



# Yes on Measure K

Willits Weekly urges readers in Brooktrails to vote "yes" on Measure K in the June 3 election. If two-thirds of Brooktrails voters agree, property owners will pay an extra \$34 a year on their property tax bills to support the Brooktrails Fire Department.

As many of our readers' eloquent letters to the editor supporting Measure K have pointed out, that's only an extra 9 cents a day to help provide Brooktrails volunteer firefighters and EMTs with the equipment they need to do their "job" and to do it safely.

Taxes add up, true, and, yes, many local districts and jurisdictions are asking for extra help from their residents

to pay for basic services and infrastructure not adequately funded by the state or federal governments in these days of "austerity" for everyday Americans.

But when you or a neighbor needs help from emergency personnel, you need it now. Willits and Brooktrails are lucky to have volunteer emergency responders willing to give up their time and risk their safety to help our community. It's not fair to ask them to work without adequate safety and fire fighting equipment, including a new water tender to fight wildlands fires and residential fires at the two-thirds of Brooktrails homes with no fire hydrant nearby.

One important note: Measure K has nothing to do with issuing bonds: it is a straightforward revenue increase that will go directly to the fire department, with no interest to pay back. (For more details on Measure K and what the new revenue will be used for, see the detailed ad on page 5 of this issue.)

We've heard talk for many years about the dangers of a big fire in Brooktrails. California's fire season is already well underway this year. Let's give a vote of confidence to our Brooktrails Fire Department, and vote "yes" on Measure K in the June 3 election.

EDITORIAL | Willits Weekly

## Firefighters Open House June 7

To the Editor:  
Dear Willits Community: This letter is to inform you that the volunteers of the Little Lake Department Firefighters' Association will be having an open house/fundraiser on Saturday, June 7, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the firehouse on 74 East Commercial Street.

There will be a raffle for all sorts of great prizes: tickets are \$10 each. You can get raffle tickets from any member of the fire department or by coming by our firehouse on East Commercial Street.

The main objective of the open house is for all the people in the community to be able to see their firehouse and the apparatus and equipment. We will be giving rides on our antique muster fire engine to whoever wishes to ride it.

This is also a good time for the association to raise money for future equipment and other items needed by the volunteers. Don't miss the opportunity to attend the open house to see the fire engines and meet our volunteers that make it happen when 911 gets the call.

We will also be selling hotdogs, sodas and chips. Hope to see you all there. We will also have our new fire department T-shirts designed by our own Eric Alvarez: available in kids' sizes, too.

I express my thanks and await your participation in our open house and fundraiser.

Kevin Reedy, president of Little Lake Fire Association

## Grateful for Brooktrails Fire

To the Editor:  
It's a typical Saturday morning, and you and your loved ones are getting ready for your day. It's going to be a beautiful day in Brooktrails, and the kids, grand-kids, or just yourself are excited for what the day has to bring. You suddenly hear a loud thud in the back room and realize your loved one is lying face-first on the ground. You call 911, and dispatch walks you through finding a pulse, starting CPR if needed, etc. You are panicked and beside yourself: dispatch lets you know over and over they have help coming to assist you. Seconds seem like minutes and minutes like hours, your whole life is flashing in front of you, and you are stunned: "How could this be happening?" You finally hear sirens as you hang up the phone with dispatch and run and open the door. Brooktrails Fire is first on scene, rushing to your aid and that of your loved one. They apply an AED and deliver a few shocks to the patient while taking over CPR and delivering much-needed oxygen. You hear fire personnel directing the ambulance to your home (we all know how confusing finding any house in Brooktrails can be).

Finally the ambulance arrives and rushes your loved one to the hospital. You gather yourself and children, if applicable, and rush to be with your loved one at the hospital. The hospital staff assures you that because you activated 911 so quickly and because Brooktrails Fire arrived within minutes and was able to deliver life-saving measures to your loved one, their outcome is looking good.

You may think that this situation will never happen to you: I know, I get it, I hear that all too often. Until the day that it

The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.

**Willits Weekly**  
EST. 2013

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# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

does. Until that day comes where you or a loved one needs a first responder. I cannot express enough how important it is for quick early intervention to aid in saving a life.

I have witnessed Brooktrails Fire doing just this for the many residents of Brooktrails. I have been lucky enough to be able to work with the men and women of Brooktrails Fire for many years now. I have been blessed to witness first-hand how important they are to any emergency situation.

I dislike giving more money away to taxes just as much as the next person; however, Measure K is a little different. Measure K gets my support, and I hope yours too, because it's actually a tax that benefits us as residents of Brooktrails. I never know when I may need the help of our fire department, but I do want the peace of mind in knowing that I will get quick rapid response if I ever do.

As an ER nurse, I cannot express enough how important it is for early rapid intervention in any emergency situation. It is our duty to support our local fire department just as they support us during our most dire time of need. They do extraordinary things, and I for one am extremely grateful for the Brooktrails Fire Department.

