

President's message ...

Another Mother's Day

by Dorine Real

Mothers' Day was proclaimed in 1914 as a national day for "public expression of our love and reverence for all mothers." But long before that—beginning in 1870, in fact—Julia Ward Howe (the author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic") had campaigned to create a "Mother's Peace Day." Informed by the suffering of the inconceivable casualties of the Civil War, both soldiers and those who loved them, her original proclamation begins:

Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of tears! Say firmly, We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies, our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for carcases and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. ...

She went on to call for a global counsel of women to solve the problem of war.

Reading her impassioned call, it is natural to be shocked at the way we have repeatedly allowed this question to sink from the top of our priority list when it seems a less immediate threat to our own loved ones. A century after US women attained the vote, this question has not been seriously addressed. Our suffragist foremothers believed that with the vote, they could make a real difference in society, tackling issues like slavery, substance abuse, and war. Let's honor them by showing that we "believe in the power of women" to do big things. Let's emulate them by taking on the big issues and creating the world we want our children (and grand- and great-grandchildren) to live in.

BOLO!

There will be NO general meeting in May.

Members, be on the lookout for your Annual Meeting Packet with the agenda, nominations, proposed budget and more.

The meeting will be on Saturday, June 17. The packet should arrive as an email from the LWVWC email list on May 16.

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Calendar

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|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 4 (Thursday) | 4 - 6 pm | John Diederich Center |
| LATCO scholarship party | | |
| May 6 (Saturday) | | Victory Gardens for Peace mini-farm Garden and seed bank tour |
| May 8 (Monday) | noon - 1 pm | FB City Hall |
| Coastal Trail access link walk | | |
| May 13 (Saturday) | 1 - 5 pm | Mendocino College, Ukiah |
| Mendocino College fundraiser | | |
| May 15 (Monday) | | Senior Center |
| Medicare workshop | | |
| May 19-21 (Friday-Sunday) | | San Francisco |
| LWVWC Convention | | |
| June 17 (Saturday) | noon | Caspar Community Center |
| LWVWC Annual Meeting and lunch | | |
- The public is welcome at these LWVWC events, both live and virtual. Please invite your friends and neighbors. Our Zoom meetings all use the same link, so copy it if you wish.*

April meeting ...

The Millsite, an Update

by Jary Stavely

On April 18 the Mendocino County League of Women Voters held a zoom webinar about the coastal bluff property in Fort Bragg known as the millsite. Fifty-seven people attended. Jane Person organized the presentation by four members of community with knowledge about the history, ecology, legal status, and governmental jurisdiction of the property. Representatives from the two parties involved in the current lawsuits over the property, Mendocino Railway and the City of Fort Bragg, were not included as presenters, although welcomed as members of the public. League member Charlene McAllister relayed followup questions from the public at the conclusion of each segment.

George Reinhardt began with a history of the lumber milling operation on the property, emphasizing its long-time previous use by indigenous people. His review, which included several historical photos and lithographs, touched on the importance of the mill to the economic history of the city, and explored the toxic legacy believed to have been left behind after many years of indiscriminate burning on the site to generate power. In his view, a broad-based community effort could rectify the environmental wrongs which have been left. "We must move ... to the regenerative model of a restoration-based economy ... restoring and re-wilding many of the once beautiful places from the redwoods to the coastal bluffs," he stated.

Leslie Kashiwada provided a detailed description of Pond 8 (also called Operable Unit E or OU-E), including how it fits into its surrounding topography and the mapping of toxins found there so far. Her presentation illustrated the vulnerability of the protective berm now shielding it from the ocean, as well as how erosion is already affecting the city's Coastal Trail. She also gave an extensive overview of the plants and animals currently living on the property, as well as maps showing the possible wildlife corridors which could repopulate the riparian areas which are already protected under state law. Restoring the natural estuary of Soldier Bay would, in her view, mitigate some of the inevitable problems posed by sea level rise. Her written summary emphasized that many funding sources are available for helping to bring about the possible natural rehabilitation of the area, that the cost of being environment-friendly is not prohibitive, and would bring economic benefit.

