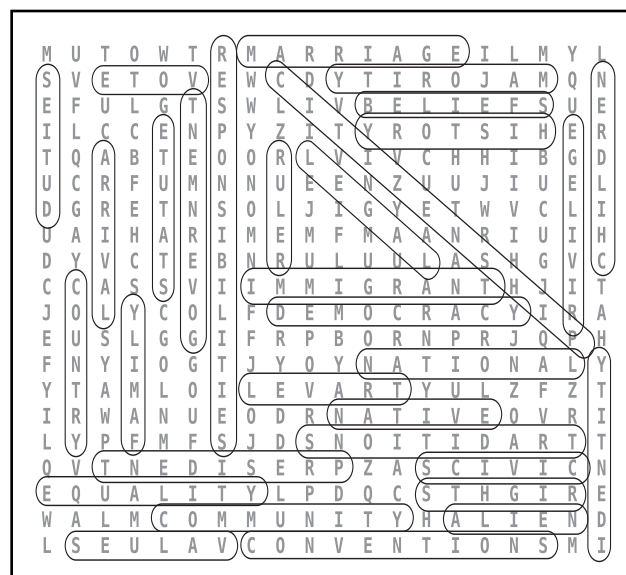
Harris has lived on a 120-acre ranch in a cabin outside of Covelo for many years. "My husband died when the kids were very young, and I raised them here, without much money. They went to school in Covelo."

Reflecting on the difficulties of surviving as a single mom in a rural area, she continued, "I'm a solitary person mostly, with time to think about stuff. The work is where I'm free to do as I please."

Harris built her own gas-fired catenary arch kiln, which she uses to produce her work. In addition to her prolific ceramic sculpture, there are a number of handmade books on display throughout the exhibit, presenting many drawings upon which her work is based.

WCA Curator Gary Martin was present at the opening, and commented on the work: "Ms. Harris' work is very personal. This is a lifelong art project for her."

Speaking about Eich's paintings, Martin said, "I find Michael's work deeply mysterious. The paintings seem to ask questions and give answers at the same time."



COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Ferrari'

The Story: Dramatic biopic. Italy, 1957: Enzo Ferrari (Adam Driver) and his racing team are living legends, the toast of Italy; but his world-renowned Formula One race car company faces bankruptcy. He can save his company if he sells more cars, and he can sell more cars if he wins more races. His No. 1 competition is

Dan Essman

Columnist

Maserati. The Mille Miglia (thousand mile) contest is coming up.

For the Ferrari company, winning means survival. Then there's the fact that his manic wife, Laura (Penelope Cruz - omgoddess!!!), who owns half the company, wants to shoot him. Her fury has reasons that go well-beyond the existence of Enzo's beautiful mistress Lina (Shailene Woodley), and those reasons are heartbreaking.

My Thoughts: Formula One drivers are international stars. This is a flick about such men who risk their lives to win something as peculiar as a ridiculously long-range high-speed screaming motorized scamper between two arbitrary places on a map; quietly macho men who go from point A to point B and then admire themselves, and maybe, sometimes, die.



In the Mille Miglia, we cheer for them as they race at more than 200 miles per hour for more than 1,000 miles. Grueling. Scary. And now that I'm thinking about it, pretty darn weird.

Still, I loved the movie. It's romantic and filled with Italian style. The drama is intense. The action is intense. The acting is great, and Michael Mann's directing feels more European than American. Perhaps that's because the dialogue isn't stupid.

Parents: This is a movie for grownups. There's some brief but intensely realistic violence, car crash triggers, and matter-of-fact adultery.

Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

CLASSIFIEDS

30 words for \$15 for 2 weeks

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4 bedroom, 2 bath, single-family home, newly refurbished, \$1650+ Deposit. Call: Lincoln Realty at 707-459-4599.

Spiritual Wisdom on Inner Guidance

Join us for an engaging discussion on Inner Guidance. Come share or just listen. Free books available. Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial St., Saturday, January 13th, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Questions? Contact Joy at (707) 367-3777. Sponsored by Eckankar of Lake & Mendocino Counties.

For Rent

Office space, 200 sq ft, plus great room and shared waiting area, internet available, off-street parking, handicap ramp, utilities included. \$360/month. 707-354-2473

Willits Food Bank Open

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the front office at 229 East San Francisco Avenue, Willits, CA 95490 - knock or leave in the locked mailbox in front. Food distribution is available at the back door on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333.



LEGAL NOTICES

WW467

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0568 The following person is doing business as Dead on the Creek, 26000 String Creek Road, Willits, CA 95490; (707) 459-3015; arborwood49@gmail.com.

Registered owner: John Phillips, 26000 String Creek Road, Willits, CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on October 15, 2004.

Publication dates: January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 2024.

WW468

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2023-F0590 The following person is doing business as Ron's Muffler and Automotive, 850 Blosser Lane, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Loren Luedemann, 354 Coast Street, Willits, CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 1, 2019.

Publication dates: January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 2024.

Marc Komer

Legal Document Assistant

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Advertisement for Bereavement Support Group, including logo, title, description, and contact information for Suzanne Picetti-Johnson.

Advertisement for Intro to Iyengar Yoga at WCA, January 28, featuring Kirra Swenerton and details about the class.

Intro to Iyengar Yoga at WCA, January 28

Intro to Iyengar Yoga, a practice for resilience and freedom, with Kirra Swenerton on Sunday January 28, from 11 am to 1 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Workshop is FREE and donations are gratefully accepted.

Discover how yoga can energize your

body and improve mental clarity, emotional stability, and circulation.

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Presented by the Willits Chamber of Commerce

'THE STATE OF THINGS' A COMMUNITY BRIEFING advertisement with colorful speech bubbles.