Amy Buckingham, RN, CEN (certified emergency nurse), Brooktrails

## WCT seat campaign

To the Editor:  
The Willits Community Theater (WCT) is one of those places that make Willits special. For over 20 years we have enjoyed so many great performances. Now the seats have become downright shabby.

Using the tool of crowd sourcing, your donations can help raise the \$7,500 needed to refurbish and recover these seats. Go to [www.igg.me/at/wct-seats-for-the-soul](http://www.igg.me/at/wct-seats-for-the-soul). If you are not comfortable donating online, please come by the Goods' Shoppe and put something in our WCT collection can. No amount is too small.

How about a group of you getting together and honoring a local community hero (living or past) by collecting \$300 to place on a seat a brass plaque with the name of the one you wish to honor? We are already over 65 percent, and still have until May 29. Thanks to all who have donated. You are the "community" in Willits Community Theatre.

Emmy Good, Willits

## A Huge Thank You!

To the Editor:  
Hello community, I'm Baby J's Grandma Robin Stewart. I want to thank EVERYONE that has been involved in the bake sales, donations, the beautiful candlelight vigil, and everything else that folks have so selflessly given of themselves for our loved ones.

I do not know how I can express my thanks enough for all the love and support the community has shown my son, Craig, and Amanda.

Thank you, again, with all my heart: forever Baby J's Grandma.

Robin Stewart, Willits

## Vote for Tom

To the Editor:  
I'm voting for Tom Woodhouse because, having known Tom over the years and having sought his advice on matters to do with business and finance, I came to notice his keen interest and involvement in civic affairs. Just

one example being his interest in the internal workings of our city government and how people at City Hall are communicating.

He seems to have that rare ability to bring people together. I consider Tom a genuinely wise resource for our community, particularly regarding local business, avenues for finance, supporting our schools, and perhaps most importantly, who to talk to and how to get things done.

I've always been impressed by the way he thinks, his consideration of others, and the importance he places on civility when dealing with others having different values. Tom is a communicator. He listens and speaks calmly with intelligence and has no vested interest but the common good.

And I think I can say he is grounded yet open. These traits are sorely needed on our board of supervisors.

William White, Willits

## Vote for Holly

To the Editor:  
I recently attended Candidates Night in Willits for the 3rd District supervisors. One thing that impressed me was the candidates agreeing to a friendly race. I thought: this is what makes Willits a great place to live and raise a family: people here are friendly. Apparently Hal Wagenet forgot this as soon as the evening was over. The very next day I was surprised to see he had bought a very spiteful ad directly attacking Mayor Holly Madrigal.

I'm a mother and wife, and I work in the schools. Every day I am reminded of the negative effects bullying has on our youth and our society. It's up to us, the adults, to show them there is a better way to get ahead in life and be contributing members of society than by being a bully!

When I am looking for a supervisor, I want someone who knows how to work with others effectively and creatively to find solutions, not someone who bullies others to get their way. I want someone who is honest and caring. We all know Holly, and many of us have worked with her on projects throughout Willits over the years. She listens to everyone's concerns and handles adversity with patience, respect and strength; I admire this quality in her and I trust her.

Over the last 10 years Holly Madrigal has represented us in Willits, and I want her to represent us in the 3rd District. I want her to win it, and win it now, on June 3, so she can put this campaign aside and focus on more important work for us. I'm telling you she is the only candidate that is going to hit the ground running. Think about it.

I am proud of who she is, what she has become, and where she is going. That's why, on June 3, I'm voting for Holly Madrigal for 3rd District supervisor.... Vote for Holly, let's vote for Holly! (You know the cheer.)

Wendy Copperfield, Willits

## Don't judge a dog by its color

To the Editor:  
Recently Willits Weekly published a letter relating an "attack" by an "aggressive" dog, the only identifying information being the dog was brindle-colored. I hope to take a moment of your readers' time to respond to this. Letter-writer Jeanne King seems to feel that changes in Willits, as a result of Prop 215, have made certain dogs more prevalent, especially the brindle color marking. In addition, all brindle-colored dogs are aggressive and trained to protect the crops and local growers, according to King's reference.

Unfortunately, she fails to relate that there are a number of breeds that may produce the

Read the rest of **Letters** | Over on Page 13

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Above: Farm School director Antonia Partridge getting her daughter Flora comfortable on the tractor. Photo by Joshua Tracy

# Grange Farm School:

## training the next generation of farmers

graduates of this program, she can tell you a lot about soil chemistry and plant physiology on a molecular and cellular basis. However, because this popular program isn't a trade school, attendees never change a tractor implement, practice small engine repair, or assemble irrigation systems.

Many of these and other critical farming skills used to be handed down through the generations, along with the family farm. Today, more people like Partridge are coming to farming from other experiences and need to learn these skills. And learn them soon.

