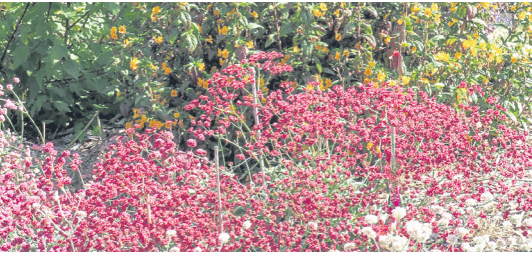


H&G: Volunteers for workday at McKinleyville garden sought. **B6**



Prep football: St. Bernard's fights to win over St. Vincent. **B1**



Election 2026: Hilton proposes eliminating the DMV. **A2**



Times Standard

Serving Eureka and Humboldt County

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FORTUNA

MASSAGE BUSINESS RULES ADVANCE

Police chief reports need for regulations with illicit activities reported at multiple establishments

By Maranda Vargas
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The Fortuna City Council on Monday moved forward with a new ordinance to regulate massage

establishments after police outlined ongoing criminal concerns tied to several local businesses. The proposal would create a registration system, operating standards, and sanitation requirements. Fortuna Police Chief Matthew Eberhardt

told the council the city currently lacks the authority to intervene when unlawful activity occurs, even in cases already flagged by outside agencies. “This ordinance was drafted in a manner that takes local massage

establishments conducting legitimate business into consideration, while providing us appropriate tools to address crime, protect public safety, and make it clear that our community does not support crimes that can be associated with massage establishments, such as prostitution, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking,” said Eberhardt. “I wish I was here tonight saying some-

thing different, but unfortunately, some of these crimes do exist in our community.”

Eberhardt added that a state agency recently addressed criminal activity at one local business, a case now pending prosecution. Still, the establishment reopened because Fortuna has no local framework to respond.

See **MASSAGES** on Page A5

SEPT. 11, 2001, TERROR ATTACKS

STILL ON DUTY, 25 YEARS LATER



Firefighter Sal Argano, Ladder 10, at FDNY “Ten House” near Ground Zero on Aug. 7 in New York. **PHOTOS BY ANGELINA KATSANIS — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

At the NYC firehouse first to respond, Sal Argano is the last still on staff

By Philip Marcelo
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Sal Argano got lucky. When the World Trade Center was struck by hijacked jets Sept. 11, 2001, the New York City firefighter was in Brooklyn, on loan to another station, rather than at his usual post at the small Manhattan firehouse just across an intersection from the twin towers.

He rushed downtown to find his firehouse badly damaged but still standing. Six of its members, he’d

later learn, were among the 343 New York City firefighters killed in the World Trade Center’s collapse. “If I wasn’t sent out on rotation there would have been a good chance I would not be here today,” Argano says. “I think about that all the time.”

Almost 25 years later, Argano, now 65, is still on duty at the firehouse — the last of the firefighters assigned there in 2001 who still works there.

See **FDNY** on Page A6



FDNY “Ten House” firefighters work near Ground Zero, 25 years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Aug. 7 in New York.

COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS

Williams talks stability, programs

Interviews to fill CR president’s role continue through Thursday

By Maranda Vargas
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College of the Redwoods on Wednesday continued its final round of interviews in a nationwide search for its next president/superintendent, holding a public candidate forum with Dave Williams as trustees move toward selecting the district’s next chief executive.

Williams, one of three finalists invited to campus Sept. 8-11, met with the Board of Trustees for a formal interview and spent the meeting outlining how he would lead the college if chosen. Williams currently serves as vice president of academic affairs at Solano Community College and has worked across the California Community Colleges system in instruction, equity initiatives and Rising Scholars programs.

See **WILLIAMS** on Page A5

Oil rises past \$100 a barrel after latest attacks

By Cathy Bussewitz
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The price of oil surpassed \$100 a barrel for the first time since July after attacks on oil facilities and ships in the Middle East threatened to debilitate an already weakened supply chain.

Brent crude, the international standard, jumped nearly 3% to \$100.72 early Wednesday.

U.S. benchmark crude gained 2.4% to \$95.25 a barrel, and U.S. gasoline prices rose sharply overnight.

The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline ticked up 7 cents overnight to hit \$4.22, now more than a dollar above what it cost at this point last year, according to AAA.

See **OIL** on Page A3

Poll: Few Americans trust campaigns, Trump

By Amelia Thomson-Deveaux and Linley Sanders
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Americans are more skeptical of government information than they were a few years ago, with majorities saying they have little or no trust in federal government information about elections and politics, foreign affairs or the environment, a new poll finds.

The survey from The Asso-

ciated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and USAFacts shows that while mistrust of government information has grown since 2024, it’s also higher than it was at the end of President Donald Trump’s first term, underscoring how his recent attempts to dismantle parts of the federal bureaucracy may have affected public confidence in the executive branch, particularly among Democrats.

Those suspicions extend to the

results of the coming midterm elections. Only 34% of U.S. adults trust government certifications of election results “a great deal” or “quite a bit,” down slightly from 40% in 2024. Certification is a typically routine process in which local and state officials confirm the vote count, but it’s become politicized since Trump lost the 2020 presidential election.

Trust in government information has also become more partisan since Trump’s first term, the

survey found.

“It’s pretty hard to trust anything that’s being communicated,” said Shannon Ingram, 46, a Democrat who lives in Maryland, pointing to shifting health recommendations as an example of “questionable” government information she’s seen since Trump regained office. “There is a significant amount of bias, and it comes from the people who are authoring the content.”

See **POLL** on Page A5

UNLEADED GAS PRICES

Fuel and Fun (Blue Lake): \$5.69
Bear River (Loleta): \$6.24
Patriot (McKinleyville): \$6.29
Shell (Eureka): \$6.35
Last updated: Sept. 9, 11:37 a.m.
Source: GasBuddy

BUSINESS

Dow Jones 52,380.66 (-405.41)
S&P 500 7,636.36 (-37.16)
Nasdaq 26,253.34 (-168.07)

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