Peter McNamee followed with a brief description of the process under which coastal lands are managed, how the Coastal Commission and the city, even though not property owners, have jurisdiction over how the land can be used. He described how the upcoming Local Coastal Program (LCP) updates will be made up of 2 parts—a Local Use Plan, made up of goals and objectives, and a Local Implementation Plan, a description of how to carry them out. Staff members of the Coastal Commission will address the next meeting of the GRI Vision group to further amplify how the LCP updates will take place, and how the public may participate.

Jim Larson gave a chronological record of the recent litigation involving the Skunk Train's claim to the right of eminent domain—a lawsuit to take a property on Alger St. in Fort Bragg; another to take a property on Hwy. 20 west of Willits; a third lawsuit to take G-P's remaining ownership of parts of the millsite and Pudding Creek; Fort Bragg's challenge of that right and the Coastal Commission's participation on its side; and MR's effort to have that case moved to federal court. A recording of the webinar, which contains many clarifying graphics, can be viewed on YouTube. The April *Voter* contains background on the four presenters, and links to more information supporting the presentations.

Note: The Willits eminent domain case, pending as of the evening of the zoom event, has been **decided** in favor of the property owner.

Earth Day Observed

Earth Day was celebrated on April 22 adjacent to the Noyo Food Forest. A letter of thanks which the organization sent afterwards states: "More than 1,200 people attended Saturday's event and the sun was out. We were honored to have Pomo and Yuki Elder Edwina King open the festival with a moving ceremony, and main stage entertainment by MCD Fred Scott, Lavender Grace and the Honey Hive Ensemble, Keeter Stuart, and 2nd Hand Grass. We hope you enjoyed the day with delicious food, fun activities, aerial feats by CircusMecca, a lively Farm Panel with local farming celebs, 26 non-profits, artisan crafts, informative workshops, mural painting, bustling plant sale, a peddle-powered strawberry smoothie, and so many happy, smiling faces." As a result, the sustainable gardening organization will continue its efforts to promote food sovereignty, and to grow food for the Fort



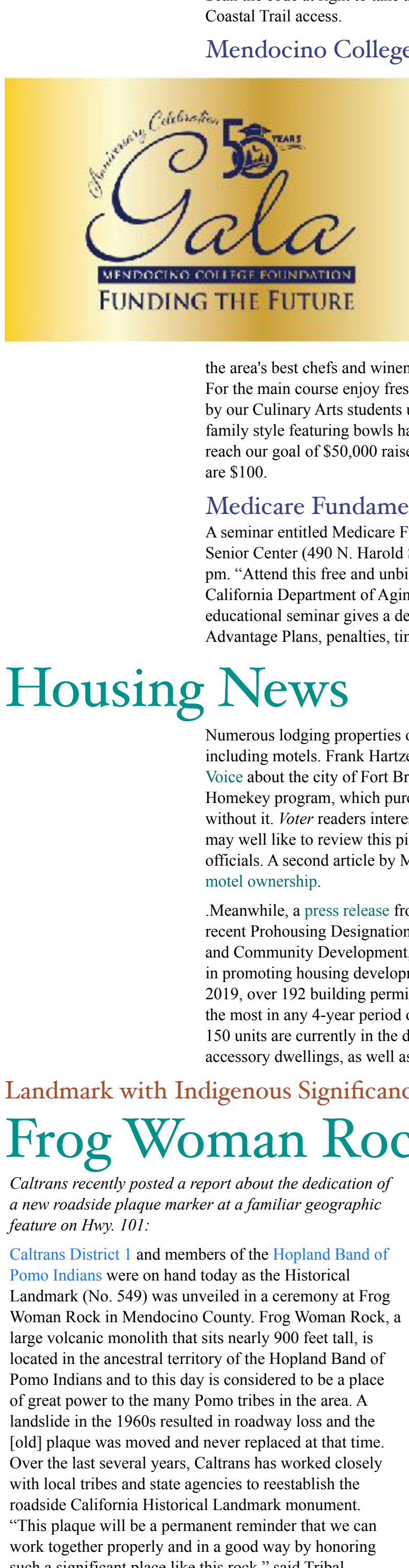
Bragg High School, which has hired a Career Technical Education program in the Learning Garden next year, further expanding Noyo Food Forest's impact.

Morning Nichols sent us this photo from the festivities.

Mendocino County represented ...

