

KWINE FCC Reports 2 2020

The response deadline for the US Census has been extended to Aug. 14th because of the COVID-19 crisis. Mendocino County was planning to have hundreds of workers going door to door to contact anyone who had not responded to mail invites, but of course all door to door visits have been tabled. According to the U.S. constitution, the Census has to happen every ten years, so it will have to be done in spite of the pandemic so the government represents the people by district appropriately. The census helps figure out how many seats there should be in the U.S. House of Representatives, the number of Electoral College votes and to redraw congressional districts. Locally, the Census Chair of Committee is asking people to respond online. Mendocino County is falling behind by about 8% in reporting for the Census. Ukiah is just over 1% behind.

04/01/20

The bus service going to Santa Rosa has been put on hold by the Mendocino Transit Authority to try to help stop the spread of coronavirus. The Daily Journal reports regional bus #65 from Fort Bragg to Willits, Ukiah and finally to Santa Rosa is going only as far as Hopland. And the same route to Santa Rosa is discontinued during the state's shelter-in-place order. And bus #95 on the south Mendocino coast from Point Arena to Gualala and to Santa Rosa is also discontinued while we have the order to shelter-in-place. The MTA's route #75 bus is continuing for south Mendocino coast residents Monday through Friday from Gualala north to Navarro and through Anderson Valley to Ukiah. There is Saturday service from the Navarro Store to Ukiah and back only.

There a new relief fund set up in Mendocino County for those affected by coronavirus. The Community Foundation of Mendocino County reports with the help of donors, they have a new COVID-19 Relief Fund. A \$100,000 gift from the Community Foundation from the Disaster Fund. Other donors include Jim and Arlene Moorehead, Sonoma Clean Power, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, and the Poseley and Allende Families. So far the new fund has raised \$206,000. They were trying to get to \$250,000, but now say they'd like to get to \$300,000. The fund looking to reach up to 55 percent of Mendocino County who may not have the resources to get through because of financial impacts of long-term business and school closures.

A fire breaks out and totally destroys a home in Hopland. The Fire Dept. reports getting a call yesterday morning about an explosion, then fire in the McNab Ranch area. There they found the home fully involved, calling it a total loss. The Fire Chief says they were however able to save the home next door. They're trying to figure out how the fire started, but the chief says it does not appear to be suspicious. All of those in the home evacuated safely and no injuries were reported.

3,500 inmates are expected to be released early since they're about to be paroled. The state is trying to make room in over-crowded prisons due to the pandemic. The Governor also announced no intakes from jails which should lower the population over the next month by about 3,000. Those being released are within 2 months of the earliest possible release and are not behind bars for a violent or sex crime. The inmates will first be screened for medical or mental health problems and that they can find somewhere to place them in the community. So they are not guaranteed.

The Governor says working hard to keep people at home has helped prepare for an expected peak surge of COVID-19 cases. The Governor says the peak of cases has not come when expected, but he didn't say whether that meant there would just be a lower amount of cases. A current model shows the state's hitting the lower numbers of earlier projections. But Newsom says that could all change in a day, so that's why we need to be cautious. The state's trying to get 50,000 more hospital beds on top of the 75,000 on hand now so there's enough room if there is a peak surge.

A telephone town hall is being held by State Sen. Mike McGuire. Tonight at 6:30 p.m. McGuire's district will get the latest update on coronavirus. He says they're working with all levels of government to make sure there's a unified response to the pandemic on the North Coast and that the community's needs are met.

Who: Senator Mike McGuire, along with Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity county public health officials and a University of California physician focused on infectious diseases.

When: WEDNESDAY, April 1 at 6:30 p.m.

How to attend: Dial 844-767-5679, enter code 204015 and follow the prom

How to ask a question and get involved with the Town Hall: Email your

Stay up to date on coronavirus efforts across the state and here at home via the California COVID-19 response website (<https://covid19.ca.gov>), the County of Humboldt's web page (<https://humboldt.gov>), the County of Del Norte's web page (<http://www.co.del-norte.ca.us>) and the County of Trinity's web page (<https://www.trinitycounty.org/COVID-19>).

Another town hall for the North Coast, this one tomorrow with Congressman Mike Thompson on Facebook Live. Thompson's office says he'll be answering questions about the response by the federal government on COVID-19. It's happening Thursday on the Congressman's Facebook page from 7 to 8 p.m. Thompson will answer questions submitted on Facebook, by mail and over the phone from constituents. He's inviting all of his constituents from California's Fifth Congressional District and members of the press. His district covers all or part of Contra Costa, Lake, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties.

There's a new callout from the governor about COVID-19, he's created a campaign, called "Stay Home. Save Lives. Check In". It's a way to make sure older Californians who are isolating alone at home and may not have enough food, have someone checking in on them. The Governor says "no older Californian should be forced to go outside to get groceries or their medication." So he wants neighbors and friends to check on older adults in our lives and help them during the pandemic. The campaign urges checking in with those 65 or older with a call, text or physically-distanced door knock to be sure they're ok. The state also wants local non-profits and faith-based organizations to do the same for seniors in their networks. There's also a new hotline 833-544-2374 – in coordination with the non-profit local 2-1-1 systems.

The first confirmed death from coronavirus announced in Napa County. It happened yesterday, an adult patient, which is all they are saying, until they notify the patient's immediately family. The Napa County Public Health officer says now more than ever's the time to "practice physical distancing, and if we are sick, even with mild illness, make every effort to self-isolate from others and follow the shelter at home order." There have been 15 COVID-19 cases in Napa County, 4 in Mendocino County and zero in Lake. The latest info we have on other neighboring Counties, Colusa with one, Glenn has two, Sonoma has 78 cases and one death, and Yolo has 24 and one death.

New provisions to the shelter at home order in Sonoma County. Residents and businesses have to continue staying at home at least another month, but now there are some allowances for folks who are still rebuilding after wildfires devastated their neighborhoods. Construction work related to healthcare, affordable housing, temporary housing, critical services, public works projects and some limited residential and business repair projects are allowed, short-term vacation rentals are not allowed and there has to be more strengthening of social distancing on businesses allowed to stay open. This all comes from the County Health Officer after the announcement that all schools statewide probably wouldn't open again this school year. The extended order covers several other Bay Area counties — Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer has previously said that she also tries to stay in alignment with the big Bay Area counties and speaks with those public health officers daily.

Schools out for summer. Well, not exactly, but the state's shelter in place directive doesn't seem to be letting up, at least until April 30th by federal guidelines. Lake County's Health Services Department says they're in regular communication with the Superintendent of Schools and other educational partners and according to EdSource, we should anticipate schools staying closed until May 1st because of COVID-19. EdSource has done a review of the largest districts in the state who say they're closed through May 1st. Some say they're sticking with virtual classrooms thru the end of the school year. Since there wasn't much solid health information at the time of the announced closures, the dates were in flex. Schools that have earlier dates to reopen are now stuck deciding what to do.

Lake County has a new quarantine and recovery site planned at the Lake County Fairgrounds, but there are still no cases of COVID-19 in the County. But it's part of the governor's state of emergency declaration. The Lake County Public Health Officer told the Board of Supervisors there's a shortage of tests, something that's been occurring across the country. Dr. Gary Pace says his agency is setting up a contact tracing team, to be in touch with anyone who may have come into contact with positive cases. They're also working on an isolation team to work with patients who will also be allowed to isolate at home, but if they can't the county will have sites where they can stay, like at the Fairgrounds. The state is reportedly paying for RVs to be set up at the fairgrounds. And if needed the county could use some of the fairgrounds buildings.

Police in Fort Bragg have arrested a man they say is connected to the stabbing of another man. Someone called 911 to say he had just stabbed someone else. Officers went to the scene finding the victim with a stab wound to his neck. They say Shiloh Alonso was near the scene so they detained him and starting lifesaving medical aid for the victim. An ambulance came to the scene and helped stabilize the victim. Coast Ambulance met directly with a REACH helicopter to airlift the victim to a trauma hospital in Sonoma County. Police are still investigating the motive for the assault and arrested Alonso on various charges including attempted murder and booked him into Mendocino County Jail.

The first ticket's been handed out in Lakeport for someone found to be in violation of the shelter in place order. Lake Co News reports the countywide order was put into place March 19th to protect residents against coronavirus spread. It means you must stay at home unless you need to leave for essential activities like shopping for food or going to the doctor or getting meds. There is no congregating in public places. Police in Lakeport say they've been spending time reminding businesses about the order. But a resident, Robin Gonsalves was handed a ticket after a complaint about someone getting into an argument by the Lake County Courthouse. When a police officer got there they found Gonsalves sitting in the parking lot

04/02/20 drinking wine out of a plastic cup.

Another emergency ordinance passed by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors so officials can hand out tickets to people not following COVID-19 social distancing orders. The Shelter in Place order came 2 weeks ago so that you can only leave your home for essential activities and the Sheriff was given authority to make sure residents were complying. The new ordinance says you can be cited for violating or disobeying orders related to the shelter in place connected to COVID-19. There are possible fines for violators. They will have a 24 hour notice to abate and if they continue to violate the order they will get an Administrative Citation with a civil penalty of no more than \$500. But there's also a civil penalty for any violation for a business that could reach as high as \$10,000. The money due immediately with up to 90 days for an appeal.

Some in Ukiah hoping the Streetscape project can start since nobody's out on the streets at this time anyway. The Daily Journal reports the Deputy City Manager said it yes it seems like a good time to do the work, but contractors can't change their schedules on a dime. One of the construction companies set for underground utility work is otherwise engaged in Fort Bragg. Plus there's the social distancing requirements which might be tough for construction work. The Daily Journal says they sent an email to the Asst. City Manager for a timeline update, but they've not heard back yet.

A lawsuit's been filed in Humboldt County against a judge and others by a public defender who says he was humiliated by colleagues and suffered a traumatic brain injury. Deputy Public Defender Rory Kalin filed the suit against Superior Court Judge Gregory Elvine-Kreis alleging battery, assault, and infliction of emotional distress after he says he was verbally and physically attacked at a Memorial Day event last year. Kalin claims the judge called him anti-Semitic names repeatedly before tossing him, without warning, off a boat into Lake Shasta, causing him injury, both mental and physical. Kalin says his work performance had been previously documented as "above average" and "outstanding" until the harassment. He says the judge was drunk on the date of his assault and says he was never treated the same by his colleagues.

Humboldt County's COVID-19 cases are climbing to 30. As of the last available data, we tallied 28 deaths in the County, eight of those were people who traveled internationally, 13 had contact with a known case and three thru community spread. There are others still being investigated.

Another inmate has escaped a Calif. prison. Earlier this week we told you about a couple of inmates who escaped the Eel River Conservation Camp, one of them found in Ukiah. Now Corrections officials are searching for a minimum-security inmate who somehow got out of the Alder Conservation Camp in Del Norte County Tuesday. During a count of inmates Tuesday morning it was discovered 30 year old Lester Jackson was not at the morning meal. There was an emergency count and a search to no avail. He had last been seen an hour before. The office of Correctional Safety, Cal Fire, the California Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies were helping find the inmate who had been assigned as a firefighter in Klamath where there are about 110 minimum-custody inmates.

The snowpack is below normal for the spring and unfortunately water content is about half its average for the month of April. The survey outside Sacramento found snowpack about 66% of the April average in that location. And other measurements across the state where there are more than 100 electronic snow sensors had the water equivalent of just over 15 inches, or about 50% of the April average. But this may help, the National Weather Service has forecasted a couple of storms coming thru this weekend which could dump more snow in the Sierras.

A special Board meeting has been called by the Ukiah Unified School District Board of Trustees which was online only. They were discussing the surplus land they have in Hopland and Redwood Valley.

Members of the public were able to address the Board by submitting comments through an internet comment form. The meeting was for learning only and there was no action taken. The realtor working with the trustees gave them an update, recommending selling some for exchange and saving one for District use.

Senior citizens who want to go grocery shopping during hours offered for them only at local grocers in Ukiah and Willits have transportation thanks to Mendocino Transit Authority's Dial-A-Ride bus. The bus will pick up seniors Tuesdays and Thursdays for trips between 6 and 9 am at Safeway or FoodMaxx. They will pick them up at home, take them to the market, wait for them at the curb and drive them home. The rides can be scheduled during regular shopping hours too, all with service 24-hour advance notice. They are only taking two shoppers at a time to honor physical distancing restrictions put in place a couple weeks ago by the Mendocino County Public Health Officer. (707) 462-3881

The year-round Farmers' Market in Fort Bragg is continuing along with the seasonal market in Mendocino. Certified Farmers Markets are considered essential business during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are obvious six foot spacers for physical distancing, four safety monitors are standing at the market in Fort Bragg with six foot long sticks. There are also lines drawn on the street so folks at the market are reminded to stand in lines at a safe distance away from each other. There are also orange cones, signs and caution tape set up so people cannot get within six feet of each other. Vendors are spaced apart in a way to lower the risk of community infection.

4 cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County and no hospitalizations. The Daily Journal reports Ukiah city officials say we could still see a surge in cases as health officials warn it could last months. The manager of the city's Emergency Operations Center Tami Bartolomei says health officials are expecting an increase in coming months and they're ordering more Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), ventilators and more for local healthcare professionals and first responders. The city manager says there's been surges around the County, like in Sonoma County where numbers have exploded. The Community Development Director says they've been working closely with the police department to enforce the stay at home order. There
04/03/20 have been ten cases but they all voluntarily complied after approached.

There's a new Administrative Project Manager for Measure B, the mental health measure in Mendocino County. Alyson Bailey has worked with the homeless population for several years and as a freelance reporter for the Willits News. She says bettering mental health betters everyone's lives. A big supporter of Measure B, the former Sheriff Tom Allman says he thinks positive things will happen with Bailey as the leader. The Mental Health Oversight Committee all had excellent things to say about Bailey too.

Police are searching for a man who they say is connected to the stabbing of another homeless man near the Ukiah homeless shelter. Police say they got a call to the Building Bridges Community Center yesterday morning to the stabbing and found a victim, a 47 year old man with stab wounds. He was taken to a hospital with life threatening injuries and the suspect, 32 year old Adam Nott was arrested. He's described as a transient from Humboldt County who was recently staying at the overnight homeless shelter. The public is told to call immediately if you see the man who's described as 6-1, 185 pounds with long, red hair and a full beard, and that he should be considered armed and dangerous. They've not found the knife used in the attack on the victim.

Six daily meals are being given out to kids in the Ukiah School District. Monday they gave 5 days worth and today there will be breakfast, lunch and dinner for kids in the District again. They're not delivering, so you have to call or look at their website to find locations and times for pickup. (707) 472-5003, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with questions. Si habla español, llame al (707) 472-5003.

A proposal from the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians will be considered by the Lake County Planning Commission for a bio-energy facility in Kelseyville. The Record Bee reports the commission will have a public hearing on the matter next week to decide if the clean energy plant to be run on chipped wood and other biomass and repurposed as synthesized gas should be built. The Lake County Community Development Department report says the tribe wants to put the energy system inside a 2,000 square-foot enclosed structure on 36-acres of property near the "Kit's Corner" intersection with Highway 29. It would be a 24-7 operation with one full-time employee working 5.5 hours per day, seven days a week on a split-shift. The news site reports the planning commission is also considering a new 18 hole golf course including a tiny private airport at the Crazy Creek Glider Port.

More help is needed in this time of crisis so the Salvation Army says they're beefing up operations as the need is growing at the Del Oro Division. That location serves Northern Calif. and Northern Nevada. They say for the last two weeks they've served meals and given food boxes to more than 64,000 people which was way more than their regular food assistance service. The nonprofit says in Sacramento County there's been an 860% increase in individuals looking for help. For more info: covid19.gosalarmy.org.

The removal of invasive purple urchins is continuing during the pandemic. Reef Check and the Kelpers Consortium doing the work in Caspar Cove and were supposed to have volunteer divers this month from Reef Check and Humboldt State. But because of travel restrictions due to COVID-19, Reef Check volunteers and Humboldt State stopped their work requiring student participation. Skeletal crews were expected to still dive and get basic information. So far they found 200 purple urchins about two years old, or older.

Redwood Credit Union has donated a big chunk of money for nonprofits to help the most vulnerable populations in Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, San Francisco, and Sonoma counties. The money for food and housing security, Health and financial wellness, Education and workforce development. The president and CEO of the credit union says they hope the grants make a difference. They're also still committed to honoring fundraisers planned ahead of the physical distancing requirements.

If you can't pay your water bill, no fear. The Governor has issued an executive order so consumers who can't pay their water bills during the coronavirus outbreak are not without. It says individuals and companies shouldn't have to worry about water, and more than 100 water systems throughout the state have put shutoffs due to non-payment on hold. It also restores water usage for those who may have already had their water turned off as of March 4th when the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic was issued by the State of Calif.

The Governor in conversation with the State Superintendent Tony Thurmond with guidance on long distance learning. Now Mendocino County public schools have announced an extension of virtual at least through the end of this school year due to the pandemic. The Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools Michelle Hutchins following the state's guidelines. The state Superintendent says not returning at all for the school year is not suggested, but that they need to place all efforts in distance learning instead of in person. Hutchins says public schools are an essential service, so they'll continue with instruction, meals, and other support for students, depending on district resources.

Lake County is still warning residents to stay at home with no confirmed cases. They're giving the same instruction, stay home, only go out for essentials and wash hands and disinfect frequently, and social distancing. There have been 150 tests conducted and more than 120 were negative, the rest are pending.

The State Dept. of Health is telling people it's a good idea to wear cloth masks when you leave the house to cover your nose and mouth. Using masks made of cotton, silk or linen could help reduce transmitting the virus but you need to still take all other precautions, washing your hands, using sanitizer, physical distancing and staying at home. They say if you do wear a mask, it's important to wash the face covering frequently, preferably after every time you wear it.

A minimum security inmate reporting missing in Del Norte County is still on the run. It comes after two others escaped the Eel River Camp, both of those inmates found, one in Ukiah. This time, 30 year old Lester Jackson got away early Tuesday morning from the Alder Conservation Camp in Klamath where he was assigned as a firefighter. He was described as a black man, 6 foot 1, 170 pounds with brown eyes, long black dreadlocks, a mustache and a short beard wearing grey sweats. He got 12 years in 2011 for robbery, false imprisonment and carjacking and was set for release in June.

Someone in Clearlake who police say continued to violate orders on lodging facilities during the pandemic has been warned, then cited for running an Airbnb. Clearlake Police say they repeatedly violated the shelter in place order put into place by the Lake County Public Health Officer. After an amended order came out about essential businesses and lodging only for the use of medical health professionals, emergency workers, construction workers of critical infrastructure and permanent residents the renter was found to be in violation of the order. They denied any wrongdoing and police cited them for violating the health officer's orders and property use in violation of the law. They now face a fine of \$600.

A backlog of tests in California and confusion about how many people have been tested, how many tests there are and what the hold up is in getting results. The Governor says it's a national issue, the shortage of tests, as well as personal protective gear for healthcare workers. The nasal swab tests are taking days he says. A new report shows in LA County it's five to six days, with some taking up to 12. There are more than 10,000 cases in Calif. And state officials say they're getting ready for a peak surge of cases in the middle of May. That could mean of the state's 75,000 hospital beds and 66,000 emergency beds currently being put together, will be filled. The governor announced putting a new task force together so they can get more testing done. The Gov. says the labs are overwhelmed with six times the amount of tests backlogged.

A woman from Willits who ended up in the hospital after what police say was a domestic violence attack by her husband, has died. The Sheriff's office reported getting a call to Elenah Elston's bedside at Howard Hospital but she could not speak to them. They remembered her from previous domestic violence calls and went to her home after doctors say she did not fall as her husband told them, and that it appeared to be a suspicious injury. Her 21 year old husband, Tavion Johnson of Willits was arrested Tuesday and held without bail for several charges including for causing great bodily injury. Since the woman has died, the charges could change. The Mendocino County DA's office has not said if they'd be charging Johnson with Elston's death. She was taken off life support this morning.

The Gov. says there's possible financial relief for companies that are now dealing with economic hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. There's a one year program so businesses can keep \$50,000 or more they'd have to pay to the state in taxes. The Governor says it's like a bridge loan, so they'd have to pay it back within that year, but there would be no penalties and no interest. This comes after another executive order for an extension on the sales tax filing deadline until July 31st. The sales tax revenue goes back to counties and cities, but they can instead be using federal stimulus money.

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The Mendocino County Public Health Office has come out with a new order following the CDC's recent directive that all residents need to wear masks in public. Dr. Noemi Doohan is recommending everyone leaving their home for essential activity wear a face covering, like a mask, scarf, bandana, or similar clothing item. The office says most importantly, everyone should continue staying home except to the market, doctor and to get his medication, and practice social distancing of 6 feet when outside. Also Dr. Doohan reminds to frequently wash your hands and that some people may be asymptomatic, so wearing the face covering helps with unknowingly affecting others.

A man in Talmage has been arrested for a domestic violence assault. Another man says he and Jose Manuel Verduzco, his cousin had an altercation. Witnesses say Verduzco caused his cousin severe injury on his head. The victim went to the hospital with his girlfriend and at the hospital the victim identified Verduzco as his attacker. Verduzco was stopped by police while driving and had his car searched because he was on probation for a previous violent offense. Deputies found a blunt object used to assault Verduzco's cousin. So he was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and a probation violation. He was held on no bail for violating the probation

04/06/20 terms.

It's been a couple months since the first coronavirus case hit the Bay Area, now in Lake County, the first person has contracted it. The Public Health Officer with the announcement yesterday of the first positive case in the County, almost three weeks after the Public Health Officer issued the shelter in place order. Dr. Gary Pace says all the efforts the last month to avoid travel and unnecessary activity paid off, compared to Sonoma County and the Bay Area, Lake County had longer to prepare. He added the County would have probably had more cases sooner if they had been less proactive.

[The Gov. has announced a new website so healthcare providers can find criti](#)

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer says the four people who have tested positive so far for coronavirus are all doing well. Dr. Noemi Doohan says she's working from home where she's sheltering in place like so many others, using her computer, zoom meetings, conference-calls and says she's writing guidance along with the county counsel and County CEO, who's acting as the COVID-19 Incident Commander. She spoke to the Daily Journal regarding new guidance for mask wearing when you leave your house for essential activities, agreeing with that for those asymptomatic, which she says can last 48 hours.

A man in Ukiah's been arrested after a fight with another man escalated, leaving the victim bloodied on the street. The Sheriff's office reports getting a call 2 weekends ago to the assault in the 1400 block of South State Street. Ukiah Valley Fire Authority and an ambulance were on the scene too after a man was found next to a bicycle with a laceration to his head, and bleeding from the laceration. The man says he got into a fight with the other man, identified as Jay Hire because he thought Hire had on too much cologne. He says Hire took a concrete brick and threw it at him striking him in the head. Hire admitted the altercation, so he was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and was held on \$30,000.00 bail.

5 teens in Ukiah have been arrested after a reported shooting during the Shelter in Place order. The Sheriff's office says they got a call early in the morning 2 weekends ago about multiple gunshots fired and saw an old Honda sedan leaving the area with several people inside. They went after the Honda and saw the car filled with juveniles and noticed a sawed off short barrel .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle. They also found a steel pipe in the car, items used to take nitrous oxide, which people inhale to get high, plus evidence of pot being used. The 5 arrested on various charges including possession of a billy club, carrying a concealed firearm in a vehicle, possession of nitrous oxide and violation of parole. The five were first taken to Adventist Health Ukiah Valley for a medical clearance, then to Mendocino County Juvenile Detention Center.

A man in Laytonville has been arrested after cops went to check on an elderly woman. When deputies drove up they saw three Hispanic men standing near a blue Polaris RZR off road utility vehicle and another tan colored Polaris Ranger UTV. When they saw the deputy, they ran. Two down a hill towards the 101, the third drove one of the off road vehicles away and they were caught after jumping off and running into the woods. That person was found with a fully loaded firearm magazine belonging to a .45 caliber handgun and some suspected methamphetamine. Javier Madrigal Sanchez was arrested for several crimes and held on \$35,000.00 bail.

It finally happened, the first case of COVID-19 in Lake County. Yesterday we heard from the Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace about the case. It was reportedly from contact with a known case at an out of county workplace. Public Health Nursing is helping the patient with their stay at home routine. The County is conducting contact tracing to try to make sure nobody else has been in contact with the infected patient. The Public Health Office says it's more important than before to follow the 'shelter in place' order as there probably will be more cases in coming weeks. The office says those following the stay at home orders are helping to keep the spread slow so that it's manageable at local medical facilities, and those ignoring the 'shelter in place' order, run the risk of jeopardizing their family and friends' health, and vulnerable people in your area.

[For Lake County-specific Coronavirus information, visit the Lake County Heal](#)

[If you still have questions, send an email request: MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov)
You can also call during business hours: 707-263-8174

A woman in Ukiah has been arrested for domestic violence. The sheriff's office reports getting a call Friday to a physical assault in progress in the 2200 block of South State Street. They found a woman, identified as Layne Cassidy had a knife and had assaulted a man at the home. Deputies say it was her fiancé, the two were living together. Deputies say a verbal argument escalated and the woman retrieved a knife from the kitchen and the man picked up a coffee table to use as a shield and got away as the woman tried stabbing him. He dropped the table and ran to a neighbors. Cassidy was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and domestic violence battery and booked on \$30,000.00 bail.

The ex CFO for the town of Paradise is against the plan for PG&E to emerge from bankruptcy this June. The Press Democrat reports Karin Gowins the former comptroller of the town devastated by the Camp Fire, says she resigned from the bankruptcy committee that was working with the utility company on claims for wildfire victims so she could go public with her concern about the \$13.5 billion dollar settlement. She's now the third who left the committee these last few weeks and says she never supported the settlement and didn't want her name to be connected to it. In order for the settlement to go thru, the committee and the lawyers working on it were not allowed to oppose the deal. Two other committee members agreed that PG&E stock for half of the settlement was a raw deal. Especially since victims would probably sell their shares as stocks lose value. And since the pandemic, there's been a 57% drop in value.

The Shelter in Place order has sprouted new businesses in Ukiah, out of already existing ones. The Daily Journal reports Rapscaillon Distillers is selling hand sanitizer. The newspaper reports owners Michelle and Lee Sassen took action after hearing distilleries would be allowed to manufacture sanitizer without paying an alcohol tax. The distillery started offering fifty milliliter containers for free to first responders and essential workers and then started to make small batches available for individuals. They say they're going to do curbside sales for the hand sanitizer and brandies and spirits. Also in town, Charbay Distillery's owners Jennie and Marko Karakasevic are producing sanitizer of various sizes starting this week. Tamar Distillers in Redwood Valley is helping differently, finding a way to distribute alcohol to hospitals and nursing homes to use as disinfectant. The state superintendent of schools has new guidance on graduations and requirements since kids are doing long distance learning now. Seniors on track to graduate should be able to according to the State Board of Education President. Colleges are changing things up to, the way they accept pass fail classes and A-G courses for seniors and juniors. There will also be flexibility in testing requirements, transcripts, and considerations on financial aid.

The Navy captain from Santa Rosa fired from command now tests positive for coronavirus after complaining his ship was infected. Brett Crozier was the skipper of one of the US Navy's 11 aircraft carriers. He got tangled up in controversy for a letter he sent to request an expeditious evacuation of his crew as the coronavirus began to spread amongst his crew. More than 150 of the crew on the nuclear- powered aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt tested positive for COVID-19. The Press Democrat reports Crozier starting becoming symptomatic before he was removed from command Thursday, he's in quarantine now at a U.S. naval base on Guam. His crew hailed him as he left the ship. The acting secretary of the Navy fired him after losing confidence in his ability to run the ship after he sent what should have been a classified letter which circulated widely about coronavirus spreading amongst the crew of 5,000 quickly in which he asked for swift action to remove and isolate thousands of sailors.

Project Sanctuary wants the public to know it's still supporting domestic violence victims even though there's a shelter in place order. The executive director is herself recuperating at home after contracting the virus. Dina Polkinghorne tells the Daily Journal they've posted on their Facebook page, they want help from the public to flatten the domestic violence curve. A spin on what's been spoken of regarding slowing the spread of coronavirus. She says sometimes shelter in place orders can have unfortunate, unintended side effects and says she's concerned about the amount of help they can give during the outbreak. She says they're working on new procedures because of social distancing and courtroom's being closed.

Project Sanctuary depends on the community for a substantial portion of their

For those needing emergency assistance, Project Sanctuary's 24-hour hotline

All racing events at the Lakeport Speedway have been canceled for the month of April. The Northern Calif. Racing Association say they've been notified by the Lake County Fair CEO that since the State of Emergency regarding coronavirus and new guidelines released by the Governor's office on social distancing, then further guidance 3 weeks ago by the California Department of Public Health to cancel or postpone gatherings, that would include the race schedule. With that, there's no prospective race start date, but the association's president says they're working hard to prepare the track for use after the order is lifted. They say they're working with the Lake County Fair to keep the public informed.

Mendocino Coast Clinics says they're working with the Mendocino County Public Health Office and others for essential health services for as many people as possible on the coast. They've created a list of local resources 04/07/20 which we've placed on our website and Facebook page for your use.

For Mendocino County Public Health information, visit mendocinocounty.org/

For the Public Health hotline, 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days a week, call (707) 234-6052.

To schedule a medical appointment at MCC, call (707) 964-1251. Many appointments can be done via phone or video conference. Only services that cannot be done virtually will be done in person.

For more information about local care and a link to the CDC website, visit the **Food & Financial**

CalFresh(food stamps) – For people who have lost a job or had a reduced Pandemic EBT for Kids– This is not linked to CalFresh eligibility. School-aged children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. No application necessary. If you don't receive a card, an online application will be made available soon. No Social Security Number is necessary.

Free Meals through Schools– Local school districts are delivering meals and/or have pick up locations. These are subject to change, so please check your school district's website for details.

o Mendocino Unified School District's website is mendocinoused.org. A shortcut to the meal delivery information is <https://bit.ly/3aQYWrE>.

o Fort Bragg Unified School District's meal delivery information website is sites.google.com/fbusd.us/district/covid-19-updates. Fort Bragg Unified School District also has a Parent Resource Page at sites.google.com/fbusd.us/district/parent-resources.

Grocery Stores Free Delivery Service

Safeway (707) 694-4079

Harvest (707) 964-7000

Mendoza's (707) 937-5879

Filing an Unemployment Claim

To file for unemployment, visit edd.ca.gov/unemployment

Prescriptions (Pharmacies are doing free deliveries and parking lot pick-ups.)

Rite Aid drive through window hours: 8am-8pm and 9-6 on Saturdays, 10-6 on Sundays. No delivery options at this time.

CVS drive through window hours: 9-7 weekdays 10-5 on weekends. They do have deliveries through USPS. A credit card must be on file. They cannot send to a post-office box.

MCP offers parking lot pick up. Simply call the pharmacy when you arrive in the parking lot. Also, MCP offers free delivery.

MVP offers delivery within a mile of Highway 1 to Cleone and to Sea Ranch. They also offer parking lot pick up. A credit card must be on file to prepay for both services.

Safeway offers delivery with a surcharge of up to \$15. Deliveries are scheduled. Crisis/Mental Health Support

Mendocino County "Warm" Line – For anyone feeling anxious or isolated or who has questions, this is a non-crisis support line: (707) 472-2311

Behavioral Health Crisis Line- 1-855-838-0404 or text TALK to 741741

Two Northern Coast congressmembers working to get the Acting Secretary of the Navy booted. Apparently it worked... Congressmen Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson calling for the removal of Secretary of the Navy, Thomas Modly, who fired Navy Capt. Brett Crozier of Santa Rosa who was demanding help for his crew after coronavirus started spreading amongst them, infecting himself too. Modly called Crozier, who's recovering in Guam, either "too naive or too stupid to be a commanding officer of a ship like this." Then Huffman and Thompson asked for Modly to be removed for his, "unacceptable attack on Capt. Crozier in remarks to Crozier's former crew." It was just announced, he resigned.

A man from New Hampshire on the run after a run in with police in Covelo. The Sheriff's office reports getting a call to Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital Willits about a man with an apparent gunshot wound. The injured man was expected to live. Deputies say Randolph Bisson was responsible for the shooting and found evidence to back it up. He was found during a traffic stop where deputies saw minor body damage to his car. They say he also seemed to try to ram a cop car and took off. They lost track of him and are asking the public for help, warning that he is considered to be armed and dangerous.

New rules in Calif. courts due to coronavirus. The California Judicial Council has approved some proceedings via teleconference and to continue up to 90 days after the state of emergency. Criminal cases will now have a statewide emergency bail schedule starting at \$0 for future court proceedings for most misdemeanors and lower-level felony offenses and defendants can appear thru their lawyers with remote technology for their pretrial hearings. No evictions or foreclosures will be happening right now. Hearings for juveniles will be prioritized but will be remote. Extended times for temporary restraining orders will be in place. There will also be extensions for statutes of limitations on civil actions; and electronic depositions allowed for many civil, misdemeanor and lower level felony offenses.

Mendocino County Public Health, Adventist Health Ukiah Valley and the Public Health Regional Lab in Sonoma County are doing focused testing for COVID-19 in vulnerable populations. The testing to hopefully find asymptomatic people who may have infections that have gone undetected in Mendocino County. The testing for the homeless, the frail elderly, and those who serve in these populations. The Mendocino County Health Officer says many vulnerable residents, at high-risk of developing serious complications from COVID-19 and live in congregate environments like shelters, or on the streets will get free tests. They'll be doing the Covid19 tests at Plowshares Peace and Justice Center in Ukiah.

Another case of coronavirus has turned up in Lake County. It comes after the first case announced over the weekend. Slow creeping up of the virus in the County. The Public Health officer Dr. Gary Pace confirmed the second case of a family member to the first patient to test positive. Pace says there's no sign of community spread in Lake County and says it wasn't "unexpected" with a general reminder of the precautions to take, stay home, isolate, even from family if you have symptoms, wash hands frequently and wear a cloth mask when you leave for essential activities. He says all of that will help keep the spread slow enough to be manageable at medical facilities. Pace also warns anyone who ignores the shelter in place order will be considered to be breaking the law.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino in Redwood Valley needs help caring for the animals in their care. Because of the shelter in place order, they've decided to suspend their fostering program. There's also no adoptions or transfers of animals out of the county. But they're still making appointments, you in your car, following new protocols. They want applications ahead of your visit too. The humane society had to furlough two employees and their upcoming spaghetti feed fundraiser had to be canceled. There will be an online fundraiser which has yet to be announced. They're also accepting dog and cat food, and bleach. They also need crates. For more information, visit the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino Facebook page or their website, mendohumanesociety.com. To set up appointments or for additional questions, call 707-485-0123.

Reports of an uptick in domestic violence in Mendocino County during the shelter in place order due to coronavirus. The Daily Journal reports the Sheriff reported for the month of March compared to a year ago, reports for physical domestic violence were up 25 percent, child abuse cases up 36 percent and general assaults up 20 percent. Kendall also reported suicide was on the rise, but general calls for service were down. The Sheriff says that might be because deputies are on the streets more and only very important calls are coming in. Deputies are wearing masks while on duty, interacting with the public.

The Shelter in Place order in Lake County has been extended by the Public Health Officer. Dr. Gary Pace said even though the order appears to be helping, the order needs to extend thru May 3rd. There are two confirmed cases of coronavirus in the County. The first case announced Sunday, then yesterday a family member of the first case, also has been confirmed to be ill. The first case contracted thru an out of County workplace. Dr. Pace says it's never been more important to stay vigilant to protect those close to us and those who are the most vulnerable in our communities. The Gov. and the State Schools Superintendent, and the Lake County Office of Education have extended long distance learning as well, until the end of the school year.

Nursing students in the state nearing graduation are able to get waivers to finish training and get to work to help with COVID-19. The California Board of Registered Nursing is allowing almost 9,000 nursing students to graduate with just about half of the required clinical training to be done online not at hospitals with patients. It comes after the governor announced to new healthcorps in the state calling on healthcare workers who may be retired with active licenses or those close to finishing school to be able to finish early and get on the front lines of the pandemic. There's been a shortage of health care workers in the state. So far nearly 82,000 people have applied for the healthcorps.

\$150,000 is being awarded to certain Mendocino College students. The school's foundation has approved direct student support as many students are struggling during the coronavirus pandemic. The president of the foundation reportedly approached the board for the program which is a matching fund pledge. It was unanimously approved, so the Foundation will match each dollar donated. It was just \$36,000, which included a \$12,000 gift from the Redwood Credit Union. All of the donations go into the fund and then directly to students without any administrative fees.

To provide a gift, go to: <https://give.classy.org/mcgiving2020> To apply for the Student Emergency Funds at Mendocino College, email kbartolomei@mendocino.edu or efields@mendocino.edu and request an application. For more information about the Mendocino College Foundation, please contact Katie Fairbairn, Executive Director at kfairbairn@mendocino.edu.

