

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY March 2024

Jary Stavely and Dorine Real, Editors

Youth Policy Coalition

March meeting ...

Leader of new Northern California youth group will share its vision by Cindy Plank

Mark your calendars and plan to learn more from Northern California Youth Policy Coalition (NCYPC) Chair Bode Gower, who will speak at the League meeting on Tuesday, March 19, at 6 pm on Zoom. The NCYPC is a new,

Zoom from home **Tuesday** March 19 6:00 pm **CLICK HERE** to join

nonpartisan youth organization for 9th-12th grade students founded last December by our presenter, a junior at Ukiah High School. Since its recent beginning here in Mendocino County, NCYPC has engaged more than 50 members from at least six northern California counties. According to its newsletter [see Mid-Winter '24 Voter], the organization's goal is to "highlight issues facing rural communities, engage future voters, organize annual advocacy days at the California State Capitol, and emphasize the voices and viewpoints of our rural youth who are an often-overlooked constituency in the to shed light on the hidden gem communities of California and give

where decisions make a direct priorities of rural youth, we aim to

state. As a nonpartisan organization, we seek to advocate all for all. Northern California is an often-overlooked region that deserves more recognition. It's time those voices a seat at the table. Our main objective is to ensure that the youth voices of this region are heard on local, regional, and state levels, impact on our rural communities. By advocating for the needs and

create positive change that uplifts our region and fosters a sense of representation and fairness for all. Through increased representation and dedicated efforts, we can pave the way for a brighter future for Northern California and its youth." We are excited about an April event in Ukiah which the NCYPC is planning with us. Bode will be able to provide more details about that, as well as about this new organization. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us on Zoom. The presentation will start at 6 pm, but there will be announcements and social time in advance, starting at 5:30. Calendar

In this issue ... March Primary Ballot Excitement Women's History Month March 2 (Saturday) 1:00-3:00 Caspar Community Center **Program Planning Meeting** "Redwood Forests, Their History and Future" March 3 (Sunday) noon **SPACE** Theater Women's History Gala March 4-7 various local restaurants

Utility "Tax" LWVUS News California League **LWVMC Information** Links Click these entries to jump to the article. League board meetings are always open to all members. Current members and other interested folks are cordially invited to tune in and learn how the board operates. The next one will be held on March 12 at 6 pm on Zoom. President's message ...

Youth Policy Coalition

Election, What Election?

Women's History Gala

Irene Malone Coastal News

Seed Exchange

Youth Science Fair

readily fixed with a new ballot (at no expense to the County) sent out. But it did cause a great deal of concern, and ironically, some voted those ballots, unaware of the mistake. Oh wait! Now we find that the 2021 redistricting information was not put into the elections system. So, some voters got the wrong ballots [See

3:00 pm

Zoom LWVMC Board meeting MCOE Office, Talmadge March 16 Youth Science and Engineering Fair March 19 (Tuesday) Member meeting: Northern California Youth Policy Coalition

The public is welcome at these LWVMC events. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Primary Ballot Excitement by Charlene McAllister It was like something out of Saturday Night Live! First the ballots sent to everyone were for Republicans in the First District. Not a big deal, as it was

> story below]. Another snafu and people began asking, "What else?" What does it all mean? It means that in a time when elections are being questioned, this is an example of a situation where people wonder if the results will be correct. We can assure them that the checks and balances that are there will work, but skepticism doesn't easily go away. We reached out with press releases to assure the public that all would be well, but it will take more than that

Ballot Brouhaha Next Tuesday is Election Day. As there have been a number of unusual developments regarding mail-in ballots in Mendocino County, here is a brief