Today, according to Partridge, the average farmer is 57 years old, and 30 percent of farmers are older than 65. In the next 10 years, 40 million acres of farmland will change hands as these

farmers retire. Right now, there is an undersupply of qualified small farmers. There are plenty of young people who are passionate about stewarding the land and natural resources while producing food, but few programs to give them the hands-on skills they need to do so.

The Grange Ag School program, located midway between Willits and Ukiah on the Golden Rule Ranch, is modeled after the UC Santa Cruz Agro-Ecology nine-month residential program. This program enjoys a high success rate, as evidenced by the high percentage of graduates who take up work in the field and the popularity and longevity of the program, which has been going strong for about 50 years. Partridge hopes to attract some of the 360 applicants who don't get a spot in that 40-person program each year.

Read the rest of **Farm School** | Over on Page 9



Above: Roadside signs lead the way through the Golden Rule Ranch to the farm. Right: A test garden plot planted this spring. Photos by Spring Senerchia



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# Puzzle Page & More

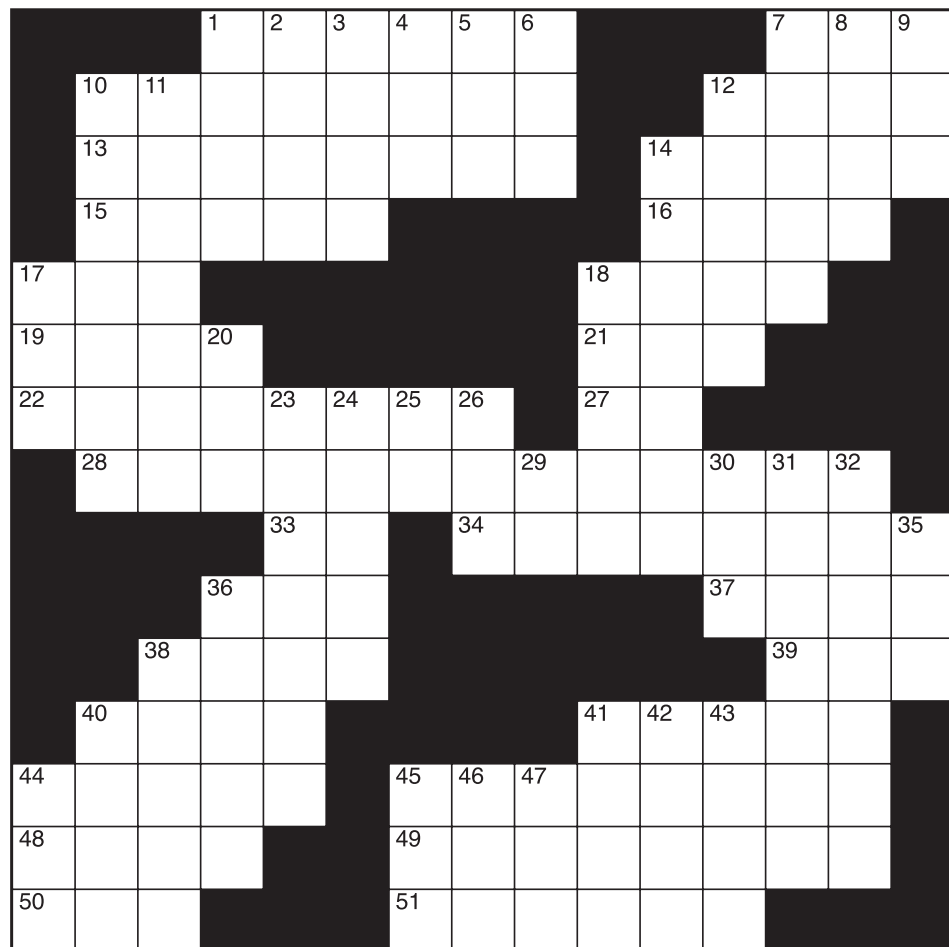
## CRAFTY WORD SEARCH

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A D B R G W Y K A C L P S D T W Y N R O S O V  
N J U N M E R S L P S D T W Y N R O S O V  
W E S G O B S C O A A S O M I R S B M U A  
P Y H I L F W V A E N R Y T I D E R U A K  
O V C E I D W O U B D K T I V R I L L C K  
Y A M D N S V J N Y N G J V S M P C E M  
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B F U K B N H A I L H N E B E R U R G E S  
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- |           |          |           |             |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| ACRYLIC   | CRAFT    | MOLDING   | STRING      |
| ARTISTIC  | CREATE   | PAINTS    | STYLE       |
| BAKING    | DESIGN   | PAPER     | SUPPLIES    |
| BEADING   | DESK     | SCRAPBOOK | TABLE       |
| BRUSHES   | HOBBY    | SEALANT   | VELLUM      |
| CARDBOARD | HOOK     | SEWING    | WOODWORKING |
| CARRYING  | JEWELRY  | SHELLAC   | YARN        |
| CASE      | KNITTING | SPRAY     |             |
| CLAY      | MARKERS  | STICKERS  |             |