[A special virtual town hall for Lake County residents on the county's website,](#)

The governor announced adding more hospital beds for coronavirus patients. The Gov. at an old basketball arena with the announcement. The former Sleep Train Arena in Sacramento being converted to add 400 more beds to more than 4,600 beds at alternate care sites and old hospitals for an anticipated surge in COVID-19 patients. Newsom says they're trying to get ahead of the peak, working with hospitals to "aggressively expand our state's ability to treat the coming surge in COVID-19 patients". The old arena is one of several alternate care sites for less ill patients.

We have the final report on the President Primary last month in Lake County. The Registrar of Voters Office has finished up the official canvass for the primary even after the governor allowed for an extension of the normal schedule, which would have been March 31st. So Judge J. David Markham is the winner for Superior Court judge, keeping his seat. And Supervisor Rob Brown is not seeking re-election in District 5, so Jessica Pyska will run off in November with Bill Kearney. The two had a few hundred votes between them. The District 1 race went to incumbent Moke Simon who won nearly 80% of the vote, so there won't be a runoff, and in District 4 incumbent Tina Scott held on with almost 63 percent of the vote. The official 04/08/20 canvass showed nearly 53% of registered voters participated.

Sewage problems in Lake County because of a bunch of garbage that shouldn't go in the pipes. Lake Co News reports rags and wipes being put into the sewer system in Lakeport as of late creating a problem, it coincides with the toilet paper shortage because of the coronavirus pandemic. The news site reports this week, Lakeport reported that its sewer system is getting overwhelmed due to large amounts of garbage being put into it. The city's Public Works Department staff are clearing the system daily of the garbage and at the sewer pump stations is also being increased daily. They ask not to toss baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, 'flushable' wipes, paper towels, or latex and disposable gloves. It comes after Clearlake Oaks had a similar problem a few weeks ago.

Lakeport coming down harder on violators of public health and state emergency orders. Lake Co News reports the City Council has unanimously approved an executive order to enforce county and state orders related to COVID-19. The City Manager telling the city council last night the Lakeport Police Dept. can hand out tickets to anyone who violates orders. This to help enforce the countywide shelter in place order and the governor's statewide stay at home order. She told the council the police dept. had mostly been educating people and had not done much more than that. But they were in contact with nearly 40 people out of compliance with the stay at home orders.

Adventist Health clinics in Fort Bragg, Willits, and Ukiah have virtual office visits for residents so they can visit with their doctor and get care without leaving your house. Patients are able to see their doc on video and can potentially be screened for coronavirus. There can also be a routine visit and visits for the chronically ill. They're also helping with mental health because of the outbreak, they call it help for the worried-well. The president for Adventist Health in Mendocino County says they hope it helps to make care more accessible and that more people will seek care, especially those who might be worried about COVID-19 and those who do not have transportation.

Two men have been arrested after a traffic stop in Lakeport. The Sheriff's office reports last Friday a deputy saw a GMC Suburban with Nicholas Neuman driving. The deputy knew Neuman was on felony probation with warrants out for his arrest. The deputy spoke to Neuman and recognized a passenger in the car as Derek Stark who was also on probation. When Stark was searched, the deputy noticed an altered business check and searched his backpack and found several more checks, driver licenses, and credit cards that were not his so he was arrested for several crimes including Forgery, Making Fictitious Checks, Identity Theft, and failing to Comply with Shelter in Place Order. He's held on no bail. Neuman was arrested for fake car registration, Failing to Comply with Shelter in Place Order, and Violation of Probation and also held on no bail.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer says our shelter in place order has put us in a good position as opposed to other towns that waited until coronavirus came to town. Dr. Noemi Doohan says she will have a 3rd order coming out in the next week....

Doohan says she expects the order to stay in place at least until May 31st. Doohan spoke on wearing masks in person for healthcare workers and others. She also says following the Bay Area it looks as though it will be about four weeks until the peak hits there, 8 weeks in Sonoma County and that we won't be immune so to expect more local cases. So far we've had 4 cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County.

There's a new 12-hour phone line being set up for Mendocino County for "rapid reporting of positive results"...

She says their website has a counter of the amount of tests being done in the County to be transparent.

Doohan also said they're doing surveillance testing of the homeless population thru Plowshares in Ukiah along with Adventist Health. It already started...

MendoRecycle is picking up trash again. They started this morning at 8 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m. in Ukiah, but you have to bring it to them. The hours daily at 3200 Taylor Drive, but they say to keep their workers and the public safe, they have a no-contact policy continuing. They say they won't pick up their mobile collections until the shelter-in-place order is lifted.

The Gov. says there's been a steady but moderate rise in cases of coronavirus in Calif. The comments during a press conference he held yesterday, saying physical distancing and the statewide shelter-at-home order has helped the state prepare for a possible surge in the number of cases which require treatment at hospitals and intensive care units. Newsom says the curve is still rising, but without the slope originally projected. The governor and the Secretary of the state Health and Human Services Dept says updated modeling shows a flattening of the curve across the state. Newsom says hundreds or thousands of hospital beds are available with the state continuing to work to increase capacity in case of a surge in patients. The Ukiah Valley Sanitation District is considering that rate increase again but some board members have been against it due to coronavirus. The Daily Journal reports at their board's last meeting it was agreed not to have any rate increases for sewer customers during the pandemic. But the City and District had approved a rate increase study last month and was sending notices to customers. The newspaper reports the City Manager on the last teleconference for the District agreed that the City had given authorization, but the City was also concerned about customers getting slapped with the rate increase at this time. The teleconference is tonight at 6, The number to join is (669) 900-6833, and the meeting ID is: 951-672-386.

A man from Graton's arrested for pointing a gun at another man leads to some controversy for Sonoma deputies. The Press Democrat reports a video circulated that was taken from witnesses, and not yet from deputies body cams, of the arrest of Jason Anglero-Wyrick. The man reportedly seen with his arms out and hands empty before being hit with a stun gun. The incident after a man in Forestville reported Anglero-Wyrick and a woman were at his home and Anglero-Wyrick had pointed a handgun at him and his wife from a pickup then drove away. Anglero-Wyrick and Naustachia Green were said to be combative with deputies. The witness video apparently only caught part of it before the stungun was used. And the newspaper reports there was no gun found in Anglero-Wyrick's home or car.

Free breakfast and lunch for students in the Willits Unified School District during long distance learning classes. Any child 18 or younger no matter if they're enrolled in school or not is allowed to get the meals. The school district's Director of Food Services and her staff preparing the meals at Willits High. Breakfast is from 8-10 am and lunch from 11 am to 1 pm. You can also stop by and pick up the meals during those times. They are also delivering 28 breakfast and lunch bags to six stops. They will also do the same during spring break. If you need to have food brought to you, or your child has allergies you can call the school Superintendent.

The California Attorney General is warning about investment scams associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Atty. General Xavier Becerra and California Commissioner of Business Oversight Manuel Alvarez have issued an alert saying to be careful of companies who say they've come up with cures or vaccines and they need investors. Another is a company that can supply medical equipment such as masks, gloves, or ventilators. The FBI reportedly arrested someone for trying to get investors and claimed they found a cure for coronavirus. They say to check out and research companies and claims, or broker-dealers and investment advisors, before investing any money. Becerra says it's a ripe time for fraudsters to claim they have "miracle cures or solutions to medical equipment shortages". You can research a company thru the Securities and Exchange Commission or California's Department of Business Oversight (DBO).

Officials in Lake Tahoe want outsiders to stay out. That's the word as at least 30 cases of COVID-19 have infected the area. Health officials, local leaders and tourism offices are telling people who want to visit, even homeowners who don't live there full time, not to come now. The Public Health Officer for Placer County says they value their second-home owners as critical to the community and economy, but now is not the time for a visit. The Bay Area News Group reports the Health Officer sending a letter to homeowners saying, "any impression that there is a 'safe' haven from virus transmission is false." There's also a no travel order out of El Dorado County for non-essential travel into the area by non-full time residents.

The City of Ukiah still trying to work out what to do about the homeless encampment near the airport. The CEO of the County told the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on Tuesday they're looking to protect the public's health and help the city and she's working with the city manager on the issue. But they're not planning to break down the camp, which is illegal. The Daily Journal reports there were portable toilets, hand-washing stations and a dumpster added to the large homeless encampment recently. Officials reportedly leaning towards a new location for the encampment. The city manager says they're also looking to curtail any potential spread of coronavirus in the group of up to 60 people. 2nd District Supervisor John McCowan says he's been visiting there regularly and they've agreed no more people can camp there and he's paying them to clean their trash up. The County's also reportedly offered some of those 65 and over there, hotel

04/09/20 vouchers.

Because so many more people are at home, doing virtual work, long distance learning and various recreational activities, reports of slower internet. The Daily Journal reports city council meetings on Zoom, exercise sessions on Facebook Live, and both kids and adults working and schooling at home has stressed telecommunication companies. T-Mobile reported a 38% increase in smartphone usage and 45% increase in video gaming; Verizon had 10 times more online usage; and AT& T reported a 400% increase in audio, web and video conferencing tools, "an all-time high."

Cruising the streets of Ukiah, it's a ghost town and businesses are feeling the effect. The Daily Journal reports Heidi's Yarn Haven has no customers right now. It's a place where people hang out knitting. But she says she's doing phone work and helping customers who like to use their knitting projects as a relief from stress and anxiety. She's getting in on Zoom meetings too, but not enough she says to stay afloat. Mendo Optical tells the newspaper they're also in trouble, only open for emergency services. The two businesses tell the paper, they've lost 90% of their business. Mendocino County located in the Ukiah Valley has curbside business, after closing 3 weeks ago. She's using social media to help boost business as she can. But hair salons, restaurants and others are totally closed, depending on small business loans and grants to hopefully open again one day soon.

Another case of coronavirus has shown up in Lake County. But the Lake County Public Health officer says he thinks the shelter in place and social distancing directives are working. Dr. Gary Pace with the Board of Supervisors Tuesday on local efforts to slow the spread. He's extended the shelter in place order until May 3rd. It first went into effect March 19th. Dr. Pace says slowing the spread of the virus helps health care facilities stay on top of cases. He says the first case was from out of county, someone at a workplace contracted the infection, then a family member was the County's second case. We're waiting on more details for the just announced third case.

16 new cases of COVID-19 in Sonoma County, the most in one day since the outbreak started. The Press democrat reports the public health officer says they expect cases to peak at the end of May/beginning of June. Interim Public Health Officer Sundari Mase says that's when as many as 1,500 residents could be hospitalized with respiratory distress caused by the virus. Mase says it would be totally inaccurate to give exact numbers and all of this is based on models they're researching. As of yesterday 83 people have tested positive and 52 had recovered. But testing shortages could mean those numbers are off. One person has died due to complications from the illness.

The 3rd case of coronavirus has been confirmed in Lake County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says they confirmed the case Tuesday. A press release went out last night indicating community spread, but not confirming. The first two cases were caused by one person getting infected at an out of county workplace, then a family member getting it. Pace says this latest case shows the "importance of everyone maintaining the 'shelter in place'" directive and wearing a face mask in public. Pace reported 211 negative tests, but they've not released how many total tests have been conducted. Pace says the three who have been infected have been isolating at home and following orders. And the Public Health Office has been conducting contact tracing.

The final reading has been approved of the new city code in Lakeport in alignment with the most recent state building code. The City Council had a quick online meeting this week where the Assistant City Manager presented the ordinance to adopt the 2019 California Building Code, and its revisions, to the Lakeport Municipal Code. They've also reportedly taken out obsolete building codes from the new ordinance. The California Building Standards Code covers administrative, building, residential, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, energy, historical building, fire, existing building, green building and reference standards codes.

There are way more infected inmates in the California prison system than a week ago. The Calif. Dept. of Corrections and Rehab reported yesterday that inmate cases had grown by seven times in less than a week and staff cases were nearly tripled. The agency reported nearly 30 inmates and more than 60 staffers confirmed as positive COVID-19 cases. Last week there were only four inmates infected and 22 staff members. Some inmates calling into cable news networks to complain about their conditions. The Corrections Dept. told CNN it was implementing a mandatory two week plan for all of their adult institutions to change inmates' routines including social distancing and proper disinfecting.

The College of the Redwoods is sending nursing students into local hospitals and other healthcare communities as part of their clinical rotations. It comes after the Department of Consumer Affairs announced the California Board of Registered Nursing would be able to have a lower amount of contact hours with patients as part of the clinicals. Instead of 75%, they could instead have 50% of clinicals directly interacting with patients. But apparently many students at College of the Redwoods weren't nearly even the 50% threshold and still need to meet those requirements.

The master tenant of the old Ghost Ship warehouse that burned a few years ago, killing 36 people may be released from prison due to coronavirus. Derick Almendra's lawyer is reportedly supposed to have a teleconference with a judge tomorrow so he can be released on house arrest or wear an ankle monitor. His lawyer appealing to the court due to his health conditions and a doctor saying he was dealing with physical and psychological stress. He's been behind bars since June of 2017 after he was accused of 36 counts of involuntary manslaughter for the warehouse fire in December of 2016. His lawyer had asked last month for the same and was denied, but since there's been several positive COVID-19 cases, they're trying again. His trial is set for July 6th after a hung jury in his last trial.

Nine people from Northern Calif. who sailed on a cruise ship overtaken by coronavirus, then docked in the Port of Oakland, are suing. The plaintiffs say they all got the virus, one ended up in the ICU. They all live in San Francisco, San Mateo and Stanislaus Counties and claim they were "traumatized by the fear of developing COVID-19" while being quarantined aboard the Grand Princess. They disembarked and quarantined again, at Travis Air Force Base. It's just one of many lawsuits that have been filed against the cruise company after the journey from San Francisco to Hawaii in February. While out at sea in the beginning of March, 19 crew members and two passengers tested positive for coronavirus. And after they got off the ship, 103 people got infected and two of the passengers and one crew member died.

The Lake County Jail announcing a new bail schedule in alignment with the state. The California State Judicial Council has put a bunch of new emergency rules in place to thin out jail populations. One of those for a mandatory statewide bail schedule effective no later than 5:00 pm Monday April 13th. It becomes mandatory for every Superior Court in the state starting bail at \$0 for all misdemeanors and felony offenses except serious or violent felonies, felony and misdemeanor domestic violence, violations of domestic violence protective orders, registerable sex offense violations, possession of a firearm by a felon, felony looting, felony criminal threats and driving under the influence offenses. The sheriff's office reports since they have to have this in place Monday, they expect 2 dozen pretrial inmates to be released from jail and that will reduce the inmate population to about 167 inmates.

The Mendocino County DA thanking city of Ukiah employees for cleaning up trash that was growing at the corner of Talmage and Perry. The DA posted a photo of a large pile of trash and asked if anyone sees trash being tossed or trash piling up and knows who it is to please take pictures and let law enforcement know who is responsible so they can be prosecuted. The DA says punishment could be court-ordered hours picking up trash from others around town.

04/10/20

The Public Health Officer in Mendocino has a new shelter-in-place (SIP) order. She says there are new less restrictive guidelines regarding some things, while others stay the same.

Dr. Noemi Doohan's new order stays in effect until May 10th, for now. The order, her third, allows funerals of up to ten people with proper social distancing. It also says all essential businesses need to post guidelines they come up with and says wearing masks over your nose and mouth is very important, when used with physical distancing and washing hands. She's opening parks but with restrictions on outdoor activities. There have been 4 cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County. They've all isolated at home none needed to be hospitalized. 371 tests have been done and 4 positives. Some highlights, essential businesses can only call people to work who cannot work at home, families can leave their homes together, but stay 6 feet away from other people, some non-essential businesses can do some minimal work, you may drive to where you recreate, like a park, but only the shortest distance possible, many places still need to stay closed, so-called high-touch businesses or areas, like playgrounds.

The cases of coronavirus have doubled this week. A new report says there were more than 20,000 cases in the state and more than 540 have died. Most of the cases in the Los Angeles metro area. San Diego 2nd hardest hit, followed by Santa Clara County. The Press Democrat reports Calif has more than 150 hotels working with the state so frontline healthcare workers can stay there, especially if they've had direct contact with positive patients, but those who have not had to be hospitalized. They're getting a deep discount so they can be closer to work, instead of working 12 hours and going home and turning back around and coming back. The rooms made available after stories surfaced of some healthcare workers sleeping in their cars so they didn't infect family members. The Governor announced the program would be paid partially from FEMA disaster relief funds. Newsom says it doesn't mean the homeless population who were promised rooms would not get them.

A new report shows a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment is causing some North Coast hospital employees to re-use masks. A new policy at St. Joseph Hospital Group called Universal Masking, where they're reportedly asking staff to "conserve and repurpose" masks as often as they can. Kym Kemp reporting the World Health Organization saying it's a public health risk to reuse masks especially for those working up close with patients with COVID-19 who they say could be potentially exposed more. St. Joseph in Eureka is one of the hospitals asking staff to reuse masks until they can buy more. An email recently sent to staff with the new Universal Masking policy saying because of the growing amount of cases and the lack of supplies, they have to follow the policy for their morning shift for those working in acute ministries.

An online meeting for the state Fish & Game Commission is tabled because of the massive amount of interest. The commission's website will have the new date once it's decided. The agency says the meeting was delayed until next week so there's enough time for public comment and to set up a remote participation for all of those who want to be part of the meeting. The Fish and Game Commission president says they appreciate the passion they have heard about attendees wanting to be there, and that overwhelmed them with technology not ready. He says they're frustrated they couldn't go thru with the meeting and are researching a way forward. The commission also wants the public to know they're not trying to ban fishing or contemplating a statewide closure. They say they're working on a tailored approach based on local needs and knowledge in the time of the global pandemic.

The Mendocino County Public Health Office is expected to have a new directive regarding social distancing. The Daily Journal reports on the meeting earlier this week with the Board of Supervisors. Then during a town hall meeting with State Senator Mike McGuire, Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan reported a revised shelter in place order would be relaxing some restrictions at local parks. She says they were closed because out of towners were coming in to use the parks, but they'll be loosening the orders on parks and recreation. Dr. Doohan says it's necessary for people to stay indoors as much as possible, and outdoor activity will have to be with social distancing and facial covering requirements.

Bus service from Fort Bragg to inland Mendocino County has been discontinued. Mendocino Transit Authority stopping the service after hearing from community leaders about ways to try to help slow the spread of coronavirus. The service takes passengers from Fort Bragg to inland cities in Mendocino County, route #65. Ukiah buses will keep running hourly and having less rides the MTA says, would just create more crowded buses, so they're continuing with a "robust schedule." You can still catch the Route 60 Coaster bus to Navarro to meet the 75 bus to get where you need.

It's Easter this weekend and church is closed. Local places are offering live streaming or even pre-recorded sermons so people can worship while sheltering in place. The Daily Journal reports physical distancing is creating the need for new ways to reach out to parishioners for local churches like Ukiah United Methodist Church. They had pre-recorded videos from musicians for their service broadcast from the pastor's living room last weekend and they had a virtual "happy hour" after. They're having a second Easter service once the shelter in place orders are lifted. Other local places of prayer, like The River Ukiah answering emails and taking calls and conducting Bible study and other meetings online. They're also taking prayer requests via text message.

Faith-based organizations offering remote services this week include: First Baptist Ukiah, The River Ukiah Church, Bible Baptist Church, Ukiah United Methodist Church, St. Mary's of the Angels Catholic Church, Legacy Church Ukiah, Redwood Valley Community Church, ALCF, and Calvary Chapel Ukiah.

A small fire quickly stomped out in Ukiah. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority on the scene of the vegetation fire near the Carousel Industrial Park in north Ukiah. The fire last night about 8:30 p.m. spread from a nearby homeless encampment. It burned about an eighth of an acre.

State Senator Mike McGuire hosting a townhall on COVID-19 with the Public Health Officer of Lake County and Mendocino County. From Lake County, Dr. Gary Pace reported on the third case of coronavirus that was confirmed earlier this week. The patient isolating at home after contracting the infection from another infected person outside the county in which they may have contacted more than in recent weeks. The first case was reported Sunday, the second the next day. Regional and local healthcare professionals and other politicians were on the call with Senator McGuire and more than 850 Mendocino and Lake County residents.

The Public Health Officer in Mendocino County Dr. Noemi Doohan predicts a surge in cases at the end of this month. She was on a tele town hall with state senator Mike McGuire saying the shelter-in-place restrictions probably won't be lifted right after that, but slowly lifting some restrictions depends on testing capacity. And also if there's adequate personal protective equipment. She predicted that at the end of May some restrictions could be loosened. Dr. Gary Pace of Lake County was also on the call and said the surge there would be slightly later and they would see more cases in early May then lowering over a couple months. Pace says stay at home orders could be loosened the middle of the summer with gradual restriction loosening before that.

In Sonoma County health officials say they're seeing a positive turn, the spread is more minimal than before. Dr. Sundari Mase the Public Health Officer says the stay home orders and physical distancing directives appear to be working. The Press Democrat reports 17 new cases have been reported, a result of keeping in close touch with people who were in contact with positive cases. Mase says there hasn't been that much community transmission. She says the jump in cases was "completely expected" due to "contact tracing" surveillance. The newspaper reports public health nurses tested 18 people in close contact with local residents.

An investigation underway by the legislature after the Gov. Gavin Newsom announced he wants the state to buy 500 million protective masks. Lawmakers want to hear from a top budget official about how all of those masks will be distributed and how to ensure they will be good quality. A letter sent to the governor's finance director from one lawmaker asking for details on the contract for 200 million masks a month from a Chinese company. Newsom is asking lawmakers to spend almost \$1 billion on the masks. The first shipment early next month for a 2 ½ month long contract with an American subsidiary of the Chinese manufacturer.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is expected to ask the SBA for help for tribal governments and their casinos due to coronavirus. The board meeting online tomorrow which you can see on the County's Facebook page or thru local cable outlets. The board will discuss the latest on coronavirus with the Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace. And Supervisor Rob Brown is expected to ask his fellow board members about the SBA letter for support for local tribal casinos through the Paycheck Protection Program which was part of the massive federal government bailout. Two board members, Chair Moke Simon and Supervisor EJ Crandell are part of tribal leadership for the

04/13/20 Middletown Rancheria and Robinson Rancheria.

Three women are recovering after a crash last week on Highway 175 near Lakeport. Lake Co News reports the CHP's Clear Lake division reported to the scene of the two-car crash last Thursday afternoon where 20 year old Faith Eyler was driving with 20 year old Deanna Lambert as her passenger. Eyler came off the road, overcorrected and lost control running into 59 year old Michelle Baldwin on the other side of the highway in a BMW SUV. The two vehicles crashed head on. The women all ended up in the hospital with major injuries, The CHP says they do not suspect drugs or alcohol as factors in the crash. They all also had on seatbelts.

Two men in Ukiah have been arrested for street racing. The Daily Journal reports cops on the scene after witnessing the two cars driving at an extremely high rate of speed, around 90 mph, right next to each other. The cars approached the officer at the intersection of Gobbi and South State streets and he flipped his lights and activated a siren and one of the cars pulled over. Keoni Andrade was arrested for illegal street racing, which he admitted. The other car stopped briefly and took off, then it was found abandoned. The other driver was id'd as 30-year-old Robert Mounts of Redwood Valley, who police say first lied and said his car had been stolen. But then he admitted he had driven the car and was racing it with Andrade. He was then arrested for street racing and resisting arrest. The two men were booked and released.

Numbers of those in ICU with COVID-19 in the Bay Area are going down. The Press Democrat reports There was "cautious optimism" that the stay home orders were working. The new data as of Saturday showed some Bay Area cities and counties, including Mendocino County has made incremental adjustments to the shelter in place orders. Here in Mendocino County the Public Health Officer is allowing for folks to go back into parks, having first closed them because too many people from the Bay Area were coming here, now that's changing. But Dr. Noemi Doohan says to stay as close to home as possible if you go out and to keep socially distancing yourself from others. The new report from this weekend says there was especially a decline in ICU cases in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

A new report shows coronavirus may have been in the San Francisco Bay area as early as mid-February after a man was found dead in his home and a woman got sick and died later. A doctor, who's also the chief executive of Santa Clara County's government says the virus was in the community and probably there for far longer than known. Stanford University also has a study out saying there was a viral surge in February. The first two cases in Santa Clara County nearly one week before federal approval of emergency testing for COVID-19. The two cases were traced to travelers returning from Wuhan, China. And the first case of community spread in the Bay area was nearly a month later.

PG&E is reporting they're closing camping and day use recreational sites in its service area thru at least June, to keep employees, the public and communities safe due to coronavirus. 38 campgrounds and day use sites are closed which will mean reduced maintenance at restrooms and in collecting trash. Since camping reservations are usually taken this month, the utility company has pushed the window to find a spot until June. They also say they could reassess at a later date. The camping season usually runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day, right now it's pushed to June 29th. PG&E parks in the North Bay and North Coast are in Mendocino County:

- Trout Creek Campgrounds
- Fuller Grove Campgrounds
- Fuller Grove Day use area & boat ramp
- Navy Campgrounds
- Pillsbury Pines
- Pogie Point day use area

The Mendocino County Public Health Office reports giving some technical assistance to Plowshares to help they change some procedures, which has been done. The Daily Journal reports the executive director of Plowshares got official orders mid-March, but they were nearly a week ahead of the plan with their own preparations. There's a new portable hand washing station in front, a staff member at the front door manning the station, masks and gloves gave to be worn by all staff and volunteers; hand sanitizers are made available to guests; and they've laid down tape on the floor to encourage 6 feet between for social distancing. They also now have food to go for those living in tents, temporary housing, hotels or low-income apartments. They say the only touched by anyone using their services is the chair and table if they stay to eat there. They serve about 70 meals a day and about half are delivered.

A tele town hall held by State Senator Mike McGuire with a panel including an epidemiologist, the CEO's of Lake and Mendocino Counties, Chairs of each of their Boards of Supervisors and each of their public health officers. Residents were allowed to send questions ahead of time and were not allowed to break into the talk for follow ups.

Even though we had 4 cases in Mendocino County, right now there's no evidence of any active coronavirus cases and no evidence of community spread. The County CEO spoke about the economy a bit, mostly related to property taxes. There were between 6-800 people on the tele-town hall which took place last Wednesday.

A man from Boonville busted after driving into a tree on Highway 128. The California Highway Patrol reports 27 year old Nicholas Rhoades was in a 1995 Toyota pick-up truck headed east near Philo around last Thursday night, driving at an unsafe speed, came off the road smashing into tree, without wearing a seatbelt. The CHP says he was fully ejected from the car then taken to a hospital in Santa Rosa to be treated for moderate injuries. They report that alcohol was suspected of being a factor in the crash. So he was arrested on suspicion of DUI before being released to get medical attention.

A semi with a load of milk has overturned on Highway 20. The CHP reports a major injury crash with the tanker spilling milk and diesel into Clear Lake. The Office of Emergency Services Hazardous Materials Spill Report said it was around 6,000 gallons of milk and about 100 gallons of diesel that leaked into the lake.

Blue lights turned on in Lakeport in support of healthcare and other essential workers dealing with coronavirus. Blue lights were shimmering along the streets of downtown Lakeport last Friday night and stayed all weekend as part of the national campaign, "Light It Blue" to show appreciation for those on the frontlines of COVID-19. There are also going to be purple lights across the state this entire week for those in the tourism and hospitality industry who've been battered by the closure of their businesses due to the pandemic. The Lakeport lights installed during revitalization projects and were programmed so they can be flipped on and off at will.

A new plan by the Governor to help residents and employees at more than 1,200 skilled nursing facilities and almost 7,500 residential care facilities. 600 nurses have been trained so far to support compliance with COVID-19 guidance. State staff members are also reportedly calling nursing homes across Calif for daily support. Gov. Newsom put out a statement saying to protect the most vulnerable residents and employees is a top priority not just for public health but because it's the right thing to do. Newsom has also announced the federal ship, the USNS Mercy is taking non-COVID-19 patients to take some of the pressure off skilled nursing facilities in the Los Angeles area.

Some encouraging signs about coronavirus in California. The latest figures show fewer than 2,000 new cases over the weekend, as the number of daily deaths stayed about the same. If the trend holds, some models show today could be the peak day for California hospital admissions, with a gradual slowing of those numbers to follow. Governor Newsom says California will start to work with other western states to coordinate easing of restrictions, but he says it is still too soon for people to stop self-isolating.

There is a temporary silver lining to the coronavirus cloud. Officials say California's air is measurably cleaner since people have been staying home and off the roads. Environmental groups say it shows what COULD with fewer cars on the road, but that this is a unique event that is no cause for any celebration. They say California's pollution levels are sure to go back up as we transition away from coronavirus restrictions.

You could be getting money back from your car insurance company. Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara has ordered insurers to refund at least March and April premiums due to the coronavirus. The order also includes workers' compensation and medical malpractice insurance lines. Some companies have already acted—State Farm is returning money to customers, Farmers is cutting April rates by 25 percent and Geico is providing policy credits.

CHP is investigating a tanker truck rollover on Highway 20 near Glenhaven. Lake Co News reports one person was seriously hurt in the crash near Harvey Boulevard Sunday afternoon when the tanker flipped onto its side. 6,000 gallons of milk—and 100 gallons of diesel spilled onto the roadway, which led to traffic backups there for several hours afterward. No word on what might have caused the wreck

We should know more today about easing coronavirus related restrictions in California. Governor Newsom says he'll release details of his plan which he says will be made without political pressure. He's been working with the governors of Washington state and Oregon on what he calls a science-based, incremental return to some sense of normal. Statewide hospitalizations have started to level off in the past few days, leading to some cautious optimism that California may have been spared from a worst-

04/14/20 case coronavirus scenario.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meets today to talk about the coronavirus, and the status of interim county health officer Dr. Noemi Doohan. Doohan has been at her home in San Diego, sheltered in place and unable to return to Mendocino County because of some damage to her home from a serious storm last week. She said in a Twitter post that she expects to be back in Mendocino County on Wednesday. Doohan had planned to take a new job in San Diego in March but then promised to stay with the county through the pandemic. The board will consider extending her contract here until December 31st. She has been working as a contract employee since last August when she took over for Dr. Gary Pace, who has gone on to become the Health Officer in Lake County. Today's Mendocino County Board meeting will be virtual and streamed live on the county's Youtube Channel starting at 1:30.

Lake County now has 5 confirmed coronavirus cases. County Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says all of them are related to one contact out of the county and that the patients are all doing well and in isolation. Pace credits adherence to the shelter in place rules, the use of masks, lots of hand-washing, and limited out of county travel for keeping the predicted spread of the illness in check. Pace says lifting the restrictions will have to be done gradually with a balance between inadvertently kicking off an unplanned surge and getting people's lives back to some semblance of normal. Nursing homes have been a particular concern and Pace says his office is doing all it can to make sure residents and staff are protected as much as possible. While the signs may be encouraging Pace and other county leaders say a little more patience now will help avoid a rebound to even worse outbreak down the road. The County Board of Supervisors will get a briefing on the situation at a virtual meeting this morning.

Woodland Community College is among the schools with classes disrupted by Coronavirus School officials tell Lake Co News that students at its three campuses, including the Lake County Campus in Clearlake, are all learning by remote. The school says it has set up a task force to help the transition to online classes and is offering a special resource page where they can get help. The college says it's looking to the future and is planning a full schedule of classes for both summer and fall, with signups starting on April 20th. Officials say once those in-person sessions finally start, social distancing will remain a classroom rule.

Ukiah's long-awaited streetscape project has a start date. The Mendocino Voice reports the first phase of the work will start on April 20th—next Monday—with something called potholing, leading up the actual groundbreaking in early May. The initial work won't affect local businesses along State Street. The first part of the improvement project involves replacing underground utilities in the area of State Street to Mill and Henry Streets. Once that's done, workers will move on to phase two which involves reconfiguring lanes, widening sidewalks, and making other above-ground improvements. If all goes as planned, that will start in mid to late summer. A preliminary hearing today for Tavion Johnson from Willits, who is accused of killing his wife last month. He was arrested and charged after the woman, Elenah Elston, was hospitalized with serious injuries police say were consistent with domestic violence. She later died and the charges against him were upgraded to include murder. Prosecutors want to keep Johnson behind bars and are asking that bail stay at \$500,000. Although Elston was too seriously hurt to talk about what happened to her police identified Johnson as a suspect based on previous domestic violence calls to the couple's home. Cops say they don't buy his story that Elston was injured in a fall.

CHP has identified a man seriously hurt in a tanker truck rollover on highway 20 near Glenhaven over the weekend. Lake Co News reports 38-year-old Michael Weschke of Fortuna was hauling around 6,000 gallons of milk when his truck flipped near Harvey Boulevard just afternoon on Sunday. The trailer ended up in the lake, but crews from the Northshore Fire Protection District were able to contain the milk spill and keep any hazardous material out of the water. Weschke, who was wearing his seatbelt, was taken by air ambulance to Santa Rosa with what CHP calls major injuries. Officers aren't saying what caused the crash but that impairment was NOT a factor.

Governor Gavin Newsom has outlined his plan to reopen the state as the coronavirus eases. He says it will involve six steps that will lead up to either a vaccine or widespread immunity. The factors include more testing, protection of high-risk groups, adequate hospital beds and supplies, progress in treatment, the ability of schools and businesses to support social distancing, and the ability to reinstate stay at home orders if needed. The governor says the state is slowing the spread, so it is time to talk about what's next. He also says any plans must be made along with neighboring states to ensure a coordinated regional approach to the recovery. Whatever happens though, in the governor's words, "Normal it will not be".

Mendocino County is calling today "Take Out Tuesday" and says it's a good chance to support local restaurants that have been hard hit by coronavirus. It's a good idea to call ahead though to make sure your favorite spot is actually open for curbside pickup or delivery

A man who was once accused of a Lake County murder is out of jail. Daniel Ford had been behind bars on another unrelated charge, but now, according to the Record-Bee, he has been released on bond. Ford had been charged in connection with the death of 70-year-old Nicky Smith, whose body was found along Scotts Valley Road back in November. Prosecutors later dropped those charges saying there wasn't enough evidence. Charges against a second man were also dropped for the same reason. Ford is still facing charges that he attacked and injured a 73-year-old man last April and has pleaded not guilty. Smith's murder is still an open case.

Fans of the San Francisco 49ers were upset in February when their team lost to the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl but a new study from UCSF says losing might not have been such a bad thing after all. The report suggests that had the Niners won and held big victory parade, thousands of people in such a big crowd could have been exposed to coronavirus, which was just starting to show up on the west coast at the time. Kansas City did have a parade, but the first coronavirus case there was not reported there until mid-Marc

The latest report from Lake County says that of the five confirmed cases of coronavirus countywide, 3 patients have recovered—the other two remain in home isolation.

\$19 million dollars is being taken out of PG&E's Northern California victims fund. The judge in the bankruptcy case has okay'd the payment of administrative costs from the \$13.5 billion fund. The money decided on between lawyers for the victims and lawyers for the utility company. And Pacific, Gas & Electric will pay \$2.5 million more after an agreement at \$21.5 million for administrative fees. More money may also be taken out of the fund if the bankruptcy plan doesn't meet an August effective date, that could

04/15/20 be affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

A man accused of stabbing another man near the homeless shelter in Ukiah has been arrested. Police got a call to the Building Bridges Community Center earlier this month for the stabbing which police say left the victim with life threatening injuries. At the time Adam Nott of Humboldt County was the main suspect in the case. He'd been staying at the shelter. The two apparently had an altercation at a gas station first and continued on near the shelter in a dirt lot. Nott was found last weekend and booked into jail for unrelated charges. He's held on \$30,000 bail.

City leaders in Clearlake are considering a homeless project. The City Council expected to take up the idea at their next virtual meeting tomorrow for a deal between Adventist Health Clear Lake and Hope Rising Lake County for the Hope Center, a proposed 20 bed transitional facility. Adventist and Hope Rising had asked the city for financial help. The City Manager will present a proposal to the council tomorrow to use Series B bond funding from the old Redevelopment Agency for low- and moderate-income housing. The council will also take a look at a proposed contract for a new animal shelter. They're considering a contract for \$180,000 for a construction company to start the work, that would be paid for from a different series of bonds.

An agreement's been reached for Mendocino County's interim Public Health Officer to stay on for a few more months. During the Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday, the board discussed how they could keep Dr. Noemi Doohan on since she's essentially taken a new job in San Diego and moved there with her family. Doohan is planning to leave at the end of her contract in June, but now will be paid an additional \$100,000 to stay on as a consultant thru the end of the year. The CEO apparently wanting to make sure she had access to Doohan. At least one resident had complained that Doohan was not in county during the shelter at home order and found that to be unethical. Apparently she was planning to leave in March and stayed on as interim health officer during the pandemic.

That postponed California Fish and Game Commission meeting has been reset. Today and tomorrow will be remote meetings on potential recreational fishing changes due to the pandemic. The commission is only discussing the possibility of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife delaying, suspending or restricting sport or recreational fishing. Lake Co News reports three counties had requested addressing the pandemic, so today they'll do that, and tomorrow they will take up other matters on their revised agenda. Last week the commission was supposed to meet, but they delayed after several hundred people tried joining the virtual meeting and overwhelmed their technological platform.

