

Deputy who had been looking for him on a possession of a stolen firearm charge.

Deputies had been looking for Lusk since about 7 p.m., according to Sergeant Dustin Lorenzo, when they got information he was in a home in the 38000 block of Highway 1 in Gualala with a stolen firearm.



Jason Dennis Lusk.

They didn't find Lusk there, and began a search. About 40 minutes later, they found his vehicle in a remote area of Gualala

**See Lusk...**

*Continued on Page 9*

er, will be held Thursday Oct. 27, 5 to 7 p. m. at the Gualala Community Center.

Representatives of the three environmental groups suing Cal Fire and Gualala Redwoods Timber will be there with an update on when the lawsuit will be heard, according to organizer Jeanne Jackson.

passed Ordinance 2016-2 on Thursday evening.

The ordinance increases the District's Special Assessment to help finance a new clarifier. Under the increase, residential customers will pay \$278, up from \$180, annually, while commercial customers will pay the greater of \$278 or \$0.0005 per gallon of water used in the previous billable year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. The Special Assessment will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2017, and is in addition to sewer rates. The ordinance adopted by the Board gives them the power to reevaluate the Special Assessment annually in May, and either decrease it or increase it by up to 25 percent of the current amount.

Ordinance 2016-2 is nearly identical to Ordinance 2016-1, which the

Districts that it was cause the D not properly affected property before voting gust, it mailed property owning Ordinance and held a p ing on the last week's m

To prevent from voting ordinance, 50 plus one of t property own District would to file compla several writt complaints and fe business own ing in person did not re where close t ber of compla to block it fro

Rich Tho Gerry Matz press Villa Humber from Inn, and Cine of Kennedy

Paid Political A

## Pomo Acorn Festival celebrated on Point Arena mountaintop

By J. Stephen McLaughlin

news@mendonoma.com

An ancient tradition was brought back to Point Arena on Saturday, when members of the Manchester-Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians held an Acorn Festival at the site of the former Point Arena Air Force Station radar base, on a mountain top about 11 miles out of town.

The ceremony honored that long-time staple food of local Na-

tive American people, the nut of the tan oak trees which grow plentifully in coastal hills.

Bernadette Smith, a member of the local tribe, said the Acorn Festival had not been celebrated here in her lifetime. She was determined to bring it back, and to hold it on the surplus federal land that had been part of the Pomo territory in the old times.

She contacted Mendocino Redwood Company, which permitted



Tribal member Dave Smith speaks to the people at the Acorn Festival about Pomo traditions, before leading a prayer and song. Steve McLaughlin photo.

local Pomos to gather acorns from their timberlands adjacent to the Air Force site.

Just three days before the event was to be held, she finally received permission from Air Force officials, who unlocked the gate and allowed the local tribe access for the weekend.

A ceremonial round house, a circle of wood poles and redwood boughs open to the sun-filled sky, was erected

**See Acorns...**

*Continued on Page 12*

## Go Local celebrates the holidays with Passport event

Go Local Mendocino Coast will celebrate the holidays with the first Go Local Passport Event, but businesses must RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 27, to join in. In November, businesses can participate in this branding event and the Go Local movement. A minimum donation of \$25 buys a business

a stamping location on the Go Local Passport route. The donation will help cover publicity costs for the event and prizes for the grand raffle, to be held at the Lighted Truck Parade on Nov. 26.

As soon as the donation is received, Go Local

**See Go Local...**

*Continued on Page 9*

HEAVENLY SOLES  
141 E. Laurel Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

## Are you turning 65 soon?

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Keep Mendocino  
Vote

Measure

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Measure

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Regulate & Tax

• Repair of County

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ies: Peggy Ber-  
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/Z, Dolly Steffen  
nthouse Peddler,

and, of course, Chris Mc-  
Manus and the ICO, Jenni-  
fer Sundstrom, Sandra Ry-  
der and Pay 'n' Take, Julia  
Larke of Coast Community  
Library and Eric Wilder.  
Lots of folks have been reg-  
istering voters for many  
months: Kenny Jowers  
and Redwood Coast Dems,  
Lena Bullamore, Myra, El-  
len and others. Thank you  
all!

