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ODYSSEY OF HONOR

Local vets take DC by storm

North Coast Honor Flight warmly received on tour of Washington war memorials

By Clay McLaughlin
For the Times-Standard

WASHINGTON D.C. » Sirens blared and lanes of traffic parted like the waters of the Red Sea as a cavalcade of tour buses careened through the streets of downtown Washington, D.C., on Saturday, led by an escort of police officers on motorcycles.

"You might notice that red lights and stop signs mean nothing to us," Steve Justus of North Coast Honor Flight announced

over the intercom as the buses sped through the city. "Those people out there are going to think you're a bus load of sultans and sultanais!"

Weaving between cars and zipping through intersections at a thrilling pace, the buses were one of the highlights of a trip provided free of charge to veterans participating in the seventh, and potentially last, North Coast Honor Flight. The tour left Humboldt County on Thursday, transporting more than 60 veterans

of World War II, Korea and Vietnam to see the monuments built in their honor. For many of them, this was their first opportunity to visit the nation's capitol and receive a formal acknowledgment of their service.

"This has been an amazing trip," said David Lindstrom, a veteran from Arcata who served as a combat aircrewman during the Korean War. "Seems like I've been too busy working all my life to go any distance from home. So to experience all these memorials was great."

That sentiment was echoed many times on the trip by veterans

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North Coast Honor Flight veterans gathered around a fountain at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Saturday.

CLAY MCLAUGHLIN
FOR THE
TIMES-
STANDARD

MCKINLEYVILLE

SUNNY SKIES BRING OUT PARADE CROWDS



Earl Thomason of Manila waves from his horse Duke Storming Delight during the Pony Express Days Parade in McKinleyville on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY SHAUN WALKER — THE TIMES-STANDARD

Cheers, clapping, candy and more

By Jessie Faulkner
jfaulkner@times-standard.com

Bare arms, shoulders, toes and even an occasional knee made an appearance as temperatures hovered around 70 degrees Saturday for the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce's annual Pony Express Days parade.

Along most of Central Avenue residents and visitors settled into folding chairs, perched on the concrete curbs or sought shade under any available tree to watch the festive promenade.

Beauty queens featured prominently, while wild candy throwing was on the down-low, although at least a few pieces of wrapped bubble gum and sealed lollipops rested on the asphalt waiting to be claimed.

Among the gowned-and-

tiared entries — most riding in convertibles — were Mrs. Humboldt County 2015 and Elite Beauty USA 2015. The chosen gowns were spread across the back of the cars, while the wrist-rotating wave reached levels of Miss America-quality perfection.

Of course, there was rural flavor from tractors to Arcata Bottom 4-H club members to horses — including the Humboldt County Sheriff's Mounted Posse and countless crowd pleasers such as the Shriners' red-nosed clowns in itty-bitty cars, mirror-buffed cars from a variety of decades and the Dow's Prairie Cougars from Dow's Prairie School moving to a lively salsa beat.

Brenda Driver, a 30-year resident of McKinleyville,



McKinleyville schoolchildren dance down Central Avenue.

visited with her daughter, Eula McGaughey of Maple Creek and her granddaughter, Ginny Sedar, 2, while waiting for the entries to arrive. Driver estimated she's enjoyed 25 years of the Pony Express Days parade.

"I remember some of the older cars," she said. "They were outrageously awe-

some."

And, of course, her kids liked the free candy and they horses-have-the-right-of-way aspect of the annual event.

"They got excited by the cowboy stuff," she said.

Public safety led the parade with Arcata Fire Dis-

PARADE » PAGE 3

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Last call to talk on budget, Z money

Board to hear update on Multiple Assistance Center changes

By Will Houston
whouston@times-standard.com
[@Will_S_Houston](https://twitter.com/Will_S_Houston) on Twitter

The Humboldt County budget hearings set for Monday will be the last chance for the public to weigh in on the county's \$318 million budget including how the board will spend the \$8.9 million in Measure Z tax revenue — and a last-minute \$400,000 from the state.

On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors will hear an update on the repurposing of the Multiple Assistance Center in Eureka to improve rapid-rehousing as part of the city's plan to address homeless issues.

Budget meeting

During the two-part budget meeting on Monday, the board will make its final decision on how to spend the \$8.9 million in tax revenue generated by the voter approved tax initiative Measure Z.

Advertised to voters as a way to increase funding for public safety services, the half-percent countywide tax revenue is set come into the county this month with a Citizens' Advisory Committee recommending that the board

BUDGET » PAGE 3

IF YOU GO:

What: Board of Supervisors budget hearings

When: 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Monday

Where: Supervisors' chamber, first floor, Humboldt County Courthouse, 825 Fifth St., Eureka

The full agenda can be found online at <http://humboldt.gov/org/167/Board-of-Supervisors>

What: Board of Supervisors meeting

When: 9 a.m. Tuesday

Where: Supervisors' chamber, first floor, Humboldt County Courthouse, 825 Fifth St., Eureka

The full agenda can be found online at <http://humboldt.gov/org/167/Board-of-Supervisors>

COLORADO
Forecasters warn of more severe weather

The state is in for a few more days of violent storms and unstable weather, forecasters said Saturday. **PAGE D4**

REGIONAL NEWS
Bomb scare standoff in Willits ends in arrest

Police chief: Washington state man in custody likely made bomb threat to attempt "suicide by cop." **PAGE A3**

FUNERAL
Beau Biden honored for life of service

A crowd of more than 1,000 packed St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church on Saturday to pay their respects. **PAGE D4**

LOCAL NEWS
Carson Block Building retrofit at 60 percent

Restoration of historic Old Town Eureka building expected to be complete by year's end. **PAGE A2**