The Lake County Public Health officer out with another directive to once again get residents to wear masks while performing essential tasks when they leave their homes. Lake Co News reports Dr. Gary Pace strongly encouraged all Lake County residents to put on masks when in public. The warning came Monday, the same day a fifth case confirmed in the County.

Dr. Pace says the predicted rise of cases and severe illness has not happened in the County because of the "significant effort that the community has made to shelter in place". He says the new cases don't appear to be from community spread and urges to continue staying at home, not going out for anything nonessential and to keep washing hands, maintaining social distancing and good hygiene.

New data seems to confirm the pandemic has had a marked improvement on air quality. Below average measurements have been taken at 20 monitoring sites in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and 16 others in the North Bay. "Good" air quality has been recorded every day of April so far. Since there are less cars on the road, that means cleaner air. The District says it's obviously not the way they hoped the air would clear, adding it's hard to get people not to drive their cars. The weather also helped clear the air so there wasn't as much a need for wood burning for heat. The Press Democrat reports all 20 of the Bay Area's air monitoring sites showing Air Quality Index scores around the 30s since April 1st. They range from zero to 50 to hit good air range.

Another case of coronavirus has been confirmed in Humboldt County. That takes the case tally to 51 as of yesterday. The first case confirmed in a week. Humboldt County Health is tracing contacts to see how this latest case popped up. The County Health Officer says it's a reminder it's still circulating and to follow the Stay at Home Order, wear a mask in public, wash and or sanitize your hands and follow social distancing practices. The cases break down with 23 cases due to contact with a known case, 20 from outside the County, 7 of the cases from community spread and one more, still being investigated. The Public Health office is not releasing any private information on those who've contracted the infection including where they live, their age, where they may have traveled to or where they are being treated.

The Sonoma County Public Health Officer says the County will lift their stay at home orders separate from the statewide plan. The Press Democrat reports the county times the peak of the pandemic at the end of May to beginning of June which is many weeks later than what the statewide models are. Dr. Sundari Mase says the County's behind the curve by a few weeks which also leaves more time to reassess. But she says the numbers need to plateau before any loosening of restrictions. Mase has not said when restrictions could be backed off, but says she's evaluating several things including modified summer camp for kids, and whether any businesses can reopen with different work spaces to increase physical distances between people.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is considering backing off some of the hours County employees have been working as there's been a lot of overtime during the pandemic.

Supervisor Ted Williams says the public isn't sure who's managing the public health emergency...

Williams says there needs to be more transparency on spending, policy making and is wondering what the overall expense could be regarding coronavirus.

Williams gave kudos to Dr. Noemi Doohan for her work, but says there's concern from the public about Doohan no longer permanently living in the County. Williams says there should be talk about a transition to another officer.

Members of the public allowed to call into the latest Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting. One resident requested a lot more testing to look for asymptomatic tests. Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan responded agreeing with the caller.

Nearly a dozen patients at a nursing home in the Bay Area who tested positive for coronavirus have died. Eleven residents at Gateway Care in Hayward died, 40 more tested positive and 25 staffers are also infected. At another facility one person died, 23 staffers and 22 residents were positive in the Castro Valley. The Governor said some of the residents who were healthy would be transferred to the Navy ship Mercy in Los Angeles, but it came out some patients aboard that ship have gotten infected. The state is sending 600 nurses trained in infectious disease to the ship. Naval health officials are working to control the spread there among crew.

A new working group in Lake County including two County supervisors will be on top of ways to ease stay at home orders when it's deemed to be okay. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace asking for the group to be put together to help come up with a strategy to ease the shelter-in-place restrictions when the time comes. So with that District 1 Supervisor and board chair Moke Simon and District 3 Supervisor E.J. Crandell will represent the board of supervisors. Dr. Pace says he'd like the group to meet soon and find ways to eventually loosen restrictions on businesses which in turn is hurting the economy and impacting community members. Pace warns nothing will be done hastily and they'll look for ways to balance the financial, social and educational impact on the community against the health risks.

A food drive held by a Lakeport nonprofit. New Digs Rapid Rehousing to help the homeless find secure, permanent housing. The Daily Journal reports their Shelter in Place food drive to support people who've lost their jobs due to the pandemic. They're delivering personal care packages including fresh fruit, non-perishable food, laundry soap, diapers and baby formula if needed, all thru donations, which they're always looking for more of. Lakeport Rotary, Grocery Outlet and the Dollar Store have all partnered with the nonprofit. They provided home delivery to more than 20 households their first week and continue to stay in touch with the hundreds they have in their database thru a partnership with North Coast Opportunity Head Start and Early Start, they're also helping with learning and at home activities

A new case of coronavirus has been confirmed in Humboldt County. 52 cases confirmed in the County. The Health Officer confirmed community transmission in eight of the cases in Humboldt County. They say twenty people got infected due to travel, 23 had contact with a known case and one case is still being investigated. The Health Officer says the spread is happening slower than if they had no shelter-in-place order. She says they're conducting aggressive contact investigations and that isolation and quarantine orders are still critically important for the ongoing containment of the pandemic. Just over 900 people have been tested in the county.

04/16/20

The City of Ukiah asking the Board of Supervisors to lead more and want county staff to also help more with the homeless during the pandemic. The Daily Journal reports it has more to do with the encampment by the airport. The City Manager Sage Sangiacomo telling the City Council during a special meeting Monday they should quickly do something about the encampment and that something should have been done weeks ago. He told the council the city and county need to be united. He says he heard from the CEO that the County did not intend to move the encampment, but they were providing services to those there. He's requested the County give them a specific transition plan out of the Runway Safety Area of the airport and to tell the City who a point person from the Executive Office would be with enough authority to take a unified and coordinated response with the City.

Food stamp cards will be allowed to be used online. As of the end of the month, you'll be able to use your EBT card for online purchases. The California Department of Social Services put out a statement regarding CalWORKS which can be used starting April 28th for online purchases at Walmart and Amazon. The state allowing EBT online purchasing due to the coronavirus during the stay at home orders. The state reports working to bring more stores into online purchase possibilities in the future. CalFresh is monthly benefits for individuals and families to buy healthy, nutritious food.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors sends a letter to the Fed to support local tribal casinos getting relief from the Paycheck Protection Program. It's part of the Federal Government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act. The \$2.2 trillion relief package includes the Paycheck Protection Program which is forgivable loans for companies who keep their employees on the payroll and working. Tribes are trying to apply to the US Small Business Administration but find tribal gaming businesses cannot take part. But about 3 dozen members of congress including Congressman Mike Thompson, have sent a letter to the Treasury Secretary and SBA Administrator asking for tribal businesses to be included. It could help the Konocti Vista, Robinson Rancheria, Running Creek and Twin Pine casinos.

Health officers across the state are so far in agreement with the Governor that it's not time yet to loosen stay at home restrictions due to the coronavirus. Those being hospitalized are still rising in Calif, tripling numbers in two weeks. And those in state ICU's had nearly doubled in the same time frame. But it could also be that the state is beginning to flatten the curve. However the state has to see a drop in cases before any dramatic changes can occur, which could be another month or two. The original hot spot of Silicon Valley confirmed deaths were going up still, but it was slowing. But the Public Health Officer in Santa Clara County, says they're not out of the woods yet, but may be at the beginning of a very long marathon.

The Governor has announced a way to support people without work due to the pandemic. The State Employment Development Department (EDD) is starting a new call center that'll be open 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. And the Governor has directed the agency to quickly get the Work Share program off the ground. The agency will allow the unemployed to apply for unemployment insurance and the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program which is benefits thru the federal government to include those totally out of work, the partially unemployed, self-employed, those without sufficient work history and independent contractors. Newsom also allowing for \$125 million in disaster relief assistance for working Californians that will also help undocumented immigrants impacted by COVID-19. California putting up \$75 million of that with philanthropic partners putting in another \$50 million.

A new case of coronavirus has turned up in Lake County. There are now six cases, with the latest admitted to the hospital. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says they are doing contact tracing right now.

Dr. Pace says he won't be ordering people to wear masks in public, but says it's a good idea. He is reminding folks to stay at home and frequently wash hands and practice good hygiene.

An inmate from a minimum security prison camp in Mendocino County on the run. The State Department of Corrections and Rehab looking for Richard Solorzano who was not in his bed at check in last night at the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp. Staff started searching for Solorzano after finding he was missing around 8:30. The Corrections Department notified Cal Fire, the CHP and local law enforcement who all joined in the search for the inmate assigned as a cook at the Fort Bragg Camp. About 100 minimum-custody inmates are housed there. He was not due for parole until August of 2022 after being sentenced for Burglary and Assault in 2017 out of Orange County. He's described as being a bald Hispanic man, 5 foot 7, 170 pounds with brown eyes, a mustache and a goatee. Police ask anyone who may see him to call 911. He's the 4th inmate to escape over the last several weeks in Northern Calif.

[A new electronic filing system has begun in Calif. so it's faster for applications](#)

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has approved an Urgency Ordinance as wildfire season approaches. The ordinance adopted Tuesday for shorter notice under the County's Hazardous Vegetation/Combustible Material Abatement Ordinance from 30 to 15 days. CAL FIRE says now that fire seasons have another 75 days added onto them mostly due to climate change. Since the attention is mostly on COVID-19 right now, the Board moved to get ahead of fire season while many people are at home. The local Ordinance calls for all hazardous vegetation and/or combustible materials within the unincorporated area of the County of Lake [are] deemed a Public Nuisance and owners have 15 days to clear, not the 30 they had. They also remind it's a good time to have your evacuation plan in order.

A 5th case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in Mendocino County. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan says the man
04/17/20 was exposed out of county.

The Sheriff joined Dr. Doohan on the virtual meeting earlier today to talk about the person exposed being a former inmate from Chino State Prison who had been exposed to coronavirus. The former inmate was supposed to turn himself into Stanislaus County, but came to Ukiah instead. The inmate was placed on a quarantine first but some how ended up in Mendocino County the next day. The Sheriff informed the Public Health Office about the inmate who was asymptomatic. The man is at home with a family member and said to be stable.

The Sonoma County Public Health Officer has issued a new order for people working or visiting elder care facilities. Public Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase says visitors and staffers at group care facilities have to wear masks. They also have to be screened for symptoms, like taking their temperature and looking for other signs of illness, or they cannot enter or go to work. Mase also says law enforcement have to wear medical-grade masks while interacting with the public or patients. The order to help slow the spread of coronavirus. Dr. Mase says the shelter in place order doesn't need to go on indefinitely, and says there are more interventions as residents start to come out of the staying at home orders slowly and systematically.

Some parks are open but parking lots are closed. The Daily Journal reports after the Mendocino County Public Health Officer revised her shelter-in-place order to allow certain park areas to open again, Fort Bragg stepped up with the City Council voting to allow local residents to exercise on the city's wide, paved path near the ocean. The city says they'll be monitoring the paths and if there are crowds gathering, it will be closed down again. The newspaper reports in Santa Cruz, quite a way south, they've reopened many parks, beaches, open spaces and multi-use trails and the Wharf, but only to local residents who are able to walk to the areas, also keeping parking lots closed. In Mendocino County, high touch areas are closed, but similarly biking, walking, hiking, jogging spots close enough to home can be utilized.

The Downtown Streetscape Project is about to begin. As we reported earlier this week, the City of Ukiah announced a Monday start. The first part of the work is so-called "potholing" where holes are drilled so workers can see where underground utilities are before construction begins. They'll do that during daytime areas. They will then start proper construction work at the south end of State Street between Mill and Church streets. There will be traffic controls, survey controls and preparing for traffic to get around the work. Then the actual "shovel-in-ground construction" is starting around the second week of May. All water and sewer utilities under State Street between Mill to Henry streets, and on Perkins and Standley streets between State Street and School streets. They're also installing utility services like electric, telephone and cable.

Clearlake stepping up to try to curtail homelessness by getting people off the street and into housing. Lake Co News reports Adventist Health Clear Lake and Hope Rising Lake County have gotten the city to agree to put up \$500,000 in bond funds for the Hope Center. As we reported earlier this week, the agencies were asking for the city's help for a planned 20-bed transitional facility on land Adventist Health owns already. Public participation for the meeting happened virtually due to coronavirus. Back in January the two agencies asked the city for help. The City Manager says the money will come from Series B bonds that had been sold by the former redevelopment agency for low- and moderate-income housing. The City Council also approved a nearly \$200,000 contract for construction to begin on a new Animal Shelter.

There are still hotspots for coronavirus in Calif. Again we hear about a nursing home where there were more than 155 infections were reported and 10 people died, the most ever at a nursing home in the state so far. The state inspected a Safeway warehouse in the Central Valley where there's also been an outbreak. Gov. Newsom talked about this in his daily briefing yesterday. He spoke of the nursing home in Visalia, and the distribution center in Tracy. More than 50 people have contracted the infection there and one of them died. The union representing the workers from the Safeway Facility says one of the facility's long time employees died. A spokesperson for Northern California Safeway says about 3% of the 1,700 workers at that facility tested positive so they've bolstered safety measures. They send their grocery items to 300 stores in Northern California, Nevada and Hawaii.

An inmate who escaped a Mendocino County minimum security prison has been caught. 32 year old Richard Solarzano was caught yesterday after going missing Wednesday night during bed time check in at the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp in Fort Bragg. Corrections investigators and special agents found Solarzano yesterday afternoon right outside the campgrounds. Now they say he will be transferred to another facility in Susanville and can no longer stay at any Conservation Camp. He had been assigned as a cook at the Parlin Fork Camp which holds about 100 inmates. He was there since last year, serving an eight-year sentence for burglary and assault with a deadly weapon and was not due for parole until August 2022.

The State Fish and Game Commission, after two days of virtual meetings, have made some changes to recreational fishing and hunting in light of the pandemic. The commission is allowing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to temporarily delay, suspend or restrict recreational fishing if necessary. There were so many people who wanted to join the virtual meeting last week, that it had to be moved to this week over two days to allow everyone in the public the ability to join. The commission gave the green light to mammal hunting regulations and is giving out more elk tags for the northwest management unit. That's due to more elk in that part of the state. The commission also gave the thumbs up to daily and seasonal limits for duck and geese for the 2020-21 hunting season. There was also talk of public use on lands, including wildlife and ecological reserve regulations.

3 people in Clearlake have been arrested for a robbery, stolen car and gun. Police say they got a report last Saturday that a group jumped over a fence behind a business and hopped into three cars parked there. Julius Mulvaney was quickly arrested, then others were said to have gone into a home where there was an unlocked door. A man found with others on the property says he was hit on the head and beaten by several people demanding he give them money. They found two firearms there who cops say the suspects may have left there. One was reported stolen from Sacramento, and a car there was also reported stolen, but from San Francisco. They then found and arrested Orlando Thomas and a juvenile, who was also detained. The two adult men booked into jail on various charges including robbery and burglary. Mulvaney held on a million dollars and Thomas on \$250,000. The juvenile was turned over to Lake County Juvenile Probation.

For a second day the number of those infected with COVID-19 has risen in Calif and the number who died is also up. 92 new deaths reported yesterday, 103 the day before. Nearing 1,000 people have died in California and more than 28,000 have gotten infected. The Governor says hospitalizations are down though, but Newsom says there needs to be lower deaths, hospitalizations and patients who need intensive care units before the economy can reopen. More than 3,100 still in the hospital, and nearly 1,200 in an ICU. But it was the lowest day over day growth at 3.7%.

The Mendocino Transit Authority is starting a once a week trip from Hopland to Ukiah and back after cutting one of their scheduled routes due to the coronavirus pandemic. Riders reportedly complaining they couldn't get to Ukiah for essential shopping, so MTA an addition of a once weekly round-trip bus ride from Hopland to Ukiah. The bus is thoroughly cleaned between rides and passengers will have to sit in every other row to allow for social distancing. The pick up at the Old Savings Bank bus stop in Hopland every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. The service started yesterday. Riders take a drive to the Walmart bus stop in Ukiah where you can catch a transfer, then they pick back up at 1:30 p.m. at the Walmart bus stop. Riders are dropped off at Brutocao Cellars Tasting Room in Hopland.

There's a new coronavirus website set up in Lake County for people wanting up to date info on the latest regarding COVID-19. The County's Health Services and Information Technology Departments developed the "Lake County Coronavirus Response Hub" where you can scroll to find a map with Lake and neighboring county information. The amount of confirmed cases in Lake County are listed. There's also social media feeds embedded there from the County Public Health Dept., Lake County Sheriff's Office, the County of Lake, and the CDC.

<https://lake-co-ca-coronavirus-response-lakecoca.hub.arcgis.com/>

A woman in Fort Bragg reports being stalked by a man she had a protective order against, so he's arrested. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept reports Kristofer Anderson had a court order against him to stay away from the woman. They found he indeed violated the restraining order several times over phone calls. He also had shown up at her workplace and made threats and they say had terrorized the woman causing her to fear for her life. He was arrested for Stalking in Violation of a Protective Order and Violation of a Domestic Violence Protective Order and held on \$50,000.00 bail.

A man in Fort Bragg was overdosing so deputies gave him Narcan. Deputies say they overheard Fort Bragg Fire and Mendocino Coast District Hospital Paramedics on dispatch that somebody was in respiratory arrest and possibly overdosing. They were already nearby and got there quickly finding a man in a comatose state with shallow and sporadic breathing. They say they found items to suggest he had od'd on drugs so they gave him two doses of NARCAN, which allowed him to regain his consciousness and become alert. He was then taken to a hospital for treatment. The Sheriff's department has Narcan nose spray on hand which can reverse the effects of an overdose for up to an hour. They then need follow up emergency care immediately.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer, Sheriff and Ukiah Police Chief have a press briefing after a new case of COVID- 19 was confirmed. The Sheriff says it was an avoidable case. An individual released from Chino State Prison who was supposed to report to Stanislaus County and did not,

04/20/20 instead making their way to Mendocino County...

The Mendocino County CEO says there's been about 500 tests conducted with four positives until Friday, when the fifth was announced. The Public Health Office apparently notified by the Sheriff that the man may have been exposed and he was tested within hours, then after the positive test was confirmed he sheltered in place with a family member in Ukiah.

Also on Friday, Congressman Jared Huffman said we needed more testing and more Personal Protective Equipment before we can open up the Calif. economy. Huffman says once there's enough tests, and PPE stockpiled a surge of the virus can be handled and some of the stay home orders can be relaxed. He also says two months into the crisis, and he hasn't seen a national strategy for ramping up testing and providing that gear for healthcare workers. He says there's nobody even in charge of that effort, and at the federal level, it's been chaotic, adding that he hopes Gov. Gavin Newsom will be successful getting testing ramped up in the state which he said he'd attempt before the end of the month.

State Senator Mike McGuire on the call with Huffman talking about the record unemployment adding that today a new call center was opening from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., seven days a week. McGuire says there will be 600 more staff members trained who can start this week at the call centers. And next Tuesday, April 28th there will be another program, partnering with the federal government, for independent contractors, gig workers and sole proprietor business owners so they can apply for unemployment with payments backdated to Feb. 2nd or whenever these workers were impacted by the pandemic. The payments are \$600 a week for four months.

A memo that said an inmate at Chino State Prison who was released and supposed to be in quarantine, ended up in Ukiah. On Friday the memo dated April 9th about the inmate being exposed to an infectious COVID-19 case was sent to the Stanislaus County Department of Health. The inmate released early after meeting certain criteria due to the pandemic. He was supposedly screened and given a mask and educated about the virus and told to immediately report to Stanislaus County. The Corrections Dept. says they made the required notifications to the offender's identified county of release. The probation dept there reportedly granted him a pass to travel to Mendocino County. Then the Sheriff here was informed and in turn informed our Health Officer and the man was tested and found to be infected. He's sheltering with a family member at a home in Ukiah.

Six new resident doctors are reporting to Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Family Medicine Residency Program. They will work in the program during the second year of the program for rural family medicine in Mendocino and Lake County. These six will all work as residents in Mendocino. The Program Director Dr. Chris Deuel says after successful interviews the next class of residents are arriving for a total of 12 residents in Ukiah serving the community. There were more than 750 applications from across the country and around the world with 85 chosen, then whittled down to six after interviews.

New details have been released about nursing homes and the coronavirus pandemic. The Calif. Dept. of Public Health says there were more than 3,000 positive cases, infecting both patients and staff. This was as of last Friday, the state releasing a "point in time snapshot". The Press Democrat reports the cases representing 86% of the 1,224 nursing homes who reported data from the previous 24 hours. One nursing home in Sonoma County was on the list: Apple Valley Post-Acute Rehab where a staffer tested positive April 9th. They were asymptomatic. Since the pandemic broke out, most skilled nursing facilities are not allowing visitors after dozens of residents started to get infected and die. As of yesterday's count, the state had a total of nearly 31,000 cases and almost 1,150 deaths.

We may have another stimulus for small businesses and Congressman Mike Thompson getting ahead of it, sending a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin Friday saying he's received multiple inquiries from small businesses who have had major issues applying for the relief, saying they're not getting access to the loans and money is gone. Thompson says big companies got there first, like Potbelly Corp. and Ruth's Hospitality Group, which is Ruth Chris Steak House who got \$20 million in forgivable loans. The comments were in a virtual town hall meeting last Thursday with the Lake County Sheriff and Public Health Officer as featured guests. Thompson telling someone who asked that all of the money appropriated was used and that a fourth bill was being worked on now. They could vote on it tonight. Students in Calif who can't participate in long distance learning because of a lack of internet access or a computer may soon be in luck. The California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond says about 1.2 million people in the state cannot get online at home and the State Board of Education has a task force working on getting them donations. Google gifted 100,000 Wi-Fi hotspots and 4,000 Chromebooks,. The task force will also have a public hearing so internet service providers can inform what they're doing to improve internet access during the pandemic.

Lake County is working on a new Emergency Operations Plan, the last from two years ago. The County Office of Emergency Services working on the plan that sets up details about what the county will do in the case of drought, wildfires, floods, severe weather and pandemics. Lake Co News reports the office is doing its biannual review and looking for input from the community. You can get a look at it on the Lake County News website. We've also put up the info to send in your comments on our website and Facebook page. Comments and suggestions will be accepted for three weeks, from Monday, April 20, through Friday, May 8.

A fire in Clearlake has gutted a home and damaged one nearby. The fire Saturday afternoon destroyed a single wide mobile home, shed and three cars. The Lake County Fire Dept on the scene finding the mobile home engulfed and the shed and a stick-built home threatened. There were also downed power lines thrashing about and 1,000 rounds of ammo exploding. Water was shut down for a time too, challenging firefighters due to a broken water main. Besides the 3 cars, shed and mobile home 100% destroyed, the stick built home was 40% destroyed. Nobody was home at the time the fire occurred and the resident of the stick built home got out safely with some dogs.

The Ukiah Unified School District Trustees have certified the results of the March 2020 election with Measure A being approved with more than 55% of the vote. The Measure will have a Citizens' Oversight Committee put together which is a state requirement after a local bond is passed. The committee watches over the money brought in by Measure A for repair and modernization of schools. The committee will be made up of at least seven volunteers who serve for two years each. It has to be made up of members from the business community, a senior organization, and a taxpayer organization, plus parents with children in the District.

Those interested in serving on the committee may obtain an application online at www.uusd.net, or pick up an application by contacting Debbie Ornelas, Office of the Superintendent and Board of Trustees, at 707.472.5002, dornelas@uusd.net, 511. S. Orchard Ave., Ukiah, CA 95482. The application deadline is Friday, June 5, 2020.

A man from Covelo's been arrested for looting at a couple of markets. Deputies say they busted Neil Bruce Waldron after he was seen in the area of burglary in progress last Friday at the Village Hearth. Deputies say they found the front door to the business open and a broken window with things rummaged through there. The owner says an Apple IPAD was missing and between that and the damage to the store, it was about a \$1,300.00 loss. Deputies also found that Keith's Market, also in Covelo also been broken into as well and found doors broken, glass shattered and other damage. The manager showed deputies video surveillance where they saw Waldron carrying a pellet rifle shattering glass to get in, the same as at Village Hearth. He's accused of causing \$4,000 damage in this store. He was arrested for violating the shelter in place order due to COVID-19 and for Looting, Second Degree Burglary and violating probation and held on \$20,000.00 bail. Deputies got a call about a third ripoff and are investigating if it's connected to Waldron or not.

Nokia and U.S. Cellular partnering to provide more cell service because of expanded demands due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It comes after the FCC granted temporary authority to U.S. Cellular to use extra spectrum to increase capacity which is licensed to Advantage Spectrum and is going to be made available remotely on Nokia's Airscale Radio Access Network. The company says it will mean better capacity for 250 sites situated on swaths of land in California, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin.

Another inmate apparently exposed to coronavirus upon discharge from a prison, landing in Fort Bragg. The Fort Bragg Police Dept. reports getting a call from the Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall about the release of two prisoners from a state correctional facility who may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, one of them released to Ukiah, found to be infected, the other in Fort Bragg was negative for the virus. The Police Dept says there was no notification of the Public Health Dept. in Fort Bragg from the County Health Office. The inmate that ended up in Fort Bragg was reportedly also in the Chino facility, but housed in a different building from where the COVID-19 outbreak was reported. Mendocino Coast Clinics tested the Fort Bragg former inmate who agreed to meet there and was said to be cooperative and got there at the instructed time. On Friday the test came back NEGATIVE, but as we've been reporting the former inmate who ended up in Ukiah was confirmed to have coronavirus. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer reported they were isolating with a family member in Ukiah ever since.

A man from Rio Dell who left a suicide note a week ago is still missing, but his car has been found near Leggett. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office searching for Jacob Roberts who was reported missing on April 14th after the Rio Dell Police found his vehicle. Police there say Humboldt County deputies had served a search warrant after his wife said he left a note saying he took a car and was going as far north as he could and would then walk into the woods and intentionally starve to death. The vehicle found in Leggett the day he was reported missing, April 14th. That's when Mendocino deputies began their search with a tracking bloodhound and helicopter. Cops say they're not sure if he was indeed suicidal or trying to run from

04/21/20 prosecution of some sort.

A homeless man found in Lakeport is said to have been a registered sex offender who did not change his address. Dean Thomas Ammons arrested yesterday after police reached out to the public for help finding the high-risk sex offender who did not follow registration requirements. Since there are temporary bail restrictions in place because of coronavirus, police were not able to book him into the Lake County Jail. So he's got a monitoring device hooked up so that he can be traced. He also got a citation for a felony violation of failing to register as a sex offender. He was released as part of the California Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections new policy enacted March 31st. The same one that allowed 3 inmates to hit Mendocino and Lake Counties, 2, one in Lake, the other in Mendocino tested positive for COVID-19.

Under a new public health order expected at the end of the week, residents in Mendocino County are expected to be required to wear masks when leaving their homes for any activity. The Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan was part of the online Board of Supervisors meeting Monday, who also said she'd announce several other measures to loosen the restrictions on her stay at home order including singing with social distancing with a total of four or less people, traveling up to ten miles away from home to recreate, and nonessential businesses would be able to sell and deliver products to customers.

The Governor's office of Business and Economic Development or GO-BIZ has awarded Mendocino County with more than \$2,200,000 in Cannabis Equity Grant Funding for the development and implementation of a Local Equity Program. The money starts funneling in for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 with no more than 10% for administration. So that means there's still more than \$2 million for loans, grants, technical assistance, training, waivers and fee reductions for those eligible. The County's Planning and Building Services Dept is partnering with Go-Biz for an agreement to get the money, then announcements will be made this summer regarding the program being implemented and how to participate.

State Senator Mike McGuire says the Governor wants to start ramping up coronavirus testing to 25,000 a day by the end of this month. This information as part of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday. McGuire says the priority is to first test the most vulnerable populations including skilled nursing facility residents and staff and frontline workers including police, emergency service workers and health care workers. He also said that sadly there won't be normal seating at restaurants for the remainder of the year, he wasn't sure about large events, and there could be different attendance at large events like sports and county fairs with social distancing. He told the supervisors he was worried about too quickly relaxing some of the restrictions in place at beaches and parks in coastal Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin.

We should see more restrictions relaxed by the end of the week. The Public Health Officer in Mendocino County is expected to allow drives of up to ten miles for recreational activities, group singing, but no instruments and with social distancing in place and possible barriers, some businesses will be able to allow employees to sell and deliver inventory to customers and the Board of Supervisors will work with West Company to come up with new plans for schools and churches for limited re-openings. Dr. Noemi Doohan expressed frustration with the amount of tests available and sorrow about what's happening at nursing homes across the state. She mentioned the testing of raw sewage in Lake County and says she wants to start doing that in Mendocino County as well. There will be new guidance too on facial masks. Two Parks will open, but all others will stay closed. She said there would be more limited openings at the beginning of May.

The 11th Street Corridor work will go on in Lakeport. The City Council is about to approve a plan to refurbish part of the road for several blocks in the downtown area. The work in one of the busiest areas of the City since it's so close to the middle of everything. The Asst. City Manager sent a report to the council saying there's also limited pedestrian access there for walking, biking and all that creates traffic snarls and accidents. They've already held public meetings on the matter and a feasibility study too. The plan isn't solid yet, they have to find funding after approval. The meeting tonight at six on go to meeting.

A new report shows Calif. behind most others in testing for COVID-19. The Associated Press report shows California has done just over 7 tests per 1,000 residents, this from data culled by the independent COVID Tracking Project. Texas and Virginia were just behind with about 6.4 per 1,000 residents, and Kansas, where they had 6.2 per 1,000 residents. Pennsylvania ahead of the pack with 12.4 per 1,000 and New York was 31.6 per 1,000 residents, the second-highest in the U.S. behind Rhode Island, with 32.8 per 1,000 residents. The Gov said yesterday in his daily briefing testing rates were less than what was needed but said they hope to ramp up testing in coming weeks and says the state's already making progress.

Because so many kids are at home being virtually schooled, the Governor has announced several new partnerships, so students get access to Wi-Fi, computers and the tools to keep them connected to their teachers. There's a new task force set up to close the digital divide, as we mentioned yesterday google was making several donations, now T-Mobile, and Amazon with nearly 25,000 tablet devices between them. Apple is donating 9,000 iPads and is working with 8,000 school districts to give more. The Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative (Facebook Founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife) is donating \$1,000,000, Jack Dorsey is donating \$1,000,000 and investors Ann & John Doerr are donating \$1,000,000. The California Public Utilities Commission is also helping with hotspots and internet, worth \$25 million.

A former prisoner released into Lake County because of the coronavirus is reported to be one of the six positive COVID-19 cases in that County. The Sheriff has confirmed the case to Lake County News. They were also released from the California Institution for Men in Chino, like two others who ended up in Mendocino County, one of them also positive. The prisoners all released as part of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation program announced last month. The former prisoner in Lake County, like the positive case in Mendocino County was asymptomatic during a screening when he was released to return to Lake County. All of the prisoners told to self-quarantine and given facial barriers to wear as they traveled to their county of release.

At a Monday meeting of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, they heard about the 5th case of coronavirus, discussed emergency order changes and a grant from FEMA. The CEO reported the county got a \$750,000 grant from FEMA and the Public Health Officer caught the board up on the story of the inmate from Chino State Prison who ended up in Ukiah after being exposed to coronavirus inside. Dr. Doohan reported nearly 70 cases were confirmed at the prison where the former prisoner was housed, then released under certain criteria having to do with the pandemic. She says Sheriff Matt Kendall reported their concern to the Gov. All five cases of COVID-19 have been contracted out of the county. A new Shelter in Place order is expected by Friday.

The Public Health Officer in Lake County expanding on information there was coronavirus in local sewage. Dr. Gary Pace speaking out after test results showed coronavirus in raw sewage at all four of its sewage treatment plants. The tests are being conducted across the country, and in Lake County there were a couple with no virus detection, then April 8th it was found in Kelseyville, Middletown, Northwest Regional in north Lakeport and Southeast Regional in Clearlake sewage treatment plants. There's no evidence that the virus can be spread thru wastewater. Dr. Pace says stool samples tested at a hospital in Boston showed the virus didn't shed in a way they could follow cases closely yet. But says it's a good indicator to see if cases are going up or down. Pace says raw sewage has other contaminants in it that are hazardous as well. He says they believe it can be killed in raw sewage with detergent and bleach.

Protests around the country and in Calif against the stay at home restrictions put into place by Governors. The governor asking for people to continue following guidelines saying some counties could gradually relax strict rules, like in Ventura County where they want to reopen golf courses and parks. Then the public health officer in Los Angeles County had to remind residents not to descend on those locations. The Governor announced at his Monday briefing there would be news tomorrow about the reopening of the state. There have been nearly 1,200 deaths in the state related to COVID-19. At the same time there were cars circling around at the Capitol yesterday and as many as 200 protesters out of their cars marching with signs, many without masks and crowding shoulder to shoulder against Newsom's orders. For which he said, if you're going to protest, at least practice physical distancing.

The Gov. says they are ramping up coronavirus testing and after getting results back that will be critical to deciding when the strict stay-at-home orders can be lifted and people can go back to work. Governor Newsom's announcement earlier today and says the pandemic is still spreading and a growing health threat so lifting any restrictions prematurely could lead to a second wave of infections and deaths. He says he spoke to the President today who promised more specimen swabs for coronavirus testing and that 100,000 swabs were expected in California this week and 250,000 next week. He also says there will be more testing sites and there would be more antibody tests too. Right now they're doing about 14,500 tests a day between both public and private medical labs, but they hope to get to 25,000 tests per day by the end of April and as many as 80,000 in the near future.

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California looking to help businesses that had to close down because of the pandemic. A new 80 member task force has been formed to help with inventory problems and credit card debt. It's co-chaired by former presidential candidate and businessman Tom Steyer along with several other big name business leaders and entrepreneurs including Walt Disney Co. Executive Chair Bob Iger, Former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, Patagonia CEO and President Rose Marcario, Apple CEO Tim Cook, Homeboy Industries founder Father Gregory Boyle and LinkedIn CEO Jeff Weiner. Leaders of 10 labor unions are also included and the four previous, living Governors too, Republicans Arnold Schwarzenegger and Pete Wilson, and Democrats Gray Davis and Jerry Brown.

Assemblyman Jim Wood says he's frustrated by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and called on the Gov. to get legislators more involved in the process and provide more information they could pass on to their constituents and local officials. Wood says they could help move things to another level and says he's meeting resistance when he tries. He says it's a missed opportunity as they have the relationships with their local governments, cities, counties, special districts, hospitals, doctor groups and more. This in a budget subcommittee hearing he was invited to earlier this week where lawmakers peppered the state's Health and Human Services Agency and members of the Finance Department with questions.

State Senator Mike McGuire on a new bipartisan committee to review how the state has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee will release their findings along with recommendations for future preparedness for this and future pandemics. McGuire says the state has been at the forefront of this crisis, taking early and decisive action, the most in the country, to try to slow the spread of the virus. But he adds the bipartisan special committee will help, because the state can always do better. They're focusing on what has been done right, but more importantly, where the state can improve and how to be better prepared in the months to come.

Free facial masks from the Frank R. Howard Foundation. The foundation has purchased 10,000 cloth masks for those who live in Willits. They're locally made and were offered at cost to the Foundation. They're going to start delivering them this week to Mariposa Market, Safeway, Grocery Outlet, Mendo Mill and Coast Hardware. The Foundation says those are places people have to visit for food and supplies so they wanted them available when residents go shopping. There will be more coming every two to three weeks as they're made, so the Foundation says if you go and cannot get one, give it a minute more are on the way.

The Public Health officer in Lake County reported to the Board of Supervisors regarding the shelter in place orders for coronavirus. Dr. Gary Pace says this Friday there could be some loosening of some of the strict guidelines on recreation to allow people to go hiking, possibly fishing and enjoy limited activity on Clear Lake, including the use of non-motorized boats, following the governor's orders moving forward, and reassessing in two weeks. Dr. Pace also called for the formation of a working group made up of government leaders to find a path forward for reopening businesses. Supervisor Rob Brown said he wanted businesses to reopen at the same level as the state and not to wait until Friday. Pace agreed to try to move faster on lifting some restrictions, and Supervisor Bruno Sabatier said areas with less people and less infections should be able to reopen sooner. Supervisor Moke Simon cautioned against moving too quickly.

A new study at UC Davis shows promise for a drug in use for gravely ill patients with coronavirus. Antiviral medicine remdesivir was given on a compassionate-use basis at UC Davis Health and other hospitals in the U.S., Europe, Canada and Japan. 53 patients with COVID-19 between 23 to 82 years old admitted to the hospital between January 25th to March 7th got a ten day course of the drug. Nearly 70% of the patients were on ventilators. 68% had improved oxygen levels after the drug was given and half of those on ventilators were taken off, and nearly half were discharged. Then almost a month later, 84% were discharged or had improved.