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## Crossword Puzzle

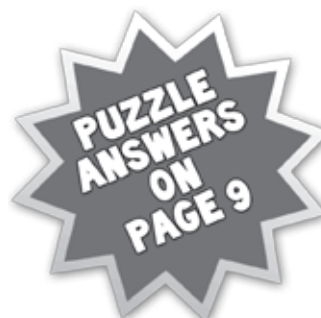


### CLUES ACROSS

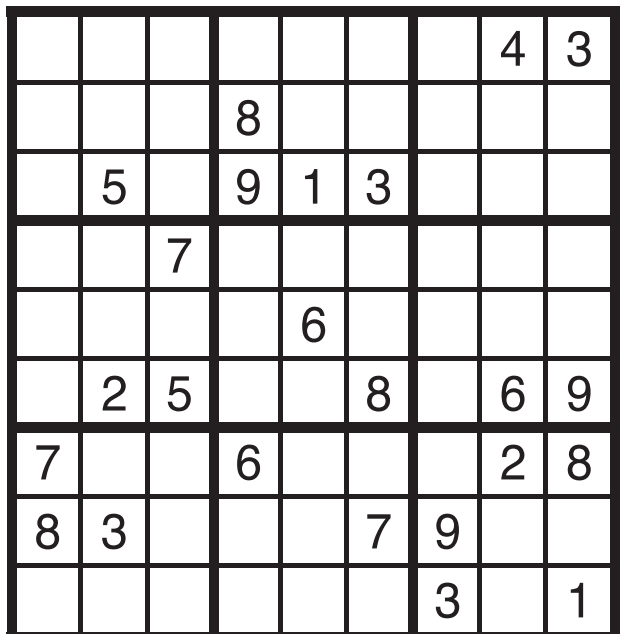
- Admirer
- National security department
- The first State
- Fallow deer
- Flowed over completely
- He had a golden touch
- Blocks
- Muslim call to prayer
- A fashionable hotel
- Greek god of war
- Rended
- Box (abbr.)
- Severe headache
- Common greeting
- Reduced to submission
- Equally
- Briefly hold back
- Woman (French)
- N'Djamena is the capital
- Not kind
- Times past
- Bird of the family Cracidae
- Metric linear unit
- Opposite of LTM
- Father of Psychology

### CLUES DOWN

- Proctologist
- Coat with plaster
- Nocturnal birds of prey
- Airforce of Great Britain
- Before
- Communist color
- Partners with mamas
- Arabian gulf & sultanate
- Cony
- Plunder
- Make bigger
- Dress up garishly
- Gin with dry vermouth
- Opposite of LTM
- Feels ongoing dull pain
- Wilhelm
- Commonly encountered
- Swiss river
- Heavy unglazed drapery fabric
- Community Relations Officer (abbr.)
- Sidewalk material
- A major division of geological time
- Unsusceptible to persuasion
- Nonwegian playwright Henrik
- Empire State
- Ethiopia
- The man
- Officers' Training Corps
- Of an African desert
- Furniture with open shelves
- Yeddo
- Union general at Gettysburg
- Moons of Jupiter author Alice
- Plant that makes gum
- Acarine
- University in N. Carolina
- The quality of a given color
- WW2 female grunts
- Licenses TV stations
- They \_\_\_
- The 13th Hebrew letter



## Sudoku



### 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!

### COLUMN | Relationships



## Five basic relationship needs

When we experience traumatic events in our lives, such as the loss of a loved one, severe health issues, or the loss of our job or home, many of us come face to face with needs that I call basic relationship needs. As a relationship coach I define them as 1. feeling physically (including sexually) safe; 2. feeling accepted for who we are; 3. feeling connected; 4. feeling supported and cared for; and 5. feeling appreciated. I summarize these basic needs in two categories, feeling physically safe and feeling emotionally safe.

Life, however, does not have to be so challenging for these basic relationship needs to arise. We are born with them, and they stay with us throughout our lives. I dare say it is only when all our basic relationship needs are being met that we can be at our best, as can our partnerships and other important relationships in our lives. It contributes to our emotional and physical health.

As an example, a friend of mine wanted to get divorced because she did not feel emotionally safe with her husband. Unfortunately, he was not open to relationship coaching or any form of marriage counseling or therapy that may have helped them as a couple. Too often she had been ridiculed by him for having certain feelings, and too often she had been accused of being incompetent. She did not feel accepted for who she was. Feeling unappreciated and disrespected finally became unbearable. They had daily arguments, and it began to affect her health. At that point, she felt her only option was divorce.

My friend's example illustrates how crucial it is for those of us in a partnership to get our "five basic relationship needs" met. It is not enough to satisfy

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

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### COLUMN | On the Screen



## Film Review: Hotels as film characters

The Eagles had it all figured out: "Welcome to the Hotel California.... You can check out anytime you want, but you can never leave."

