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Schools offer mental health resources for students, families

By Katherine Minkiewicz
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On Aug. 31, West Side School Principal and Superintendent Kris Menlove was finally able to return to the West Side campus on Felta Road after the evacuation orders for the Westside Road and West Dry Creek areas were downgraded following the continued containment of the Walbridge Fire.

And while Menlove has been working on coordinating clean-up efforts for the campus so teachers can get back to conducting Zoom lessons from the comfort of their classrooms, Menlove has also been focused on making sure West Side families, many of whom were displaced by the fire, have information about community and mental health resources.

"Families on Mill Creek were heavily impacted. A board member lost their home and families have been displaced," Menlove said.

West Side had its first day of school — distance learning style — on Aug. 18, but then had to close for two days on Aug. 20 and 21 due to the fire. School resumed via distance learning on Aug. 24.

"We reopened on the 24th and (in addition to distance learning) are focused on helping families and focused on making connections with other kids," Menlove said.

Before the school year started, a flyer with information on how to help children recover from trauma was sent out to parents in both English and Spanish and the school's psychologist, Matt Park, has been providing helping information for parents on the West Side website (westsideusd.org).

According to information made available from the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), the devastation from a wildfire can be long-lasting and distressing for children.

With wildfires an entire community is often impacted, which can undermine a child's sense of normalcy and security.

Signs of distress can include thumb sucking, bedwetting, clinginess, sleep disturbances, loss of appetite, fear of the dark and regression in behavior for preschoolers, irritability, aggressiveness, nightmares, poor concentration, school avoidance and withdrawal from activities and friends in elementary school children.

In older kids and adolescents, distress can manifest itself as trouble with eating and sleeping, agitation, poor concentration and delinquent behavior.

Since children often look to adults for guidance on how to manage their reactions, NASP recommends a few things parents and teachers can do to help children:

- Parents and teachers remain calm and reassuring.
- Acknowledge and normalize a student's feelings by giving children time to ask questions and discuss the event.

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Raven Film Center closes



Photo Rolie Atkinson

END OF AN ERA — Healdsburg's last movie theater is closing, as COVID-19 claims the Raven Film Center.

Movie theater was a unique place for film

By Katherine Minkiewicz and Rolie Atkinson
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COVID-19 has brought business to a standstill for movie theaters across the country and as a result the Raven Film Center, the only movie theater in Healdsburg, is closing its doors. While the end of the theater marks the reality of living in a COVID world, it also marks the end of a long chapter in the city's history of movie theaters.

The announcement was made late last week that after years of business the theater would be closing its doors as a result of the

pandemic. The nonprofit Raven Performing Arts Theater is not involved with the film center, and the performing arts theater will remain open.

The Tocchini family has owned and operated the Raven movie theater for several years and while the theater has been a place of business, it has also been a beloved gathering place for meetings, film festivals, shows and movies for Healdsburg residents both young and old.

For years it provided a space for folks to share in the love of movies and film, but it was also a space for special life moments and happy memories.

Healdsburg local Jessica M. Alcantar said the theater was where she had her first movie theater experience as a kid.

"I watched my first movie at a movie theater there. The movie was 'Selena,' I was 9 years old," Alcantar said.

Another resident, Rachel Hargon, said the Raven was where she was first introduced to the "Harry Potter" films.

She recalled the time when she stood in line in the pouring rain waiting to get into the theater to see the first film, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" when she was just 10 years old.

Local Rachel Neider, said she also has good memories from her times visiting the movie theater. Neider said she had her first kiss outside of the theater after seeing the Patrick Swayze movie, "Ghost."

Mandy Witte, who doesn't live in

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Couple aims to continue legacy of SHED

Little Saint will feature food and retail, space for music and art

By Katherine Minkiewicz
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San Francisco-based nonprofit Saint Joseph's Arts Foundation and local realtors announced the sale of the old SHED property last week. Healdsburg Compass Realtor Alain-Martin Pierret said the couple who purchased the building on behalf of the foundation is a Bay Area couple who have a residence in Healdsburg and have made it their home away from home.

While Pierret said he couldn't reveal the name of the new owners, he did say that they want to be very "community minded" with the transformation of the SHED into a gathering place for art, music and food, and want to provide something that will be a great asset to the community.

According to Pierret, the new owner is a resident of the Healdsburg region.

"The new concept, called 'Little



Photo provided

NEW LIFE — The old SHED property will now become an extension of the San Francisco-based nonprofit Saint Joseph's Arts Foundation, and will become a gathering place for local food, art and music.

Saint,' is an evolution of SHED's legacy," Pierret said in a statement.

The 10,000-plus square foot SHED property on North Street was listed by Colliers International and Pierret and his colleague Johnny Drake have represented the owners in the

purchase.

The original concept for the SHED was envisioned by former owners Cindy Daniel and Doug Lipton who wanted to create a

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