Congressman John Garamendi working to get expanded coronavirus testing. Garamendi's the co-chair of the Congressional Peace Corps Caucus and looking to get America's service organizations to ramp up testing and conduct contact tracing. The Undertaking National Initiatives to Tackle Epidemic Act (UNITE Act) would get more volunteers in AmeriCorps and FEMA to bring more testing and contact tracing to be able to find cases, and monitor the contacts of those who are infected.

A large grant for a new transit hub and that could fund the modernization of Lake Transit Authority's fleet has been approved. The Executive Director of Lake Transit says the grant program is extremely competitive and in the past, rural applicants had less success accessing the awards. Lake won \$13 million from the state of California's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. There was \$500 million dollars awarded by the California State Transportation Agency to 17 recipients including Lake. They will purchase hydrogen run buses with the money and pay for the new transit hub proposed on county-owned property in Clearlake, near the courthouse and the Lake County Campus of Woodland Community College.

Cops in Clearlake on the lookout for whoever burglarized a local pharmacy. Cops say they were notified by a burglary alarm going off at North Lake Medical Pharmacy early Tuesday morning. They found a smashed window, but nobody inside. They took a look at the surveillance footage from the businesses noticing two people inside, one of them stealing some pill bottles. Police say they will release the surveillance video footage after they receive a copy of it.

The Gov. says he's against local municipalities taking their own actions to loosen the statewide shelter in place restrictions in place more than a month. Gov. Newsom says his office has been trying to organize the many conversations they've had with city and county leaders about orders and he'll speak on it again today. He says they're working to get more tests and trace communities where the positive cases may land. The state averaging about 14,500 tests a day, less than what he said he hoped to achieve by the end of April. The Gov. says moving too fast on loosening guidelines could cause the virus to spread more. The Press Democrat reports in San Luis Obispo they were starting to come up with a loosening because they had flattened the curve and were headed down. In Los Angeles County though, they are having more cases and the Mayor says loosening restrictions could doom the community.

State Public Health Officials allowing, for the first time, asymptomatic people to be tested for Covid-19. This means Calif will be the first state to have less restrictive federal guidelines to increase the amount of testing. Some experts hailing the decision to help slow the spread of the pandemic, others say it's too early to enhance testing after state officials said there was still an inadequate amount of tests across the state. Calif has been following federal guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, saying only hospitalized patients and symptomatic health care workers would first be tested. Then after that symptomatic patients who are elderly or had underlying conditions.

The amount of testing ramping up in Sonoma County. Public health care workers are testing high risk groups like health care workers and those who work or live in group care facilities. That will start this weekend with up to 200 tests a day at drive-thru sites after a slew of specimen swabs, that were in short supply, arrived in the County. There were 10 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Sonoma County yesterday for a total of 192 positives, or about 4% of just over 4,500 tests conducted since early March. 87 people have recovered from the virus and two people died.

The Mendocino County DA reports two violent gang members will head out of town as soon as the Corrections Dept. will take them. The two were found guilty of randomly shooting at another man as he drove past them on the way to Boonville. The DA reports the two suspects thought the victim was part of a rival gang so they went after him. 18 year old Alfredo Asher Knight of Redwood Valley pleaded guilty to attempted murder and two sentencing enhancements, that he personally used a firearm in the commission of the attempted murder and committed the attempted murder for the benefit of a criminal street gang. The other one, 20 year old Marshall Leland Stillday of Hopland faced the same charges. The two look to hit middle age behind bars once they're placed inside. The two members of the Norteño criminal street gang.

Folks in Fort Bragg hootin and hollerin out their windows and doors every night for front line workers. It's reported that the national practice started in Denver after two people there started a Facebook page called, "Go Outside and Howl at 8 p.m." It happened at 7 pm in New York City, but elsewhere at 8 like in Mendocino County where another Facebook group emerged, "Go Outside and Howl 8 p.m. Mendocino Coast CA". There are more than 1,000 members in the group. The page asks for neighborhoods in Fort Bragg, along Highway 20, and in Mendocino, Albion, Cleone and Mitchell Creek to

04/23/20 howl away each night.

You may soon be able to get an at home coronavirus test, for a price. LabCorp has announced they received an emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration for a home collection kit they will charge \$119 for. They say they're first prioritizing the tests to go to health care workers and emergency responders. The CEO of the company says the kits are to make it easier and safer to test health care workers and first responders. The person taking the test would swab their own nose, then it goes out to one of Labcorp's lab's for detection with results posted online. Covid-19 the topic of the latest Lakeport City Council. The city is operating with fewer staff members and those who can telecommute are doing so. The Public Works Director says they're running on limited staff and were spreading work amongst staff members, including testing sewage for coronavirus after it was found that some of it had the presence of the virus in it. That's because the lab where they had been sending became overwhelmed with Lakeport on a waitlist. The Police Chief reported to the council they've made changes too related to arrests, hospital visits, protective equipment with volunteers on leave and travel restrictions. And the Lakeport Community Development Department was monitoring the pandemic and applying for money so that city projects could continue thru block grants.

Congressman Mike Thompson, the chair of the Ways and Means Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee and the Oversight Subcommittee Chair John Lewis have sent a letter to the Treasury Secretary to find out why it's taking so long for some people to get stimulus payments. The letter contained news reports that there were payments sent to tax preparers or third party banks and not to the intended taxpayer. The two House members want to know what's being done to correct the errors. Apparently the payments made by direct deposit had banking or other errors or sent to accounts that were temporary and should have been returned to the Treasury, but were not.

A man has been arrested and a stolen senior center van from Lakeport found. A police officer saw the van Tuesday night and arrested Robert Taylor who had earlier been cited for violating the shelter in place order. He was seen driving the stolen van near the Savings Bank of Mendocino County on Main Street. Police ran a check on the license plate finding it had been stolen without anyone at the Center's knowledge. Senior Center staff picked the van up and Taylor was cited for felony vehicle theft and possession of stolen property. Due to the rules in place by the Judicial Council of California he was not booked or held in jail but was told to appear in court. He was arrested last week for violating the County's Public Health shelter in place orders for harassing employees and customers at a local business.

Congressman Mike Thompson hosting an online town hall. The virtual town hall tomorrow afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., the second town hall on COVID-19 where he and experts will answer questions about the pandemic for constituents of California's Fifth Congressional District. The Sonoma County Public Health Officer is joining with Thompson and the chair of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Sonoma County is part of the District. They can have no more than 500 people on the zoom meeting, but they're also streaming it live on Facebook. Thompson represents all or part of Contra Costa, Lake, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties.

In Sonoma County they're having discussions about opening limited access to parks after a month's long closure because of coronavirus. The Public Health Officer Sundari Mase and elected and appointed officials considering the move after they say test results show progress against the infection. Plans to open limited access to paved multi-use trails, such as the Joe Rodota Trail, walk-in or bike-in entry to parks near residents' homes, but no beaches or high touch areas, like playgrounds, picnic areas or bathrooms. The chair of the Board of Supervisors says she hopes for more official plans by the weekend or early next week.

The Mendocino County School Superintendent Michelle Hutchins with a guest column in the Mendocino Voice talking about the new reality of schooling children during the Covid-19 pandemic. Hutchins spoke of parents who are also teachers having to school their own children and work with kids while other parents are working from home and having to help their kids with long distance learning. Hutchins says the Mendocino County Office of Education has certain educational resources to help support the coursework given to students. There are links to extra-curricular, fun activities Hutchins says that are for various ages and cover many topics including English language arts, history/social science, math and science, social-emotional learning, games and physical education.

More tickets being handed out by the California Highway Patrol for speeding during the coronavirus pandemic. The CHP reports after the shelter in place order started March 19th, and for one month after they handed out almost 2,500 tickets for drivers going over 100 mph. It's almost two times as many as the same time last year when they handed out 1,335. The Dept. of Transportation and Office of Traffic Safety with the CHP say the ticket spike is happening even though there's a 35% decline in traffic volume, which the CHP Commissioner calls "alarming." The CHP also says hospitals are packed already, so speeding is especially dangerous in the age of coronavirus, adding that accidents are entirely preventable. The CHP says to try to get drivers to slow down, they put up more than 700 electronic road signs across the state that say "if you must travel do not speed."

A Ukiah middle schooler has won an award for his stunning photography. Eagle Peak Middle Schooler A.J. Bass won the Grand Prize in the Jostens 2020 Photo Contest. The 7th grader, and first-year digital media student, won the honor for his take of, "ON THE MAT!" winning over 5,000 entries from middle and high school photographers across the country. 108 pictures were chosen to win and Bass won the overall Grand Prize, of a cash prize, camera equipment and he will be featured in several Jostens publications. He says he was in shock and says a photo of Muhammed Ali was behind the inspiration of the photo he took. Three other Eagle Peak students were also recognized.

[The Jostens 2020 Photo Contest winners can be viewed at https://issuu.com/](https://issuu.com/)

CalFire has started to require burn permits again for residential burning in Mendocino County. CalFire says property owners can go to their website and get a permit for free after they watch a short educational video. You will then submit an application. You've got to print it out, sign it and just keep it on you when you're performing the burn. The information on the website will guide you through a burn safely, minimizing the chance for the fire to escape. <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/> Before you start the burn, be sure to check in with the Mendocino County Air Management District <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/aqmd/burninginformation.html>.

The Coastal Trail in Fort Bragg has been reopened with strict guidelines. The City Manager says if there are people traveling to the city to go onto the trail, it will be closed. She says she wants it only for local use. And with that, parking lots and bathrooms are still closed and will stay that way until the stay home order is lifted. There are signs in place with detailed instructions for users. Social distancing will have to be maintained, masks are highly encouraged, hikers may not sit on any of the benches or picnic tables, or any place where people might congregate. There have been some complaints, but the city says most people are respecting rules. Other parks and beaches remain closed, but if you can walk or ride your bike there, it's ok to use.

A new CEO has been named by Mendocino Community Health Centers. Scott McFarland was supposed to May 1st but came early because of coronavirus. McFarland commented that he has already seen the great sacrifice and commitment by staff and that patients are getting the care they need. The Health Centers board chair says they're fortunate to have such a solid leader in Scott. He had been the CEO of Western Sierra Medical Clinic in Nevada County, and before that ran Peachtree Health Center for six years.

The Lake County Public Health Officer has officially released his update to the shelter in place order. It was supposed to come out tomorrow, but we've just gotten a look at the addendum to the order which was put into play five weeks ago. Dr. Gary Pace says since there's been no surge in coronavirus cases, they're starting to loosen some of the restrictions first put into place. Golf courses can open with limits, hiking and jogging is allowed in open parks, canoeing, kayaking, and other paddle-propelled, hand-launched watercraft will now be allowed on Clear Lake, but no sailboats. Highland Springs Shooting Ranges can open again and other activities that can be done alone without physical contact with others. Some businesses can reopen, pet grooming, real estate. But other businesses need to stay closed for now under the Governor's order.

[Mendocino Coast Clinics has received 5,000 medical masks for employees, p](#)

A revised Shelter in Place Order has been announced by the Mendocino County Health Officer, the fourth order, and this one stays in place until May 10th. It calls for face masks to be worn in public, starting in a week. There is some loosening of other restrictions too though: more recreation allowed, driving up 20 miles away and with social distancing and a face mask.

Singing in groups for live streaming events is allowed if the venue uses all possible protective measures to slow COVID-19 transmission. Dr. Doohan says masks, combined with social distancing and sheltering in place are powerful weapons against coronavirus and help to prepare the community for limited reopening of activities next month. The new order also says employers who require employees to leave home for work have to supply them with masks. Dr. Doohan also says she's working on another order

04/24/20 about wearing masks at medical and nursing facilities.

5 people from one family have tested positive for coronavirus in the Round Valley Tribe. It was first announced that 3 people in the family tested positive, but this afternoon the Mendocino County Public Health Officer reported an additional 2 family members also tested positive. During Dr. Noemi Doohan's press briefing this afternoon, Round Valley Tribal Council president James Russ, who's also the Executive Director at the Round Valley Indian Health Center reported on the Tribe's willingness to closely and carefully follow the Public Health orders since the beginning of the pandemic. The center was where the tests were run on the family and confirmed as positive. The family is said to be isolating at home, contact tracing is ongoing and the Public Health dept. is actively monitoring the family.

One of the members of the Fort Bragg Police Dept. is retiring. Sergeant Andrew Kendl and his Police Dog Maverick finished work Wednesday. Sgt. Kendl served with the department for 15 years and before that was a Deputy for the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, spent several years with the Richmond Police Department and was a Naval Military Police Officer for six years.

3 new cases of Covid-19 in Mendocino County. The Round Valley residents all live in the same house and were tested by the Round Valley Indian Health Center. The Mendocino County Public Health officer reports the health care workers who tested the family used proper Personal Protective Equipment and followed protocol reporting the cases to them. The Public Health Office is now doing contact tracing while working with Round Valley Indian Health Center for additional testing of anyone who may have also been exposed to the family. The trio are said to be in stable condition and in isolation at home with active public health monitoring. None had to be hospitalized. And asymptomatic close contacts of the cases are in quarantine.

Some groups are calling for more transparency by the Newsom Administration with testing for coronavirus. The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California has reportedly sent a letter to the Gov. for the release of demographics on people who died and who have been tested or ended up in the hospital. Then another letter was sent earlier this week with 65 advocacy groups across the state supporting an investigation. The ACLU letter says the state has a history of discrimination towards people of color and without data they cannot get equal access to resources and treatment. School Districts across the state getting an extension on filing their Local Control and Accountability Plan. The paperwork shows the district's spending plans for 2020-21. The Governor's office says there will be an executive order in coming days. The California Department of Education says they expect an extension until mid-December because school districts said they needed to revise their budgets. The Dept. also says it'll ask lawmakers to cancel the California School Dashboard this year. That's a color-coded accountability system rating schools and districts on various performance measures. Since there have been cancellations of standardized tests it would publish incomplete and invalid numbers in the fall.

More coronavirus tests at the Lake County Jail. The Sheriff's Dept. reports there have been 100 coronavirus tests on inmates and jail staff with zero positives. The department reports getting back 15 of the tests with negative results and they expect more results every day. There's been several positive tests across the state within correctional facilities, as we've reported 3 inmates from Chino came to Lake and Mendocino County due to Covid-19 early releases, and two of them were positive, one in each County. 69 positive cases of the virus detected at the Chino facility as of yesterday.

The Ukiah Emergency Operations Center will stay open due to the pandemic. At the City Council meeting Wednesday the Emergency Services Coordinator said they were open Monday through Friday from 7 am to 5 pm. The City Manager Sage Sangiacomo reported on the loosening of the shelter in place directive by the Public Health Officer for facial protection and some businesses be able to reopen.

Also at the city council meeting schools in Ukiah reported increased turnout for free food being handed out by the district. The Police Chief reported they're getting complaints about people gathering in groups, more thefts, domestic disturbances with possible violence. Complaints about the homeless and the encampment adding more tents, some of which are inside property lines, large fires being burned at night creating disputes with neighbors or within the camp. The Deputy City Manager reported staying in touch with the Board of Supervisors about the encampment in the airport clear zone.

In Humboldt County there will be a fine if you get caught without a face covering. The District Attorney says it'll be against a state Health and Safety Code related to communicable disease prevention and control and a misdemeanor. But that could mean a fine too of \$50 to \$1,000 or even prison time for not abiding. The DA also says she hopes they won't have to resort to any of this because they've seen widespread compliance with the shelter-in-place order and that there would only be criminal enforcement for someone who violates the order on purpose, putting others at risk.

Lake and Mendocino County residents starting the US Census and the Census reporting the response rate below state and national averages. Lake Co News reports the latest numbers just under 52 percent of households nationwide. Respondents in Calif., 53.2 percent. The Census Bureau reports Lake County's response rate was below the state and national averages at 34 percent, and the online response rate was 23.6 percent. In Mendocino County the numbers were also pretty low, a 39 percent response rate by mail and 30.6 online. But the field data portion of the Census has been suspended because of coronavirus.

Price gouging hitting personal protective equipment. The LA Times reporting suppliers and middlemen are charging more as we have a global shortage of medical equipment. The Times reports reviewing hundreds of state contracting records showing the state's been paying more than 300% above the list price. State transportation officials made an emergency purchase of masks for \$12.74 each. The manufacturer 3M lists them at \$3.40 each. A spokesperson for the state says they have to sometimes pay the higher prices to protect public health. A spokesperson for the Dept. Of Transportation says the purchase for immediate need for the health and safety of its employees.

It's starting to look like a regular neighborhood and no longer scorched earth in one Santa Rosa neighborhood after the Oct. 2017 wildfire storm. More than 1,000 homes have been rebuilt in Coffey Park out of more than 1,400 homes lost in the Tubbs fire. The neighborhood support group Coffey Strong gets some landscaping after a donation by FedEx. 350 free trees delivered by a local gardening company to 180 Coffey Park homeowners after 700 dead and damaged trees were removed last summer.

The Ukiah Food Bank may not be getting a boost from a reliable source of the past. The Daily Journal reports the executive director of the Ford St. Project, the local rehab center says the Food Bank got \$29,000 from individual donations as the first shelter in place orders came. But now the director says since the alcohol and drug program is losing thousands and fewer people are getting services, they may not be able to donate that for a while. She says there will probably be a 20 percent rise in the amount of people who need to get help from the food bank which means they will probably have to hire someone new and won't be getting that extra \$2,000-04/27/20 3,000 either.

A family infected with COVID-19 in Round Valley takes the amount of cases to 11 in Mendocino County. As we reported Friday, there were first 3 cases, then a couple more, in the family, then Friday night, another confirmed. So six cases total in the family and five in the County before that. The Mendocino County CEO reported the family got the virus after one of them traveled to the Bay Area three times to visit another family member there. That family member exposed four other members of the family, and the sixth was a family member who doesn't live with them. The CEO says the Public Health Dept. is monitoring the family and testing as many people in the Round Valley Reservation as they can, adding if they can test all 2,000 residents, they will. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Noemi Doohan says they're working closely with the Indian Health Center on more tests of anyone else who may have been exposed to members of the family who tested positive. She said all of those who already tested positive are in stable condition, in isolation at home with active public health monitoring and do not require hospitalization.

A new report says about ten people who had been living in an assisted living facility in Redwood City have died from coronavirus. Those who have died include the former president of Stanford University. The report from the state showing more than 5,400 residents and health care workers at long term care facilities got COVID-19 and more than 539 of them died. Gordon Manor in the Bay Area with the most. There were 65 residents there. The facilities are overseen by the state Department of Social Services. All of the data dates back to April 22nd. The largest skilled nursing outbreak in the state, also in the Bay Area with more than a dozen patients dying and a new list released Friday had the number of infected there at 28.

Several hundred healthcare workers in Sonoma County have been tested for the virus. This weekend a new drive thru program had the most tests over two days since the pandemic began. Health Officials say testing is the key to reopening the County. And our Public Health Officer, Dr. Noemi Doohan had previously said she's following with other Bay Area Counties are doing. The drive-thru testing started with the healthcare workers but is reportedly going to expand for first responders with virus symptoms first; then those 65 years and older with underlying health conditions with or without symptoms, and finally they will get to residents with symptoms. The Public Health Officer in Sonoma County is expected to lift some of the restrictions of their stay at home order to allow more access to local parks and allow some construction and real estate transactions to resume, but most other restrictions will stay for now.

The Shelter in Place order in Sonoma County is set to expire. The Press Democrat reports the order expires Friday and at the same time the Public Health Officer is reportedly going to relax some of the stay-home order. The newspaper reports there were rumors last week about what might be revised including public access to local parks and construction projects and real estate transactions to resume, but staying at home except for leaving for essential business or errands, wearing masks in public and social distancing would all stay awhile. Dr. Sundari Mase telling the newspaper we are still under an executive order from the governor and it's up to him to lift the shelter-in-place. The state's order takes precedence over any county public health order. But Lake, Napa and Mendocino counties have loosened some restrictions on traveling further for recreation, golfing, hiking and jogging. Construction and pet groomers can pick back up in Lake County.

The Lake County Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says they're allowing some low risk activities to resume as long as people observe social distancing, and don't gather in groups of no larger than two people. They will moderate activities and possibly open more businesses in a layered or step by step approach. The Shelter in Place order was set to expire May 3rd, that's this coming Sunday. There's an extension coming, depending on any State Orders from the Governor's office. The addendum from April 23rd, which we reported last week, will expire on June 1st. It includes limited recreation on the Lake, Hidden Valley Lake opening to residents, fishing from the shore, but no fishing boats are allowed, no swimming is permitted. Dr. Pace says he will allow more restrictions to be lifted as they see fit.

The Mendocino College Career Education dept. has provided Adventist Health several 3D printed face shields. The college delivered 240 N95 masks last month, another 5,000 – including ear loop surgical, face shields and N95's to the Nursing Department. Now 250 more face shields. The president of Adventist says they've been touched by the outpouring of support from the community for healthcare workers on the front lines. Adventist Health in Mendocino County, operates Adventist Health Howard Memorial and Adventist Health Ukiah Valley. The school's Theatre Arts/Technical Director and a Computer Science instructor are running up to five different 3D printers a day to make the masks, which amounts to about 25 masks a day.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has their regular meeting, focusing on the pandemic. It's of course online, and starts tomorrow morning at 9. The public is invited to submit comments by email. The County Administrative Officer is also proposing some temporary safety measures in a proposed urgency ordinance to require masks be worn at county facilities. The Board will also hear from the Public Health Officer at the top of the agenda. The Board will also look at selling property to Lake Transit Agency to build a new transit hub. They will also consider telling the treasurer-tax collector to take immediate action for new procedures for taxpayers who need waivers to not pay property taxes during the pandemic.

Library Park in Lakeport is not opened, but Dutch Harbor has been reopened to the public. This comes after updated health orders were issued by Lake County Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace last week. You can also fish off the shoreline and Hidden Valley Lake is open. No fishing boats are allowed, and hiking and jogging in areas where public parks are open is also okay. But Library Park is staying closed for all activities due to the ongoing construction there. Plus there's limited staff to cover parks due to the pandemic.

A special meeting's being held by the Clearlake City Council due to the pandemic. They will consider an urgency ordinance on tenant evictions during the COVID-19 emergency. Lake Co News reports the Council will have a virtual meeting broadcast live on their YouTube channel and you can submit questions in writing. The city clerk will deliver those to the council and the mayor will read the comments aloud in the meeting, but any they get after the start of the meeting won't get into the record. On the agenda, extending or repealing the urgency ordinance on tenant evictions which was adopted March 19th.

A man in Redwood Valley has been arrested after a burglary in progress is reported. A woman says there was someone outside her house trying to force their way inside. The man identified later as Douglas Stone Jr., who the victim says she told to leave and that she was calling 911. He did leave and was contacted close by. He was searched for weapons and deputies found a loaded semi-automatic pistol in his pants pocket. They searched his car and found a bunch of stolen items from others who had previously reported burglaries in the neighborhood. Cops also found a small pry on Stone. He's charged with several crimes including burglary, possession of marijuana, possession of stolen property, carrying a concealed weapon and prowling. He was booked on \$75,000.00 bail. A search of his home turned up many other stolen items, firearms, firearm parts, ammo and explosive device precursors. Because of coronavirus, he was booked and released.

A man in Covelo's busted after a call from a woman about being choked by her husband. Deputies went to the home last weekend where the woman, who's 5 months pregnant, told them her husband, Samson Joaquin, started to choke her with a belt while they were in bed. She somehow got away, but the man picked up a propane tank and several metal food cans and started hitting her in the head and body, punched and kicked her several times in the stomach. She had visible injuries which police say were consistent with her story, plus she had blood in some of the wounds. She was flown to an out of county hospital. Joaquin was arrested on multiple charges domestic violence battery and assault with a deadly weapon. He was held on \$30,000.00 bail.

A man arrested the past few days in trouble with the law again. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports getting a call to a home where Douglas Stone Jr. was making criminal threats. Apparently a man who had Stone's dog came to bring it back to him and says Stone came at him with a large butcher knife and threatened to kill him. They say he also threatened to kill his own dog, his ex-wife, and her new boyfriend. The victim says he was afraid for his life and thought he would kill him then try to find his ex and her new boyfriend, and threatened him to not call police or he'd kill them too. Stone has been charged with several crimes and turned himself into

04/28/20 deputies and held on \$275,000.00 bail.

Talk about further loosening restrictions in Mendocino County during the latest Board of Supervisors meeting. The Public Health Officer Dr. Mimi Doohan peppered with questions about when things may start to reopen and certain types of businesses be allowed to open. One supervisor saying that he was asked by a local yoga studio owner about when they could expect to open again....

Dr. Doohan explained many things during today's meeting and said she will follow whatever the Governor's orders are that she probably wouldn't have any major changes to her shelter in place order until May 8th, one week from Friday, then again, probably not until June after that.

The town of Covelo's getting a special delivery by the National Guard. The Mendocino County Sheriff announced quarantine tents are coming to Covelo after six people in one family in the Round Valley Tribe ended up with coronavirus. The Sheriff reportedly checking in with State Sen. Mike McGuire, Assemblyman Jim Wood and state health officials and now needed equipment, tents, cots, and more will be in Covelo by today or tomorrow. The Sheriff says the equipment is in case there's a surge of cases from community spread. The tents will be put up outside the tribal health center. Mass testing is going on within the tribe after the family got infected. The cases bring the total of confirmed cases in Mendocino County to 11.

The Streetscape Project in downtown Ukiah is moving along quicker. The City Manager says since there's less traffic and business closures during the Shelter-In-Place Order, they're doing the underground utility work on Perkins and Standley streets this week. The announcement last Friday with the revised schedule which she says means less impact on surrounding businesses and residents. The work should wrap up by May 8th, next Friday. They were conducting potholing last week to get the underground utility work done, which started yesterday. The work being conducted during daytime hours, Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Ukiah Farmers Market is reportedly doing well. The Daily Journal reports the market manager saying market sales were up, as opposed to the past when February and March are generally slower. The newspaper reports there are usually 9-10 vendors this time of year, but they have more than a dozen. Some vendors the paper interviewed said sales were up, up to 50% more than normal. People are practicing social distancing and they have signs up as a reminder. Plus masks will be mandatory starting Friday.

Local hotel owners on a call to see how they can help Ukiah. The Daily Journal reports the twelve hoteliers on a brainstorming WhatsApp call and quickly gathered \$10,000 and ordered 25,000 masks. They've already begun to distribute them to hospitals. They've also started a group called Hospitality Strong to continue ordering masks for hospitals in the area. So far 11 hospitals in 4 states got the masks including Adventist Health Hospital in Ukiah who got 500 N95 masks and 6,000 surgical masks. For more info, there's now a Hospitality Strong Facebook page and a Go-FundMe page to help raise more money for the cause. They say they've received donations from Ohio, Illinois, Florida, Wisconsin, Louisiana and Kentucky. One of the local hotel owners also working with the City of Ukiah and the County to offer lodging for those who need to self isolate.

North Coast Opportunity working with the Community Foundation of Mendocino County to help local residents who've been affected by coronavirus. The CEO of the Community Foundation says they created the COVID-19 Relief Fund to help individuals and families with everyday needs like helping to pay for their utilities, put gas in their car, food on the table, and a roof over their heads. The money is available to inland Mendocino County residents. You can apply by phone, (707) 621-8817 or online, by visiting <http://www.ncoinc.org> and click 'People Helping People'. The first applications are being accepted starting tomorrow.

The Gov facing pressure for front line, essential workers to get workers' compensation if they contract COVID- 19. Legislators working on the idea introducing two bills, ahead of any claims filed for benefits. The state had reportedly already received more than 1,500 claims as of April 16th. The state and U.S. Chambers of Commerce reportedly telling the Gov. to only cover certain essential workers or it will cost employers and insurance companies billions. And unions are asking the Gov. to include more in any executive order since many have been required to work without the appropriate personal protective gear and no access to testing.

The Gov. calling out people at beaches over the weekend saying it's an example of "what not to do". In Newsom's daily address yesterday he was speaking about photos that went viral of people bathing on beaches along the coast on Saturday and Sunday. In Newport, pictures circulated of crowds on the beaches and there were more at parks, something Newsom says will slow the progress already made against Covid-19 and that it would jeopardize future loosening of restrictions of the current shelter-in-place order. The Gov. said a lack of social distancing could peak numbers again as the state showed some signs of a flattening of the curve.

Since the state has a moratorium in place until the end of next month for tenants being protected against eviction due to coronavirus, the Clearlake City Council has repealed its temporary eviction moratorium. At a special virtual meeting of the Council yesterday, members did not renew an urgency ordinance put into place a month ago that was to last until May 19th. The City Manager says the City's moratorium came before the state's, which is a longer moratorium that ends on May 31st. Only one person had a public comment and it was a landlord concerned about the shift of financial responsibility from tenants to landlords.

Operational changes announced in the City of Lakeport due to Covid-19. During a City Council meeting last week staff reported to the Council. The state is allowing businesses up to a year to pay their sales tax. And the City announced businesses should contact city staff to see if there's local help available. The Finance Director reported to the Council they should see the next budget in June, as usual and recommended suspending any discretionary spending in the 2020 budget. The Public Works Director says the Library Park seawall is almost done, but there's some finishing touches held up due to Covid-19. And the police chief reported some major changes regarding how they conduct work, making contact with community members on shelter in place and criminal investigations which went way down.

The Sonoma County health officer has confirmed there will be some restrictions lifted with her shelter in place order. Dr. Sundari Mase says there will be a "soft opening" of some parks and construction work allowed and work that can be done outdoors like landscaping and gardening. Dr. Mase says those are lower risk activities that can be relaxed from her March 18th stay at home order. She says there will be an official announcement soon and there could be more to the order adding that the latest projections on infections of Covid-19 from Imperial College London, could be released today. That will guide what could come next. She says there's already been positive news within the modeling, that those who have become infected are minimally spreading the virus because of social distancing rules, only essential travel and closed businesses.

Several rural counties and small cities are asking the Governor if they can ease the restrictions of the state's shelter in place order. The six rural counties in Northern Calif. and 14 small cities only have 69 cases of the infectious disease within them. They include the counties of Sutter, Yuba, Butte, Colusa, Tehama and Glenn. They also added several hundred hospital beds to get ready for a possible surge but there's only been one coronavirus patient in an intensive care unit. At the same time as the request, a half dozen counties in the San Francisco Bay Area are extending stay-at-home orders through the end of May. So far the only change made in the last week was allowing elective surgeries to resume in Calif.

The Governor announcing schools can potentially open again by July. The potential as part of his multi step reopening of California announced yesterday. The earliest the Governor says there would be a reopening but allowing some retailers and manufacturers the ability to reopen within weeks. Childcare and summer schools, parks, trails and other outdoor spaces can also reopen soon. But he's not confirming a firm date for schools reopening, admitting though that there's been learning loss under the statewide stay-at-home order with both teachers and students struggling to adapt to at-home learning. Plus the state cannot make school districts reopen, teachers unions and local school districts can work on that. The Superintendent of Public Instruction says "major questions still need to be answered." Like can it be done safely for teachers, students and school

04/29/20 staff.

Several hundred residents of the Round Valley Reservation in Covelo have been tested for coronavirus after six members of one family got infected. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer reports they tested almost 200 people Monday and will continue to test as many people on the Reservation as possible. The tests reportedly taken to the Sonoma County lab. Dr. Doohan says the results will guide on next steps for the entire County. She told the Board of Supervisors yesterday about her concern after another reservation, that in the Southwest, had the third largest outbreak in the country, after New York, and New Jersey. There was an outbreak in one family on the Reservation last week after one member traveled to the Bay Area, got sick and infected others. That brings the total of cases in the County to 11 confirmed. The National Guard was supposed to be sending surge tents to Covelo, according to the Sheriff, but yesterday the County CEO reported the state was going to wait instead, to see what the test results revealed.

One of the managers of the ER at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley says the emergency room has been pretty quiet. The Daily Journal reports the ER visits were down 50%. At the Redwood Medical Group, they report less visits to the ER as well because of the Shelter in Place order. They say those who are visiting maybe should have come in sooner. One man having a heart attack waited a day because people are trying to be careful, but it makes it more difficult they say, in the long run. With coronavirus it's different, they say they want people to call first so a staff member can meet them outside and mask them and take them to a private room to be treated.

In Sonoma County, loosened rules for the Shelter in Place Order. As we reported yesterday, we were expected that hiking, running, walking, cycling and fishing would soon be allowed in all Sonoma County parks. The Public Health Officer is not allowing it along the coast though. The changes in effect starting today. Parking lots are closed and anyone who drives to a park and leaves their car nearby risks getting a ticket. There's also nobody allowed along the Russian River for recreating or water sports to make sure there's not a rush of visitors from out of town. They will also not have any open restrooms, playgrounds, dog parks, campgrounds, sport courts, picnic areas, disc golf courses opened yet either. They are considered high touch areas.

The Lake County Public Health Officer reporting to the Board of Supervisors at their latest meeting about more easing of restrictions in accordance with Stay Home orders. Dr. Gary Pace had already lifted some restrictions last week but is concerned about going further right now to make sure there's no surge in cases. There were some limited uses allowed on Clear Lake and Pace says it went well, saying if there is overcrowding, they will have to step backwards into more restrictions again. It comes after the board sent a letter to the Governor's office to ask for local authority over shelter-in-place orders saying a county government is in a better position to figure out what kind of regulation is needed in Lake County. But Dr. Pace said he doubted the state would grant that authority.

The longer the pandemic lasts, the more folks are visiting food banks. At the Redwood Empire Food bank, they report double the average visitors. During a regular year, they'll serve about 82,000 people, but believe they have served 164,000 now. This month so far, the Food Bank in Lake County served an average of 83,000 meals/day as opposed to 58,000 previously. They are also asking for donations of food and money. In Lucerne they reported a jump of more than twice as many visitors and also asked for help with donations. We are participating in a Radiothon tomorrow, Radio Cares Feeding

America. We'll be asking for donations for Feeding America through RadioCares.org, listen tomorrow for more information.

[The public is encouraged to visit their Vimeo page \(https://vimeo.com/redwoo](https://vimeo.com/redwoo)

After the next computer modeling on the pandemic returned to Sonoma County, the Public Health Officer loosened restrictions. Dr. Sundari Mase says the strict public health emergency restrictions looks to have helped avoid a surge of cases. They are slowly lifting the restrictions and instituting aggressive tracking of infected patients along with expanded testing. Dr. Mase says there have only been 22 hospitalizations, but mostly only between 2-4 people at one time. She also says their intent for intense contact tracing, more tests of up to 800 a day should help to continue to flatten the viral curve and keep peak hospitalizations next year below 500 patients with an apex in local cases next summer, of 2021.

The Lake County Public Health Officer says large gatherings and events are not coming back anytime soon. In a report to the Board of Supervisors yesterday, Dr. Gary Pace says he will most likely extend the current stay at home order through the middle of May. It's supposed to expire Sunday. Dr. Pace says the last of the six people in the County who tested positive will soon be allowed to come out of isolation. Pace told the Board he sees loosening more restrictions coming in two week periods so he can assess how it's all going before lifting anymore restrictions. He also reported attempting to get more local tests which are in short supply and surveillance testing at nursing homes. The Dr. reminded the Board that Gov. Newsom's Shelter in Place order takes precedence over the County's and Wildlife (CDFW) says you can fish for ocean salmon, groundfish and Pacific Halibut after all. The fisheries are set to open Friday and will go on despite the shelter in place orders. But you are reminded about non-essential travel and social distancing. Anglers told to first ask local officials about harbor services and where to access because so many sites have been closed due to the pandemic. But there are openings in Fort Bragg, San Francisco and Monterey for Salmon, the boat-based groundfish fishery is open in the Northern and Mendocino management areas [Oregon/California state line to Point Arena and the groundfish fishery in other California management areas are open. The Pacific Halibut fishery also will open statewide on May 1.

A young man from Willits and Lakeport has been sent to prison for seven years for robbing a Subway in Ukiah. 21 year old Dorian Michael Coon convicted by plea back in January for the December 2018 heist at the Subway where he was carrying a pellet gun. He was found at the restaurant when police arrived. He was shot multiple times and was taken to a hospital. Witnesses say he was shot by another customer in the restaurant with a concealed weapons permit. The pellet gun apparently resembled a real gun. His co-defendant, 20 year old Alexander Donovan Romero of Willits got 3 years probation last year. He also had to serve 180 days in the county jail, which he had done.

The Gov.'s plan to pay for meals to be delivered to seniors may be in jeopardy. Gov. Newsom's program is said to be the first-in-the-nation which pays for and delivers three meals a day for vulnerable seniors during the pandemic. But the AP reports there's only enough money for about two weeks until it runs out. The money mostly comes from FEMA, but it's not really been made public exactly how many cities and counties are part of the new plan and when the FEMA money would expire. And the government documents also don't lay out what FEMA has budgeted for the program. The Associated Press reports FEMA said it would cover 75% of the program and deliver the food from local restaurants. The state, cities and counties would have to cover the other 25%, but could also get paid some back through local and state sales taxes.

