

## Quick response saves home in Gualala



Wayne Harris is reunited with his dogs, rescued from an upper story bedroom. David Torres photo.

By David Torres

A multi-agency response by the South Coast Fire Protection District, Cal Fire, Redwood Coast VFD and North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District saved a home from destruction on Pacific Woods Road in Gualala.

When Wayne Harris returned home after being gone an hour, he found his residence filled with smoke that was pouring out of the back side of the house.

South Coast firefighters Chad Warner and Artie Bell were the first on the scene, donned air tanks and entered the smoke-filled home to find the source of the fire. South Coast engineers Jim Funderberk and Bob Baker pumped water from their tankers up the hill to the fire-



Multiple fire fighting agencies responded to a house fire on Pacific Woods Road in Gualala on Tuesday afternoon. The blaze was knocked down and a house saved with a quick response team of volunteer professionals. David Torres photo.

fighters.

Meanwhile, the mutual response team set up with South Coast Fire Chief Gregg Warner, Redwood Coast Fire Chief Mike Suddith and Assistant Chief Jason Warner directing fire-

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## Better Business Bureau calls for entries in ethics competition

The Better Business Bureau of San Francisco Bay and Northern California is now accepting "Torch Awards" entries from local businesses. The award honors companies committed to trust and marketplace ethics.

Any for-profit business headquartered in the Bureau's 13-county service area that has been in business for at least three years can enter the 2017 competi-

tion. The business does not have to be Bureau-accredited, but it must be in good standing with Bureau and have at least a "B" rating to be considered for the award.

"The award embodies Better Business Bureau's mission to be the leader in advancing marketplace trust," said Rebecca Harpster, public relations specialist

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## Internet provider to link Gualala to Highway 1 fiber

By J. Stephen McLaughlin  
news@mendonoma.com

An additional broadband option is coming to downtown Gualala, following Anchor Bay Campground's connection to last year to the AT&T fiber optic cable (ICO, Nov. 25, 2016).

Carrier Coordinator Dave Peissner of Giga City Nevada brought SkyFiber Internet of Reno in to connect the campground owners and campers to the high-speed fiber, which has been buried along Highway 1 for years without local access. Peissner told the ICO that SkyFiber is preparing to offer more high-speed broadband connectivity in the area, first to downtown businesses. He said Wednesday that as soon the AT&T fiber is "lit," or activated, SkyFiber will finalize rooftop agreements for local wireless repeaters and sign initial customer contracts.

Peissner said AT&T is expected notify him

Thursday, Jan. 12, with the date of activation.

Garry Gomes, owner of SkyFiber Internet, told the ICO Wednesday that once the fiber

is lit, it should be a matter of about 30 days to install the first commercial customer base.

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## Good news and bad news for Mendocino County road funding

By Brian Park  
news@mendonoma.com

Howard Dashiell, director of Mendocino County Department of Transportation, told the Gualala Municipal Advisory Committee last Thursday that \$2 million is budgeted for Mendocino County roads for 2017. However, road repairs and maintenance efforts are still "grossly underfunded," he said.

"County roads are run down and need fixing," Dashiell said, adding despite being underfunded, at least funding for county roads has not been reduced and Dashiell said he is "happy" with the \$2 million funding level for 2017.

"The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors are doing all they

can and have made up for reductions in state-based gasoline tax funding by giving the Department of Transportation more from the general fund," he said.

The Board decided against initiating a sales tax measure for road repair in 2016 so it would not be in conflict with Measure AG, the Mendocino County Mental Health Sales Tax championed by Sheriff Tom Allman.

Residents can expect that road repair will continue as it has recently.

When asked about the future of Fish Rock Road, Dashiell said the road is damaged beyond chip seal repair and the Department will take

*See Roads...  
Continued on Page 4*

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**Storm...  
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week due to the closure of Highway 1, and with the school closures have come basketball game cancellations as well. The JV boys basketball jamboree has been rescheduled for Saturday, Jan. 21. The JV girls basketball jamboree is rescheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4.

Whether the schools re-open is dependent on Highway 1, according to the School Districts Administrative office.

Horicon Elementary School has also been closed this week, first because of the closure of Highway 1 and then because of a power outage in Annapolis. The Sonoma County Office of Education did not have any information as to when the school will re-open.

**Power outages**

As the ICO went to press Wednesday, Sonoma County reported about 6,000 households still without power countywide. Since Saturday, PG&E has restored power to about 25,000 households in Sonoma County.

PG&E reports only about 900 homes still without power in Mendocino County scattered from Elk to Fort Bragg on the coast, as well as other locations around the county.

**Russian River**

The Russian River in Sonoma County reached

**Coastal Seniors' Community Lunch Menu**

Lunch is served every Monday and Wednesday at the Veterans Hall in Point Arena and every Tuesday at the Gualala Community Center from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Donation is \$8 for seniors, \$10 for others (\$5 for entrée, \$5 for salad bar). Van pickup and meal delivery for shut-ins is available. For more information, call 707-882-2137 or go to [www.coastalseniors.org](http://www.coastalseniors.org)

**Jan. 16 - 18**

**Monday:** CLOSED for Martin Luther King Day.

**Tuesday:** Tuna cheddar casserole, salad bar, fruit, dessert.

**Wednesday:** Chili con carne, polenta cake, salad bar, fruit, dessert.

flood stage Sunday afternoon, prompting Sonoma County to issue advisory evacuation notices to low lying areas of Guerneville and Monte Rio. Those notices were still in effect as the ICO went to press Wednesday.