UN Convening

on the status of women in the digital age



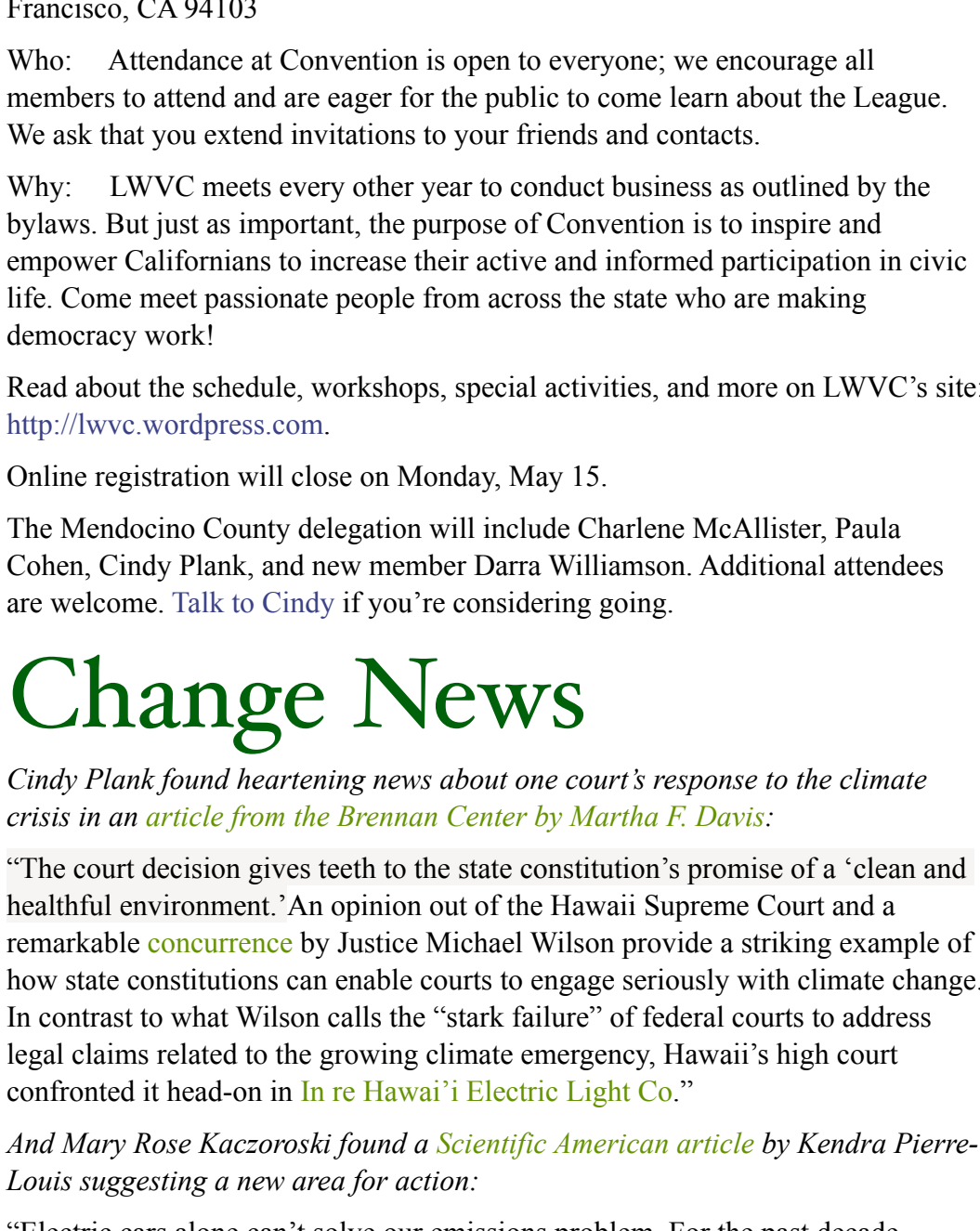
Fort Bragg resident Mary Rose Kaczorowski recently participated in the 67th annual meeting of the [UN Commission for the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#). It was the first in-person conference since 2019. This year's CSW convened under the theme, "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." To report on the conference, Mary Rose joined two other speakers, Dr. Kristen Ali Eglinton and Dr. Susan O'Malley, in a recorded webinar sponsored by the [Mendocino Women's Political Coalition](#) and the Women's Intercultural Network, entitled *Pushing Back the Push-Back Against Women*.