The motorized trail closure in the Mendocino National Forest has been extended until May 15th to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. The closure extension starts tomorrow after an earlier order closed off-highway vehicle trails used by motorcycle riders and all-terrain vehicle drivers. They're on federal lands and had been getting more crowded plus there had been some concern raised that those using the trails were also stopping in nearby communities, potentially raising the risk of exposing nearby residents. A forest spokeswoman says the areas of the federal parkland closed was to protect visitors and employees and that they're working with state and local partners to decide what the best path forward is to safely

04/30/20 reopen the closed areas.

The Gov., as expected has ordered beaches in Orange County closed after last weekend saw mass crowds there. The Governor says he hopes it won't be a long lasting closure, but felt it was the best path to protect public health. There was a memo circulating he would be closing all beaches, but then announced today only in Orange County. The Governor's been getting pressure statewide for more openings. The Sheriff of Humboldt County says he's not enforcing the order for beaches or parks. In Modoc County, near Oregon, they plan to reopen schools, hair salons, churches, restaurants, their only movie theater and other business tomorrow.

Another case of coronavirus in Mendocino County. After testing began in earnest Monday in Covelo at the Round Valley Reservation, another positive case turned up. The Public Health Dept. has confirmed to us it's a member of the same family who already had six cases. So now there's been 12 positive cases in Mendocino County. 4 people have recovered and 8 are in isolation at home. One is the former prisoner from the Men's facility in Chino we told you about a couple of weeks ago. The other 7 people in Covelo, confirmed to all be members of the same family.

A man from San Jose who had been working at a marijuana garden in Covelo has vanished. A report on a Facebook news sharing site says 30 year old Victor Medina video-chatted with his family on April 20th. The next day his co-worker reportedly dropped Medina's car off to his wife, who asked where her husband was. The friend, Benjamin Chavez Reynoso said he had been driving behind him and was on his way, but he never arrived. A police officer showed up the following day in San Jose at Medina's home saying a burned out truck was found on a rural road outside Hollister, then his wife says the family was contacted this week by a group demanding \$10,000 ransom. The site cold case Mendocino with all the details.

Many Northern Calif. wineries report a loss of revenue due to the pandemic. Full or partial closures of more than 50 wineries in the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association. They host an annual festival that draws around 150 people to the wineries and that had to be canceled. So now the vintners report taking it virtual, hosting tastings and conducting wine clubs over Zoom or Social media. The Winegrowers Association says some of the wineries have been contacted by residents and others asking how they can help. Wineries getting creative, offering delivery, food items along with wine club items and virtual happy hours. For more info check out the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association website.

New paving during the quiet hours of the pandemic between Geyserville and Cloverdale on the 101. The Press Democrat reports it's the longest span and most rutted stretch of the Highway in Sonoma County which isn't traveled that much. But crews on the highway for the second part of a long awaited fix, the "Big Pave" project. The \$62 million job should take less than a month. Caltrans says since there are less cars on the road on the 11-mile stretch it's helping move the work along faster. The last phase of the repave was from Windsor to Geyserville and repaved 14 miles. But that started in the spring of 2017 and took 18 months at a cost of \$74 million. They're also doing some repair work on guardrails and bridges and replacing several culverts south of Healdsburg to the point where the repave ends. There's even more repair work coming next fall which could run into the fall of 2022 if there are any unintended delays.

The Willits Harrah Senior Center is reportedly one of the lucky ones, getting ahold of some of the Paycheck Protection Program money to remain in business. The Center got nearly \$91,000 from the stimulus package signed into law last month. The Executive Director of the Senior Center says they were extremely lucky and are grateful for the relief money and if they didn't get it, they would have had to cut back. The thrift store is closed as it's not considered an essential business and that was a tremendous loss to the Center, about \$25,000 a month. They say once they can reopen, there will be safety precautions in place due to the pandemic. They're also offering a drive through meal pick up service for members working with the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

Officials in Lake County writing to state leaders to get the senior program for 3 meals a day to be extended. As we reported yesterday, the Governor is launching a program for local restaurants to supply 3 meals a day for qualifying seniors to be paid for mostly by FEMA. The program is geared towards seniors and adults at high-risk from COVID- 19 and to help local restaurants and kitchens that have had to otherwise close down due to the pandemic. The money is reportedly set to run out in less than two weeks, and the Lake County Administrative Officer says there needs to be more time to set it up, and within two weeks is impossible. The board unanimously approved sending a letter to State Senator Mike Mc-Guire and Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry to fund the program for 90 more days.

As new unemployment numbers are expected today across the country, the Gov. says we've had more than 3 and a half million people file. Gov. Newsom reported yesterday about 3.7 million Californians applied for unemployment benefits over seven weeks time. That's nearly a 20 percent jobless rate. The Gov. says he knows people who want to file have had a hard time reaching anyone or getting any information from the Employment Development Department. The state has reportedly doled out as much as \$6 billion in unemployment claims in 6 weeks' time. Governor Newsom says they're getting their arms around the unprecedented demand.

We may be doing an all mail in General Election. A Democratic Assemblymember has drafted a bill for just that, as we expect to continue with our Shelter in Place order. The president of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials has reportedly sent a letter to the Governor requesting the "all-mail ballot election." The Governor has previously intimated he doesn't see any mass gatherings anytime soon and it takes time to get the ballots printed. Advocates say there are nowhere near the needed amount of drop off boxes so some people would not be able to vote or if there were some in person locations, there aren't enough of those and there would be long lines, like in Wisconsin.

Since so many schools are closed the Governor has announced low income families are getting cash to buy food for the next two months. Families will receive \$365 per child to purchase food over two months because many of these children had been getting free or reduced-priced lunches at school. The Governor announced about \$1.4 billion from the federal government would come to help 3.8 million families in California.

The new requirement in Lake County for residents to wear masks becomes County policy in County buildings. Lake Co News reports the Board of Supervisors has directed county staff to work on a proposed ordinance requiring community members to wear masks when visiting county-owned facilities. The County Administrative Officer and County Counsel brought up the matter at the last meeting of the Board to follow the same policy County employees are following. But the Lake County Public Health Officer has not ordered folks to wear masks in public like Mendocino and Sonoma County.

The Public Health Officer had her weekly community check in and updated us on the family in Covelo on the Round Valley Indian Reservation. There are now 7 confirmed cases within the family. There had been six last week, then on Monday about 160 more people on the reservation were tested. The seventh family member had already been isolating with the rest of the family and first tested negative, then their test changed. On Weds another 173 people were tested and no positive cases have turned up yet. Dr. Doohan

05/01/20 also spoke about her shelter in place order...

The CEO of Mendocino County has reported the County is taking over an empty nursing home to use in case there's a surge of coronavirus cases in the County. In her update to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, CEO Carmel Angelo, who's also the county's Director of Emergency Services, says she ordered the "commandeering" of the building at 131 Whitmore Lane as a protective measure for people who need to be quarantined, if needed, as they await test results. The County's been leasing the site already with an option to extend after six months. Angelo says the building is prepared and work's been done to re-establish utility services and ensure full functionality.

The Governor has ordered beaches in Orange County to be closed after thousands went to the beach during a heatwave last weekend. But the Governor says the statewide stay-at-home order is “many days, not weeks” away from starting to gradually reopen. With this he’s urging people to follow social distancing rules and local county orders, saying the state has been making changes to the stay at home order and are close to announcements for the retail and hospitality sectors. The state has had more than 50,000 coronavirus cases and over 2,000 deaths.

Mendo Musicfest will go on... online. They’re hosting the free, livestream, a local musician celebration. It’s happening Sunday, May 24. The organizers are asking for video submissions from a past live performance or at least recorded virtually recently so it can be shared online with the community. They say they’re hoping to put together a 90 minute event that’ll showcase local talent of all ages and within any genre of music. They say they’re looking for confident, uplifting and inspiring performers and performances. They will reach out after the submissions to announce the lineup.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the event organizers at mendomusicfest2020@gmail.com.

Congressman Jared Huffman speaking on the Virtual Water Week. He’s part of the Water Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee.

He’s working on water needs in rural communities and says he believes they can leave politics out of the work. He has worked on water reforms, sustainable water practices, and new technologies including on Lake Mendocino...

A team of staff members in Lake County are tasked with negotiating with Lake Transit Agency for land the County wants to sell for a new transit hub. The board of supervisors voted unanimously to appoint a team for the negotiations, including the County Administrative Officer and two people who work with her on the county owned land sale after the State Transportation Agency awarded Lake Transit almost \$13 million for the new transit hub and to purchase four new hydrogen buses. The new hub is part of a larger plan to connect the Bay Area, Sacramento and Shasta County.

Another case of COVID-19 has turned up in Lake County. The Lake County Public Health Officer has released scant details due to privacy concerns. Dr. Pace does say however the case came after this person had contact with an identified case outside of the county, and they have mild symptoms and are isolating at home. Dr. Pace also says to continue to keep the numbers down in the area, his office is encouraging people to stay at home except for essential activities, and to use facial coverings when outside of the house. The Lake County Public Office has announced more test kits are available. The low number of cases, they say, also means there’s been a low number of tests done. The office reports about 550 tests have been performed on Lake County residents. They say after trying with State and Federal representatives, Lake County has received more sampling materials so regional and commercial labs can now perform the tests. Dr. Pace says testing criteria has been expanded to test those with mild symptoms or are concerned about potential exposure. There will also be a mobile testing site where they can see up to 50 preregistered people a day.

Call the MHOAC line at 707-263-8174 or visit the [Public Health Website](#) at [htl](#)

A GoFundMe campaign has successfully raised enough to keep Confusion Hill in business. As all other non-essential businesses, the local attraction in the redwoods on Highway 101, north of Leggett and south of Piercy, had to close. The Willits News reports Kai Wada Roath started the GoFundMe campaign which quickly hauled in their \$9,000 goal to keep the park operating for now. As of yesterday there was more than \$11,000 in the campaign. The highway stop features the Gravity House, Mountain Train Ride and the Gift Shop of Wonders since it opened in 1949. It's been designated for the last decade as a California State Point of Historical Interest.

An approval in Willits for a vacant building to have mixed use space with a home behind and a business in the front. The Willits News reports the building at 38 Wood Street has been empty a while, but the City Planner says a request was made to change the 400 square foot space to mixed use with a nearly 700 square foot home in the back. No word what the commercial business might be, only that it would mix well with the area neighborhood.

The snow pack still below normal. The latest measurements at the Phillips Station east of Sacramento had only 1 ½ inches of snow. And that contained only about a half-inch worth of water, just 3 percent of the May average for that location. The state Department of Water Resources reports that area provides about 30% of the state's water supply. 130 snow sensors across the Sierras show the state's snow pack water equivalent was at 37 percent of the May average. Last month was also well below average. The federal U.S. Drought Monitor reports half of California is either abnormally dry or in drought this week. With the northern and central regions the most affected. Generous donation to the City of Ukiah by the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The City along with the Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) and their parent organization, Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA), Ten Thousand KN95 masks have been donated to Adventist Health Ukiah Valley. The Daily Journal reports the hospital saying they are going to donate some of the masks to Highland Hospital in Oakland. Another group who works with the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas bought another 50,000 medical face masks for the Ukiah hospital. And 60,000 more personal protective gear items have been donated to Mendocino County first responders, including surgical face masks, medical face masks, and medical use gloves. They are also reportedly sending more protective garments and laser thermometers.

The last Public Health order in Mendocino County that loosened some recreational restrictions, also required masks to be worn at all times. That starts today at noon. Anyone 12 years or older has to have on a facial covering when they are not at home. Dr. Noemi Doohan put out the notice last week and said we had a week so we could secure the facial coverings and be prepared to comply with her order. She says masks, sheltering in place and social distancing will help slow the spread of coronavirus. She also says that can help prepare the community for a limited reopening in May. This week she said she would not consider anything until at least May 8th, that's next Friday, until the situation in Covelo was corralled. 7 members of one family at the Round Valley Indian Reservation tested positive. Guidelines for masks from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric

Allow for breathing without restriction

Able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

Some California university students say they want a full or partial refund since they stopped getting services they paid for last month. A class action lawsuit's been filed against the California State University system for the refunds and there's another lawsuit against the University of California system. The court papers say the systems kept fees for services not rendered and even if it has the legal right to cancel the fee contracts and no longer provide the services, it does not have the right to retain the monies that students and/or their families paid for those services.

An inmate in the Lake County Jail has been confirmed to have coronavirus. The Sheriff's office reports a positive case of COVID-19 in an inmate with no symptoms. They were tested April 19th. The Sheriff's office reports after the positive test came back, the inmate was placed in isolation to avoid spreading the virus. They were tested as part of a 100 test survey to find out if the virus could be detected in the inmate population or in Sheriff's Office staff. Everyone tested was asymptomatic, so lab testing was not prioritized. So far 91 tests have been returned with only this one positive. The Sheriff's Office says they won't be releasing any more info on the inmate who tested positive. They have identified all inmates and staff who may have come into close contact with them and say they're following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and in consultation with

05/04/20 the Lake County Public Health Office.

The Governor has announced he will allow parts of California to reopen including some retail and hospitality businesses. The governor announced some clothing retailers, florists, bookstores and sporting good stores could reopen for curbside pickup by the end of the week, he also warned things could go back to the way they were if more people end up in the hospital and ICU's with COVID-19. The Gov. is releasing guidance for the limited openings by Thursday which include new sanitation and social distancing requirements. Gov. Newsom says they want to be sure workers and customers are safe so there must be some modifications on physical distancing.

Fuelwood permits are available to buy now from the Mendocino National Forest. The permits are only available by mail, for \$5 per cord of wood, but there's also a minimum purchase of four cords for \$20. They say to allow for three weeks to get your fuelwood tags and a map of the forest. There's also a third party authorization form required to allow someone else to cut the wood for the permit holder if you can't cut it yourself. The fuelwood taken has to be dead and down and the biggest piece you can take is six feet. It is illegal to remove fuelwood from the national forest without a valid permit.

Two more Northern Calif. counties are defying Governor Newsom's shelter in place order and are allowing businesses to open. We told you last week about Modoc County, now both Yuba and Sutter Counties say they'll reopen too. Some of the businesses posting on Facebook they were reopening after a six week closure for some. The Press Democrat reports the Sheriff of Modoc County says they never had any cases confirmed in their 9,000 residents. In Yuba and Sutter have had 50 confirmed cases between them and three people have died.

Raw sewage tested in Lake County for Covid-19 waste. The Public Health Office has released results from Biobot after samples were taken earlier this month showing the presence of SARS Cov2 or coronavirus at all four treatment plants in the County. New results came in last week for samples taken two weeks earlier, it showed a positive result in only one of the four plants, SE Regional Clearlake and Lower Lake. Then again another group of samples taken on April 21st had no presence at any of the four treatment plants.

It's Mental Health month. Lake County Behavioral Health Services is inviting community members to get involved starting with a healthy lifestyle which the agency says can help prevent the onset or worsening of mental health conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, obesity and other chronic health issues. They say it's important to look at overall health, manage stress, eat healthy foods, get enough sleep and exercise to keep you both mentally and physically healthy. They also say all of this is critical during the pandemic and encourage all to join Lake County Behavioral Health Services to celebrate Mental Health Month by spotlighting the importance of both healthy mind and body.

The Lake County Public Health Officer has announced there will be no change in the shelter in place order thru May 17th as the Sheriff calls for a loosening of restrictions. But Dr. Gary Pace says the Governor's Order is the overriding rule; and says the local order can be more restrictive than the State's, but not looser. The Governor allowed elective surgeries to resume, but not much else. The Governor has said there needs to be more testing, a manageable level of infections, good hospital surge capacity, adequate protections for workers and the public; and adequate sick time for workers to be able to stay home when not well. Dr. Pace says weddings and festivals and other events with large groups won't resume for some time. And High School graduations should be virtual. Sheriff Brian Martin says the County has not had a major outbreak and thinks there should be a loosening of restrictions. He says he's not sure it's still an emergency with only one active case of Covid-19 in the County. He says the County's aggressive tactics have avoided a surge and now residents and business owners are frustrated and they should be allowed to get back to work.

The Mendocino County Health Officer has announced she's preparing new Shelter-In-Place orders but says she's following what the state's doing and won't be less restrictive than what the Governor orders. Dr. Doohan says the governor announced a step by step approach, and right now we're at Stage One, to build testing capacity, tracing contacts with known COVID-19 cases, get more Personal Protective Equipment and be prepared at hospitals for a possible surge and to make sure workplaces are safe with masks and social distancing. Dr. Doohan says she expects to have a new Shelter-In-Place (SIP) order May 11th.

The City of Ukiah reports a gas leak and a subsequent power outage. The Electric Utility turned the power off to apartment buildings and businesses on Waugh Lane last Friday afternoon. The leak was reported about 2:15 p.m. and power was shut off a half hour later out of an abundance of caution. PG&E was out about 15 minutes after that and had the matter in hand.

A permit for a cannabis dispensary on North State Street has been delayed again. The Daily Journal reports a Ukiah Planning Commission member wondering if there was a school nearby, so that tabled the matter again. Commissioner Mike Whetzel reportedly said he visited the business and saw nearby "Pomo College Preparatory Academy" and wondered if there were classes held there, and if so, it's only 400 feet away. It would need to be at least 600 feet from a dispensary. The Community Development Director on hand saying he didn't know of a school closeby and that they'd postpone the permit application until their meeting May 13th.

Like many across the country, in Lakeport a protest of folks wanting to get back on the lake. A caravan of trucks pulling boats downtown calling on relaxing restrictions on fishing and boating. The lake is closed to motorized boats and people gathering in groups larger than 2 people. A couple of political candidates organized the event, one for County Supervisor, the other, running for Congress, against Congressman Mike Thompson. They say the evidence shows the curve of the Covid-19 pandemic has headed down the other side of the apex and that business can start to reopen. The Record Bee reports Dr. Gary Pace saying he approved of locals right to protest but would not be altering his shelter in place order because of the rally.

Parts of Library Park in Lakeport are going to reopen after construction work and a loosening of some of the coronavirus restrictions. The announcement Friday that the lakefront area between Third and the north end of the Fifth Street parking area are open to the public for fishing and other outdoor recreational activities. But the Public Works director also announced the main part of the Park, between First and Third Streets would stay closed because construction was continuing and the bathrooms were also closed. Also, the public boat ramps throughout the park were closed too. Flood damage took down the seawall and work has been continuing for a couple of years there.

The Lakeport City Council is considering applying to the federal government for help from the stimulus package, or CARES Act. The council spoke last week about applying for grant funds after the city manager says he thinks the city would be eligible for nearly \$71,000. The council to take public comment and talk amongst themselves on the matter at their next meeting. City staff says they could use it to upgrade the kitchen facilities at the new Lakeport Community Center in the old Bank of America building. And in that way they could support the local community more so residents have more access to food during the pandemic.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors having another virtual meeting discussing the outbreak. The meeting on your local cable network too. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace will kick off the meeting with his weekly COVID-19 update. The board will then discuss the next steps in the crisis. Supervisor Bruno Sabatier had previously asked his fellow Supervisors to join in sending a letter to the governor to get more local control to reopen the economy but continue to follow public health orders. The Board will also consider sending a letter to state leaders to get ahold of more money for disaster response and lost revenue and a proposed urgency ordinance requiring masks in public.

A 3rd person has died of coronavirus in Sonoma County. It's the first in nearly a month. As of yesterday there were only 17 suspected or confirmed cases in the hospital, but three were in intensive care. The person who died yesterday, the first since April 10th, was only described by one Sonoma County Supervisor as an older gentleman. They were not sharing any more information about him. So the case count so far in Sonoma County was at 257, with five new cases reported. 128 people have recovered. And the County is announcing a new shelter in place order taking effect today so more businesses can reopen. They are car dealerships, landscapers, florists and golf courses.

Mendocino County is in trouble due to the coronavirus pandemic. The CEO Carmel Angelo told the Board of Supervisors this morning there's a budget

05/05/20 gap already and that there's not enough reserves to cover 2 months.

Angelo says there will be a hiring freeze and some fees will also be put on hold for now. She says FEMA is reportedly sending 75% of what the County has lost. CEO Angelo also says we have to also be prepared for the wildfire season and the potential for public safety power shutoffs which will also cost money.

A man accused of the warehouse fire at the so-called Ghost Ship in Oakland that killed 36 people is being let out of jail due to coronavirus. Derick Almerna has been in jail since 2017 and has been released now after a court hearing over the phone. The Alameda County sheriff's office reports Almerna will be outfitted with an electronic monitoring device as he awaits his new trial. He's charged with involuntary manslaughter for the 36 people who died in the Dec. 2016 fire during an electronic music party at the Ghost Ship warehouse. Prosecutors say he was criminally negligent as the master tenant on the lease. His former right hand man, Max Harris was found not guilty.

Two giant gas trading companies are being sued by the state of California saying the two had a scam going to jack up prices at the pump from 2015 to late 2016. The Attorney General Xavier Becerra filing suit saying Vitol, Inc and SK Energy Americas took advantage of market volatility after a refinery explosion in 2015 in Torrance. Court papers say the two companies engaged in market trades that artificiality inflated the price of regular and premium gas as there was a disruption in the state gasoline supply after the explosion.

The state is the first in the country to borrow money from the Fed to be able to meet the demand of all of the unemployment claims. The Employment Development Department confirmed the state has so far borrowed \$348 million from the federal government due to the Covid-19 pandemic. California has paid nearly 8 billion out in claims from March 15th to May 3rd. The agency says the money from the Federal government loan pays the amount employers don't contribute.

The Governor has announced the state needs to boost the amount of tests and with that contact tracing. So the state is looking to reassign 20,000 public employees to be COVID-19 case investigators and contact tracers. Gov. Newsom previously spoke of the program saying the state would create, "an army" of 10,000 to track down more than 10 people to each person who contracts the virus. Right now there are less than 3,000 people working on this in just over twenty of the state's 58 counties.

There are four people up for the job to be the next superintendent/president of Mendocino College. The search committee has whittled their list of applicants down after opening the search last November. All of the interviews recently finished up and now there will be forums with the candidates and interviews with the Board of Trustees. The forums will be held virtually due to coronavirus and are happening next Monday. They'll be recorded and posted the following day on the college website.

City Hall and the Police Dept. have reopened in Clearlake. The two agencies lobbies are open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. The City says they're providing essential services safely with new procedures in place. At City Hall, there will be a new plexiglass barrier at the public counter, floor markers for physical distancing, and regular sanitization of surfaces. The police department will only allow two people into the lobby at a time. And the City apologizes for any wait times and says they appreciate the public's patience and understanding during the pandemic. The City Council and Planning Commission will continue with virtual meetings with time for public participation through Open Town Hall and email.

The Gov. has announced a program to help the state's farmers. The \$3.6 million program along with another philanthropy pledge of \$15 million and a federal aid package of \$19 billion for farmers and ranchers across the country. But the demand for farm fresh products has reportedly gone down by as much as 50% leading some California growers to destroy crops, milk and even livestock. The Sacramento Bee newspaper reports farmers say it's not enough. The state's program will help move fresh fruits and veggies from farms to food banks and to get more refrigeration systems to food banks with capacity problems.

The final numbers have been released for the March primary election. The results certified a month late due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On Friday the certified results were released showing almost 9,700,000 Californians voted, which was a record. It also showed 38% of eligible voters had cast ballots, the second- highest primary turnout percentage in nearly four decades. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders won 36% of the vote, and former Vice President Joe Biden won just under 28%. 53% of voters gave a thumbs down to Prop. 13, that \$15 billion school bond measure.

New information on the three people in Sonoma County who have died from coronavirus. The Press Democrat reports the Public Health Officer, Dr. Sundari Mase reported yesterday, the trio were all over 65 and had other health issues, so they were vulnerable to COVID-19. Dr. Mase said it fell in line with what they've studied across the globe and here in the US, that those over 65 are the most impacted by COVID-19. She didn't say anything more due to privacy issues, but the County says the third person to die was an "elderly" man. The first was a man in his 60s with underlying medical conditions who got exposed on a cruise ship.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer has released a draft of her next shelter in place order with some looser restrictions. The Gov. has said some businesses can reopen by the end of the week for curbside pickup. And apparently some rural counties would be allowed even looser restrictions to include restaurants and hotels if the areas meet benchmarks on testing and hospital capacity. Dr. Noemi Doohan will release the draft to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting this morning to allow most retailers, manufacturers, outdoor businesses, childcare facilities and offices where telework is not possible to reopen. Also most construction can resume. The Press Democrat reports Mendocino County's Health Officer was in close touch with the Governor's office on this.

There's a planned town hall over the phone with State Sen. Mike McGuire for Mendocino and Lake County residents regarding local and state coronavirus response. The tele-townhall tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. McGuire says they'll have the latest, most accurate information from medical professionals on the front lines on the virus response, the most recent shelter in place orders and the reopening of the state in a safe and strategic way. The superintendents of schools for both counties and a University of California physician focused on infectious diseases will also take part. The town hall will be limited to the first 1,000 participants.

To attend, dial 844-721-7241, enter code 6666128 and follow the prompts.

[Email your questions and comments in advance and in real-time during the te](#)

In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, the a reminder it's "Wildfire Preparedness Week". Cal Fire reminding community members to be proactive with their own wildfire preparedness. We've had the most dangerous and fatal wildfires over the last five years. More than 3.7 million acres have been blackened and 34,000 structures destroyed. More than 145 people have died related to the fires. Lake Co News reports Cal Fire has finished up 35 high priority fuel reduction projects and treated 12,000 acres. There are plans to treat another 50,000 acres. Cal Fire working with the National Guard and other agencies for early detection of wildfires across the state to help respond faster to fires and monitor fire affected areas.

An illegal marijuana grow has been broken up in Covelo. While on the lookout for a man from San Jose a search warrant on tribal lands turns up a large illegal grow in the Mill Creek area, salmon and steelhead spawning grounds for the Eel River. A video has been posted on the Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. Facebook page. A San Jose Detective Unit joined the raid looking for the missing San Jose man who vanished several weeks ago. His name has not been released, but last week we heard of Victor Medina's family reporting him missing, he was a worker at a marijuana grow in the Covelo area, his truck found on fire near Hollister. The Sheriff has not

05/06/20 released the name of who they were looking for.

The Willits Unified Schools Superintendent says school will resume over the summer. In an op ed in the Willits News, Superintendent Mark Westerburg writes they won't be returning to a normal classroom setting for the rest of the school year and that all school sites are continuing with modified instruction through the end of May. He says the first week of June is when students can turn all of their work in and teachers can assign grades. He did add that it was possible a limited number of students could return before the end of the school year, but no confirmation. The Middle school and high school campuses will have summer session July 27th through Aug. 14th.

A survey is being circulated by Mendocino County as the Shelter-In-Place Order continues. The County's working with the West Business Development Center to see what the actual economic loss is for businesses in Mendocino County due to COVID-19. The CEO of the County said yesterday during the Board of Supervisors meeting that they don't have two months of reserve to keep the County afloat and says it's important for business owners to complete the survey so they can capture a current picture of the economic impact COVID-19 has had on Mendocino County's business community. The survey based on similar data being pulled in Humboldt and Sonoma County.

[Business owners can access the survey at https://bit.ly/MendoBizImpact.](https://bit.ly/MendoBizImpact)

The paving project at the Ukiah Municipal Airport has started, so there will be no flights for a while. The Airport Manager says though that Cal Fire helicopters can still land, but other airplanes used for firefighting cannot. He says it may not be a problem because the fire agency typically doesn't need their Air Attack Bases until June 15th. The project is set for completion just before that, on June 11th. Cal Fire is reportedly planning to utilize Air Bases in Santa Rosa and in Chico in the interim.

The state is transitioning to Stage 2 of the coronavirus reopening the economy plan. And with that Mendocino County officials are deciding which businesses will be allowed to open. The Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Mimi Doohan says it's been difficult to figure out because the Governor's office posted plan is hard to follow... Dr. Doohan says some of the activities she will allow in her next public health stay home order includes some retail, manufacturing and housecleaning services and for businesses who don't have the ability for employees to telecommute, they will be allowed to open. Also summer programs for kids and childcare facilities can also open, but there will be limitations. Outdoor public spaces like golf courses, athletic fields and shooting/archery ranges. Restaurants with limited dine-in services are being evaluated. They're also allowing personal care services in private homes, like haircuts and manicures; hotels and vacation rentals who take county residents as guests and students might be back in the classroom before the fall.

The draft updated order for Mendocino County can be read online here: <https://www.mendocino.gov/health-officer>

A new Public Health Officer has been hired in Mendocino County. At the Board of Supervisors meeting it was confirmed that the County has hired Dr. Joseph Iser, who will start June 1st. He'll work in May with the Interim Health Officer, Dr. Mimi Doohan who says he's incredibly suited for the position. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors says he has a wealth of experience and expertise in dealing with epidemics and public health. The Mendocino County Public Health Office reports Iser was most recently Chief Health Officer of Southern Nevada Health District, and will be relocating to Mendocino County for this position.

The real estate market in Mendocino County taking a hit due to the pandemic. The Daily Journal reports speaking with local realtors who say the current state of the market has slowed because when the shelter in place order took effect, they were unable to show homes to clients in person, only online. The County allowed the in-person viewings to resume about a month ago. And Lake County started in-person viewings of vacant and occupied listings if the seller was not at home at the time. This week Sonoma County starts to allow viewing of occupied homes. The newspaper reports Mendocino County has been generally following Sonoma County's guidelines.

The Lake County Public Health officer is allowing some summer events to take place if the organizers can prove they plan to follow state and local health orders. Dr. Gary Pace spoke in front of the Board of Supervisors yesterday saying there could be up to 3,000 deaths a day in the Country. But he also says the more severe cases are occurring in urban areas, but it's also hit some rural areas where restrictions relax and people start traveling more. There have been eight cases in Lake County, six are recovered and the two most recent cases, one in a jail inmate, are in isolation and contact tracing is ongoing. They are also conducting tests at the public health office. Congressman Mike Thompson is having a coronavirus virtual town hall, Tomorrow from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the fourth such town hall. This time he'll be joined by the Contra Costa Health Services Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs and a member of the law enforcement community. It will be held virtually and they are accepting emailed in questions beforehand. They can take about 500 people. He's also streaming it online at his Facebook page.

Congressman Thompson, along with a bipartisan group of House and Senate members are introducing a bill to help get nutritious meals to vulnerable populations during the pandemic. Also from California, Sen. Kamala Harris, has signed on to the FEED Act. Chef José Andrés and the World Central Kitchen are also part of the FEMA Empowering Essential Deliveries Act. The bill has the federal government paying 100 percent of the cost to states and localities who work with local restaurants and nonprofits to get the meals to the citizens of these communities who most need it, including seniors and underprivileged children.

The Governor not very happy with a couple of rural counties who went ahead and reopened their economies ahead of the rest of the state. As we reported earlier this week, Yuba and Sutter counties, both north of Sacramento have opened hair salons, restaurants and many other businesses, something Gov. Newsom says was a “big mistake” and that they were “putting their public at risk.” The two counties have only had 44 cases between them in their combined population of about 175,000 people. There are also no hospitalizations. The stay home order is being modified for the entire state this week.

The Public Health Officer in Lake County is allowing more activity on Clear Lake. Dr. Gary Pace says closing the Lake was a difficult decision, but that the pandemic was spreading in the Bay Area and neighboring Sonoma County, and he says he was informed by other medical professionals they had to prepare for a potential surge, and there was a lot known about the virus at the time either. He says they had little capacity to test and an older population on top of everything else led to the decision. He says since then the County has done a good job slowing the spread, so the Lake will be open with public boat ramps this Saturday. But he says those recreating must observe social distancing, there will also be ramp monitoring for the Quagga Mussel program. He says the stay home order is also changing ahead of Mother’s Day, with low-risk retailers reopening. For guidance check

05/07/20 the Health Office website.

As theaters are still closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mendocino College theater announces online performances. The Spring Dance Festival was canceled but the students have instead filmed their pieces. Now called the Spring Dance on Film Festival to be uploaded by tomorrow. You can start watching the more than dozen dance pieces as films instead. They’re each three to five minutes long.

The Governor’s office has announced workers’ compensation benefits are being extended to all essential employees who’ve been infected with coronavirus. The Governor has signed an executive order for anyone who has to leave home to work during the pandemic as an essential employee. It says if they contract coronavirus they can get workers’ comp with the state assuming it happened at work. The Governor says it should provide some relief for front line health care and public safety workers. He says as we enter the second phase of reopening, he wants to keep state workers safe and healthy.

North Coast lawmakers Assemblyman Jim Wood and Sen. Mike McGuire have announced sending a letter to the Governor to get more financial help due to the pandemic. The two along with 48 other lawmakers asking Gov. Gavin Newsom for financial support that came from the federal government. The counties they all represent have smaller populations and the lawmakers say, they’re still dealing with the same hits to their budgets as larger counties.

Nearly a quarter of a billion dollars being returned to California for protective masks paid to a Chinese company who missed a deadline. The Governor's office said last month they'd reached a contract for 500 million protective masks because of the coronavirus pandemic. Millions did get here, but an April 30th deadline in the contract to be certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health for the N95 masks was not met. They were supposed to get here this month, but yesterday there was an amendment made to the contract, pushing the deadline to the end of the month and if the company missing that deadline, the state gets all of the money back.

Ten people have been arrested in Covelo in connection to an illegal marijuana farm. The Sheriff's Dept. reports meeting multiple times with the Round Valley Indian Reservation Tribal Council about concern of non-native people coming onto properties and building a giant marijuana growing operation. There were reports of gunfire increasing too. At the same time the Sheriff reported becoming aware of a missing man from San Jose, Victor "Gallo" Medina whose family said he was working at that marijuana garden. During a raid Tuesday, the ten were arrested after 55 large greenhouses and other growing paraphernalia was found. They were also running drainage to a spawning tributary for endangered salmon and steel head trout in the Eel River watershed. Meanwhile the missing man was not found.

The Mendocino County Clerk Recorder is issuing Marriage licenses again. Clerk Recorder Katrina Bartolomie says soon the County will again perform wedding ceremonies and issue the license at that time. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Administration Center is closed but if you're interested you can get an emailed packet of required paperwork. Then you'll be sent instructions about where to enter the building with the license and ceremony outdoors, outside of their office because of social distancing requirements. You have to make your appointment in advance and it's only available for Mendocino County residents. No walk-ins are being allowed right now.

[A new website launched so you can find a testing site by your location. You c](#)

A missing toddler from Hidden Valley Lake has been found. The Lake County Sheriff's office reports the 3 year old girl was found yesterday afternoon safe. Lake Co News reports dispatch traffic revealed the girl had gone missing earlier in the afternoon.

Lake County Sheriff's deputies, California Highway Patrol officers and firefighters along with local residents were searching for the child.

A new antibody test will be available in Sonoma County. The County Health Officer reports it will be available in a month or so they can first validate testing equipment and its accuracy. The county's public health lab will perform and process the tests. The Press Democrat reports the office is also expanding drive-thru diagnostic testing to find active coronavirus infections. The antibody test is different, it looks for a past infection. The tests have been ongoing in Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties, considered hotspots earlier in the pandemic so they could slow the spread.

A restaurant in Napa is defying the stay home orders, opening for dining in. The Press Democrat reports Fume Bistro opened Monday after only doing take out for several weeks and losing 25% of their income during that time. The newspaper reports the restaurant had no financial help from the state, there wasn't a surge of cases and no sign of lifting restrictions before Mother's Day, one of the busiest days of the year for restaurants. So the owner opened with tables ten feet apart, employees being temperature-checked and only allowing 45 people instead of about 100 in at a time. The owner says he was visited by public health officials and says he got an email stating he has to shut down by today. There have been 75 COVID-19 infections in Napa County and two deaths.

Two food processing plants in Tulare County a hot spot for Covid-19 with more than 100 employees testing positive. County health officials say the two Ruiz Foods facilities in Dinuba and Tulare had 107 cases of the virus. They're known for the El Monterey frozen Mexican food. The cases more than doubled since last week when there were 43 positive cases. The company decided to stop production Monday at the Dinuba facility and test more employees. The Tulare plant instead enhanced safety measures and are continuing to prepare and package burritos, quesadillas, enchiladas and other items.

A murderer convicted in Mendocino County back in court, but by video from Susanville, entering guilty pleas to a murder and carjacking from back in 2001 as part of a deal with the DA. Tai Edmund Fred Abreu agreed to a plea deal with the DA's office for the 2001 murder in Fort Bragg. He is due for sentencing in two weeks and is expected to get 24 years to life in state prison for the stabbing death of Donald Perez. The DA's office reports Abreu was with two other men when they killed Perez, a visitor to the Fort Bragg area who had a romantic interest in an Abreu co-defendant. He was previously sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, but he appealed and tried getting the case overturned. All denied, but after a new law passed a couple years ago so he could have his case reopened. He will be back in court May 21st and will also go in front of the parole board.