Movie producers seem to have the same perspective when it comes to making movies where hotels or motels become far more than setting, symbols or metaphors. In the best of the best, the hotels become visceral characters. Going back as far as 1932, the classic black-and-white film, "Grand Hotel," which featured Greta Garbo, Joan Crawford and John Barrymore, added to the cast of characters a posh Berlin hotel whose walls, floors, furnishings and staff became the film's antagonists. The film is still available through TCM (Turner Classic Movies), and well-respected film critic, Leonard Maltin, gives it a full four out of four stars.

Most recently, American filmgoers were treated to intrigue and scandals at "The Grand Budapest Hotel" (2014), with a stellar cast of Hollywood A-list actors whose performances seemed somehow familiar to those in the original and iconic "Grand Hotel." The new film was both a ratings and box office disappointment, almost seeming to offer up the old adage of too many cooks spoiling the stew.

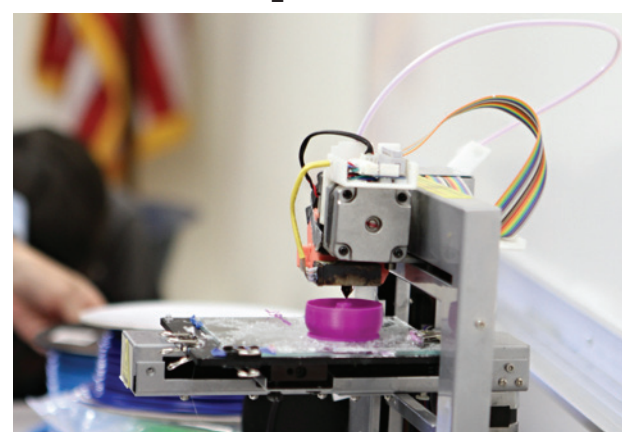
Turns out, it's not so easy to match hotels and humans. Contrast "The Grand Budapest Hotel" with "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" (2011), where the characters in the latter film moved seamlessly among the crumbling walls and porticos of the East Indian relic. In that film, the equally stellar cast pulled their epiphanies out of the failing plaster. Clearly, hotels/motels and characters must work together artfully.

Take "The Shining" (1980) set in The Overlook Hotel, or "Bates Motel" (1960), then reprised for

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

## 2nd Annual Mendocino County Mini Maker Faire

Saturday, May 24, 10 am to 5 pm



The Mendocino County Museum in Willits presents the 2nd Annual Mendocino County Mini Maker Faire this Saturday. The family-friendly faire will feature do-it-yourself (DIY) projects at interactive booths, technology demonstrations, craft workshops, and solar energy demonstrations. Activities that will keep the faire buzzing include jewelry making, a Lego building table, slot car races, 3-D scanner and printer, and even a homemade drone.

The faire will offer a "deconstruction zone," where kids can take apart electronics components to see how they work, and a "Swap O Rama Rama," where people can bring in old clothes and repurpose for a number of uses. Also onsite this year will be the renowned Solar Living Institute from Hopland, to help kids construct and operate solar-powered toy cars and demonstrate baking in solar ovens in two sessions.

**Demos/Workshops 11 am: Solar Cooking Demonstration:** Presented by Solar Living Institute at their outdoor booth, this will be an opportunity for participants to help cook a simple baked good, observe a solar oven in action, and then taste what they cooked!  
**Learn Google SketchUp:** Taught by Addison Moore, this class will introduce people to the free Google SketchUp software. This software allows users to create 2D and 3D images and is useful for drafting ideas, engineering, interior design and anything else you can think of!

**12 pm: Successful Maker Talk:** Ever wanted to know about how to turn your interests into a business? Have a great idea for a service but don't know how to proceed? Come out and listen to a successful small business owner explain how he achieved his successes. Ask questions and get yourself ready to start your small business.

**1 pm: Cake Decorating Class:** This class will teach the basics of butter-cream frosting. **Read the rest of Faire Over on Page 10**



Photos from last year's Mini Maker Faire. Photos by Maureen Moore

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**The Art of Relationships**  
An Evening of Entertainment and Enlightenment  
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Jed Diamond - Author  
Kara Black, Helen Falandes, Clancy Bish (Singing group "Just Enough")  
Cynthia Valle - Painter  
Friday, May 23 7 PM-9 PM  
At the Willits Center for the Arts  
POSTER ART BY CYNTHIA VALLE

**VOTE "YES" ON MEASURE K AND KEEP BROOKTRAILS SAFE**

**WHY DO WE NEED MEASURE K?**

- To purchase a Water Tender and other equipment, that is beyond repair or is unsafe.
- To fund hazard abatement programs, including maintenance of the greenbelt near your home.
- To maintain the Department's ability to respond to medical emergencies.
- To keep our First Responders supplied with necessary equipment for their 200 plus calls per year.
- To eliminate the Department need to "borrow" approximately \$100,000 annually from the District.
- To restore the Department's reserves for emergency equipment replacement.
- Life saving equipment cannot be repaired and some of the personal safety gear is outdated and unsafe.

**WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?**

- A safer home for you, your family and pets.
- A more fire-safe Township with adequate equipment for medical emergencies, rescues and fires.
- Keeping your costs of home insurance down.

**WHY DOESN'T MEASURE K PASS?**

- The Brooktrails Fire Department may have to reduce its services.
- Firefighter personal protective equipment and breathing apparatus will fail.
- Without proper equipment the number of volunteer firefighters will be reduced.
- Fire abatement programs may be reduced and efforts may no longer be sufficient to prevent wildfires.
- Home insurance, if available at all, could rise significantly on your home.

**WHO SUPPORTS THIS MEASURE?**

- The Brooktrails Property Owners Association
- The Brooktrails Property Owners Association Women's Club
- The Brooktrails Community Alliance
- The Brooktrails Volunteer Firefighters Association
- The Revenue Enhancement Committee
- Many concerned residents

**PLEASE JOIN US AND VOTE YES ON MEASURE K**  
to make our homes and Township safer during these challenging times

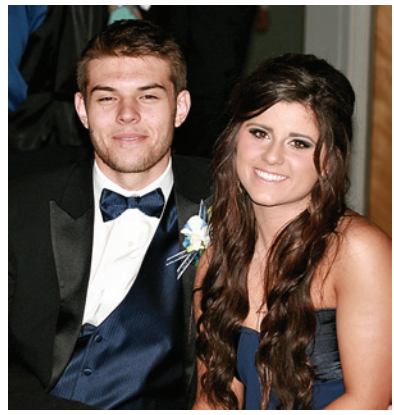
**THE FACTS: HOME FIRE INSURANCE RATES AND THE DROUGHT**  
California is now officially in a long-term drought. Currently Brooktrails has a rating of 5 out of 10 from the ISO (Insurance Service Office). 1 is the best and highest rating. We are now due to be re-rated. If Brooktrails' ISO rating goes higher than 5, then home insurers will view our Township unfavorably and your home insurance could rise significantly.  
**How did the Revenue Enhancement Committee decide on a \$34 annual increase?**  
In 2013, a Revenue Enhancement Committee of residents including those who opposed the last request for an increase in the fire tax conducted a review of the Fire Department's current and future needs, including all of its financial information and the federal and state regulations that affect its operation.  
**The Revenue Enhancement Committee's recommendations**  
The committee unanimously agreed that the least expensive, least disruptive and most beneficial option for the community, and each resident, was to maintain the Department and raise revenue by \$34 per year. This will establish a fund to replace equipment, such as a Water Tender and EMT supplies, maintain the hazard abatement program and ensure that the department is able to work with residents to keep the community fire safe.

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**Prom photos:**  
Far left: top: Price Runberg, Ashley Roach, Shyanne DeMarco, Shiva Patel, Amanda Lauren Mason, Hailey Riley, Kelsey Butler and Taylor Sasso.

Photo by Carolyn Bakewell

At left: 2014 Prom Queen Annie Smith and Prom King Marcos Diaz.

Bottom from left, Prince and Princesses: Sam Smith and Bre Shuster; Ruby Nieto and Carlos Munos Velarde.

Photos by Nancy Villegas

## A day and a night to remember

Friday after school, Willits High School students enjoyed the nice sunny weather at a small carnival planned by the Associated Student Body students. There were lots of fun games, like balloon toss, balloon pop, and a fish bowl.

While some of the students didn't get a fish, others won!

The teachers enjoyed the carnival alongside the students. WHS Principal Jeff Ritchley joined in the fun by getting a "tattoo" from Carolyn Bakewell – the art and yearbook teacher at Willits High School. Thanks to the ASB students who planned such a wonderful day for their fellow students and their teachers: Everyone had a blast!

Then, on Saturday, high school students had a night that they will definitely remember. Students danced under the star-speckled ceiling, gowns shimmered in the light, and memories were made. A couple of freshmen girls and boys enjoyed experiencing their very first prom.

Everyone looked like royalty in their beautiful gowns and handsome suits. Thanks to the Willits High School cooking club students, everyone had delicious snacks and refreshing drinks when they needed a break from all the dancing.

Congratulations to our Prom King Marcos Diaz and Prom Queen Annie Smith, and to our princes and princesses Breanna Shuster, Sam Smith, Ruby Nieto and Carlos Munos Velarde.



Photos by Nancy Villegas

Carnival photos: top: Kalle Shuster gets ready to play a game at the event. Above: Carolyn Bakewell "inks" Principal Ritchley with a marker.

## The rest of Solar | From Page 1

said. Solar panels at the water plant have earned the city checks for a little over \$18,000, he said.

The solar sewer treatment plant is an approximately \$2 million project, with an estimated \$168,000 savings on electrical bills in the first year.