Then it became apparent that there was another problem. As explained in an article in the Anderson Valley Advertiser on February 24, "County officials today

urged voters to check a County website to determine if the Supervisorial District in which they live may have changed as part of the 2021 redistricting process. After the ballots for this year's election were mailed, County officials learned that some voters whose district had changed were not mailed the ballot for their new district. New ballots have been sent to those affected voters. Based on information provided by the Elections Office, it is estimated that less than 300 voters might be impacted. ... To verify your voting district, you can go to the County website located at: https://gis.mendocinocounty.org/portal/apps/webappviewer/ index.html?id=11e075ede3104623aa9458521b32538f. It shows the boundaries of the Supervisorial Districts in which residents reside." (Zoom in to your location or enter your address and zoom out.) Charlene McAllister has given the following advice. "We are certainly in uncharted territory. The League of Women Voters recommends that you vote the

ballot you received unless you are in that part of the county where the district boundaries have been changed. Those people who were affected need to contact the Registrar of Voters and get directions. Now it is time to wait and see what the State recommends. In the meantime, the majority of voters can use the ballots they were sent. If you receive a ballot and you are unsure if the supervisorial candidate is correct, you can call the county with your address and they will tell you whether you need to have another replacement ballot mailed." The County

Voters who have not made up their minds may wish to review the candidate forums which the League held on February 1 and 2. They were streamed and recorded by the City of Fort Bragg. As political events, they are not available on the city website, per se, but they are on Facebook. You can navigate to them through the city website, but the most direct way to view them is through these two links: 4th District Supervisor; 2nd Assembly District. [When you click the links, Facebook throws up a dialog box suggesting that you log in or create a Facebook account to access them, but that is not necessary. You can put the

Clerk's Office can be reached at 707-234-6819, or via email

at mcvotes@mendocinocounty.gov.

Candidate Forums

thereby help keep from having the incorrect ones counted.

review of the situation. First, on February 5 the county elections office announced that, although the sample ballots were correct, a third party vendor had mistakenly sent incorrect ballots (intended only for Republican voters in Supervisor District 1) to each voter in the county. Voters were advised to throw the first ones away, and that corrected ones would be coming, at no expense to the county, as the private contractor would pay for its error. Anyone who had already voted the first, incorrect ballot was advised to call the elections office to let them know, and

dialog box away by clicking on the X (close button) in the upper corner of the dialog box. You don't have to have an account to view them.] Please note the actual debates don't start until about 14 minutes into the recording!] Proposition One Finally, for those interested, the California League has posted its recommendation on Proposition 1 and the reasoning behind it. February meeting ... Program Planning National and local priorities Thirteen League members took advantage of a break in the stormy weather to appear at the Caspar Community Center on February 20 to discuss national and

The meeting was also initially joined by 11

Zoom participants, who tried to follow the

presentation on an inadequate hybrid set

willingly struggled to manage the Zoom

up. Thanks to Darra Williamson, who

portion of the meeting.

First, Jary Stavely reviewed the US League Board's recommendation for its Making Democracy Work® (MDW) Framework. This year, MDW has five parts —Voting Rights/Expanding Voter Access; Improving Elections/Fighting Voter Suppression; Money in Politics; Redistricting; and Abolishing the Electoral College. The LWVUS review of these five areas of focus can be found online. Participants suggested adding more specifics for protecting election officials and volunteers, and providing more resources for rural elections, to the section on

To frame the local program discussion, Dorine Real pointed out the assumption that our attention will be focused on voter service until the upcoming elections,

but that where to focus energy afterwards needs to be discussed. She also

Cindy Plank then reviewed the work which her committee has been doing to involve youth in government and civic engagement, which will also be the topic of the League's March meeting [see story above]. Finally, Charlene McAllister reviewed a list of past local issues of emphasis, which had been written in chart form by Jessica Morton. After some lively discussion, those in the room were invited to distribute three dots apiece next to chart items they were willing to

introduced a list of ways the group can take action on issues.

participants, and translation of our identified interests into action.