Sheriff Matt Kendall expanding on their drug raid and search for a missing man from San Jose at an illegal marijuana garden in Covelo. Kym Kemp speaking to the sheriff about the raid on the Round Valley Indian Reservation Tuesday. He says growers have been displacing and intimidating Round Valley residents from their tribal lands and finding people who have distant relatives and using that land for their grow. He also told the news site about concern regarding associated violence to the grow sites and more than a dozen homicides in Round Valley over 15 years, ten of which were related to illegal grows. They pulled more than 22,000 plants at the grow Tuesday and arrested ten people. The missing man has not been located.

The Gov. has announced the next phase of reopening California's economy which will allow some retailers to reopen with drive up service. Governor Newsom's announcement today was expected as the state was set to loosen restrictions due to recent strides made in fighting coronavirus. Stores that can open with curbside service if there are other safety requirements include bookstores, clothing stores, florists and sporting goods stores. Places like hair salons and gyms, offices and dining in restaurants not yet. But some government's may be given variances. The next phase should include those businesses and the fourth would include large gatherings at concerts and sporting events.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors hears the latest economy impact report from COVID-19. The County Administrative Officer and the Auditor-Controller/County Clerk delivered the update Tuesday to the Board. County Administrative Officer Carol Huchingson stating what many know, that the County's been hit worse than many others across the country. Disasters year over year since the Valley fire in 2015, then more wildfires, floods, the public safety power shutoffs last year and now the pandemic. The County's received a couple of grants since the pandemic to help the homeless get shelter. The Health Dept. has received or will be soon, more grants. The County has spent several hundred thousand dollars since the shelter in place order was put in place. Lake Co News reports the general fund nondepartmental retail sales and use tax revenues are \$409,000 under the estimate and money from the state is supposed to be far less than the past because of Covid-19. Property taxes, a major revenue source for the County

05/08/20 have not been affected yet.

Mobile coronavirus tests are coming to Clearlake. The Lake County Health Services Department's Public Health Division, the city of Clearlake, Clearlake Police Department and Lake County Fire Protection District will have mobile sites next Tuesday and Thursday. The results back 48 to 72 hours later. They expect up to 75 people to preregister each day for the drive-thru tests. They are prioritizing those the most vulnerable for contracting the virus. They will also only test those who preregistered. As of yesterday they already had 100 appointments set and only 12 were available. There will also continue to be onsite testing in Lake County called Project Baseline, set to begin at the end of next week and continue for the interim.

Counterfeit money reported circulating around Lakeport. Police saying to be watchful for the phony money that was first reported at a local grocery store. The bogus 100 dollar bills all had the same serial number from 2009.

Today's the day, lower risk businesses are allowed to open as part of stage 2 in California's effort to emerge from the coronavirus pandemic. Some County's can file for variances to get more leeway. Trinity has reportedly given their Board of Supervisors a plan for a tiered reopening following the statewide public health order. Kym Kemp reporting the plan has certain local businesses reopening with a plan submitted first to the County. The Board of Supervisors has set a special meeting for this afternoon at 2:00 PM on the matter. The public health officer says they're committed to preventing the spread of the virus at the same time protecting the health and well-being of all residents.

A man in Ukiah's arrested after police say he violated his probation, but separately is suspected of setting four fires in the south end of Ukiah. Police arrested Frederick LJ Fitch who they say may have been connected to the arson fires Wednesday night behind the Furniture Design Center, along the railroad tracks near the old Mendocino Brewing Company, which is now a cannabis business and three other fires on the railroad tracks. Firefighters out at the scene of the fires saying they were potential arsons. Finch was caught after witnesses said it was him and there's also surveillance footage. He was held on \$10,000 bail. Police say further charges related to the arson fires could be coming.

PG&E's gonna have to fork over a lot of cash after the October 2017 firestorm and the Camp Fire in 2018. A regulatory agency has fined the utility company almost \$2 billion for causing the fires. The state Public Utilities Commission unanimously voted for the \$1.97 billion dollar penalty yesterday. They were fined \$1.6 billion after the fatal explosion in San Bruno. The PUC said the "scope of the devastation caused by PG&E's misconduct demands this record penalty." A lawyer representing 7,000 fire victims says the utility company knew it would be punished, but that he was happy by the PUC's decision. The company agreed to plead guilty to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter connected to the Camp Fire. The utility company responded yesterday, accepting the decision and said there will be system upgrades and corrective measures required as part of the PUC decision and a settlement in its bankruptcy case.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer says they don't have adequate equipment to meet the state's Covid-19 testing requirements. Dr. Noemi Doohan says they have enough swabs and transport medium, but not enough testing, or PCR machines in Mendocino County or even an hour away. The State is requiring one test per each 1,000 people per day, so that would be roughly 135 tests a day in the County. Dr. Doohan says so far they've completed 1,700 tests and have confirmed 12 positive cases. 11 are recovered and are no longer considered contagious. Dr. Doohan was part of a virtual Town Hall for Mendocino and Lake counties by state Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) on moving the state into Stage 2 of reopening today.

Ukiah Valley Golf Course could be part of the reopening. The Daily Journal reports the company that owns the course in Ukiah says they're waiting to hear from the County about a reopening. He says the course was already naturally physically distancing, tee times can be reserved online and the pro shop can be mobile, plus they won't allow the sharing of equipment. The company owns two other golf courses, in Sonoma and Marin counties, and they have already opened.

[A new campaign Love Local Mendocino has been started by the Greater Ukiah Tri](#)
New exhibits are being put up at the Mendocino County Museum ahead of a public reopening. The Daily Journal reports the museum curator and librarian/researcher/archivists are organizing and preparing the museum's collections. There is a Harold Howard, or Henry, Wonacott, photography exhibit. They say the new exhibit has been a labor of love for the curators. They also have hundreds of negatives of his work. He started his work in about 1908 in Willits and about a decade later opened a second business in Fort Bragg.

COVID has closed the C.V. Starr Community Center, possibly thru the year. The Daily Journal reports the center closed temporarily after the County Public Health Officer issued the stay home order due to the pandemic. The City of Fort Bragg owns the center and since the Mendocino Coast Recreation & Parks District relies on tax dollars to operate, they may not reopen this summer. A press release yesterday says they don't think the dedicated half-cent city sales tax revenues, which is only about half of all revenues will be able to support their operating expenses, especially they say if they don't rebound quickly. They say they look to be at about an average loss of \$70k month for the first six months of the year.

The owner of a local bike shop in Lakeport has been arrested on child pornography charges. The Lake County Sheriff's Dept reports sending detectives with search warrants to Main Street Bicycles yesterday morning after a month's long investigation. The Sheriff's dept. reports being tipped to the owner and linked his two locations to at least five separate uploads of kiddy porn. 57 year old Jeffery Scott Cramer was then arrested after he was linked to social media accounts used for the uploads between August 2019 and February 2020. Detectives took electronic devices and say they think there's more evidence on the devices. He's booked into jail on possession and sending of child pornography and held on \$30,000 bail.

California's one of five Western states jointly requesting \$1 trillion from the Fed in relief funds. Governor Gavin Newsom says a letter was sent to the president requesting the money from the leaders of the Western States Pact. The Pact is California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and Nevada. The five states came to an agreement to use science and data as tools to reopen their economies as they continue to try to protect the general public from COVID-19. Governor Newsom reported a 54 billion dollar deficit due to

05/11/20 coronavirus. Last year the state had a \$21 billion surplus.

The Governor's warning 3 counties in Northern Calif. who opened before the rest of the state they could lose coronavirus disaster funding. A letter's been sent by the CAL OES Director to Yuba, Sutter, and Modoc Counties, which all started reopening their economies before the rest of the state. It includes businesses like hair salons, retail shops, and restaurants to fully open. The letter states the counties actions "jeopardize public health and safety, not only within the county, but beyond, through community contact and spread." And went on to say it could threaten their eligibility for disaster money. For one thing they couldn't show they were being "extraordinarily and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19".

An inmate at the Lake County Jail who tested positive but was asymptomatic has now tested negative two times and considered recovered. The Lake County Sheriff's Office reports they've been working closely with the Public Health Dept. for contact tracing and 20 inmates who had been in close contact with him all were tested and had negative results. The Sheriff's Dept. says they're continuing to test jail staff and all are negative so far. They say it appears the one positive case was isolated and there's been no community spread. They also say they had put enhanced measures in place to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the jail. And they're working with the jail's medical provider and Lake County Public Health for a continuing plan of surveillance testing of staff and inmates.

Stage 2 of the Governor's 4 part plan to reopen the state has begun. On Friday, the Governor issued a new order due to the ongoing pandemic and both Mendocino and Lake County have issued new shelter in place orders to coincide with the state's. In Lake County there have been no new COVID cases for two weeks since the last change to the order, so Clear Lake is open as are boat ramps for local residents. Out-of-area fisherman are not allowed, dine in at local restaurants stays closed, retailers with curbside service are allowed. Lake County's Public Health Officer says movement outside the County is one of the most concerning threats.

In Mendo, the interim Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan has a similar order in place, lower risk businesses can open to curbside business, manufacturing can resume, in groups no larger than 12 people, cleaning and disinfection services, animal hygiene and care, like grooming during foxtail and tick season and construction as permitted by the State can also reopen with proper COVID-19 prevention protocols in accordance with industry-specific guidance. Also certain "outdoor businesses" like golf courses, horseback riding facilities, landscapers and gardeners. Services as far as 50 miles away, considered essential are approved, recreating in groups no larger than 12 people, and real estate functions and car dealerships with strict adherence to the State specific industry guidance.

Several fires reported over the weekend near Redwood Valley and Calpella. Cal Fire reported a fire on West Road in Calpella Saturday around 2:40 p.m. that was quickly stopped. But there were seven other fires called the Calpella Fire reported around 4:15 p.m. the same day at the Moore Street on-ramp onto Highway 101. The two incidents were believed to be related, but they weren't sure if it was arson yet. There were no structures threatened, but law enforcement was on hand in case evacuations were needed. An hour or so later, no move forward movement was reported. The fires reported at about six acres each.

The City of Ukiah has opened all parks after the new shelter in place order was released late Friday. The City Manager Sage Sangiacomo reports they began preparations as soon as the Public Health Officer released a draft of the revised stay at home orders last week. He says high touch areas such as playgrounds, picnic tables and barbecues are not to be used and that social distancing must be adhered to along with face masks. The City parks including McGarvey, Oak Manor, Observatory, Orchard, Riverside, Todd Grove and Vinewood parks will be open as of Saturday.

A new report shows about half of those who've died in the state from Covid-19 were either residents or staff members of nursing homes or assisted living facilities. The latest numbers released by the state departments of public health and social services were more than 1,200 patients and staffers died of COVID-19-related causes which made up about 49% of all the deaths in the state. Numbers were self-reported and did not include about 15% of the state's facilities.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors set to consider a senior meal program at their next virtual meeting. The meeting tomorrow morning on the County's website and members of the public can email questions ahead of time. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace will give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Then the board will consider the "Great Plates Delivered" program, which is a state-authorized program to deliver meals to eligible seniors. They'll also hear about the ongoing controversial topic of a tax-defaulted land sale that was set for the end of May which has now been canceled due to the pandemic.

A man in Woodland has been arrested for reportedly trying to toss a replica handgun and backpack that had a sawed-off shotgun in it as he was chased by cops. Woodland Police Department says they got a call Saturday to reports of an altercation between two people and one of them possibly being armed. As officers got there they say 37 year old Diamond Sanchez ran. He was found quickly and arrested after officers found the illegal and replica firearms.

The men's prison in Chino has lost four inmates to coronavirus. The inmates in the same facility as 3 who arrived in Lake and Mendocino Counties, one tested positive in each County as the arrived. The inmates who died were last week on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at outside hospitals. The state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reported in nearly 900 inmates, more than a third of them or 376 tested positive for the disease. It's said to be the only state prison with reported deaths. The first happened April 19th. So five in all have died from COVID-19. There are currently 304 active cases at the prison. 48 staffers also tested positive.

The Ukiah Streetscape Project is ongoing, this week, they're doing the underground work on Standley Street after underground utility and fire lines were reportedly found. They will reopen Perkins Street to car traffic. And the City of Ukiah will pick back up ticketing cars downtown which had been on hold during the shelter in place order and the streetscape project. The Mendocino Voice reports the work on Standley Street will extend the underground work until next Wednesday. Utility construction starts on South State Street this week at Church Street headed north toward Henry Street. Construction is taking place Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. with Standley

05/12/20 between State and School Streets closed to traffic.

A nurse working at Mendocino Coast District Hospital in Fort Bragg has tested positive for coronavirus. The Hospital released the information saying she is a traveler nurse from Oregon who comes to Fort Bragg for work. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan announced that the nurse would not be added onto the official County number as the nurse was tested out of County.

Dr. Doohan told the Board of Supervisors during their meeting this morning that her office would do whatever they could to help the Hospital with contact tracing. She also says they will be getting help from the state in tracing the cases in Covelo on the Round Valley Indian Reservation as she believes the outbreak may now have gone underground. They will also be offering free anonymous testing in Covelo tomorrow.

Some legislators say they want to know why the government has wired a half billion dollars to get masks from a medical supplier overseas that was only in business three days. A Democratic Assemblywoman from Laguna Beach says she wants to make sure the right controls are in place and that tax dollars are spent efficiently and responsibly. There's an accountability and administrative review committee which is having a hearing this month to find out about the transaction revealed by CalMatters. It shows nearly \$457 million dollars was wired to Blue Flame Medical on March 26th, but then worked to get the money back within hours. CalMatters says the company was founded 3 days before by two Republican operatives with zero experience in the medical supplies field. Nine GOP lawmakers joining colleagues on the other side of the aisle to get to the bottom of the expenditure. The state canceled the 100 million N95 mask order after bankers doing the wire transfer alerted the California Treasurer they were suspicious.

Much work has been done during the Lucerne Alpine Senior Center closure during the pandemic. The center closed temporarily to save money due to staffing issues and alleged theft and improper invoicing procedures. The Record Bee reports volunteers of the Center were all at risk and most of the board members are over 70 years old. The manager Rick Rodavic says they also closed so they don't have to pay their utilities, food, gas, maintenance and other monthly necessities. He says even while they're closed it can cost up to \$3,000 a month to operate. But he's been working around the Center during the closure, replacing some flooring, fencing, painting and treating the place with bleach before the reopening. Rodavic also went public with some of the scams and stealing that had taken place and the removal of some volunteers so they can have a clean record moving forward.

In Lake County a thumbs up vote for masks to be worn at county government facilities once they reopen. And any government employees have to wear them at work. The Public Health Officer has not required face coverings otherwise so far but has been saying it's a good idea to do so. The board will revisit the urgency ordinance they considered last week with requested changes added in. That includes it saying wearing masks is a requirement to slow the spread of coronavirus, but state it's not a guarantee and that courts would decide if they would require masks separately. The urgency ordinance that went into effect last week says it's just during the "COVID-19 State of Emergency... or until otherwise ordered by the Board of Supervisors." It also has other safety measures included like physical distancing, and when masks should be worn.

Congressman Mike Thompson put out a Covid-19 survey to his constituents and has released the results. It was done between May 1st and May 8th from more than 4,600 people. The results say respondents want more help from the federal government. They want more programs like the Paycheck Protection Program and expanded unemployment insurance. Most people responding also wanted a cautious re-opening plan, ensuring the health and safety of everyone. Congressman Thompson says the information will help with his work to try to get more Federal relief back to his district.

Another person in Sonoma County has died from coronavirus. The Public Health Officer says it was someone over 65 years old like the other three people who also succumbed to the disease. It comes a week after the third death. Dr. Sundari Mase says it shows the County is not out of the woods yet. She told the Press Democrat more cases will probably be detected because they are conducting more daily tests. She told the newspaper, as the state reopens and people get back to local workplaces and visit parks and other public places there will be more spread of the virus in the community. In Napa County, they reported their third death due to coronavirus in an elderly patient.

As more and more businesses start to reopen, they'll have to do business in an entirely different way. There can't be things like buffet breakfast, self-serve coffees or welcome platters in lobbies at lodging spots. Hand sanitizer stations will have to be set up and floor markings 6-feet apart to remind about social distancing, and some will employ staff temperature checks. The tourist economy has been devastated by the coronavirus stay-at-home order. The Governor announced the next part of phase 2 in the reopening of the state, with some retailers being allowed to reopen with modifications this Friday. But nonessential travel is not yet allowed. Some communities may be allowed if they meet certain benchmarks in two week intervals.

Almost half the counties in the state have reportedly asked the governor's office for permission to further open their economies. The Gov. announced last week some businesses could reopen with curbside pickup, that manufacturing and construction could begin with restrictions. The Governor's office says they've spoken to 19 counties already and were speaking to 9 more with some potentially getting looser restrictions approved by today. The governor says some of the conversations have included 2 of the 3 counties that opened before the rest of the state, and that the conversations were going very well. One large business also defied the governor's order. Tesla restarted operations yesterday, its CEO Elon Musk says if anyone gets arrested, he'll be on the front lines with his workers, and that it should only be him. As of yesterday there were nearly 68,000 coronavirus cases and more than 2,700 deaths.

There are new federal guidelines for taking ocean salmon and Pacific halibut from waters off California. The federal regulations for Pacific halibut were published nearly two weeks ago and Ocean salmon within days after that. Ocean salmon and pacific halibut sport fishing opened May 1st but you have to follow your County's COVID regulations. That includes non-essential travel and physical distancing. You'll also have to check with your local authorities on harbor and access points. The dates in the Klamath Management Zone, between the Oregon/California state line and Horse Mountain doesn't open until June 6th. For Fort Bragg and San Francisco that opened May 1st and goes until Nov. 8th and finally for the Monterey area between Pigeon Point and the U.S./Mexico border that also opened on May 1st but only goes through Oct. 4th.

A more localized test could be coming for entry into University of California campuses. The President of the University says she wants to replace the SAT and ACT as admission requirements. Janet Napolitano came up with a five year plan which has been sent to the Board of Regents ahead of their May 21st meeting. She's asking for the current test requirement to be suspended through 2024 so they can come up with a "new test that better aligns with the content UC expects applicants to have learned and with UC's values." But she says if they can't come up with a test for fall 2025 applicants, then standardized testing should be totally eliminated.

A new testing site coming to Mendocino County for Covid-19. The Mendocino Voice reports it will be OptumServe testing and will come to the County within the next two to three weeks so we should be able to meet the governor's standard of daily tests. The Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo will oversee the new state sponsored testing site. The Governor named Lake and Mendocino counties as areas where it's hard to get a test but that it would soon change. As we reported earlier State Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblyman Jim Wood reported working on getting the testing site to the area and Supervisor Ted Williams confirmed the same. There was also a tweet that went out last night from the County thanking the lawmakers. Mendocino will soon meet all criteria, because of the new testing site to conduct the required quantity of tests to reopen the County further

05/13/20 into stage 2 of the 4 phase plan.

PG&E has been sending drones overhead to search for problems with their electrical transmission lines ahead of fire season. They are also conducting routine maintenance, and added more inspections on electrical and natural gas infrastructure with helicopters too. They're flying the drones and helicopters around Mendocino and Humboldt counties in Tier 3 wildfire risk areas, and about 30% of the lines in Tier 2 risk areas, including Mendocino County, "along the coast from Fort Bragg to Elk, Potter Valley to Willits, Konocti to Middletown, Mendocino to Philo, Hopland and Ukiah" and from Garberville to Laytonville. The inspections are ongoing over several weeks to protect grid safety and reliability and for more vegetation management and system-hardening.

Two North Coast lawmakers working to get coronavirus testing nearby. State Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblymember Jim Wood working with Mendocino County and the California Department of Public Health for a state testing site but they have not said where, just that it will be in the County. Wood says he's been working overtime to make it happen as there are no testing sites anywhere in Rural Calif. The Board of Supervisors thanking both legislators, the County CEO and the Public Health Officer and others in the Public Health Office for their work to get access to testing for residents. CEO Angelo thanked the two lawmakers as well at the Supervisors meeting yesterday and residents for being part of the solution.

The California State University system says there will be no in-person classes in the fall. The 23 campuses across the state will be mostly online, but there may be limited exceptions for in person instruction. The announcement the same day as a US Senate panel heard from the country's top infectious disease doctor on the coronavirus pandemic and that sadly, he said, there would be no vaccine or approved treatment for the virus before school starts in the fall.

As the Governor announced new shelter in place orders allowing for some businesses to reopen, Lake County may be joining a group of seven other Counties who've been given variances. The Gov. revised his order last week so that retailers, manufacturers and construction companies could resume in some fashion. There's a four stage process for reopening and those at lower risk have been given the green light. The Lake County Board of Supervisors heard yesterday from the public health officer and the health services director on what the County has to do to meet the requirements for a broader reopening. That includes less than one COVID-19 case per 10,000 residents and no deaths in the past two weeks, both Lake County has. They also need to show how they could handle a spike in cases and temporary shelter plans for the homeless among other plans. So the health officer and staff from the Health Services Dept. are working on a plan to send to the state for an accelerated reopening.

The Governor's office has announced they've conducted a million coronavirus tests. Gov. Newsom's office says there have been more than a million diagnostic tests across the state, after setting a goal last month for 25,000 tests a day by the end of April – and reports now say they've hit more than 35,000 in the last few days. The Governor has said the more testing is important as the stay at home orders are loosened. He also announced more than 80 new testing sites in under-served communities and that pharmacies across the state would soon be testing sites too. The State Board of Pharmacy is giving permission to pharmacists so they can collect specimens for COVID-19 tests and order tests for consumers.

A man has been arrested after several fires last week. Police say 26 year old Frederick LJ Fitch was arrested last week for several fires set in the south end of Ukiah. Five were set in two spots, one behind the Furniture Design Center on Airport Park Boulevard, and four more in brush along the railroad tracks. The man was seen by a witness and on surveillance footage and found later with a machete and knife in his possession. He was then arrested but qualified for bail even though he was on probation due to the state's order during the pandemic. Police say the fires were set intentionally using a propane tank and torch that were found in the man's backpack. His bail was set at \$60,000.

The Governor has announced some businesses can reopen with restrictions. The offices that can reopen have to follow physical distancing and other guidelines. He's allowing strip malls and outlets to reopen for pickup only and pet grooming and car washing businesses.

The Ukiah Planning Commission has another hearing for a proposed cannabis dispensary on North State Street. The virtual Planning Commission today was put on hold after a planning staffer was told there might be a school nearby. Planning staff were supposed to investigate if it was just a school office or if they were conducting classes at the "Academic Success Center" for Native American students in the Ukiah Unified School District to go for college and career counseling advice and academic tutoring. The staff found that it was not a school per se under city code, or the state's educational code, so it wouldn't stop a proposed dispensary from operating. A couple of large marijuana farms are being considered by the Lake County Planning Commission. The two large commercial cannabis farming projects on 54 acres are recommended by staff of Lake County in Benmore Valley. The property reportedly in a secluded area near the Hopland Grade. The develop wants to grow 39 acres of marijuana on one 55-acre fenced area, and another 15 acres on another 22 acre fenced area. There are other grows in the area too, but this is much bigger than the rest. The person applying says they will have at least eight people working on the grows and could hire up to 24 employees during the peak season.

With restaurants that reopen for dining, they have to do screenings of customers and employees, clean and disinfect and train employees on the new modifications. They've been among the hardest hit industry in the country, but many have survived on take out orders. Restaurants will have to provide disposable menus or disinfect them before and after use, no more pre-set tables, salt and pepper shakers sitting out, they can just be supplied as needed and disinfected after, and masks recommended for all restaurant workers and required for any who come within six feet (1.8 meters) of customers. No salad bars, buffets and shared bread baskets either.

A woman from Fort Bragg has been sent to jail for embezzling cash from a veterinary office where she used to work. The DA's office reports Tantah Anna Karst got one year behind bars for stealing more than \$138,000 from Coast Veterinary Clinic between 2017 and 19. She pleaded guilty to felony embezzlement and a sentencing enhancement for committing serial white collar crimes, plus several misdemeanor weapons charges. While cops investigated they found her in possession of metal knuckles, nunchaku, a switchblade knife, and a collapsible baton. She first got 52 months but it was suspended for supervised probation of 5 years instead, but she has to serve the year in jail. Since she got credit, it's actually only 6 months. She also has

05/14/20 to pay restitution of \$1,000 per month or head back to jail.

Bar and restaurant regulators in California say they should get emergency powers to start to come down on businesses who are not following the rules to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control says because some businesses are seeing a probable final closure coming they don't have any incentive to do what's right, and follow the rules. So proposed new restrictions for those who don't abide would allow the Dept. to immediately, but temporarily suspend or limit the alcohol licenses for a restaurant or bar. Right now businesses can stay open as they appeal sanctions, the department says, that amounts to profiting with absolute disregard for the law, something they're seeking to fix. It comes after many counties in the state opened before the official stay home orders moved into phase 2, allowing opening restaurants and bars. The Dept. reports contacting more than 100 licensees in 43 of the state's 58 counties with three disciplinary actions as investigations continue.

The Gov. Gavin Newsom cautioning allowing certain counties the ability to reopen sooner than the rest of the state because it would attract visitors from other areas that have more restrictive measures still in place. Newsom saying that would defeat the purpose of the cautionary approach and calls it a major challenge. He says people from still closed communities rushing into a more dense urban environment then returning to their community would be a bad idea. The reopened counties are mostly rural and in Northern Calif. Approvals for variances for the counties include that they've had no deaths in the past two weeks and minimal new cases, meet certain testing criteria and hospital capacity in case of a surge and a plan for the homeless. Then they can allow dining at restaurants with strict protocols, manufacturing, construction and retail. But opening churches, hair and nail salons, gyms and concert venues not allowed yet. Four of the largest counties, San Diego, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino don't meet the requirements, but have requested a meeting with the Governor to discuss each of their unique situations.

The working group trying to buy the hydro-electric plant in Lake County from PG&E has put its plans together including a removal of the Scott Dam. The Potter Valley Project left by PG&E during its bankruptcy proceedings with a group of five picking up the ball to buy the small hydroelectric plant and a diversion system from the Eel River to the Russian River basin where it feeds agricultural and other irrigation systems in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties. The Scott Dam feeds the reservoir also known as Lake Pillsbury, which would run dry under the plan. But a second dam would be modified for fish passage and other modifications like restoring the Scott Dam are included. The "Two-Basin Partnership" plan has to be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Lakeport Unified School District Board hears a dire prediction about the budget during the latest school board meeting. A \$1.5 million budget deficit is possible but not until the end of 2023. But another projection shows as much as \$4.5 million during the same time. The Chief Business Official with the presentation last night during the online meeting showing the economic impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the district. She also says she thinks many school districts across the state will be filing a negative budget in June, and that there's no assurance the state will put forth more money. The Governor's new budget should be released today.

Both Mendocino and Lake counties are getting more COVID-19 testing sites. As reported yesterday we're getting another site to meet criteria needed to reopen the economy. In Mendocino County, the Ukiah drive thru site has opened for tests, but not for the general public and in Lake County one is supposed to open today. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer says we need more testing in case of a spike which could negatively impact our local healthcare system. Dr. Doohan says expanded tests are crucial for the entire North Coast because of how close they are to more densely populated areas with higher numbers of coronavirus cases. Right now Mendocino County is going about 30 tests a day, but in order to reopen we need to be at 135 a day. Lake County is getting a mobile testing center to hit about 100 tests/day.

Mendocino County has launched a drive thru testing site. It's in Ukiah with three paramedics. Volunteers from North Coast Opportunities were there with personnel from Adventist Health Ukiah Valley for the first day of drive thrus on Tuesday. 68 people came for testing Tuesday, the first people tested were City employees including cops, firefighters and other essential workers, and after that Ukiah Unified School District employees. The general public has not been able to get the tests yet as the city is doing a trial run first. The samples are going to the University of California, San Francisco. The City Manager says they're hoping to show they can do the testing efficiently before they open it up to the public.

California Community Colleges going to court to get some of the money from the federal government for emergency student aid due to coronavirus. In a lawsuit filed Monday, the colleges say the US education department put arbitrary restrictions on the aid from Congress, including preventing undocumented students and students who are part of the DACA program, from getting any of the money from the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act. The court papers say the Department of Education ignored the intent of the Act for local colleges to decide on the aid students affected by the pandemic would get. But instead as many as 800,000 community college students won't be able to tap the funds.

The Sheriff reports getting a bunch of calls about people growing illegal marijuana on the Round Valley Reservation... The Sheriff went on to his Facebook page to say they visited tribal land again with a search warrant.

The Sheriff says drug trafficking organizations are running certain grow sites. He says the organizations leave toxic waste lands behind after they're done growing. The Sheriff says he also got a tip there could be human trafficking. He also encouraged people on illegal grows, to go thru the proper channels and grow legally.

Some hotel operators say their refusal for travelers to use their business or having to cancel reservations has led to hostility towards them. The Daily Journal reports the owner of the Emerald Dolphin Inn says they've been yelled at and cussed at. No fault of their own, the hotels had to close to essential travel only due to the pandemic and state shelter in place orders. One of the owners of Harbor Lite Lodge in Fort Bragg tells the newspaper they've lost a lot of business but they're getting some lodgers like pharmacists, truck drivers, construction workers and long term residents.

After we reported seven California counties have been able to reopen more into Phase 2, now we hear about several more. Lake Co News reports almost 20 California counties have received variances for reopening after meeting certain criteria laid out by the state. The news site reports the Lake County Public Health Officer was bringing a variance plan to the Board of Supervisors next week so it can be sent to the State for approval. State officials say the cautious approach is to slow the spread of coronavirus. That includes curbing nonessential travel from areas with a higher concentration of cases to other jurisdictions with less confirmed cases, and not allowing the opening of places where there is high touch or close contact with others. The state has canceled Lake County's planned tax-defaulted land sale that had been scheduled this month. The Lake County Treasurer-Tax Collector Barbara Ringen had been pressured to hold more of these sales and was at battle with the City of Clearlake. Now she tells the Board of Supervisors the State Controller's Office had "strongly recommended" county tax collectors to postpone or cancel such sales during the pandemic until receiving further guidance. So Tax Defaulted Land Sale 157 is canceled due to the shelter in place order by the Governor related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Ringen told the Board she's planning to reschedule the sale for October and will report back when she has a date certain to get the Board's approval.

Redwood Empire Food Bank reaching out for help during the pandemic. It's reported to be the biggest hunger-relief organization serving the north coast. They say there's been a spike of need due to the amount of people who have lost their jobs due to Covid-19. The CEO of the Food Bank says there's now a food crisis. Some of their partner organizations have been forced to close or curb their offerings so they have been inundated. They have seen double of the amount of people they normally serve. The Food Bank is looking for donations, volunteers and money. The money helps them buy more food, pay staff, pay to gas up their trucks and pay their energy bills. They say right now the most needed items are Canned Tuna and Meat, Peanut Butter, Canned Soups, Stews, and Chili, Rice and Dry Beans, Cereal, Canned Fruits and Vegetables, High Protein Granola Bars, Trail Mix or Nuts.

Donations can be made through the Redwood Empire Food Bank's website at www.refb.org. Anyone seeking food assistance can call the Redwood Empire Food Bank Food Connections Office at 707-523-7903 or visit <http://getfood.refb.org>.

The Sheriff's Office reports an investigation of a burglary turns up a dump trailer they say was not connected, but also suspicious. The trailer found in the 44000 block of Pomo Lake Circle in Irish Beach. They say it was probably stolen, but they're not sure who owns it to begin with. They've posted a picture on the Sheriff's Facebook page asking for the public's help. They say it may have been taken from Airport Road in Fort Bragg, but they don't know an exact time. It was recently spray-painted so any identifying marks were hard to see or totally removed. They ask if you know who may

05/15/20 own the trailer to call the Sheriff's office.

A limited reopening for some Mendocino County Parks, but of course there are many public health requirements in place. Social distancing must be followed. Some city and state parks have also started a limited re-opening today. Also the Mendocino County library has opened branches with limited curbside service. And the Mendocino National Forest has begun some reopening of campgrounds and other areas tomorrow with social distancing restrictions as well. The Mendocino National Forest will have released a list of all parks that are opening, you can check their website for those.

The state has passed 75,000 Covid-19 cases as the state eases some of the stay-at-home restrictions. There have also been more than 3,000 deaths and more than ½ are in Los Angeles County. There are some stricter rules in place there like mandatory face coverings while outdoors except on the water or if there is nobody nearby. Many rural areas have not really been affected. Almost 30% of counties have been certified they have contained the spread of the virus so they can begin opening restaurants to dine-in service, plus shopping malls and other businesses with certain regulations. A bunch of people in Ukiah celebrate their neighbor on his 94th birthday, with a drive by parade. Al Bascou turned 94 May 11th, so the Early Iron Car Club of Ukiah got to work. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, they couldn't do an in person party. On Facebook they went, and people responded, they too wanted to participate...The birthday boy living at Mountain View Care Home now was walked to the sidewalk with a few friends and watched. A car enthusiast and former firefighter, with family in Ukiah.

The Lake County Public Health Officer reminding that the County is not reopened all the way and they stay aligned with the Governor's stay at home order until further notice. There is pickup at retail businesses and restaurants, the Lake is open with social distancing restrictions. The County has started the process of applying for a variance so they can move into later phases of Stage 2. As we reported yesterday there are benchmarks to meet like tests per day, deaths, and preparedness for a surge. The Public Health Officer says he wants to wait to make sure there's no surge in cases since Clear Lake was reopened. The proposal for the accelerated reopening is being actively developed this week with the final plan to go to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

The Public Health Officer in Lake County says the first day of new openings looks to be the Tuesday after the Memorial Day weekend with a partial re-opening of businesses, and the full opening of Stage 2-approved businesses no sooner than two weeks after that to be sure there is not a surge in cases. There are already about 20 counties across the state in the accelerated reopening phase but Dr. Pace says there are counties just next door with active new cases. Sonoma and Napa, which both had a COVID-related death this week. He says with travel between the counties for work and shopping very common, we need to be careful not to allow the virus to get a firm foothold and start spreading throughout Lake County.

A new mobile Covid-19 testing site is now in Lake County. The Lake County Public Health Officer has announced Verily's Project Baseline arrived in Lake County this week. And residents can make an appointment for testing as the mobile site travels thru the county. You can visit a website and be screened to see if you're eligible, based on certain public health guidelines. Those being tested must be at least 18 years old. If you are eligible, you must make an appointment, you can't just show up. After you're screened and if you become eligible, they will tell you where to access the site. Appointments are made 48 hours in advance, Monday-Friday with results usually returned in 2-5 days.

For more information on Project Baseline, please www.projectbaseline.com/

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County is offering Zoom accounts for those who cannot afford it. The program made possible thanks to a grant from the Rebuild Northbay Foundation. If you'd like to use Zoom to teach a class or connect with family and friends, there's a monthly fee, to attend class or join another person's Zoom meeting it is free. It's like Skype, Facetime, Go To Meeting or Web Ex where you can have face to face meetings. These scholarships by the Community Foundation offer one year of Zoom service for free. The grant worth \$5,000 for Zoom subscriptions during the Covid-19 pandemic offered on a first come, first serve basis.

The Governor has released his new budget and gone is money to help homeowners pay to retrofit older homes in high risk fire zones. There had been \$101 million set aside, but the coronavirus pandemic has left the state with a giant budget gap, so the program is dead for now. The Governor says the deficit has hit an estimated \$54 billion so the state cannot expand programs during the COVID-19 Recession. The state was supposed to put up \$26 million and the rest would come from the federal government. The new budget does still have \$200 million set aside for Cal Fire and the Office of Emergency Services as was proposed in January.

The US Army Corp of Engineers reports day-use facilities at Lake Mendocino won't open until after Memorial Day. The Lake Mendocino Supervisory Park Ranger says the South Boat Ramp and some nearby parking will open Tuesday, May 26th and the water will be open for boating, but high touch areas and the campgrounds will stay closed for now. She goes on to say there probably will be no camping at all this summer. Hiking trails will also have to wait until after Memorial Day but nearby parking will be closed. Same for disc golfing, after Memorial Day. But Lake Sonoma will start to open this weekend and Clear Lake opened last weekend.

Out of towners descend on Clear Lake taking their boats onto the water even though it's supposed to only be open to locals. The lake reopened last weekend. The Lake County Water Resources Director says monitors at the boat ramps looking for possible Quagga Mussels count who enters and found 252 resident boaters and 36 non-residents. The lake had been closed for seven weeks to help slow the spread of coronavirus. It was partially reopened last month to locals to fish from the shore and boats without motors could launch by hand. The Lake County Public Health Officer said in his most recent shelter in place order on the reopening of the lake, that it was for Locals only and that "Non-Essential Travel Remains Restricted."

The graduation for Woodland Community College will be virtual. The virtual ceremony is today. The College President says because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event would be online and says normally there are multiple celebrations at the end of the academic year, but because that can't happen he's congratulating the 2020 graduating class for their tenacity to finish. The community is invited to watch the video on the college website. The keynote is on Empowerment.