Mary Rose and fellow participant Anya at the meeting

Upcoming Local Events

Latino Coalition Scholarship Fundraiser

It's a 5 de Mayo party on the 4th.



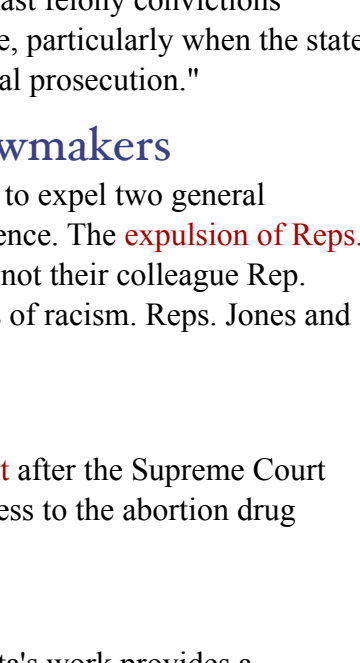
Victory Gardens for Peace

In a letter to supporters, Matt Drewino, of Victory Gardens for Peace, reports, "We have now reached over 1,400 accessions in our community seedbank, thanks to all the gardeners and farmers on the coast who have contributed seeds. These seeds are available to you, for free! Simply visit this link: [FREE COMMUNITY SEEDBANK!](#) (The Passcode is: save-seeds!). We are looking for gardeners who would like to adopt a crop to grow to send to help replenish our collection; let us know if you are interested and we will match you up with seeds that you would like to grow out!" The Victory Gardens website has many more resources, including videos, handbooks, and guides on mini-farming. And on Saturday-May 6 there will be a 5-hour garden tour of the Victory Gardens for Peace mini-farm and seed bank. Registration [here!](#)