Scholarship Fund

improving elections. And also more emphasis on supporting independent redistricting commissions to the fourth section. Peter McNamee pointed out how the Senate's structure itself seems antithetical to the principle of 'one man, one vote' on which the redrawing of legislative districts is based. There was consensus that the Climate Emergency still needs to be included in the national League

work on, and those on zoom were invited to enter theirs in the chat box on their screens. According to dot placements, the top two issues were Housing + Jobs, and LCP Update + Climate, followed by Behavioral Health Services, County Government, and Health Care. Here's to more in-person conversations, more effective inclusion of remote

program.

scholarships to Latinx high school seniors. This year, one of those \$1,000 awards will be called the Linda Jupiter Memorial Scholarship. Please donate to our scholarship fund — any amount will be appreciated by making a check out to our club's new fiscal

Support the Linda Jupiter Memorial

Los Gallitos on Monday, the 4th Mayan Fusion on Tuesday, the 5th La Palapa on Wednesday, the 6th

free, but (their announcement says), donations are welcome. Q & A will follow. Here are some questions which will be addressed in the presentation. • Was the Save the Redwoods League really founded to save the redwoods? • How did Humboldt County timber barons perpetrate the largest theft of federal lands in U.S. history in the redwood forests of Northern California? Just how much logging was actually occurring during the "Redwood Summer" and how does it compare to current rates? • How do our present redwood forests look from space, and how do they compare to the few primary forests still left? • How have forests responded to climate change so far, and what might we expect if change continues? • If we just let all the forests in the world grow, could that stop climate change? 40th Annual - 2024 WOMEN'S HISTORY **GALA CELEBRATION** SUNDAY, MARCH 3 Doors open at noon: Program begins at 1 pm Space Theater 508 W. Perkins, Uklah

POETRY WITH BLAKE MOONS, Peer Liureate of Point Arena and SIDNEY MICHELE REGELBRUGGE, cutpoing Youth Poer Laureate

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DANCE WITH HIGHER SECUND FIP HOP INDUPE.

Community

informational meeting about it will be held at the Caspar Community Center on March 6, from 6–8 pm. Our flyer has more information.

Seed Exchange

at Whitesboro Grange March 10

Second

Garden

by Matt Drewno

Coming to the Coast

Diana Coryat, will be among the honorees. The first edition of their bilingual podcast Nuestro Norte/Our North is online now. More information on the celebration, including starting times, is on the flyer.

We have a <u>new community</u> garden on S. Harbor Drive in I wanted to let you guys know we are Fort Bragg! developing a new community garden in Fort Bragg, a partnership with Thanksgiving Coffee, Bee Bold and Victory Gardens for Peace. We Interested in more information? are looking for families and individuals who would like a garden plot, and support of Join us for a presentation on the space, and introduction to the garden and bring your great spreading the word to make this space vibrant, ideas- we are growing this together! alive and beautiful. The garden is a resurrection of a community garden first established many Wednesday March 6", 6-8 pm years ago by Noyo Food Forest! An at the Caspar Community Center

Voter readers with an interest in resilient gardening may wish to take note of this

Join Xa Kako Dile and the Mendo SeedMobile at Whitesboro Grange, 32510 Navarro Ridge Rd. in Albion, on Sunday, March 10 from 2-4:30 pm, for a

message from the Mendocino Announce List:

both with families and exhibits. More information is available from MCOE. by Jary Stavely Cailey Underhill, of the Solar Rights Alliance, presented information on the upcoming Utility Tax increase at the monthly GRI general meeting on January 28. As reported previously [in the November '23 *Voter*, in an op-ed by regulatory attorney Alexis Wodtke], a sizable increase in fixed fees for electricity was slipped into the massive 2022 budget trailer bill, AB 205, at the last minute. As a result, California ratepayers will have to pay a fixed fee of \$30–\$70 for their electricity in addition to what they pay per kilowatt hour. This is substantially higher than the national average fixed charge of \$10/mo. Although framed as making utility bills fairer to poor customers, the measure will actually burden millions of low income residents with greatly higher bills. The increase in the flat rate will penalize those with small energy footprints, and names as co-sponsors. hall meetings, zoom sessions, face-to-face encounters, and mail. Since the time of

