

### Mendocino County continues faceoff with broadband carriers

By S. J. Black  
news@mendonoma.com  
Mendocino County is opposing broadband carriers' requests for a stay and rehearing after a decision from the California Public Utilities Commission didn't go the carriers' way.

In July 2016, the CPUC held a public hearing with Mendocino County's involvement. The hearing allowed the public an outlet to share their frustrations and difficulties with broadband outages after major outages experienced in 2014 and 2015, a time when residents had reported having power out for weeks in a previous issue of the ICO.

Following the proceeding, the Commission issued a decision in December 2016, ruling in favor of Mendocino County over the carriers.

The Commission's decision required several actions. Among them, carriers were required to report any data found during investigation and data analysis regarding call completion and initia-

tion problems, and to inform stakeholders of these findings.

Carriers were also required to meet in a working group consisting of various communication and safety groups to discuss improving communication between carriers and first responders during emergencies.

However, recently carriers submitted a request to delay the requirements for six months, which the CPUC granted, despite a letter from Mendocino County Board of Supervisors opposing the delay.

Carriers also submitted both a request for stay of requirements from the Commission's decision and on Feb. 3 requested a rehearing of the decision.

Less than three weeks later, on Feb. 22, Mendocino County Supervisors added their names to a letter asking for a rejection of the carriers' application, calling it "without merit."

As of yet CPUC has not responded to the request for stay or for a rehearing.

### Cannabis growers now eligible for PG&E ag rate

While recreational marijuana cannot be sold in California until January 2018, existing medical marijuana growers and future recreational marijuana growers will be eligible as of March 1 for PG&E's agricultural energy rate.

The passage of Proposition 64 in November 2016 allows the state to license and regulate recreational marijuana cultivation and businesses.

"Cannabis is a legal crop in our state, like

almonds and tomatoes," said Deborah Affonsa, vice president of Customer Service at PG&E. Agricultural growers now will be eligible for the same rate and energy efficiency programs as farmers of other crops."

PG&E customers are eligible for agricultural energy rates if they have received a permit from their local jurisdiction for the cultivation of cannabis and if 70 percent or more of the

See Marijuana...  
Continued on Page 9

### Increase in transports gives CLSD monetary cushion

By S. J. Black  
news@mendonoma.com  
Coast Life Support District has driven more transports than ever before, giving CLSD \$200,000 more in ambulance income, according to District Administrator David Caley.

During the board of directors monthly meeting on Monday, Caley said there are currently 35 more transports this fiscal year than in previous years.

The increase in transports is partly due to Sonoma and Mendocino having an older population, said Leslie Tittle. "[The aging population] is potentially going to impact Mendocino and Sonoma County," she said.

17.5 percent of Sonoma County's population is over 65 years old, while Mendocino's is 19.8 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The

65-to-74 year-old population alone nearly doubled in a span of 10 years in Sonoma County, jumping from 27,000 people to 50,000.

"A vast majority of our patients are aging up," said Caley.

But while an increase in transports is not good news for the patients, it has given CLSD a large monetary cushion to fall back on.

Caley said they won't spend the extra money in case they need something toward the end of the fiscal year.

As for the rest of the budget, "We're being sound and disciplined," said Caley, mentioning how the district has intentionally built a rainy day fund. "In case something does happen we don't want to get caught with our pants down."

See CLSD...  
Continued on Page 12

### Environmental package to protect California delivered by senators

By S. J. Black  
news@mendonoma.com  
Several California state senators have created a legislation package seeking to protect California against changes to federal law for environmental protection.

"The Trump administration has launched an attack on science that we've never seen before in our history," said State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, representing District 19. "As someone who's been in this legislation for about 11 years and practiced the California State law and has white hair, it is shocking to me that we need to pass legislation to pass science."

The first measure is Senate Bill 49, or the California Environmental Defense Act, headed by State Senator Presi-

dent Pro Tem Kevin de Leon and State Sen. Henry Stern. It prohibits the California legislature from changing state laws to be "less stringent than the baseline federal standards," according to the bill.

"It essentially says we can't go backwards," said Stern.

The second measure, Senate Bill 50, is the Public Lands Protection Act and was introduced by State Sen. Ben Allen. It prevents federal land from being sold to the highest bidder, providing the California State Lands Commission the right of refusal for any federal land to be purchased or transferred.

A number of prominent members of congress and the Trump See Protection...  
Continued on Page 13

### ACLU 'Resistance Training' to be livestreamed in Point Arena

Marty and Sigrid Hillman will host an ACLU livestream "Resistance Training" on Saturday, March 11 at Pacific Community Charter School in Point Arena. The doors will open at 1:30 p.m., and the program will begin at 2 p.m. "The streaming portion by the ACLU lasts until 3:00," said Sigrid. "They recommend the next hour to be discussion and possible planning time, so it's over at 4:00, or whenever people are ready to go. I have the school rented until 5 p.m."

According to the ACLU, the livestreamed event will launch People Power, the ACLU's new effort to engage grassroots volunteers across the country to "take the fight against Donald Trump's policies not just

into the courts, but into the streets.

"The People Power program will engage volunteers to take action when Trump or his administration trample on people's constitutional rights, whether that means taking action to defend sanctuary cities, resist deportation raids, or maintain Planned Parenthood funding," the ACLU said in its materials about the

See ACLU...  
Continued on Page 23

### Community roundtable on housing set

A small team of graduate students at UC Berkeley's School of Public Policy is working on a project with City of Point Arena staff to analyze and assist in implementing aspects of Point Arena's Housing Element.

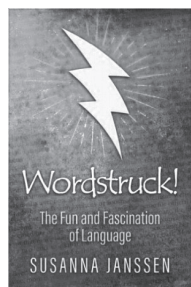
The team will visit Point Arena on Tuesday, March 7, and hope to meet with Point Arena residents to hear their thoughts about the

present stock of housing and possibilities for future development, said Deputy City Clerk Paul Anderson.

A community roundtable is set on Tuesday, March 7, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at City Hall and all interested residents are invited to join the conversation.

For more information, contact City Hall at 707-882-2122 or email pa-admin@mcn.org.

### Four-Eyed Frog Community Owned Bookstore



Join the Frogs for Wordstruck!

4PM Saturday, March 4th

Susanna Janssen, foreign language professor and newspaper columnist, shares tales of words and stories from the heart in her book, *Wordstruck! The Fun and Fascination of Language*.

Treats, goodies and fun with the Frog Folks!



Gualala Cypress Village • 884-1333 • foureyedfrog.com

# ACTION

## TOWN HALL MEETING WITH ASSEMBLYMAN JIM WOOD

Learn what the California Legislature is doing to protect our state from the Trump administration  
1:30 PM SATURDAY, MARCH 4  
THE GUALALA COMMUNITY CENTER



**REDWOOD COAST DEMOCRATS**  
SERVING THE NORTH COAST FROM TIMBER COVE TO ELK