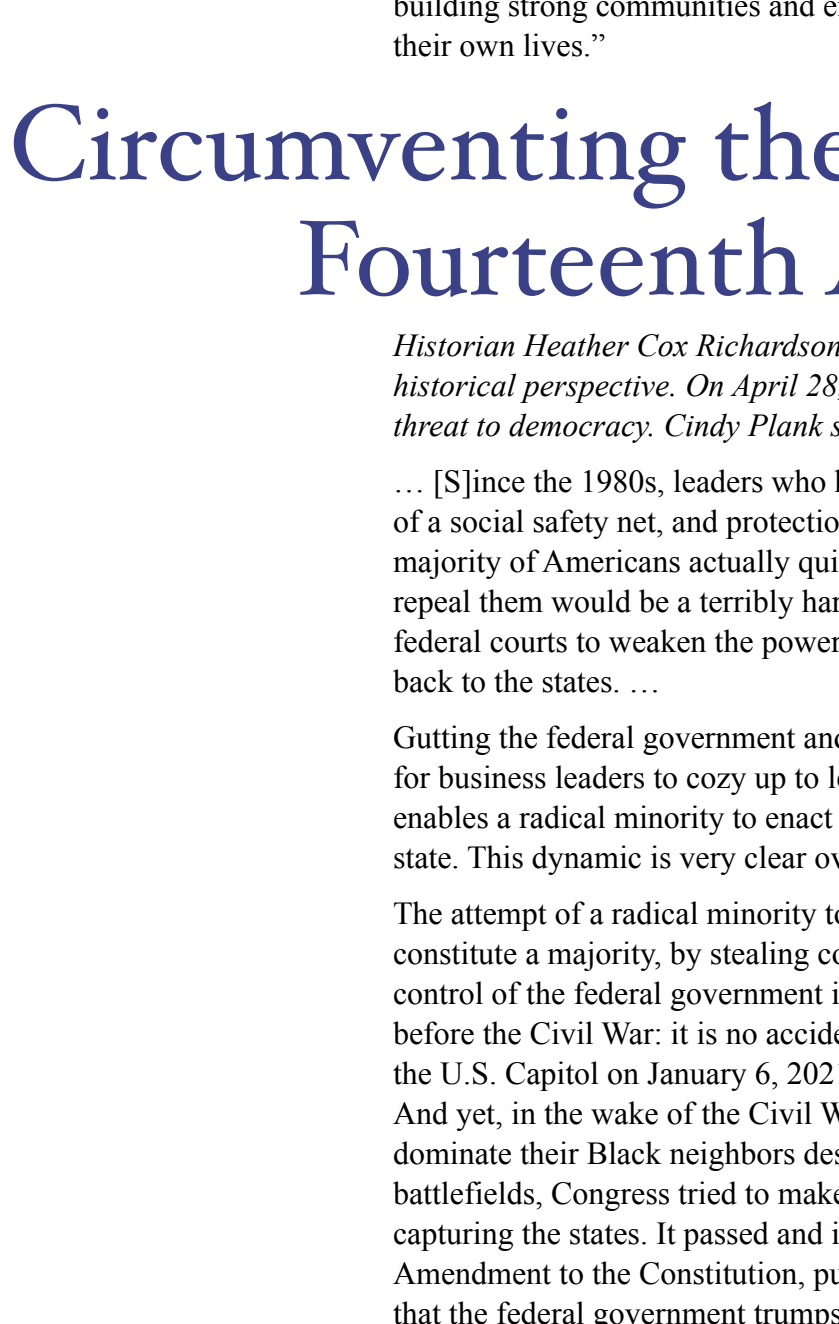
Coastal Trail access link walk

The City of Fort Bragg invites public input on how to connect the Coastal Trail with downtown Fort Bragg on Monday, May 8 from noon to 1:00. Meet at Town Hall. Questions can be addressed to Dale Fortner, Engineering Technician, at (707) 961-2823 extension 132.

Scan the code at right to take a survey about Coastal Trail access.



Mendocino College Scholarship Gala



Mendocino College Trustee Barbara Rice has reposted information about the college's 50th Anniversary Gala celebration on May 13 from 1 to 5 pm: "Back by popular demand after a five year hiatus, this year's 'Golden Gala' is a fundraiser for the Mendocino College Foundation 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund benefiting Mendocino College students. We welcome Senator Mike McGuire as our Emcee, local auctioneer Rachel Louise Britten who will showcase the amazing live auction packages, as well as the always popular Golden Ticket, Wine Pull, amazing appetizers and wine from all the area's best chefs and winemakers—this is an event you don't want to miss!"

For the main course enjoy fresh food grown by our Agriculture students, prepared by our Culinary Arts students under the direction of Chef Nicholas Petti, served family style featuring bowls handmade by our Ceramics Arts students. Help us reach our goal of \$50,000 raised for student scholarships!" Tickets for the event are \$100.

Medicare Fundamentals

A seminar entitled Medicare Fundamentals will be held at the Redwood Coast Senior Center (490 N. Harold St., Fort Bragg) on Monday, May 15 from noon to 1 pm. "Attend this free and unbiased seminar from the agency authorized by the California Department of Aging. Medicare Fundamentals—this comprehensive educational seminar gives a detailed understanding of Part A, Part B, Part D, Advantage Plans, penalties, timelines & more."

Housing News

Numerous lodging properties on our coast have been changing hands recently, including motels. Frank Hartzell has written an extensive article for [Mendocino Voice](#) about the city of Fort Bragg's reluctance to participate in the state's Homekey program, which purchases such properties to provide housing for those without it. *Voter* readers interested in the housing situation in Mendocino County may well like to review this piece, which includes numerous interviews with city officials. A second article by Mr. Hartzell focuses on the recent changes in coastal motel ownership.

Meanwhile, a press release from the city of Ukiah dated April 7 touts that city's recent Prohousing Designation, given by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, to recognize that city's "efforts and contributions in promoting housing development." The press release goes on to state, "Since 2019, over 192 building permits have been issued for new housing units in Ukiah, the most in any 4-year period of the city's modern history. Additionally, more than 150 units are currently in the development pipeline, including market-rate, accessory dwellings, as well as student and tribal housing units."

Landmark with Indigenous Significance Rededicated

Frog Woman Rock

Caltrans recently posted a report about the dedication of a new roadside plaque marker at a familiar geographic feature on Hwy. 101:

Caltrans District 1 and members of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians were on hand today as the Historical Landmark (No. 549) was unveiled in a ceremony at Frog Woman Rock in Mendocino County. Frog Woman Rock, a large volcanic monolith that sits nearly 900 feet tall, is located in the ancestral territory of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians and to this day is considered to be a place of great power to the many Pomo tribes in the area. A landslide in the 1960s resulted in roadway loss and the [old] plaque was moved and never replaced at that time. Over the last several years, Caltrans has worked closely with local tribes and state agencies to reestablish the roadside California Historical Landmark monument.