The river peaked Wednesday afternoon at 37.8 feet, its 24th highest level, according to the National Weather Service, and the highest level it has reached since 2006. A level of 35 feet is considered a moderate flood level, with 40 feet designated a major flood.

Rebecca Wachsberg of Sonoma County said the county estimates about 650 households are impacted by the flood.

The flood also caused sections of Highway 116 to be closed intermittently over the past four days.

**Review...  
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inspired the Hebrews to stand up to Nabucco despite the inevitability of their defeat.

His Babylonian counterpart, bass Sava Vemić as the High Priest of Baal, gave a few anxious moments when he seemed unsure of his position on the multi-tiered staging, but generally sang with authority.

Tenor Russell Thomas as Ismaele, Fenena's lover and the first convert to Judaism, sang well.

The glue to the production was, nevertheless, the aging King of Babylon. Stooped, mounting the many steps of the set with sturdy intention, in the first half Domingo gave us a King perhaps uncertain of his powers. Certainly his voice no

**Broadband...  
from Page 3**

Peissner said SkyFiber's "minimal service" will be up to 10 megabits per second download and 10 Mbps upload, with higher speeds available. Peissner said symmetrical upload/download speed is especially important to business customers, who frequently have large files to upload.

Gomes said the initial feed to the Gualala area would be 100 Mbps, "but we can turn it up to a gig if necessary."

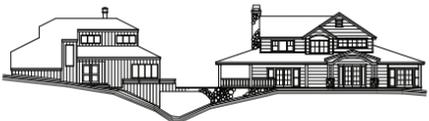
SkyFiber also offers on-line webcams to feed video of highway traffic and weather conditions. Peissner said SkyFiber's video feed of snow condition on Sierra ski slopes are very

longer has the dynamic power to penetrate the ensemble singing at the end of the first act. It was Monastyrsk's soprano that we heard above all the others.

But in the second act Domingo as the aged and impaired Nabucco, temporarily bereft of his reason, sang with such eloquence (and was so abetted by a softer orchestration from Levine) that his audience scarcely breathed. While everyone else sang with strong technique, vocal beauty and conviction, Domingo sang with soul. And the difference was palpable.

"Nabucco" ends with King Nabucco regaining his reason, converting to Judaism and freeing the Hebrews. Not historically true, but then the real truth was told by the king at center stage.

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popular with part-time residents and visitors, and he thinks such real-time video of surf and ocean conditions would be as useful to businesses and visitors to Mendonoma.

In addition, it installs private on-line security cameras for businesses and part-time residences.

But that eats up a lot of bandwidth, Peissner said, and he predicts that within five years, 95 percent of all internet traffic will be video.

To lower costs and increase speed and capacity, Peissner said SkyFiber leases fiber direct to its Las Vegas data center.

Though Gomes said SkyFiber is still working on a rate schedule for its Gualala internet service, he said it would be competitive with other providers.

At last Thursday's Gualala Municipal Advisory Committee meeting, member Lloyd Chasey presented a review of other current local broadband internet access options.

His presentation showed an increasing

appetite for broadband, with the proliferation of new on-line uses. While 1 Mbps may be adequate for email and web browsing, according to his chart, speeds of 10 Mbps are needed for video on demand. Even higher demand is put on broadband by telemedicine, HD TV and remote education, requiring 15 Mbps, according to Chasey, while multiple users and HD surveillance gobble up to 50 Mbps.

He compared current service levels in the Gualala area:

CalNeva Broadband (Central Valley Cable TV) offers residential service ranging from 2 Mbps down/1 Mbps up for \$45 per month, to 25/3 Mbps for \$100. CalNeva's commercial rates are 25/3 Mbps for \$109 per month to 30/5 Mbps for \$200, according to CalNeva. (Dave Ramsey of CalNeva told the ICO on Monday that Chasey's presentation had incorrect info on its highest advertised commercial speed.)

Exceed satellite service for 12/3 Mbps is

\$50 to \$100 per month, based on usage.

Further Reach, wireless line-of-sight from the Point Arena area, is \$70 for 8/8 Mbps to \$200 for 60/60 Mbps, according to Chasey's presentation.

For comparison, Sea Ranch Connect, the homeowner-funded fiber network at The Sea Ranch, will cost users \$72 per month for 50/50 Mbps. Sea Ranch owners pay a monthly assessment to build the network, which only connects Sea Ranch lots.

Chaney said California Public Utilities Commission's standard for "fully served" is 6/1.5 Mbps, with maximum of 150 GB per month.

On Thursday night, GMAC appointed Chasey to be its liaison on the Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County. He attended a meeting of that multi-agency panel on Friday, and told the ICO that newly-installed mayor Scott Ignacio of Point Arena also participated in the meeting.

**Welcome to the Neighborhood!**

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