Now, on to our next im-  
portant mission: VOTING!  
The day after the election,  
Nov. 9, we must all become  
activists: for our planet to  
end climate change, switch  
to renewables, stop envi-  
ronmental racism, over-  
turn Citizen's United, end  
all ongoing wars, stand up  
for Native American trea-  
ty, land and water rights,  
for immigrant rights, work  
for better education, single  
payer healthcare, end po-  
lice militarism, terrorism  
and the war on Black and  
Brown people, and for ra-  
cial and economic justice  
and equality, to mention  
just a few.

No matter who occu-  
pies the White House, let's  
get to work now to create  
a more perfect union and  
make our country a true  
democracy for all!

I share a few lines from  
Langston Hughes, (1902-  
1967), from his wonder-  
ful poem, "Let America Be  
America Again":

"O let America be Amer-  
ica again —

The land that never has  
been yet

And yet must be — the  
land where every man is  
free."

Peace & Justice,

DJ Sister Yasmin

Anchor Bay

**Acorns...  
from Page 3**

for the ceremony.

About a hundred  
people, including lo-  
cal Pomos, members  
of several other north-  
ern California tribes,  
and many non-Native  
coastal neighbors  
drove up long, winding  
Eureka Hill Road for  
the celebration.

Preparation was  
part of the process of  
the event, as people  
gathered at the site  
over a couple of hours,  
having cooked some of  
the food for the feast  
at their homes. A fire  
was built in a large  
pit where Bernadette's  
father, Dave Smith,  
would later demon-

strate the traditional  
Pomo oven technique  
for baking acorns and  
venison.

Bernadette Smith  
gathered children to-  
gether to decorate pa-  
per bags, which they  
took into the woods to  
gather acorns.

As she led the chil-  
dren, she pointed out  
the tan oak trees that  
had been killed by a  
technique called frill-  
ing, or "hack-and-  
squirt," to make room  
for more marketable fir  
and redwood timber.  
Their destination was  
an area of untreated  
tan oaks, where they  
gathered bags of acorns  
to take back to the  
round house.

At the beginning of  
the ceremony, Pomo el-

der Dave Smith spoke.  
"Years ago, our people  
gathered acorns for  
miles around. We know  
this is native land."

About the former Air  
Force site on which he  
stood, he said, "We're  
working on getting this  
land to preserve our  
culture."

Earlier, he had told  
the ICO that he hoped  
the Point Arena site  
could again become In-  
dian land, similar to  
the Ya-Ka-Ama Indian  
Education Center in  
Sonoma County, which  
had been a closed fed-  
eral radio installation  
in 1971 before Indian  
activists acquired title.

To the circle of peo-  
ple in the round house,  
Dave Smith said, "Chil-  
dren are our best gift,"  
and he called on every-  
one to "come together  
and teach them."

After he gave a Pomo  
prayer, he said, "Pay  
attention to the rules,  
no alcohol or drugs."

The children then  
joined him in tradi-  
tional Pomo songs, fol-  
lowed by colorful danc-  
ing and, of course, the  
feast.

According to the  
agreement with the Air  
Force, all the traces of  
the Acorn Festival had  
to be cleared from the  
site by the end of the  
weekend, said Giancar-  
lo Ward, who helped  
Bernadette Smith set  
up the event.

**GCS D...  
from Page 3**

not related to the Spe-  
cial Assessment increase  
itself, the Board tabled  
them until the Nov. 17  
meeting, where they will  
appear on the agenda.

Lacking the requi-  
site number of protests,  
the Board unanimously  
approved the Special  
Assessment increase,  
which will finance the  
\$700,000 cost of install-  
ing a second clarifier, a  
concrete settling tank  
with a mechanical skim-  
mer, at the District's  
wastewater treatment

plant. The District needs  
the clarifier to obtain  
the permits specified  
in the Tri-Party Agree-  
ment — a recycled-wa-  
ter agreement between  
the district, The Sonoma  
County Water Agency  
and The Sea Ranch Golf  
Links. But the project's  
original cost estimate  
of \$150,000 for the ma-  
chinery and installation  
fell far below the actual  
cost of \$700,000. To  
make up the difference,  
the District has been ap-  
proved for a \$700,000  
loan, which it will repay  
using income from the  
Special Assessment.

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