"This plaque will be a permanent reminder that we can work together properly and in a good way by honoring such a significant place like this rock," said Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Ramón Billy Jr. of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. "You made this real for us and I thank you. We no doubt will accomplish more down the road, but this does make me pleased as I have always wanted to see something like this over at the rock." The parking area for the landmark is located between Hopland and Cloverdale, next to southbound U.S. 101 at post mile 5.2.



Final call for State Convention

What: The 69th State Meeting of the League of Women Voters of California

When: Friday, May 19 - Sunday, May 21, 2023

Where: Hyatt Regency San Francisco Downtown SOMA, 50 Third Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Who: Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts.

Why: LWV meets every other year to conduct business as outlined by the bylaws. But just as important, the purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work!

Read about the schedule, workshops, special activities, and more on LWV's site: <http://lwvcc.wordpress.com>.

Online registration will close on Monday, May 15.

The Mendocino County delegation will include Charlene McAllister, Paula Cohen, Cindy Plank, and new member Darra Williamson. Additional attendees are welcome. Talk to Cindy if you're considering going.

Climate Change News

Cindy Plank found heartening news about one court's response to the climate crisis in an article from the Brennan Center by Martha F. Davis:

"The court decision gives teeth to the state constitution's promise of a 'clean and healthful environment.'"An opinion out of the Hawaii Supreme Court and a remarkable concurrence by Justice Michael Wilson provide a striking example of how state constitutions can enable courts to engage seriously with climate change. In contrast to what Wilson calls the "stark failure" of federal courts to address legal claims related to the growing climate emergency, Hawaii's high court confronted it head-on in *In Re Hawaii's Electric Light Co.*"

And Mary Rose Kaczorowski found a *Scientific American* article by Kendra Pierre-Louis suggesting a new area for action:

"Electric cars alone can't solve our emissions problem. For the past decade Seattle has been growing—fast. Between 2010 and 2020 its population swelled by almost a quarter. Growth is generally good for cities, but it is often accompanied by a dreaded problem: traffic. Yet Seattle managed to avert this crisis, cutting traffic in its downtown by 10 percent and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the process. How did Seattle do it? By turning to an uncommon solution: the humble bus."

U.S. League Updates

Senate Fails to Promote ERA

On April 27, the Senate failed to pass legislation addressing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). "It is shameful that despite the significant advances made in recent history, Americans continue to face discrimination on the basis of sex," stated LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomón. "We must not continue to be a nation that harmfully excludes and marginalizes women."

The ERA will return to the Senate at a future date, meaning you can still [take action](#) to support it.

LWV of Florida Files Lawsuit

The League of Women Voters of Florida and the Florida State Conference of the NAACP filed suit against Florida's secretary of state around issues with the state's voter registration application. They argue that the form's lack of information about voter eligibility requirements for people with past convictions puts thousands at risk of criminal prosecution. Cecile M. Soon, Esq., President of the LWV of Florida, stated, "It is imperative that Floridians with past felony convictions understand whether they are eligible to register to vote, particularly when the state is targeting those who misunderstand this with criminal prosecution."

Tennessee Attempts to Silence Lawmakers

April opened with a vote by the Tennessee legislature to expel two general assembly members for peacefully protesting gun violence. The [expulsion of Reps. Justin Jones and Justin Pearson](#), both Black men, and not their colleague Rep. Georgia Johnson, a white woman, garnered accusations of racism. Reps. Jones and Pearson have since been reinstated.

Abortion by Prescription

LWV President Dr. Deborah Turner issued a [statement](#) after the Supreme Court issued a stay of lower court decisions that limited access to the abortion drug mifepristone while the issue is heard on appeal.

Dolores Huerta Recognized

From [LWVUS Blog](#) on her birthday, April 10: "Huerta's work provides a powerful example of how democracy can be built from the bottom up through grassroots organizing and collective action. She understood that democracy was not only about voting or participating in formal political institutions but also about building strong communities and empowering ordinary people to take control of their own lives."

