



Wildcat swimming

.....Page 6

Tuesday

March 13, 2012

YOUR HEALTH

Striving for Imperfection

.....Page 3

INSIDE

World briefly
.....Page 2



7 58551 69301 0
A MediaNews Group NEWSPAPER

The Ukiah

Mendocino County's
local newspaper

DAILY JOURNAL



Wednesday: Rain
H 55° L 43°

Thursday: Rain,
windy H 58° L 45°

50 cents

14 pages, Volume 153 Number 300

ukiahdailyjournal.com

Occupy groups protest bank fraud at county offices

Urging counties to audit foreclosures to find money they are owed

By JUSTINE FREDRIKSEN
The Daily Journal

At least a dozen people stood outside the Mendocino County Administration Building Monday morning as part of a joint protest between the Occupy Ukiah and Occupy Mendocino groups.

Susan Nutter, a member of the Occupy Mendocino's Foreclosure Committee, said the group was urging homeowners to request copies of their Deed of Trust so they can search for irregularities.

One homeowner searching his record Monday said he found three instances where his bank had made

transactions without paying the county the required fee of \$7.

"We want to show that the county has a strong interest in pursuing this -- they are not getting money they should," said Nutter, explaining that the group is not blaming county recorders, because "they have been willfully deceived through falsified and fraudulent filings by banks."

Nutter had 15 requests filled out by homeowners for their records, and said

See OCCUPY, Page 14

Justine Frederiksen/The Daily Journal

Mary McClanahan-Calvert, far right, was one of about a dozen protesters "Occupying the Crime Scene" Monday at Mendocino County Administration building, urging a moratorium on foreclosures.



Occupy

Continued from Page 1

Mendocino County Registrar/Assessor Sue Ranochak had been "very helpful," and was not charging the group "to crank out all these documents."

Prompted by an audit by San Francisco County Recorder Phil Ting that reportedly found "clear violations of law in 84 percent of foreclosures," the Occupy groups said they are petitioning the state Legislature, Attorney General Kamala Harris and county governments to do three things:

- Conduct independent audits of foreclosures for the past five years at every county recorder's office.
- Declare an indefinite moratorium on foreclosures until these audits are completed and the state Legislature passes foreclosure

reform legislation.

- Do justice -- foreclosure fraud by Wall Street investment firms and banks must be prosecuted.

According to the groups, California is the "hardest hit of all 50 states with 20 percent of the country's foreclosures," half of all its homeowners owe more on their homes than they are worth, and by the end of this year, "foreclosures will cost California homeowners and local governments an estimated \$650 billion."

"The real crime is what the banks have done to the whole system," said Nutter. "But right now, we're focusing on the fact that counties are losing money, on top of people losing their homes."

Justine Frederiksen can be reached at udjff@pacific.net, follow her on Twitter @JustFrederiksen or 468-3521.