State of the State Ruth Valenzuela for Assemblyman Jim Wood's Office

State of the County Supervisor John Haschak

State of the City Mayor Saprira Rodriguez

COMMUNITY CENTER Willits City Hall Thursday, January 18th 5:30PM-8:00PM

Refreshments served - everyone welcome!

Willits Chamber of Commerce logo and address information: 299 E Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490, (707) 459-7910

Sherwood Valley Casino advertisement for 'Gift of the Month' featuring a Black Beanie and promotional text.



Mayor, councilmembers tour Conservation Corps site on East Hill Road

Posted by Willits Mayor Sabrina Rodriguez

On January 3, myself as Mayor, alongside Vice Mayor Gerry Gonzalez and Councilmember Larry Stranske, toured the California Conservation Corps facility set to open late summer this year. The new facility is located at 440 East Hill Road, just west of the bypass and across from Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital,

There are seven dorm-style living quarters, a warehouse, recreation building, education building, and a multi-purpose building, which has indoor basketball and dining and food service. The north end of the property will have emergency vehicle staging, a photo-voltaic array, and a meandering track.

The number of Corps members will vary, with 96 beds in dorms and around 20 in the COMET (Corpsmember Orientation, Motivation, Education and Training) dorm. Staff numbers range as well but probably up to 20.

The facility brings jobs, resources, and more locals shopping at our businesses.

I'm looking forward to a strong partnership with the Conservation Corps. Stay tuned for more posts ("Sabrina Rodriguez, Councilwoman" on Facebook) on what local projects the Conservation Corps has done in Mendocino County. I'll also take a dive into what a day in the life of a Corps member entails.

Thank you to our informative hosts: JP Patton, CCC Director; John Button, CCC Ukiah District Director; Dan Millsap, CCC Deputy Director; and Tony White, Broward Builders Inc. (contractor) superintendent.

Editor's Note: In a December 2022 story about the new CCC facility, Willits Weekly's Mathew Caine reported:

The California Conservation Corps was formed through legislation signed by then-governor Jerry Brown in 1976. Its purpose was to provide education, jobs and training to California youth.

"The CCC mission is to protect and enhance California's natural resources and to develop young adults through hard work and education," explained CCC Deputy Director Dan Millsap. "We're a youth work program



to give young adults in California, 18 to 25, and military veterans up to 29, stepping stones to meaningful careers, more education.

"They can get scholarships while working with us so they can afford and pursue whatever degrees they may be interested in," said Millsap. "Maybe they don't want to go to college. They can become firefighters with CAL FIRE. This unit partners with the Mendocino unit of CAL FIRE. We'll be operating two fire crews, currently staging out of Ukiah, but they'll be moving up to Willits."

At top, left: The new CCC site is set to open in late summer this year. At top, right: Willits Mayor Sabrina Rodriguez, center, with Councilmember Gerry Gonzalez behind her, and Councilmember Larry Stranske, at right, pose with the hosts of their recent CCC facility tour.

Above: One of the buildings going up on the CCC site on East Hill Road.

OBITUARY |

Stanley Joseph Czyzewski, Jr.

Stanley Joseph Czyzewski, Jr., 77, formerly of Willits, passed away on December 19, in the Hartford Hospital, Hartford, Connecticut, after a long illness.

He leaves his wife of 38 years, Linda J. (Lewis) Czyzewski; his two children, Shane J. Czyzewski and his companion Zhana Ortiz of Willits, and Misty A. Czyzewski and her companion Eric Petterson of Willits; and his two grandchildren, Jace Czyzewski and Bailey Petterson.



He was born in Southbridge, Massachusetts, the son of the late Stanley J. and Ida M. (Ford) Czyzewski. Stanley was a proud US Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War and was a recipient of the Bronze Star Metal.

Stanley was an entrepreneur, owning and operating a liquor store in Worcester and later two liquor stores in California. Stanley had a passion for building and went on to own and operate Redwood Valley Construction Co. and later Silver Dollar Construction Co., retiring several years ago.

He was a true outdoorsman, enjoying fishing, trapping, walking and hiking. He also had a real soft spot for animals. For a pick and shovel man, he was a very intelligent self-taught man who loved playing the stock market and was very good at it.

To those that knew him he was a generous and kind soul. Above all he was a devoted and loving husband and father.

A funeral service for Stanley was held on January 6, in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home in Southbridge.

— OBITUARY —

Kathryn 'Kitty' Stephens

April 8, 1959 - December 25, 2023

The family of "Kitty" Stephens is sad to announce her passing.

Kathryn "Kitty" Elizabeth Stephens, age 64, of Daingerfield, Texas, passed away Monday morning, December 25, 2023, at Titus Regional Medical Center. Kitty was born April 8, 1959, in Willits, California, a daughter of the late Virgil and Coleen Royers Carr.

Kitty was preceded in death by her son, Jonathan Carr; daughter, Kimberly Nichol Gilmore; and brother, Larry Carr.

She was a member of the First Methodist of Daingerfield. She enjoyed spending time at the Daingerfield State Park where despite her respiratory issues she would often walk the trails and spend time with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed working in her yard and taking care of her many plants.

Kitty is survived by two sons, Jason Stephens and Christopher Carr; daughter, Jaime Lewis; four grandchildren, Brian Lewis, Keelee Stephens, Tristen Stephens, and Summer Stephens; sister Sharon Short; and sister-in-law Carolynn Carr. She also leaves many other family members and friends who will sadly miss her.

Memorial services were held January 8, 2024, at Reeder-Davis Funeral Home in Hughes Springs, Texas. The family asks that in lieu of sending flowers, you plant one in her honor.

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January 17, 2024

Willits High School
January 18 & 19
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