actually discourage energy conservation. The measure is due to take effect on July 1, but Ms. Underhill reported that a bipartisan group called the Clean Coalition is working to get the legislature to repeal the utility tax provision. Two days after the presentation, Assemblywoman Jackie Irwin introduced AB 1999, which would enact the repeal, so the effort now is focused on persuading legislators to add their At least 22 members of the Assembly have already indicated that they feel the measure was a mistake, and shouldn't have been voted on without a more thorough examination and discussion of its ramifications. The coalition, which includes environmental groups, unions, and even the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers organization (though not the California League of Women Voters), is engaged in a campaign to influence each member of both houses of the legislature with town

The US League is preparing to come together both in person and virtually this June for the 2024 National Convention in Washington, DC. Registration for Convention is now open. Members can register here. California League Updates

> would launch a pilot program to place a voting location in jails in three counties, thereby allowing any eligible incarcerated person to register and cast their votes at

Don't forget to check out our 2023 Advocacy Wrap-Up for information about

The University of Southern California's Center for Inclusive Democracy hosted a series of legislative briefings at the State Capitol focused on California's changing electorate. In one, Helen Hutchison, LWVC Government Area Director, provided insights on the opportunities and challenges for California redistricting. The

ongoing work in this second year of the two-year legislative session.

Land Acknowledgement The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County wishes to honor the land we are on and its native peoples. We want to offer recognition and respect; to counter the "doctrine of discovery" with the true story of the people who were already here; to support larger truthtelling and reconciliation efforts; and to remind ourselves that colonization is still

Candidate forums: https://www.facebook.com/mendocinocoastmedia/videos/403680082128495/; https:// www.facebook.com/mendocinocoastmedia/videos/909148150615438/ Proposition 1: https://lwvc.org/ballot-measure/prop-1-2024/no-on-prop-1/

Redwood Forests Presentation Second Community Garden Dine out for LatCo Scholarship Fund March 5 (Tuesday) California Presidential primary election (last day) March 6 (Wednesday) 6 - 8 Caspar Community Center Community Garden event March 10 (Sunday) Whitesboro Grange, Albion Seed Exchange March 12 (Tuesday)

to restore the trust. We will strive to do just that, but after the election. This is no time to create further doubt, and when the election is over, it will be time to ask the questions: How did this happen, and how do we make sure it doesn't happen again? Election, What Election?

local program objectives for the coming two year cycle. Participants agreed it was great to chat face to face over refreshments (featuring lots of chocolate chips), and the program discussion was also lively. Did you try to join the meeting by Zoom? Or did you miss it for another reason? Your contributions are still valuable — send your thoughts to voter@mcn.org and your editors will make sure they get heard.

We are sad to report that long-All of us at LatCo miss our time League member and friend, Linda Jupiter. latino community activist/ song leader Irene Malone Every May since 2018, passed away recently at her LatCo has provided home in Fort Bragg. She will

Coastal News

Irene Malone

be missed by many.

sponsor, Project Sanctuary, and writing "Latino Scholarship" in the memo line. Send it to:

In January the Fort Bragg Unified School District board selected Cristal Muñoz, a City Hall administrative analyst, to serve the remaining ten months of the term vacated when long-time trustee Gerald Matson resigned his elected seat. Muñoz

— from the Advocate-News

was interviewed during the public session along with another applicant.

Hubs & Routes coordinator Jennifer Kreger says the following about a recent article in the Knee Deep Times: "Follow the link to read this beautiful article about the way Point Arena folks are coming together today to plan ahead."