Many organizations are giving grants and loans to small businesses because of the pandemic, the Mendocino Voice is one. The news site reports getting a Facebook Community Journalism Fund grant for \$100,000. The grant was awarded to 144 local news organizations. They had more than 2,000 applicants. The news site reports the money will help them expand staffing and coverage, improve their website and help them find new ways to connect with their readers. The grants were selected by the Local Media Association, the Lenfest Institute for Journalism and other news organizations.

The first death from COVID-19 has been announced in Humboldt County. Kym Kemp reporting the resident of Alder Bay Assisted Living died over the weekend at a hospital. The County had just applied for a variance, attesting there had been no deaths in recent days. The County may have to wait a couple weeks before getting that variance now. There had been 22 new cases in the last 2 weeks as well. The County Health Officer had sent in the attestation that the County had met or exceeded the Governor's guidelines 05/18/20 this month. The death was a 97 year old woman.

Police in Fort Bragg updating a cold case disappearance. Police say family members called to report Michael Miller was missing one year ago on May 15th. They say Miller was on parole and was listed as a missing person in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. They say he has an active felony warrant and if you see him, to call police immediately and not to contact him. The last he was heard of was on the phone from the Hospitality House. He also had not accessed his bank account since about that time. His family says before this contact, the last time they spoke to him was in November of 2018. They say from November 2018 to January 2019 they think he was with friends or camping in Fort Bragg. They say he could be in Ukiah, Nevada, or Montana and they thought he might have been at the Ukiah winter shelter. He responds to the name "Chico" and the last time family saw him they say he weighed between 140-150 lbs. He's 5'08" tall with brown hair and brown eyes with multiple upper body tattoos.

Similar to the latest micro break out from Mendocino County where people at a church service have tested positive. A similar case in Butte County, also on Mother's Day. One person tested positive after 180 people went to church service. The positive test came back the next day. The public health dept. in Butte County issued a statement warning people not to gather, saying that could cause a major setback and close the county down again. Butte being one of 22 counties who received variances to open sooner than most. Health officials doing contact tracing to let everyone who was at the church service know so they can self-quarantine. They're also working with local healthcare partners to get tests for all attendees.

Two new cases of coronavirus in Lake County and one in Mendocino County all three believed to have been due to a church service Mother's Day. The Lake County and Mendocino County Public Health Officers out with information about the outbreak. A 14th case in Mendocino County Friday night led to an investigation into its origin. Contact tracing started immediately to make sure asymptomatic contacts were quarantined and symptomatic contacts were tested and isolated. The case in Mendocino is an elderly man in Ukiah who had reportedly been in close contact with two people in Lake County who were diagnosed with COVID-19 on Saturday. The three people apparently at an inland Mendocino County church where a virtual service was also attended by some in person. There was singing at the church. Both public health departments are trying to find anyone else who may have either also been there, or been in contact with the three cases. One of the Lake County residents now in the hospital here in Ukiah. The other two cases are isolating at home. Mendocino's Health Officer says they're trying to talk the church leaders into revealing the name of the Church so anyone else who may have been in contact with anyone there can be contacted and possibly tested. The office didn't say what precautions may have been taken for singing at the Mother's Day service, but did remind there should be plexiglass between the singers and physical distancing.

The Governor announcing low risk workplaces could open in Phase 2 of the 4 stage plan to reopen the state. But in Lake County, the current changes are staying until the Board of Supervisors hears from the Public Health Officer about opening any sooner. Waterways are open with social distancing, low risk retail is open for phone and online purchases and curbside pickup. This follows the state order for reopening. Later phases of Stage 2 include shopping malls and swap meets, personal services, limited to: car washes, pet grooming, tanning facilities, and landscape gardening, dine in restaurants, no bars, outdoor museums and open gallery places, government offices that were deemed non-essential and some children's activities and childcare. Lake County is asking for a local variance to the state's orders. Dr. Pace says if approved, the first day of new openings wouldn't happen before the Tuesday after Memorial Day weekend.

The Shelter in Place order in Mendocino County has been revised to match modifications allowed by Governor Newsom's Stay-At-Home Order. The new order went into effect Friday and will not be amended until June 8th. Now limited group activities can start with groups of no more than 12 referred to as a "Social Bubble" from either a Household Support Unit, a Childcare Unit, or a Children's Extracurricular Activity Unit. This means there can be an interdependence of people in smaller rural communities like seeing family from other homes, helping with carpooling, childcare, recreation, religious services, etc. There is no need within the Social Bubbles for social distancing during activities permitted in the order but following other restrictions like staying home while sick and obeying quarantine and isolation orders. The Social Bubble units are separate, so you can only be part of one. Other changes include outdoor museums, galleries and botanical gardens can open, landscapers, gardening services, some limited services that can maintain social distancing like laundromats, dry cleaners, car repair shops, car washes, pet groomers, and dog walking. Business where telework is not possible, consider Work Groups, like a Social Bubble, where groups of 12 work together for four weeks at a time. There are more orders on the Health Officer's website.

[The Health Order and a summary of the major changes are available online a](#)

A protest at the Mendocino County Courthouse, like many in America, wanting to reopen their businesses. The Daily Journal reports the protest in Ukiah Friday ahead of the Public Health Officer's announcement about new allowances made to her Shelter in Place order. The County, Dr. Doohan says will not immediately apply for a variance or what's being called "Attestation" where the County can verify it can meet the required readiness criteria, low number of COVID-19 cases, adequate protection for essential workers, hospital readiness for a possible surge in cases and testing capacity. Dr. Doohan says they're already working on it...

Dr. Doohan says she was surprised at at least one Board Supervisor saying he wished she would move faster. She says she's allowed a significant amount of limited reopening and wants to see what effect is before moving deeper into Phase 2 of the Governor's 4 phase plan. Dr. Doohan says she's working as quickly as possible to get the attestation done so the County can move into Phase 2 by this Friday. However that was before the new case popped up in Ukiah connected to a church in Mendocino County... and two Lake County cases linked to the same Church, with one of the infected now in the hospital in Ukiah.

The remainder of Low Gap Park has reopened to the community. So the Ukiah Skate Park has also reopened. Restrooms, tennis courts and the playground at the entrance are still closed, but you can now park at the park in the lot. Dog parks are still closed, but hiking trailers and disc golf are allowed once again. The Skate park is only open Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. with a city employee keeping capacity at only 12 at a time with proper physical distancing.

A man in Fort Bragg has been arrested after an unrelated burglary call from Point Arena. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports while investigating they found a person of interest in Terry Kelly who they say was on active felony probation in Amador County. He was found parked after reports of a stranded driver in Fort Bragg. His car found packed with miscellaneous property so he was searched. There cops found packaged, unopened consumer goods which they say had recently been stolen from an Amazon Fulfillment Warehouse. They also found he had stolen a dump truck trailer parked in Irish Beach, in Manchester. He was then arrested for possession of stolen property and booked, but released with zero bail due to the pandemic.

Many people in Calif. for filed for unemployment have still not received benefits. People in Southern Calif. have been told their debit card is in the mail. Apparently the Employment Development Department has been only using EDD debit cards. So if you didn't get one, but have within the last three years, you would just get that reloaded. New debit cards that went out but expired will get a new one. A new report has some people applying the end of March and still not getting any money from the state. The EDD released a statement saying there may be a many different reasons someone had their payment delayed and are best mitigated by the unemployment claims analysts.

The Sonoma County Health Officer is coming up with that County's reopening plan to loosen restrictions due to the pandemic. But Dr. Sundari Mase says the plans need to be approved by the state. The plan has not been made public or whether she would apply for a variance or attestation. The Board of Supervisors is asking Dr. Mase to draft a waiver. During a press conference on Friday, she said she's not necessarily seeking a variance, but instead a phased reopening plan, tailored to that county and getting guidance from the state. There was a new health order announced Friday though with certain businesses being allowed to reopen, Mendocino County is following closely, including pet groomers, dog walking services and car washes, laundromats, dry cleaners, car repair shops and landscapers.

Dr. Doohan, the Mendocino County Health Officer says they're doing surveillance testing after the cases in Covelo with 1191 tests altogether, 270 pending, 152 negative, 2 positives. The Attestation paperwork is done, and the state gave a positive review. It goes 2 weeks, then they have another attestation to send to the state. The business community will be reopening in phase 2. As we reported with the so-called social bubbles for families and children to attend day care and work units at places of business that has a hard time with virtual work off site. Graduation Day is coming and

05/19/20 graduations will be done in processions in cars.

The state is allowing more lenience for counties to move faster into attestation, a process where the County Health Officer attests they meet several benchmarks to reopen, in phases. The California Department of Public Health has started to accept new variance requests this week because of the capacity across the state and in local jurisdictions for hospital preparedness and stability. The new attestation allows counties to move thru state 2 at their own pace, but they have to attest to the state that hospitalization and test positivity rates are stable or going down, are prepared with testing, contact tracing, personal protective equipment and for a possible hospital surge; and have adequate plans related to county-wide containment. The Gov. says it's because Californians have done incredible work flattening the curve and slowing the spread of COVID-19

Lake County's Public Health Officer says he's drafted the local variance to show to the Board of Supervisors so they can reopen some businesses with restrictions and according to the state's guidelines. The businesses that reopen would be low risk. Dr. Gary Pace says there have already been meetings with State Public Health Officials and he feels confident the plan will be approved. Some of the items include daycare openings with ten children or fewer with proper precautions and disinfection, outdoor dining at restaurants, but no gaming areas or bars, and with limited seating to promote social distancing and other precautions, other low risk businesses like car washes, pet grooming, tanning facilities, and landscape gardening, outdoor museums and open gallery spaces. Masks will be required in all businesses except for people with breathing issues in a facial covering and with a note from the doctor. Each 2 week period there will be a reassessment.

A large party in Covelo busted up after an altercation. Police say several females gathered for a party and one was hit with a baseball bat, then some shots were fired soon after. Deputies reported to the home early Sunday morning finding a 55 year old man had been shot, and a 21 year old woman was hit with the bat. The female victim was uncooperative, and the man was unable due to his injuries. They were taken to a hospital. Deputies had spoken to other people there who said several family members were together and several females got into an altercation. When other relatives got involved shots were fired, but nobody said who shot the weapon. No arrests were made.

Two men are recovering and one died after a stabbing attack in Fort Bragg. Police say they don't have a suspect in the attack. A 32 year old man died and the other two victims were 22 and 23 years old. They say it happened in Noyo Harbor, or possibly just outside the city limits. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports getting a call to a home, but it was empty. The three victims had already been taken to a hospital. California Department of Justice crime lab team members from Eureka were headed to Fort Bragg to help with the investigation. They had also scheduled an autopsy for tomorrow.

The name of a church has been revealed where at least three people have tested positive after a Mother's Day service. The service was attended by few, and was streamed online, with singing. It turned out the 14th case of Covid-19 in Mendocino County and 2 cases in Lake County. The Public Health Dept. is asking anyone who was either at the church service at Redwood Valley Assembly of God or in contact with anyone who was, to come forward to be tested. Public Health has announced free testing in Redwood Valley today at Eagle Peak Middle School until 2:00 pm and at Mendocino College, just outside Ukiah, until all of the tests are gone. The health dept. says there were only three people there, the pastor, Jack McMillin who lives in Lucerne, a female singer and whoever was filming. The three are all now infected. The pastor is in the hospital at Ukiah Valley Medical Center. In the online service, it looks like the singer was separated from each of them with more than six feet of space.

If you have to go to the dentist and find yours has not opened due to coronavirus, you're in luck, in the case of an emergency. Mendocino Community Health Clinics (MCHC) in Ukiah, Willits, and Lakeport have emergency availability. The Mendocino Voice reports other dental clinics are also open for emergencies and if you're in need of essential follow up care. There's also the possibility of seeing a dentist thru tele-health, if you can believe it. The stay home order closed dental offices across the state or reduced their services for emergencies only. The news site reports many closed to avoid the use of personal protective equipment which was in desperate need for front line workers across the country during the pandemic. Community Health said they already had all of their employees coming in daily and they were using personal protective equipment. So they just added emergency dental care for other dentists' patients, because it was the right thing to do.

The Lakeport Speedway got the go-ahead for a "test and tune". This Saturday, May 23rd and Sunday, May 24th, the Public Health Officer gave the green light for practice from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. And the events will be sanctioned by the Northern California Racing Association. There are some restrictions, including signing a standard waiver and another Covid-19 related waiver, teams will pit 10 feet apart, pit crews are not allowed to coningle, those in attendance have to stay in their pit area and adhere to social distancing requirements, and there will be those allowed in the spectator area. No more than 3 cars on the track at a time. There are no grandstands and concessions will be closed to spectators. The Public Health Office says they'll monitor to make sure there's compliance so more events like this could be considered in the future.

The proposed urgency ordinance on a moratorium on industrial hemp will be considered again by the Clearlake City Council. The council meeting online again due to the County's Shelter in Place order. Emailed comments and questions are being accepted and the virtual meeting will stream live on Lake County PEG TV's YouTube Channel. The questions will be read aloud by the mayor or a staff member. The emergency ordinance is being considered again because the pandemic did not allow city leaders to consider whether industrial hemp cultivation should be regulated by the City or not. Staff is therefore recommending the City extend again for ten and a half more months.

Parks have been open across the state without parking so that only locals could go. Now the parking lots are starting to re-open at some parks. More than two dozen state parks and beaches in Santa Cruz, San Benito, Sonoma, Riverside and Orange counties, plus in Lake Tahoe, parking lots opened. Mostly they are only half opened to allow for social distancing and hopefully, lower capacity because of the continuing pandemic. There are 36 state parks still closed in Calif. Officials say the state reopened some lots last week in consultation with local and state health officials. They also say they think visitors won't travel across county lines, and they'll only visit their local parks until more restrictions can be relaxed. The state is reminding people to stay close to home to slow the spread of the virus.

Because of a loss of billions in the state budget, some healthcare benefits may be cut. The Governor had proposed expanding Medical which was cut in the 2008 recession, but now that's probably not going to happen, in fact in the Governor's recently released post coronavirus budget, it has cuts in services and provider rates, and rescinded expansions. There's a cut to coverage expansion for older Californians — including undocumented seniors — and cuts for some adult dental services. It also says they want to cut payments for hearing exams, speech therapy, eyeglasses, podiatry, acupuncture, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacist services and diabetes prevention program services.

Napa is opening deeper into Phase 2 of the state's 4 phase plan. The state has found the County met the attestation benchmarks. That means there's a low case count of COVID-19, expanded testing and evidence a county has the necessary infrastructure to detect and safely isolate new cases. Napa has recorded 92 cases, with half still active. They've lost three residents to the disease, the most recent death was May 10th. They can reopen schools, and businesses with social distancing in place, but wineries and tasting rooms are still closed. Residents are still being told to stay home unless they can maintain social distancing while participating in allowed activities. A 15th case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in Mendocino County. The Public Health Office released the news on their Facebook page late last night with little information. The post says the infected person is a man between 35 and 49 years of age from the Ukiah Valley, and in isolation. They go on to say they're investigating the source of the infection and are performing contact tracing. As far as the recent case of a traveler nurse in Fort Bragg, more tests were performed and the hospital reports no other cases have been found so far. Mendocino Coast District Hospital reports no evidence of community spread of COVID-19 after testing more than 150 people. 14 tests are still pending.

Another case of COVID-19 in Mendocino County has been announced and now much more testing was made available. Not a lot of info except it's a man between 35-49 years old in the Ukiah Valley in isolation. Now even more at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah. The OptumServe machine will start next week. The Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo reported yesterday at the latest Virtual Board of Supervisors meeting the testing will happen for the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. First responders will get the first set of appointments in the morning, followed by emergency operations staff, and departmental response staff, then the public will get access in the afternoon. There will be a website up soon for appointments to be made, plus a phone number for those without access. The City of Ukiah is also offering free, drive-thru testing at Mendocino College.

Sherwood Firewise has their meeting regarding fire safety in Brooktrails online. It's fire season already. The group met last Thursday over Zoom and more than 2 dozen residents were online discussing the past and future of fire safety. They discussed SafetyNet, a local incident notification system, where residents can register online for emergency notifications. They're also getting address signs which have been approved by CAL FIRE so they can be found in the case of a fire. The area was also recently awarded a \$12,000 grant from North Coast Opportunities so they can get a paid part-time Program Coordinator and another \$70,000 grant for Roadside Fuel Reduction and Chipper Days. And the group also won a third grant of \$500 for Firewise work.

Schools in Lakeport are going to continue providing free meals for kids under 18 until at least the end of June. The Record Bee reports the School District has been offering meals since the stay home order was issued by the governor's office. Before the outbreak there had been free or reduced priced meals for students in this program, but now they are all free whether they're enrolled in a local school or not, no questions asked. The U.S.D.A. is helping kids across the country during the pandemic, just last Friday there was an announcement of extensions of waivers so food programs could continue into summer.

Mendocino County is not getting a new Public Health Officer after all. The Board of Supervisors reportedly decide against hiring Dr. Joseph Iser in a closed door session yesterday. The Mendocino Voice reports the County instead will look to the state for help and potentially extend or modify the current public health officer, Dr. Noemi Doohan's role even though she moved to San Diego and has been working remotely. Iser looked to be a shoe-in, but apparently there was concern about why he left previous positions, reputation and press reports there had been problems with the doctor at his last job in Nevada. The Board made the announcement last night in public session and directed the CEO to ask the state for mutual aid.

Lakeport will approve the sale of safe and sane fireworks but there will be no fireworks display. The City Council voted against the annual celebration but agreed fireworks could be sold the first week of July. The City Manager asked the Council about the matter, there are normally a handful of nonprofits that sell the safe and sane fireworks, the only kind allowed in the city. The City Manager says the approvals would be contingent on the current health crisis. At the same time reports that the Lake County Public Health Office has approved a social distancing plan for the sale of the fireworks.

The work is nearly done on improvements at Library Park in Lakeport after the seawall came down in flooding. The park should be all the way open by the beginning of June as stay home orders are lifted in the County. Lake County News reports the \$800,000 dollar project was done by a contractor out of Oregon. And the final work by another company for the promenade for an additional \$400,000. The City Council has accepted the final construction and authorized filing a notice of completion.

A Middletown High School Senior has been chosen for a scholarship from Mediacom Communications. The \$1,000 to Alessandra Diaz recognizing a student for outstanding leadership and academic accomplishments. They pick 60 graduating seniors each year for the scholarships to support their post-secondary education. It's the 19th year they've funded the World Class Scholarships for students in areas served by the cable and broadband company. About 1,200 students usually apply for the scholarships each year. Those who win have to go to an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or technical school within the United States.

Ukiah's got its community testing site set up after the Governor announced more than 80 new COVID-19 community testing sites coming across the state for underserved communities. The site at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds. More details released today that it will be situated in the Carl Purdy Hall and starts this Saturday. The testing this Saturday from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. Tuesdays – Saturdays after that from 12:30 pm – 7:00 pm. As we previously reported, this is through a partnership with OptumServe. It's by appointment only. The Mendocino County CEO thanked Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblyman Jim Wood for their help making it happen.

Mendocino College doing their best to bring their 2020 graduates a commencement to remember. It was supposed to be in person Friday, but then a survey went out to graduating students about what they wanted instead, due to the pandemic. They all said they wanted to postpone and not have a virtual ceremony. The Mendocino College Foundation is gifting each student with a \$50 dinner voucher to be used Friday at a local restaurant so they can still celebrate on the actual day of graduation. The Foundation also put up money so banners could hang in the district, including over State Street in downtown Ukiah and yard signs for students.

An 11th case of COVID-19 has been reported in Lake County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace reported the positive test was confirmed thru one of the County clinics. The infected person is reported to be stable at home and isolating and they're conducting contact tracing. It's the third case in less than a week. Two others were from the Redwood Valley church service on Mother's Day, where Mendocino County also got its fourth case. It comes as both counties have reported they intend to apply for attestation with the state to reopen deeper into Phase 2 of the Governor's 4 phase plan to reopen non-essential businesses.

The University of California will have in person classes in the fall. The president Janet Napolitano reported yesterday all classes would be open with instruction this fall. The Cal. State Univ. system announced all online instruction in the fall. The Univ. of Calif. system reported a \$1.2 billion loss due to the coronavirus pandemic. Napolitano says she thinks most, probably all of the campuses will be in a sort of hybrid mode, a mixture of virtual and in person. The same is happening across the country as schools have high touch areas and physical distancing could be a challenge. It goes like this, lectures are moved online, and small classes and labs are held in person.

05/21/20

Beaches in Mendocino County and state parks have reopened for local use ahead of the Memorial Day weekend. More than 20 sites along the coastline and some inland properties have opened with restrictions in place to keep the spread of coronavirus down. The Chief Ranger of the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District says they're monitoring and if appears it's becoming unsafe, without proper social distancing, or they see a potential health hazard, they'll address it. The re-openings do include most restrooms and parking lots, but not at campgrounds, the parking however, is limited. Visitors are encouraged to walk or bike. State parks on the Sonoma Coast remain closed.

Lake County's moving deeper into Phase 2 of the Governor's Roadmap to Recovery. This means this will be outdoor dining at restaurants and in person shopping allowed. The state approved the Public Health Officer's attestation yesterday. The criteria from the state is that a County has a low rate of infection, sufficient testing capacity and the ability to trace and isolate new cases. Dr. Gary Pace spoke to the Board of Supervisors the last couple of weeks about the attestation and confirmed Monday he was applying for a variance this week. There have been 12 COVID-19 cases in the County, four are new. As far as the reopening goes, car washes, pet groomers, tanning salons, landscape gardeners and outdoor museums can also reopen and only Church offices, that's for one-on-one religious counseling, but no services yet. Also childcare services with 10 or fewer children. Customers and employees of the businesses that reopen must wear facial coverings. After two weeks a reassessment to see if there can be indoor dining, day camps and afterschool programs to resume.

A new report from the CHP says since more people were at home, traffic accidents were also off, and so were arrests. The CHP Commissioner says people were listening to government stay at home orders for non-essential travel, so there was a significant reduction in commuters. The data from their traffic records system said there was a 75 percent decrease in crashes from March 19 to April 30 compared to a year ago. Plus records showed 88 percent less people died on the roads and 62 percent less were injured in crashes. They made 42 % less arrests for DUI, from March to April there were 4,223 in 2020, down about 3000 from the same period a year ago.

The 12th case of coronavirus has been confirmed in Lake County. The fourth this week as the county gets ready to go deeper into Phase 2 of the Governor's 4 phase reopening plan for the state. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says the 12th case was confirmed during community testing and contact tracing has begun to make sure it doesn't spread into the community. He says the confirmed case is at home in isolation. Earlier in the week 2 other cases popped up, they too are at home in isolation. And the fourth new case is in a hospital in Ukiah. Only two cases needed to be hospitalized during the pandemic. Eight earlier cases have all recovered. Pace reminds that as restrictions are lifted, they expect some community spread, and reminded about the importance of social distancing and those who are vulnerable to stay at home.

The Lakeport Police Dept. beefing up patrolling after recent incidents. Lake Co News reports police say they're seeing more DUI's; and dangerous driving has been reported to police. They say as the County reopens after strict shelter in place orders, traffic is increasing and there's been some poor driving on the roads and DUI crashes last weekend. The Chief reminds to drive safe and don't endanger other people's lives.

It's nearly summer and with that Yosemite National Park could soon reopen, but due to the pandemic, there will be changes: visitors have to have a reservation and it will be limited to about half capacity of the past. That's to slow the spread of coronavirus. Park officials need to get the approval of the federal government before reopening. Several other major national parks including Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, and Joshua Tree have already reopened in a limited way. Some of them don't have lodging open and restaurants are mostly closed. Yosemite Park officials have not confirmed an exact reopening, just sometime in June, probably in coming weeks they say. There will be no shuttle buses, and visitors will be encouraged, but not required, to wear masks. Trails may be one way only and there will be signs up reminding about social distancing at nearby grocery stores and gas stations.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors says as businesses reopen they won't be that strict about restrictions, and will be more about education. At the latest Board meeting the Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace asked for ideas about how to enforce his new public health order which allows lower-risk businesses to reopen but with written plans by business owners about how they'll help to slow the spread of coronavirus with social distancing, disinfection and other practices. Pace supported more education for the public on how to follow the guidelines and less citations and fines. He says he's already noted most businesses want to do the right thing, and reopen safely.

Businesses still struggling due to the pandemic are getting a helping hand from Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The Utility company is offering support to businesses dealing with financial hardship by offering temporary loan deferrals. It's for business customers with an On-Bill Financing (OBF) loan under PG& E's Energy Efficiency Financing program. The customers can defer the no interest loans for up to six months. The loans have been made for business customers to trade old, worn-out equipment for energy efficient models. Those interested will get a reduction in their monthly OBF loan repayment to \$0.01 during the 6-month deferral period, then the loan will just be extended six more months.

A union that represents 100,000 RN's in Calif. is condemning a vote by a legislative committee regarding infectious diseases. The California Nurses Association's condemnation came after the state Senate's Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement committee said no to the bill that would have made nurses and other direct-care healthcare workers automatically eligible for workers compensation for infectious and respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. The author of the bill says it could have brought "gender and economic parity" to nurses, a female-dominated profession, given that California police officers and firefighters, male-dominated professions, already have presumptive eligibility for a whole host of illnesses and injuries.

A man in Ukiah's been arrested after a fire was started inside the airport, damaging three cars, a motorhome and a boat. Police report they got a call to the Ukiah Municipal Airport Tuesday morning reporting they saw people running from a fenced area by the runways. Cops say they heard noises like somebody throwing rocks against something and found a man inside the fenced area trying to pull a trash bin up a hill. 33 year old Justin Malugani covered in a white powdery substance that comes from fire extinguishers. They say they saw broken windows and he said there was a fire on the property. They searched and found cars were sprayed with the white powdery stuff. He was arrested after being found to be on probation for other fire-related incidents. He was being held on \$30,000 bail.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife are making new plans for the crabfishing industry, with possible early closures. The agency says if there are too many whales and sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean, the state can close the season early. This comes after a lawsuit by an environmental group. The Center for Biological Diversity looking to avoid Dungeness crab gear entangling whales off the California coast. The public still has a month and a half to comment on the proposed regulations which come after a settlement between the agency and the environmental group to avoid humpback whales from getting caught in the gear, something they say prevents the endangered animal from recovering.

Mendocino Coast District Hospital is not taking pregnant mothers in because of coronavirus, to give birth, so Mendocino Coast Clinics has partnered with the hospital to deliver babies. The Executive Director for the Clinics says they've worked with the hospital for years and know they hold the same high standards, so they will take care on for mamas at 28 weeks and once the child is born, they can continue care for them at the clinics. The pregnant patients getting their prenatal care at Mendocino Coast Clinics create a birthing plan at 20 weeks' then at 28 weeks, the plans are transferred to the hospital for delivery. The patients have to go to Willits or Ukiah for exams; but some can be done on the phone during the pandemic and deliveries take place at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley.

There's a new website for Mendocino County after the state of California mov
The County also requests that business owners complete the business impact survey, which will provide information on the total dollar amount of economic impact of the pandemic crisis. The survey can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/MendoBizImpact>.

The County of Mendocino encourages all small businesses in the County to visit their website at <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/business/business-resource-for-covid-19>.

For business-related support with loans, employee relations and digital comm

The City of Willits has announced the County was approved for reopening in |
The Mendocino County Public Health Officer with the latest on the County's
05/22/20 attestation and the latest cases of COVID.

Up until this morning there have been 15 cases in the County, the 14th case confirmed last Friday was at the Assembly of God church in Redwood Valley, 3 people at a virtual service had all contracted the virus. There were more tests done after that, this past Tuesday after Lake County residents came forward to say they were affiliated somehow with the church, two were positive cases, one ended up in the hospital and that's when the church was publicly named by residents.

More than 330 people tested at a drive thru site – 6 additional cases are connected to this Church, for a total of 9 people – 7 from Mendocino County, 6 identified today, one last week from our County, 2 in Lake County. The new cases are all in isolation.

Before these six cases, the County confirmed a 15th case contracted at their workplace in Sonoma County. 55 other people from Mendocino County work at Sonoma County workplace. The County is offering all who may have been in contact with the 15th case, and the 6 other new cases free testing.

500 new contact tracers in Calif. The Governor announced they will start to call, text and email people who may have been exposed to coronavirus. The Governor's office says they will encourage those potentially exposed to quarantine or recommend they seek medical care. The Governor's office also announced a media blitz, radio, television and billboard campaigns to bring more awareness to contact tracing and urge people to call. They're being called the "CA COVID Team" and are being managed by the California Public Health Department. All information is confidential and will not be shared with outside entities. The state hoping to eventually hire 10,000 contact tracers across Calif.

The Avenue of Flags is happening in Lake County for Memorial Day, but on a smaller scale. Lake Co News reports there are usually almost 1,000 American flags placed at the Hartley, Kelseyville, Lower Lake and Upper Lake cemeteries, but this year, while they almost canceled, they decided to just put 50 flags up only at the Lower Lake Cemetery. Organizers say the display will be from the front gate to the George Mitchell Building and the service poles. A small gathering at the cemetery that morning will then disperse and put up the flags Monday. If you want to help, they say you're welcome with a facial covering on.

Mendocino County got the go ahead from the state to reopen deeper into phase 2 of the governor's 4 phase plan to open California. The County got the green light Wednesday to reopen more businesses, including dine in restaurants, retail and more. The county had to show they've met certain criteria to reopen including a low case count of COVID-19, proof they have the infrastructure to detect and safely isolate new cases and personal protective equipment for front line healthcare workers, amongst over requirements. The County has had 15 cases, no hospitalizations and no deaths. The Public Health Officer has issued a new shelter-in-place order that goes into effect at noon today, allowing limited dine-in restaurants, in-person shopping at retail stores, preventive dental care, limited use of shared pools for child care units, children's extracurricular units and work groups. Salons, hotels, airbnb's, bars, winery tasting rooms and public pools are still not allowed to reopen.

No college entrance exams will be needed for some higher education campuses in Calif. The UC Board of Regents cut SAT and ACT in their applications for admission by California high schoolers for the nine undergraduate campuses in a unanimous vote. The regents agreed with president Janet Napolitano's idea to phase out college admissions testing. She said it was because of the "correlation of the SAT and the ACT to the socio-economic level of the student" and sometimes, their ethnicity. The testing had already been removed due to the pandemic, but this makes it permanently, test optional after the pandemic too.

More patrols will be out, even though there have been less cars on the road, for the Memorial Day weekend. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is also encouraging essential travel only and physical distancing if Californians do leave their homes. They say if you do plan to travel you should be in touch with the county or state where you're going to find out if there are any local restrictions or directions for people from outside the area. They are conducting their yearly Memorial Day Maximum Enforcement Period too. The CHP Commissioner says it doesn't matter what changes in the world, the people of Calif. can count on them to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

The state of California quickly paid back almost \$1.4 billion dollars to the federal government needed to pay out a huge spike in unemployment claims due to the coronavirus pandemic. The state borrowed nearly \$350 million in April and almost \$1.1 billion earlier this month. The state paid back the money with money from businesses who paid their taxes to cover unemployment. The Unemployment Dept. reported it was the highest period for receiving the yearly employer contributions and the department had asked the state for authority to borrow up to \$10 billion between April and June.

With the state's approval or not, more than 1,200 pastors in Calif. announcing they're going ahead with in-person services May 31st even though they haven't been given approval or any guidance on reopening. A lawyer who represents one church is suing on behalf of the more than 1,200 pastors who he says all signed a "declaration of essentiality" announcing they would open their doors again May 31st, but that they would have physical distancing and other precautions so they don't risk spreading coronavirus. The lawyer says there are pastors who represent more than one church and he expects at least 3,000 churches would have in-person services on May 31st.

[Any public school child in the Ukiah Unified School District classified as eligib](#)
Lake Tahoe still discouraging people from heading there, and now just before the Memorial Day weekend, non-residents face a \$1,000 fine for visiting. There is Phase 2 reopening in both Truckee and South Lake Tahoe but no hotels or short-term rentals are open to the general public, only those who have to travel for business or essential reasons. Those with second homes in South Lake Tahoe are now allowed, they had been discouraged before. But now the city says they're welcome in city limits to their own property, but no lodging is available for short-term renters or patrons at this time. And South Lake Tahoe Police say not in Tahoe this time, for anyone else after the city passed an ordinance allowing \$1,000 fines for violators of the travel ban.

CHP and the Shasta County Sheriff's office have rescued a bald eagle from the middle of a road outside Redding. Drivers spotted the injured mature bald eagle on Interstate 5, south of Redding on the southbound side. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife had a picture of the bird up online sitting on the highway. The CHP and the sheriff's office on the scene and moved it out of traffic and waited with it for a wildlife officer to get there. The Dept. of Fish and Wildlife says it had no obvious signs of injury, only some blood on its mouth. They rescued the 9-pound eagle and it was transferred to the Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue.

The Governor has once again released new shelter-in-place rules so that church gatherings can resume, but with safety restrictions in place. This means Mendocino County will have to change some restrictions. The new rules apply for in-store retail as well. Gatherings of political protest will also be allowed but with strict social distancing requirements in place. The

05/26/20 County CEO says a new public health order will come out this week.

Phase 3 of the state's reopening is beginning with hair salons and barbershops allowed to reopen in most of the state. But counties have an option to restrict further if need be. Already 47 of the state's 58 counties fully opened into phase 2. The changes to the state's stay-at-home order are not allowing nail salons to reopen though as it was noted earlier this month that the first case of community spread in California came from a nail salon.

Phase 3 also includes gyms, movie theaters and professional sports without live audiences, but that's deeper into this phase, not quite yet.

The Lake County Sheriff is allowing visitors at the local jail. Since the outbreak, the jail has been closed to visitors, but the public health office has allowed a gradual return to visitation, Live Scan services, religious and educational programs. The Sheriff's Dept. reports progression into phase 2 and 3 are contingent on the status of community spread of Covid-19 and if there's any staff and/or inmate infections. They have not determined a date yet to move into phase 2. The limited visitation and Live Scan services are considered phase 1 and start Monday, June 1st.

Even though Humboldt County was one of the first to get the go ahead to reopen, the County is taking a slower approach to emerging from the stay home order. The County had more than 90 cases as of this weekend, and two employees at a nursing home recently contracted the infection.

Businesses have to work with the Public Health Dept, the same as the rest of the state, in coming up with their reopening. But Humboldt County's Public Health Officer says they could slow some certifications because of new cases emerging. 6,500 licensed businesses have applied to reopen, and the County's website only shows 255 certified as of last Friday. Of the applications, around 100 restaurants, but not one had been approved to resume dine-in service.

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall puts out a Memorial Day message to say there have been concerns directed his way about the public health order. He says there's been suggestions from various sources about how the law should be enforced and that he will follow the US constitution. He says some suggestions were that people should be stopped if it seemed they were out of place and that they should provide their identification, others have suggested roadblocks to take identification and says he realizes there's fear around the pandemic, but that these suggestions are in direct conflict with the constitution and that anyone entering Mendocino County has rights afforded to everyone in the United States so he won't be caving to the pressure and start violating rights. The message posted on Facebook over the long holiday weekend.

The Lake County Sheriff acting as director of the Office of Emergency Services is helping businesses promoting physical distancing with their reopenings. Sheriff Brian Martin has issued a Directive allowing temporary use of County-owned and private properties for modified business operations, like for restaurants to spill outdoor dining onto the street. The order is effective as of this morning and has to be ratified by the Board Of Supervisors which they were supposed to consider at a 1 pm meeting today. If approved, businesses owners have to get a free, Temporary Use Permit from the Department of Public Works. There are requirements that go with it, which you can see at Lake Co News.

A smartphone app is going to be required for anyone who works for Sonoma County to make sure they have no coronavirus symptoms or have possibly been exposed to someone with COVID-19 before showing up to work. The Press Democrat reports the County hired IBM to develop their COVID-19 Check app which has already come out and is available at the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Employees will be able to screen themselves for symptoms and exposure, then their employer has a parallel feature on the app to verify their wellness check before they start work for the day.

A massive turnout at the Russian River to beat the heat this holiday weekend. Healdsburg Veterans Memorial Beach had hundreds of revelers as the temperatures started to creep into the upper 90's inland. Sonoma Park Rangers patrolled beaches and watched to make sure people were keeping their distance from each other. There's no sunbathing, picnicking and barbecuing at river beaches. Also, they were not allowing umbrellas, shade structures, tents, coolers or beach chairs. And people were stopped if they were found with any of that. Parking lots were also closed along the coast, so many visited the river.