To do more investigating, council members formed an ad-hoc committee of Orenstein and Councilwoman Madge Strong.

Gaia is offering the city a chance to buy its system on pre-negotiated terms from HGACBuy, a government purchasing operation run by the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Water Manager J.C. England said it looks like the proposed site for the panels is in wetlands the city maintains for mitigation.

The Willits sewer plant sits in the valley north of Commercial Street.

"I think that it makes so much sense," Strong said. Erecting solar panels at the sewer plant is one thing she wants to get done in her time on the council, she noted.

The water treatment plant is southeast of town and treats water from Morris and Centennial lakes.

A new emergency water treatment plant will be located near the sewer plant.

Gordon Elton, retired City of Ukiah financial director, works as the fill-in financial director for the city. He spoke to council members about Ukiah's experience with Honeywell International.

"None of it matters if the savings are not actually realized," Elton noted. He said council members and the city need to "understand assumptions before moving ahead."

Gaia claims that getting the city off PG&E electricity at the plant can spare more than 47.3 million pounds of CO2 emissions, equal to planting 405 acres of trees.

To advance with any plans for solar panels at the sewer plant, the city needs to join HGACBuy, finance the project, pen a letter of intent and begin planning with Gaia.

"I think we need to go slowly and do our due diligence on this," Councilman Bruce Burton said.

## The rest of Letters | From Page 2

brindle coloring, and to categorize all brindle-colored dogs as aggressive is an indication of a bias or prejudice, in my opinion.

I happen to be the co-owner of a brindle-colored sharpei. He is very friendly, sometimes too friendly, almost always wagging his tail, sometimes jumping up on new friends in greeting. He is a very loving dog, this being his inherent nature. However, this has never been done in an aggressive manner. His only times of aggression that I've seen is when he is outnumbered by many other dogs in the pack mentality or when he is the victim of unprovoked aggression (due to bias?).

I am concerned this recent letter will contribute to increased prejudice and bias regarding certain dogs because of the markings they were born with, regardless of their specific breed, background or treatment. I would ask your readers to consider the dog itself, and keep an open mind when they encounter any dog, regardless of the markings they were born with. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Ken Roberts, Willits

## Vote Woodhouse

To the Editor:

When I first started thinking about why I'm voting for Tom Woodhouse for 3rd District supervisor, several ideas popped into my head. After considering them I feel the most important one is the fact that he's a really good listener. Being a good listener is paramount in the "Art of Communication" and should be a required aspect of anyone running for public office. How can an official know what his/her constituents want/need if they are unable to listen to them?

I saw this quality of Tom's while attending school board meetings with him. He would touch bases with a variety of people before the meeting, listening intently to what they had to say. Then when he got up to speak, it was from a well-thought-out perspective. Which brings me to another reason I'm voting for Tom – his ability to speak in a public meeting.

When Tom takes his turn during the public comment portion of a meeting, not only are his ideas well-thought-out, but he has the ability to communicate them in a calm, unemotional style: even if it's something he feels strongly about, he doesn't allow his emotions or passions to take center stage. Another important quality in the "Art of Communication."

For years Tom has stayed behind the scenes, volunteering for so many things. He has been on the Site Council for Willits High School even though his children graduated years ago. He has put in many, many volunteer hours for both the Willits Unified School District and the City of Willits. He has worked with the Sheriff's Department Work Release Program, in which he requests and supervises inmates and has them clean up around the city, weed-eating, picking up garbage, etc. He volunteers to help clean up at the Sober Grad Party at 4 am! It is obvious he cares for our district as well as its inhabitants.

I was thrilled when I heard that Tom was running for supervisor for the 3rd District. Please join me in voting for Tom Woodhouse for supervisor!

Joyce Waters, Willits

## Move to Amend resolution

To the Editor:

Last week, the Willits City Council passed a resolution calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to firmly establish that only human beings have Constitutional rights and political spending is not free speech and can be regulated. The vote was 4 to 1.

Willits is the final city council in Mendocino County to pass a resolution calling for a Constitutional amendment. The four incorporated cities in the county, as well as the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, have now all passed resolutions calling for an amendment.

In fact, the Point Arena City Council was one of the first in the nation to pass such a resolution in 2000. The Ft. Bragg

## The rest of Personhood | From Page 1

government – not the other way around," Margaret Koster said. Koster is a local Move to Amend leader.

The city's resolution notes the U.S. Supreme Court has been friendly to corporations in past rulings, adding campaign finance limits were further whittled down in the McCutcheon vs. Federal Elections Committee case.

"Now if money is speech then why am I so poor?" Willits reporter Mike ADair said. "As for corporations being people – I will believe it when Texas executes one."

Willits trailed Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Point Arena and the county in passing a resolution, "but what we are saying is, the people of the United States have the right to regulate campaign spending."