Coastal Community's Resilience Planning

Dine Out for Latco Scholarship

Latino Coalition PO Box 1017 Fort Bragg CA

New School Board Member Selected

The League's sister organization, the Latino Coalition, has honored the memory of the late Linda Jupiter by making one of their annual scholarship awards in her name [See details above]. They have also announced that some local Latinoowned restaurants will be donating proceeds from dine-out nights in March to the same scholarship fund: Angelina's on Thursday, the 7th Redwood Forests Their history and future The Mendocino Trail Stewards are holding an encore presentation of "Ghost Forests—History and Future of the Redwoods, a conversation with Greg King,

> author of The Ghost Forest, and John (JP) O'Brien, Ph.D, Climate Scientist," on Saturday, March 2, from 1–3 pm at the Caspar Community Center. Admission is

> > Women's

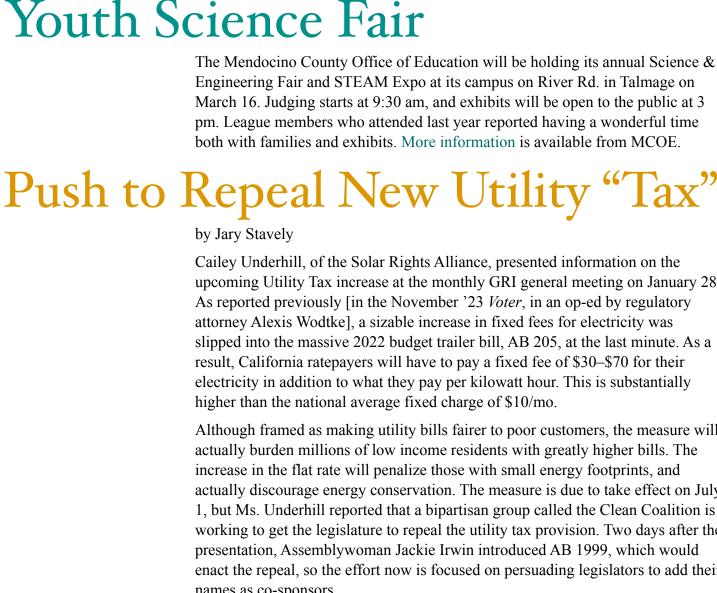
in Ukiah March 3rd

History Gala

HEY! STOP! CHECK THIS OUT!

Looking for a community garden plot?

The Mendocino Women's Political Coalition and the Ukiah chapter of the American Association of University Women are holding the 40th Annual Women's History Gala on March 3rd. This year it will take place at the Space Theater in Ukiah. Local League member Loreto Rojas, along with her KZYX colleague



"This unexpected news has struck all of us at the LWVUS Board and staff with profound grief, and I know you all are feeling it too. We are grieving together as a League community for our beloved leader and friend. You can read our official statement on LWV.org here. A fearless advocate for voting rights and women's rights, Dr. Turner devoted her life's work to impacting meaningful changes in the lives of voters across the nation. As the 20th president of our 103-year-old organization, Dr. Turner played a pivotal role in fighting for a more fair and representative union while uplifting racial equity in the League's mission work. "Dr. Turner first joined the League of Women Voters of Metro Des Moines in 2010 and later served as president until 2015. At the same time, she also served on the LWV Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming copresident in 2015. In her dual roles with state and local Leagues, Deborah devoted her leadership to strengthening relationships between local leagues and the state Board. Dr. Turner practiced gynecologic oncology for 35 years, working directly with patients and teaching students and trained residents in university programs across the Midwest. She participated in a dozen international medical missions and served as the associate medical director of Planned Parenthood of North Central States. ... "The League of Women Voters staff, Board, and Leagues from across the country mourn her loss, and our thoughts are with Dr. Turner's family during this difficult time. We are committed to honoring her legacy by continuing to uphold our values to empower voters and build a stronger, more inclusive democracy. As Dr. Turner always said, 'We will keep on keeping on!" A later message from the LWVUS leadership team adds that a memorial page has been set up, and a recording of her funeral service (Virginia Kase Solomón's remarks begin at 31:42). Happy #BlackHistoryMonth! Let's celebrate the countless contributions and achievements of Black Americans in shaping our nation's history. Remember, Black history is American history and should be celebrated and recognized every day. Let's continue to learn, grow, and

If you haven't already, please check out our new website at lwvc.org. We have also revamped our website for voter education resources--CaVotes.org!

those jails. Check out our support letter here.

panel discussion is available on YouTube.