Circumventing the Fourteenth Amendment

Historian [Phebe Cox Richardson](#) comments on current political events from a historical perspective. *On April 28, she published an article about an ongoing threat to democracy. Cindy Plank shared the link and recommends the full article.*

... [S]ince the 1980s, leaders who hated federal regulation of business, provision of a social safety net, and protection of civil rights recognized that a strong majority of Americans actually quite liked those things and getting Congress to repeal them would be a terribly hard sell. Instead, [they] used their control of federal courts to weaken the power of the federal government and send power back to the states. ...

gutting the federal government and throwing power to the states makes it easier for business leaders to cozy up to legislators and slash business regulations. It also enables a radical minority to enact its own worldview despite the wishes of the state. This dynamic is very clear over abortion rights and gun safety. ...

The attempt of a radical minority to enforce their will on the rest of us, who constitute a majority, by stealing control of the states and then, through them, control of the federal government is precisely what the Confederates tried to do before the Civil War: it is no accident that one of the insurrectionists who attacked the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, carried a replica of a Confederate battle flag. And yet, in the wake of the Civil War, when former Confederates tried to dominate their Black neighbors despite the defeat of their ideology on the battlefields, Congress tried to make it impossible to pervert our democracy by capturing the states. It passed and in 1868 the states ratified the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, putting into our fundamental laws the principle that the federal government trumps state power. It reads, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws," and it gives Congress the "power to enforce...the provisions of this article."

Contact LWVWC

By mail: P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437
By email: voter@mcn.org
Message phone: (707) 937-4952
Our website: lwvmendo.org
Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo/>

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 through education and advocacy.

Sturdy Links

If the link in the article doesn't work, try pasting the address into your browser. You may need to edit out spaces.

Millsite webinar: <https://youtu.be/LDQ50v01eIcg>

Presenters on the mill site: https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg%6Bcurrent-user%63Aog-user-node%63A1%3Atitle%95D/april_2023_f_1.pdf

Eminent domain decision: pressdemocrat.com/article/news/judge-rejects-skunk-train-owners-claim-it-is-a-public-utility-with-right-of

UNCSW: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019

Webinar on Commission on the Status of Women: <https://youtu.be/27JOg82spY>

Mendocino Women's Political Coalition: <https://mendocinowomen.org/>

Community seed bank: <https://www.victorygardensforpeace.com/access-seed-bank>

Victory Gardens for Peace: www.victorygardensforpeace.com

Farm registration: https://johnjeavons.formstack.com/forms/ea_2019_tour_registration_copy

Mendocino College gala: <https://mndocf.ejonline.org/MyEvents/GoldenGala2023/BuyTicketsandTables/tabid/1353717/Default.aspx>

Fort Bragg and Homekey: mendocino.com/2023/03/coast-coalition-properties-are-hot-newsoms-homekey-not-in-fort-bragg/

Coastal motel purchases: mendocino.com/2023/03/motels-inns-hotels-bed-and-breakfasts-selling-at-fast-clip-as-hotel-chains-seek-unique-local-properties/

Ukiah housing: cityofukiah.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-04-07-Housing-Designation.pdf

CalTrans District 1: <https://www.facebook.com/CalTransD1>

Hopland Band of Pomo: <https://www.facebook.com/hoplandtribeofficial>

Hawaii climate decision: brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/hawaii-supreme-court-takes-climate-crisis/

www.courts.state.hi.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SCOT-22-0000418con.pdf; <https://law.justia.com/cases/hawaii/supreme-court/2023/scot-22-0000418.html>

Busses: scientificamerican.com/article/better-bus-systems-could-slow-climate-change/

ERA action: default.salsalabs.org/Te0300859-a6d1-43a4-a41c-ca6803fb4b6f34be5bf59c8-45df-bf3a-672b9216f0e7

Tennessee legislators: default.salsalabs.org/Te7601844b-2e70-4504-a351-3a670c6b5dc8f34be5bf59c8-45df-bf3a-672b9216f0e7

Abortion by prescription: www.lwv.org/.../lww-president-responds-scotus...

Dolores Huerta: lwv.org/blog/dolores-huerta-power-grassroots-democracy

League Links

To join the LWVWC Zoom meeting: us02web.zoom.us/j/82319138585?pwd=ODJQVktRdEJ3eWVWU3MkttGjhwTGU0T09

Mendocino County League's website: my.lwv.org/california/mendocino-county

Mendocino County League's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo/>

State League positions can be found at: lwvcc.org/our-work/positions