Election results from 2012 state that 24,492 voters cast a "yes" vote for Measure F. The measure passed by almost 75 percent.

"I think [the recent Supreme Court decision] was an activist judiciary mistake," Councilwoman Madge Strong said. "We need to turn this juggernaut around, and it is something we can do; it was passed overwhelmingly by the citizens of Mendocino County."

The measure contends "only human beings and not corporations are endowed with constitutional rights, that money does not constitute speech and therefore political contributions can be regulated."

Willits doctor Monte Lieberfarb said "a constitutional amendment would certainly create a level or more

level playing field."

Tom Mann compared it to clearing blackberries. "It is kind of like blackberries. You have to knock them back a little."

The "floodgates" were opened by the Supreme Court's decision, said Bill White. "This country is becoming more and more like a Third World country – and the gap between the haves and have-nots."

"A corporation cannot go into a voting booth," Bill Barksdale opined. "But people who own corporations can influence votes."

Councilman Bruce Burton did not support the resolution, which passed 4 to 1. Burton said it was his understanding that up to the 1960s about 80 percent of corporate wealth was held in durable goods like welding and tooling. Now it is in intellectual property.

"That was a dramatic shift, and a shift that dramatically affected the structure of the country," he said.

Burton said labor unions have brought state and local governments to the financial edge.

"Money only influences because money influences," Burton said.

## The rest of Water | From Page 1

million. That grant is being reviewed right now, Moore said.

The California Department of Public Health awarded \$250,000 for the project in February.

Moore said last week another CDPH program could award \$500,000 to the city.

Some council members had been concerned the city might have to pay with its own money for the \$2.1 million project.

Councilman Bruce Burton thanked city employees and management for their work.

California Department of Water Resources data shows nearly 32 inches of rain have fallen on the Willits area. Current rainfall has risen from a dire 3.28 inches on the books in January.

"Our reservoirs are full," Moore said. But, she added: "Morris [Lake] is not overflowing as it had been."



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## Congrats Column



**FAMILY | Kara Rodriguez** Kara Rodriguez is proud to announce that she's been adopted by parents Martin and Saprina Rodriguez. Kara grew up in Willits and attends Willits High School. This past two years has changed her life. She plays soccer, enjoys running, and is a member of WHS cooking club. Kara plans to attend college a year after graduation. She has aspirations of working in the nursing field. She is welcomed by her new siblings Esteban, Lorenzo, Alex, Eric and Mariah Rodriguez, as well as Joseph Said. Grandmother Linda Byrns and many aunts, uncles and cousins are excited for her too. The Rodriguez family is thankful to have the support of Kara's biological siblings: Josh McBride, Ashley Green and Matt Maxwell.

Above: Left to right: Martin Rodriguez, Julia Amador, Ashley Green, Kara Rodriguez, Saprina Rodriguez and Alex Rodriguez. Right: Kara Rodriguez signing her adoption agreement.



**NEWBIE | Caleb William McFadden**  
Caleb William McFadden was born May 16, 2014 to Corey and Brooke McFadden. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 15.7 ounces. Caleb was welcomed home by his brothers Marcus and Ty, as well as grandparents Beth Lidster and John and Roni McFadden.

**NEWBIE | Liam Thomas Kelley**  
Liam Thomas Kelley was born May 13, 2014 at 7 pounds, 11 ounces, to proud parents Marcus and Brittany Kelley. Liam joins his sisters Taylor and Jordan, and completes the happy little family.

Look for the Athletes of the Year and 2014 Scholar Athletes in an upcoming edition!



### Baseball & Golf | Jon Montez, 18, Senior

This is Jon Montez' second time being named Willits Weekly's Athlete of the Week.

Jon helped the baseball team extend their winning streak to four games, getting 5 hits in his last 9 at bats. He currently leads the team in overall batting average with .423. Jon also was the number two golfer for the Wolverines at the Section tourney, shooting an 85.

## Athletes of the Week

Willits Weekly is proud to showcase some of Willits High School's Amazing Athletes. Athletes are nominated by their coaches and with the help of coach and project facilitator, Dave Smith. Willits Weekly highlights two athletes each week (three athletes this week!), to share their achievements with the community.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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### Softball | Jordan Willcutt, 18, Senior

Breakfast of Champions: Wheat Thins

Jordan, a senior pitcher, has been a four-year varsity player. In her final week of play, Jordan pitched two complete games. In her two outings, she struck out 14 batters and slammed a homer. She finished her season with an 8-2 win over Kelseyville. Thanks for your hard work at Willits High, Jordan, you will be missed! (nominated by coach Curtis Collicott)



### Track | Matt Foster, 15, Sophomore

Breakfast of Champions: Oatmeal with brown sugar, honey and butter

Matt took first place in the pole vault at the CMC league championships, with a winning vault of 10 feet. His win helped the Wolverines place fourth out of 13 schools in the team competition. Matt qualifies to move on to the Class A Section Championships next Saturday.

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