Redistricting

New Website

By email: voter@mcn.org Message phone: (707) 937-4952 Our website: lwvmendo.org Our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1

LWV Mission Statement The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, strives to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy Links Monthly members' meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88668704998? pwd=QVIraHVmaXBSSkljamNERGNMWW5qdz09

blooming celebration of biodiversity, community, and the joy of gardening! The Albion-Navarro Seed Exchange is more than just swapping seeds; it's a chance to share stories, connect with fellow gardeners, and watch your garden grow into a vibrant tapestry of plants. **What's in Store?** • 2:15—Seed Stories: Share your favorite gardening tips and be a part of a passionate gardening community. • 2:40—Join the Coastal 'Seed Circle: Learn from seasoned gardeners and horticultural experts sharing their wisdom on everything from seed starting to cultivating a thriving garden. • 3–4:30—Learn to clean seeds with screens, browse local seeds, meet new friends. 🞇 Why Attend? • Biodiversity Boost—Diversify your garden with locally adapted seeds. • Cost-Effective Gardening—Swap seeds for free, saving money while enhancing your garden's beauty. • Community Connection—Forge new friendships, exchange gardening tips, and be part of a passionate gardening community. For more information write to mendoseedmobile@gmail.com.

the meeting, several California legislators have introduced legislation to limit the fixed fee, and to protect rooftop solar installation. More information, and a toolkit for those interested, is available. at https:// solarrights.org/utility-tax-post/. Cailey will also provide information personally by phone at 909-610-9768. LWVUS News League's National President Has Died US League President Dr. Deborah Turner passed away on January 28. A letter from outgoing CEO Virginia Kase Solomón written the next day says in part,

uplift Black voices and stories. #BlackHistory #AmericanHistory. 2024 National Convention In the Legislature 2024 came roaring in like a lion! The legislative session got moving quickly and we are working furiously on our priority bills, tracking and assessing newly introduced legislation, and sending letters on bills already moving this session. This year we have added AB 544 (Bryan) to our roster of co-sponsored bills. It

happening. We acknowledge that the land where we live and work is un-ceded territory of indigenous peoples since time began. We are surrounded by the traditional, ancestral territory and current homeland of many indigenous nations. Contact LWVMC By mail: P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437

Northern California Youth Policy Coalition: https://www.ncypc.com

Making Democracy Work: https://www.lwv.org/making-democracy-work Women's History Gala: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xsyH7NJp9s Science fair: https://sites.google.com/mcoe.us/mcoengssresourcepage/mcoe-science-fair? Point Arena: https://www.kneedeeptimes.org/isolated-town-forges-resilience-on-mendocino-coast/ Seed Exchange: mendoseedmobile@gmail.com

34be5bff-59c8-45df-bf3a-672b9216f0c7; https://www.lwv.org/remembering-dr-deborah-ann-turner;

LWVC: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB544; https:// ct3.blob.core.windows.net/23blobs/1be6b73b-0920-447e-b700-dc8e9e30686e; https://lwvc.org/

Dr. Deborah Turner: https://default.salsalabs.org/T520e5682-516e-4b3a-bc15-c7ad92513b6e/

National Convention: https://default.salsalabs.org/Tf1ea0644-28d7-4e56-9db6-

v=qLPhrWLt97E&t=14s&ab channel=USCPrice; lwvc.org; CaVotes.org

County elections office: https://gis.mendocinocounty.org/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?

id=11e075ede3104623aa9458521b32538f; mcvotes@mendocinocounty.gov.

Utility rates: https://solarrights.org/utility-tax-post/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FYbDOraRxA

b11b51145a90/34be5bff-59c8-45df-bf3a-672b9216f0c7

our-2023-advocacy-wrap-up/; https://www.youtube.com/watch?