Some new cases of Covid-19 have turned up in Lake County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says with more testing, two new cases have been identified, but the local infection rate is still low, and there are no hospitalizations. Dr. Pace says probably because things are beginning to reopen and there's more community activity and more availability, new infections are probable. There were 4 new cases last week and an impromptu testing site was created last Friday to follow-up on contacts from a previous case. The results of 40 tests came in and two were positive, 55 are still pending though. The Public Health Office says the new cases are stable and isolating at home, and further contact tracing has begun. Dr. Pace says all previous cases, 12 of them are doing well, and one who was admitted to the hospital is home in good condition.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors having a special meeting related to funding the COVID-19 shelter for the homeless. The meeting today at 1 pm. held virtually can be seen on the Board's website. The Public Health Officer will be first up, delivering his weekly update on the virus, then the board will consider going back to in-person meetings. They will also look to ratify an order issued by Sheriff Brian Martin, who's the acting director of the Office of Emergency Services, to allow businesses temporary use of county property in Stage 2 of the state's gradual reopening from the pandemic. And they'll consider the Harbor Warming Center Project for the homeless.

Places of worship can start to reopen across the state with new guidelines. The California Department of Public Health made the announcement yesterday and local health departments have to approve it. So there can be religious services and funerals with limited attendance at 25 percent of capacity or as many as 100 attendees, whichever is lower. Most large gatherings are still off the table during the state's current stay at home order. There are also new guidelines though for protests and gatherings for political expression, with the same plan, 25 percent of an area's maximum occupancy – or up to 100 attendees.

The Lakeport City Council to decide if an area of the downtown core should have a road fixed. They'll consider the "Eleventh Street Corridor Multimodal Engineered Feasibility Study" so traffic flows better for not only drivers, but pedestrians and cyclists. Plus there would be new safety measures such as street lighting and crosswalk signals. If the city approves the study, then it goes to the Planning Council, and if it's further approved, the city will go after grant money to pay for the improvements. It's been a plan since 2017. That could come to fruition on Eleventh Street from Highway 29 to North Main Street.

Another case of coronavirus has been confirmed by the Mendocino County Public Health Office. The 22nd case of COVID-19 was announced on the Public Health Officer's Facebook Page. The post says they're not sure yet how the infection was contracted and they're in the process of investigating with a thorough contact tracing being conducted by Public Health too.

More than 59 volunteers are helping try to find a missing man from Fort Bragg. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office got a call that 77 year old Luther Jackson disappeared from the Fort Bragg Senior Center. An employee of the center called to say Jackson was not there so they went to the Center and also could not find the man. They searched a nearby property as well. He's described as a white man, about 5 foot 9, 175 pounds, with blond and gray hair and blue eyes. Mendocino County Search and Rescue personnel has been looking for the man, utilizing ATV's, drones, ground searchers, and dogs. Yesterday 54 people went out looking for Jackson again from several law enforcement agencies with no luck.

A man from Eureka says he had to fight off a 16 to 18-foot long shark this holiday weekend while he was on his kayak in Shelter Cove. A spokesperson for the Shelter Cove Fire Dept. told the Outpost news site that Michael Thallheimer was fishing off the coast and was attacked. He was alone and had just caught some fish and was hoisting them onto his kayak. Apparently the blood from the fish was leaching out into the water and the shark became attracted to it and appeared out of nowhere. He told them he had to fight it off by punching it, but it punctured his boat and he began taking on water and called 911. He got lucky, after dropping his phone and keys in the water, a cop was on the coast looking and saw him clinging to his sinking kayak. He was pulled out by other fishermen and taken back to the marina. He had no injuries, but was hypothermic.

The Gov. is allowing hair salons and barbershops to reopen, but some counties, like Sonoma, say they won't go there quite yet. 47 of the 58 counties in the state have been cleared for the first bit of Phase 3 of the 4 phase reopening plan just as the state hits about 100,000 cases. The announcement about hair shops a day after the Governor announced churches could reopen with strict guidelines. Nearly a dozen counties will not be able to reopen though because there have not received permission to reopen other businesses like restaurants and shopping malls, those nearest to us include Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Tulare. Some lawmakers say they think the Gov. is moving too fast with the reopening, but Newsom says they're focusing on the percentage of positive cases instead of the overall number. He adds it's inevitable there will be more positive cases as the economy reopens and

05/27/20 people begin to mix more frequently.

A mobile home in Ukiah has been gutted by a fire. Ukiah Valley Fire Authority reports it broke out yesterday afternoon in the Manor Oaks mobile home park on East Gobbi Street. The report said the home was totally on fire and others were threatened. When firefighters arrived they found it fully engulfed in flames and two nearby homes threatened. Nobody was in any of the homes at the time and there were no injuries. Firefighters contained it to the one structure only, but there was some heat damage to windows and blinds of the other homes. They say they're not sure how the fire started, but it looks to have originated in the kitchen. The home was totally destroyed.

Lake County staying in alignment with Governor Newsom's latest relaxation of some of the stay home orders, allowing hair salons and barbershops to reopen. Since Lake County has their variance with the state, the Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace put out an updated Public Health Order regarding coronavirus with guidelines about how local facilities can proceed with reopening. Dr. Pace says he too will allow hair salons and barbershops to reopen, with limitations though. The provider has to wear a mask, unless they have a health problem precluding it, same for their customers, physical distancing, temperature or symptom checking of employees and other workers, frequent handwashing and regular cleaning and disinfection and training of their workers on their reopening plan for prevention. They have to immediately respond to any new cases and potential infections in workplaces.

The Mendocino County Public Health Office has confirmed two more cases of coronavirus for a total of 23. Yesterday they confirmed the 22nd case with an unknown origin and contract tracing started. Later yesterday there was a confirmation of the Public Health Officers Facebook page of the 23rd case which was also of unknown origin. Public Health reports there's no evidence of community spread. And while there is a new testing site, appointments must be made and there are no walk-ins for Optum Serve!

[To get tested for COVID-19 by Optum Serve, you MUST make an appointment](#)

An award has been bestowed on Willits Charter School. The school is the 2020 winner of the Jack London Award for Educational Innovation. The award for the school's Friday Academies Program. The school director says they focus mainly on Arts and Sciences. Students there go to their core classes and electives Monday through Thursday, and on Friday it's their Academies Program where students go to their enrichment classes which are many times led by community members. They include Animals, Native American Club, Martial Arts, Set Design and Mock Trial. Two schools got the Jack London award of a \$500 gift certificate, a certificate of recognition and a book authored by Jack London. It's for "good ideas and great programs and the people who make them happen in our local schools."

The Public Health Officer in Sonoma County says even though the Gov. has continued to loosen restrictions to the original stay home order, there will not be any shopping malls, barbershops, hair salons or in-person church services yet as there's recently been more cases of coronavirus spreading in the community. Dr. Sundari Mase had just allowed restaurants, wineries and breweries to have outdoor dining, but is apparently not moving deeper into phase 2 or allowing phase 3 quite yet. She says it's because of more than 200 new confirmed cases (including 48 over the holiday weekend) of COVID-19. She also noted some people in the ICU and on ventilators was also on the rise. And there's a new outbreak of the virus at a local senior residential care center, but she did not reveal its name.

Several dozen contact tracers are being hired in Sonoma County to find people who may be infected with coronavirus. The positions are noted at the Sonoma County website under Community Health Worker I and II with starting hourly wages from the high teens to the lower twenties and a \$1.15 per hour bilingual bonus. They need PT and FT workers to do contact tracing. You'll have to attend a 20-hour online course and possibly go to an in-person orientation. They plan to hire about 150 trained contact tracers by June 15th and 230 by July 15th. They already have 75.

A special meeting's called of the Clearlake City Council regarding the sale of two parcels of land that used to be the Austin Resort. There's a virtual town hall this morning on the subject because of the current shelter in place order with Clearlake City Hall still closed to the public. They were accepting questions in writing by email or thru the city's website, where you can also view the townhall starting at 9. The main agenda is to talk about a buyer's offer for the Resort, they're looking to replace it with a destination resort. There are two parcels, one about 4.75-acres and the other, just under 3 acres. A Letter of Intent for the sale has already been approved by the City Council. Total sale price, just over \$915,0000.

Police are searching for a missing teen in Fort Bragg. 17 year old Morgan Rossiter is described as, a white male, 6'05", 250 pounds with short brown hair and blue eyes. His mother reported he might be with his bicycle, a light blue long haul trucker, street bike and that he's has Autism, but is high functioning. He was last seen yesterday around noon time taking the bike out and he apparently left a note saying he'd be back in a week. He also has a cell phone, but it's not powered on. They say he might not speak, could be scared or nervous if he's contacted by strangers and to call police if you see him.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has given the go ahead to extend finances for a warming shelter for the homeless. Yesterday at the Board's virtual meeting, they also discussed getting back to in person meetings. The Harbor Warming Center Project being used a COVID-19 homeless shelter in Lakeport. It's in the old Record Bee building and was supposed to be shuttered this spring, but the Board gave their approval for more time so the homeless can shelter in place. The shelter also looking at transition plans out of the location soon. The board also allowing the Sheriff to allow businesses to use County property temporarily so they have more space for social distancing as they reopen, like restaurants with spill over into sidewalks or parking lots. The Board also agree to continue with live Zoom and Facebook streams, but the Board members would return to chambers for their meetings. They're looking at a June 9th start date.

The Eastlake Landfill the subject of the Lake County Planning Commission's next meeting. The Commission taking up the subject tomorrow if the landfill would conform to the county plan and meet environmental impact standards. The landfill near Clearlake has been the main solid waste dumping area since it was permitted back in the late 90's and covers 35 acres. On an average day, there's about 130 tons of waste brought there and about 47,000 tons per year. That can probably only last a few more years with the amount of waste increasing each year. The County looking to expand the landfill another 56.5 acres, 22 acres at a time. The Community Development Department recommends the Commission approve the expansion. The virtual meeting to be held tomorrow at 9 a.m.

State lawmakers back to the capitol picking up where they left off with in person meetings after their unplanned shutdown due to the virus. They have various measures to look at, including a proposed ban on flavored tobacco, including menthol. They're also considering a bill to clarify general contractor licensing to protect homeowners who have to rebuild after a wildfire to guard against shysters. A new bill to get more information from nursing homes related to the amount of deaths from Covid-19 which was already unanimously approved in committee and goes now to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Mendocino College says some road work is done at an intersection near the school in Ukiah, making it safer after major upgrades. The Hensley Creek Road and State Street intersection, where the school says thousands of students, employees, and community members get to the college every week has a new traffic light. The college says that'll loosen some of the traffic congestion and help stop accidents at the intersection, which were a concern for many years as enrollments continue to increase. The Interim Superintendent/President says they've been wanting to get the traffic light at that intersection for several years. They also put up a new digital sign at the intersection to help increase the visibility of the campus. The sign was paid

05/28/20 for by the school's foundation.

A man in Ukiah's been cited for elder abuse after a man he cared for reported he was thrown on the ground and couldn't get up. 73 year old told deputies he and his live in caregiver Terry Omler got into an argument and Omler pushed the man down, he landed on his wrists and could not get back up as Omler went to sleep and left him there. The man cannot walk well without help and crawled to his phone and called for help. He says it took him an hour to crawl to his phone. Deputies found Omler sleeping after alcohol consumption, saying he was heavily intoxicated. He's arrested for felony elder abuse resulting in bodily injury and booked into jail, but it was zero bail due to the Governor's stay home order. But a judge approved a \$25,000 bail for which he was then held.

North Coast Congressmen John Garamendi working with colleague Dean Phillips of Minnesota have sent notice to both House and Senate leadership asking for a national contact tracing and testing program for COVID-19 in any new legislation in both chambers. The UNITE Act and the Utilizing and Supporting Evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers Act have both been introduced in the House. Garamendi says the pandemic has put an unprecedented strain on society, and that we need scaling of testing and contact tracing to flatten the curve and lift stay-at-home orders. Public Health officers across the country say we should have as many as 300,000 or more contact tracers. Garamendi and Phillips bills would use service organizations like the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps.

North Coast Assemblyman Jim Wood says the governor's planned budget cuts are a mistake. During a special session of the legislature, lawmakers got to question the Newsom administration about a plan to cut various programs due to a \$54 billion budget hole due to the coronavirus. Wood says actually eliminating programs and not just pausing them is a different thing. His comments after cuts noted for healthcare and senior nutrition programs, something Wood says would be devastating to older, poor or disabled Californians. Wood says without full Medi-Cal insurance, people will lose access to dental and optical care. The latest budget includes spending cuts to public education, health care and environmental protections.

Two more cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Mendocino County. The Public Health Office has confirmed there are now 25 cases. Yesterday we told you about two other new cases and that contact tracing had begun. Now the 24th and 25th cases, so for three days in a row, cases have been climbing. There were also nine new cases identified in Lake County. The Mendocino County Health Office reports the Anderson Valley Health center had confirmed a case from a test of 39 people last Thursday. There was only one positive result. All who tested were asymptomatic. There have been 101,000 confirmed cases in the State of California and more than 3,900 deaths.

Police in Clearlake asking for the public's help finding a missing elderly man. 81 year old Lloyd "Jim" Wilborn has not been seen since Wednesday morning. He was in a 1995 Honda Del Sol and has mild dementia and leukemia, and is hard of hearing. Police say his daughter lives in Lucerne but the two have not spoken in five years. He also has no friends or businesses he frequents in the area, and mostly stays home. He also does not have a cell phone and was not reported missing in his past.

Cal Fire is reminding people, in the midst of the pandemic, that it's critically important to create and maintain defensible space and home hardening to protect against wildfires. They're sending out a flyer that has information on it about doing a defensible space self-assessment. It will have steps for homes and buildings, show how to harden your home to be more wildfire resistant and say it's easy to follow. The agency says it helps their inspectors comply with social distancing while the agency collects vital information.

Sheriff's in the Emerald Triangle saying they're not going to follow the Governor's stay home orders. The Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsel posted on social media last month he believes the order violated the constitution and wouldn't be enforcing it. This came after the Governor ordered beaches to close. He says law enforcement is not bound to an order they feel are not lawful. Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall noted the constitution in his decisions too, but it was in particular to suggestions to him about how he handle the spread of Covid-19. He did say previously though that the County should be able to determine its own shelter in place protocols and that the Governor should have faith in locals. In Trinity County, Sheriff Tim Saxon said it's not a one size fits all approach that works to stop the spread of the virus and that rural communities are different.

The Public Health Officer in Sonoma County says there will be no changes to her Shelter in Place order for two weeks. The Press Democrat reports Dr. Sundari Mase says it's because there are new patients in the hospital and ICU and a new outbreak at a local nursing home, plus community spread from workplaces. Dr. Mase says keeping the stay home order as is is going to protect health care workers from a surge and keep ICU beds available for serious patients. She has allowed restaurants, wineries and breweries serving food to resume outdoor dining with certain public health protocols. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors is on board with keeping the Phase 2 reopening as is, in solidarity with the Public Health Officer.

A handful of churches in Sonoma County say they're going against the Public Health order and opening anyway this weekend. The Press Democrat reports the Catholic churches are holding mass in defiance of county health orders prohibiting gatherings. The newspaper reports the Santa Rosa Diocese Bishop Robert Vasa says he is not going to stop parish priests if they want to reopen for Mass on Sunday but also says he's told them they need to comply with directives from Sonoma County Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase. He added that most Catholic churches in Sonoma County will stay closed, but it's up to the individual churches.

The Public Health Officer in Santa Clara County says the state's moving too quick to reopen its economy. The Governor has said he's looking at the percentage of positive cases, not the overall number of cases, but Dr. Sara Cody says allowing gatherings of up to 100 people for religious, political and cultural reasons is a bad idea, calling it a serious risk to spread the virus. Her comments on Tuesday to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Cody is credited for helping come up with the Bay Area's first shelter in place order. Also noted, Santa Clara had some of the state's first cases and has not been able to open as deeper as other counties in the state.

Lake County looking for more local control is sending a letter to the Gov. for even more relaxation of shelter-in-place orders. After the Memorial Day weekend supervisors were questioning why more businesses couldn't open. The next day though religious services, political protests, hair salons and barbershops were allowed to start once again. But Lake County supervisors want more. There's a special meeting planned about the wording of the letter to get the Governor to allow the county its own permission when to reopen certain businesses. They spoke of opening gyms, and the Public Health Officer Gary Pace says if there's a reasonable plan and other local governments sent similar letters it could happen.

Legislation being considered by state lawmakers includes replacing PG& E with a non-profit company called Golden State Energy. The Senate Bill comes as the utility is about to emerge from Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. It says if the disgraced utility does not safely operate in the future and is blamed for even more catastrophes, like wildfires or explosions, it should be replaced. The bill by state Senator Jerry Hill says nobody knows what the future will bring and they expect the best, but it's best to prepare for the worst. The bill spells out how an orderly transfer of the company would go if PG& E's certificate of public convenience and necessity is revoked.

05/29/20 [The Ukiah Symphony Association has announced they're postponing the enti](#)

On Monday you may hear some sirens as the Lake County Sheriff's Office/Office of Emergency Services is testing the emergency warning sirens in Loch Lomond, Cobb Mountain, Anderson Springs, and Middletown. It's to make sure the sirens work ok and there may be some additional messages sent as a reminder beforehand. It's to mark the beginning of the monthly test of the system, which will be the first Monday of every month at 11 AM. They say if there is an active response to local fires in progress, the test will be cancelled, and resume the following month. They remind you to get your email address to the Sheriff's office, so you'll get notified each month.

Following the three Sheriff's in the Emerald Triangle, the Sheriff of Sonoma County says he's not going to enforce the stay home public health order. As were reported yesterday the Emerald Triangle law enforcement officers were in alignment with the US Constitution, now the Sonoma County Sheriff Mark Essick says the local Public Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase's order to stick to Phase 2 and not allow more openings for two weeks is not in line with the state and that she didn't provide proof to keep restrictions on civil liberties in place. County leaders do not agree with the Sheriff, just this week, they back Dr. Mase after she said there had been local outbreaks, but left it at that. Essick is ordering deputies to consider violation reports against what the state's guidelines are, and educate the public how to slow the spread of the virus, but not to book anyone in jail for solely violating the county's public health order.

The Sonoma County Public Health Officer has release more info about why she's holding back on reopening some businesses, only saying it was because of community spread and a nursing home outbreak. Now, Dr. Sundari Mase says there were several infections at a local winery, a water filtration plant and in a group of farmworkers. She didn't say which winery, name the water plant or what crops the farmworkers had handled though. She said there had been a recent shift from households to workplaces as people move about more, not knowing they may have been infected with the highly contagious disease. Dr. Mase nor County leaders have answered any more questions on the matter.

Campfire restrictions announced in the Mendocino National Forest as we enter wildfire season. The Forest announced yesterday to protect the health and safety of employees and communities, starting today there will be no igniting, building, maintaining or using a fire except in developed recreation sites and wilderness within the Mendocino National Forest. Officials say these steps are to make sure firefighters are available to safely respond and manage incidents and that 95 percent of all wildfires are human-caused. The Forest Supervisor says there's an above-normal fire season projected in much of the state, and the combined potential for wildfires and smoke could impact communities and firefighters, and it's everyone's responsibility to be fire safe at all times while visiting the Forest.

The Governor's announced an accelerated reopening for churches and other Places of Worship along with in-person protests, so the Mendocino County Health Officer has issued another revised Shelter-In-Place (SIP) Order to reflect what the state is authorizing. Places of worship including churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues can have limited capacity, same for Funeral Services. Hair salons and barbershops may open for limited haircut-related services, following the outlined statewide guidance, and in-person political protests are allowed with modifications and must adhere to safety measures from the State and outlined in the Health Officer's Order. Also very limited use of shared pools for pool-based physical therapy. All of this went into effect just before midnight last night.

The Lake County Public Health Officer releasing a statement about mask wearing. Dr. Gary Pace, says yes, there are those for health reasons, who cannot wear a mask. Maybe it's due to breathing difficulty or other negative physical or emotional consequences, but the County's latest health order encourages a doctor's note if they get push back from local businesses. So he released an Addendum to the County's health order for individuals unable to wear a mask, that they must help in other ways, with minimum physical distance of 6 feet between people, unless there's protective shielding in place. And that businesses can lawfully refuse your entrance.

[For Lake County-specific Coronavirus information, please continue to visit the](#)

[The Lake County Coronavirus Response Hub has additional valuable resources](#)

The plan for the state to make up a 54 billion dollar budget gap has some state Senators just saying no. The plan would mean permanent cuts for K-12 schools and community colleges if there is no money coming from the federal government after the outbreak. School districts say it would mean schools closing, mass layoffs and a delay to reopening in the fall. But the state Senate has a plan that says no to the cuts and instead tables \$9 billion in payments to public schools for a year so school districts could spend money by borrowing or using their own savings then the state could pay them back later. Payments have been delayed in years past, like \$10 billion when Jerry Brown was the Governor, but it was paid back over several years, this new plan, is just one year. The deadline for a plan in the state Legislature is June 15th for a new operating budget for the fiscal year starting July 1st.

From Mendocino County Public Health Office Facebook page:

["Public Health is confirming 5 additional cases of #COVID19 in Mendocino County"](#)

Deputies in Ukiah looking for the public's help after several reports of shots fired in Ukiah. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office says they're investigating an illegal discharge of at least one gun in the south end of the City. The MCSO went out to the 100 block of Oak Knoll Road early Sunday morning after multiple reports of shots fired. They say they were in touch with local residents who said they thought there was a car that left the area and headed north on South Dora Street afterwards, but they didn't have a description of the vehicle. Deputies say they did find about 10 to 20 expended handgun casings on the street, but no bullet holes, strike marks or victims at any of the homes in the neighborhood. They're asking anyone with further information to call the Sheriff's dept. or anonymous tip line.

The State of Calif. says it needs to raise at least \$500 million for electronics for students since many could continue at home learning thru the end of the year, possibly into next year. The Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state Tony Thurmond calling on companies, foundations and individual donors to help get 600,000 computers and tablets, and 300,000 to 400,000 internet connections or hot spots so K-12 students will be able to continue distance learning due to coronavirus pandemic. The State working with T-Mobile, Verizon, Amazon and others to get 100,000 hot spots for students and 21,000 computers to districts.

Mendocino College announcing they'll continue most instruction online in the fall. The interim Superintendent/President says they'll be "primarily" online in the fall for the "health, safety, and well-being of students, faculty, staff, and community". She says it was a tough decision, but after speaking with faculty leadership, deans, the vice president of academic affairs and others, they thought it would be best to decide sooner rather than later in order to have time for fall schedule planning. She also says if there are any in-person activities, they will be with appropriate safety precautions like physical distancing and sanitation measures, and only in small, stable groups.

Four hospitalizations and thirty cases of Covid-19 in Mendocino County. But none of the hospitalizations were in critical care or on ventilators. Public Health Officer Noemi Doohan says three of the new cases are due to community spread and one case may be a false positive and it will be up to the state to decide. These 2 community spread cases are from the North County and the other in the Ukiah Valley. In other Health Office news, Dr. Doohan is allowing church services in alignment with the state. She says it's high risk, and is asking everyone to be careful, wear masks and socially distance themselves, political protests are also allowed with the same restrictions. There are other openings and allowed businesses. You can visit the Public Health Office Facebook page and website.

There is clarification about barbershops and hairstylists that only hair can be dealt with and no facial work like shaving, due to too close of contact with the customer.

In Lake County, County offices are starting to reopen after remote services thru the pandemic. They're self-certifying their opening like local businesses and taking extra caution with protections for visitors. But the Lake County Board of Supervisors Chair Moke Simon reminds there are still many essential County services that can be done at home. Due to the pandemic, many services can be done without an in person visit. They're asking anyone at risk of getting infected to call first and arrange for service without coming to County facilities.

Senator Bill Dodd and his colleague Sen. Steven Glazer have a bill to make sure critical facilities like hospitals, fire stations and water treatment plants are operational during potential wildfire-related electric utility power shutoffs. Senator Dodd says it's imperative these services stay operational during public safety power shutoffs. The bill, if it passes, would mean most essential facilities would continue operating with emergency backup generators. The senators say that would ensure there is electricity to pump and treat water during intentional outages. Right now they say, facilities could face penalties for running generators during power outages. The bill has already passed the Senate Environmental Quality committee and is sponsored by the California Municipal Utilities Association and the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.

The Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan says she's staying... for now. She had announced she was leaving for San Diego, where she's already living, but the County is still on the lookout for a new health officer. Dr. Doohan says the County's been in close contact with the state regarding the requirements for a county health officer, and she will still be serving Mendocino County until a new officer is hired. She says there is a job posted for the position and there are two people who have shown interest and they hope they will apply for the job. Doohan says the Board of Supervisors voted to continue her contract through the end of the year, but their goal is to hire a new health officer and when that happens, she'll remain a consultant and there will be a transition.

200 pieces of art sent to the White House from the Round Valley Tribe. 200 folded origami peace cranes, or tsuru, sent with a demand for human rights and dignity for asylum seekers and immigrants. The folded tsuru have been worked on over two years at the Round Valley Public Library, and Health Center Fair. They were all saved to make a piece of art for the community, but are being sent. They represent solidarity in a non-violent, direct action project for all communities being unjustly targeted.

The Lakeport City Council is considering approving their \$18 million recommended budget. The Record Bee reports the total city-wide revenues are projected to be off by 6 percent for the next fiscal year. The city's general fund looks to be off \$850,000 as opposed to a \$718,000 surplus they had the end of last year. The city has listed spending at just under \$3 million but the city manager says the city should be able to "weather the economic storm caused by the uncertainties created by COVID- 19", using reserves for the budget.

Police in Clearlake reporting a bicycle rider has been killed on Highway 53. Not a lot of information released but the chief confirmed there was a fatal crash last night at Highway 53 and Dam Road and a man was hit by a car as he rode his bike. They asked people to stay out of the area and did not announce the victim's name or if the driver stayed after the crash. Police: "Deceased male has been identified as Michael Dale Anthony Everson, 20, of Clearlake."

The Lake County Board of Supervisors still deciding whether to restart in person board meetings. The meeting tomorrow morning will start off with the weekly coronavirus update from the Public Health officer and will be held online again. You can catch it on their website or Facebook page. The board is expected to talk about ending their ordinance from May 5th for temporary safety protocols for members of the public visiting county facilities that they wear masks if they cannot socially distance from others or if there's protective shielding. This is at the request of the Board Chair, Moke Simon. This is because there had been no Public Health Order on the matter at the time, and now there is. So the Public Health Order supersedes the Urgency Ordinance.

A small fire quickly stomped out in Clearlake Oaks over the weekend. Lake Co News reports the fire Saturday afternoon reported behind the Moose Lodge with firefighters from across the region responding. There was also a short power outage with some of firefighters trying to find downed power lines on the Northshore before they went out to this fire. The fire was reported to be burning at a slow rate of speed on between two to four acres. Airplanes and bulldozers were requested. In the end the fire charred nearly 4.5 acres.

Lake County Superior Court is getting ready to reopen along with other County facilities and businesses. The court reported Friday there would be in-person trials or contested hearings starting in two weeks, on June 15th. They also announced social distancing would mean a lower number of cases. And jury trials will begin a week later, sometime after June 22nd. The County also announced the court clerk's offices are reopening next week, on June 8th. But the public is still encouraged to use the drop box when they can and if possible, to avoid person-to-person contact at the Courthouse. They will still continue some hearings via videoconference.

No pay raise for state lawmakers as the state is in a budget deficit due to coronavirus. It's the first time in five years legislators won't see a pay bump. A public board, the California Citizens Compensation Commission which sets salaries for public officials, voted unanimously against the raise for the fiscal year starting July 1st. Gov. Gavin Newsom is getting almost \$210,000 a year, with state legislators at just under \$115,000. And some other top state officials, the lieutenant governor is getting \$157,000 and the attorney general will make about \$182,000.

A new report of counties in Calif that opened first shows spikes in Covid-19 cases. The McClatchy data review of the first 22 counties that reopened business between May 12th and 14th showed there were more new cases and deaths in those counties than the previous two weeks. There were 82 cases total in those counties the two weeks before their openings, and no deaths, but after the openings, nearly double the cases, 147 positive tests and 4 deaths. The report also shows hospitalizations exploded by more than 60 percent for the counties. But the report also says it was a small sampling and it's still too early to really draw any conclusions. Some of the data: Del Norte County had 3 cases, then spiked to 20, Glenn County was up from 6 to 12. Mendocino had cases spike after the Anderson Valley church gathering and a worker from our County who is employed in Sonoma County. And Butte County went from 19 to 37 cases. And some counties in the report who started to loosen restrictions also increased testing which could account for an increase in cases there.

The Fort Bragg Police Chief speaking out about the violent and peaceful protests across the country. Chief John Naulty released a statement saying it's his duty to speak about the recent events across the country the last few days. He says first, that on behalf of the city of Fort Bragg's Police Department, the agency sends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of George Floyd. He says the actions by the individuals who violated the moral and ethical codes do not reflect Fort Bragg and that they took an oath to Protect and Serve the people of Fort Bragg and will continue to do so with the utmost respect for every person they encounter. Chief Naulty says they take pride in the community and his staff will not break the community's trust. He also says he stands with people who would like to exercise their right of freedom of speech peacefully. And they ask all participants to respect local businesses and be mindful that businesses in the community are still financially struggling after the Shelter in Place (SIP) restrictions.

The Sonoma County Sheriff reversing position and says, yes he will enforce the stay home order. Last week Sheriff Mark Essick said he would not be enforcing the Public Health Officer, Dr. Sundari Mase's stay home order as it wasn't in alignment with the state. But there had been a recent spike in cases of Covid-19 leading Dr. Mase to hold off on moving deeper into Phase 2 of the Governor's 4 phase reopening plan. But yesterday Essick agreed that his deputies would indeed enforce the order until June 8th, next Monday. But with the caveat that county officials are working to be in alignment with the state. He says he's confident moving forward it will be a risk based approach, not essential non-essential, which will better align

06/02/20 Sonoma County with the state guidelines.

Several new cases of coronavirus reported in Lake County. The Lake County Public Health Officer reported after Clear Lake was reopened to the public, there's been an increase in cases. 5 new cases reported over the weekend for a total of 26 cases. Last week there were 23 cases, but Dr. Gary Pace says 2 active cases that had previously been reported in the County went to their home County so Lake County essentially lost two cases. Dr. Pace says it's not surprising there was a spike in cases with more social activity and businesses reopening. There are 14 active cases and one person in the hospital. All of the five new cases are stable and four isolating at home. One is a Lake County jail inmate. He says most of the new cases look to be clearly connected a previously known case. And others have contracted the virus outside the county. He says he won't release any more information, but until the County reaches 50 cases, he won't release any demographic information.

A positive case of coronavirus has been confirmed at the Lake County Jail. The Sheriff's office says after the test result came back positive, all inmates and staff who had direct contact with them and were willing, were tested. The inmate and all others who had direct contact with them are in isolation. The Sheriff's Office reported they've had enhanced safety measures in place to slow the spread of the virus for more than 2 and half months. There's been modified visitation, suspension of jail programs, enhanced medical screening at booking, face mask wearing by staff and inmates, designated bed spaces for isolation and quarantine, and comprehensive regular cleaning and disinfecting. The Sheriff's office says they're working with a medical provider and Public Health to remove any affected inmates out of medical isolation per CDC recommendations based on "symptom based strategy."

After several more cases of coronavirus were confirmed in Mendocino County, there was concern one might be a false positive test. The Mendocino Public Health Officer said she was leaving it up to the State to confirm. The California Department of Public Health had notified the Public Health Office there was a positive case in the North Coast region of someone who had been asymptomatic and another asymptomatic case in the Ukiah Valley region soon after being exposed. Both were tested on Abbot equipment, both went to hospitals and came out with negative tests after. The Public Health office says asymptomatic people should not be tested on this equipment after the two false positives. So that meant, the County had less cases overall. But yesterday the Public Health Officer confirmed two more cases, so it stays at 30 confirmed cases overall. There are 17 recovered, 1 hospitalized, and 12 at home in isolation.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has released a statement about the use of force after all of the protests across the country. Sheriff Matt Kendall's statement thanking all who reached out then said they are working on training in various fields, including use of force. He says before Sheriff Allman retired, he got the department a use of force simulator they will use for more in-depth training. Kendall says they're working with other law enforcement chiefs to ensure all peace officers in the county get the training. There's also a Calif. law requiring all law enforcement agencies their "current standards, policies, practices, operating procedures, and education and training materials" on their websites so the public can see it. The Sheriff has this on their website and available to the public if they request thru the California Public Records Act.

As colleges take a summer break, some health experts are calling for an earlier start to fall instruction due to coronavirus. Public universities plan to start on time this fall, but Bay Area News reports some infectious disease experts say it could be better to start early before another possible coronavirus wave. The Director of Public Health at UC San Francisco's Institute for Global Health Sciences says it's an intriguing idea, like hurricane preparedness. Many other schools across the country are already planning virtual classes or a mix of in person and virtual. Or they're starting early and ending mid-November instead of around the holidays. An epidemiologist from UC Berkeley also says it's a good idea, keeping students here during the holidays instead of going home, coming back, and possibly spreading the virus back to campus.

The 2020 Fort Bragg Firemen's Ball has been canceled. What would have been the 101st year of the ball, is canceled because of coronavirus. The Fort Bragg Volunteer Fire Department voted to postpone until 2021 which they say was not an easy decision because they've always looked forward to mingling with the community at the event, their only large, yearly fundraising event. They are asking for any donations that would have come their way to support volunteers continue their mission, to instead go to local, struggling businesses, many of whom the department says has always shown them support.

A woman in Fort Bragg has been arrested after police got a call to Glass Beach for someone taking off their clothes and throwing rocks and sand at people walking by. Police say they got a call yesterday afternoon from State Park Rangers for the woman who was sitting in the tide pool area. State Park Rangers reported two people had been assaulted by the woman who they say seemed to be in mental distress. They talked her into leaving the shore and as they escorted her back to the beach, she pushed someone nearby and tried running. They caught her and put her in handcuffs, but say she kept trying to drag them back to the ocean. She was restrained and taken to the hospital for evaluation. No injuries were reported.

The Governor speaks out after he's criticized for reopening the state too soon. Last Friday Gov. Newsom responded to some newspaper editorial boards, local health officials and state lawmakers who commented on guidelines set up for the reopening of churches, hair salons and barbershops. The governor says he has come up with a framework to follow, but it's up to local municipalities to reopen businesses when they feel comfortable to. Counties have to meet certain criteria and then attest to the state they have, then the state approves their phased reopenings. The governor says every county is different and says it's up to county officials to determine the pace of reopening which is being done with local public health officers using health data to determine what's appropriate for them, and adds, there's no mandated pace for opening.

New Calif. teachers could be recruited online given the current pandemic. School districts are looking for teachers due to a long time shortage, which is magnified in areas like special education, world languages, math, science and English language development. The larger districts have reportedly been interviewing prospects virtually, changing in person interviewing onto online platforms. Smaller school districts such as the ones in Lake County also reportedly using online recruitment programs. The Record Bee reports Konocti Unified has teachers who've not completed certain programs and only have partial training, something the Superintendent of schools blames on health concerns and Lake County being a challenging place due to its rural location. San Francisco Unified was reportedly using Google Hangouts for interviews. Los Angeles was doing a mix of virtual and in person.

Considering at a special meeting last week, the Clearlake City Council has voted to sell the old Austin Resort property to a developer. The meeting only lasted about 30 mins and all members voted to approve the plan which is said to be a \$40 million project. Bailey Building and Loans presented the city with a proposal to buy both parcels of the former resort to build a new destination resort to include a marina, hotel, restaurant and retail stores. A letter of intent was approved earlier this year and the Planning Commission also approved the proposal. The purchase price for both parcels is just over \$915,000. The developer wants the city to coordinate with tribal governments when necessary; build a roundabout, consider another property nearby for a lease agreement and other improvements. The developer will then put up a waterfront resort and maintain public access to the waterfront of Clear Lake forever and work with police to make sure it stays safe.

Fire lookouts are needed this wildfire season. The director of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, California-Pacific Region, says they're getting more calls to see if they can help with staffing the lookouts. The area they cover includes the Mendocino National Forest and some of the Los Padres National Forest. The US Forest Service has asked the Fire Lookout Association to find lookouts and train them to be fire watchers. There are no fire lookouts in Lake County, so they're using mountaintops as lookout spots. There will be several locations, Anthony Peak in Mendocino County, another in Upper Lake which has not been confirmed yet, and on top of Mount Konocti, but not in the lookout tower, which is currently closed.

For more information, call Rivera at 707-239-6824 or email him at cprivera45@fla.org.

To learn more about the Forest Fire Lookout Association, visit www.FFLA.org. To donate to the Mount Konocti fire lookout tower renovations, visit <https://fla-ccwr.org/>.

An urgency ordinance passed in May in Lake County so folks wear masks in county facilities has been rescinded. That's because there's now a Public Health Order in place so the Board of Supervisors found the Urgency Ordinance not needed any longer. There had been no requirement at all for face coverings in Lake County businesses, so as an additional protective measure, the board voted for the ordinance for County-owned facilities, especially because the Courthouse building in Lakeport gets a lot of foot traffic. The Public Health Order says all local businesses will require face coverings. It goes for workers and patrons. The Health Order does allow those with problems breathing to be excluded, but those persons have to maintain social distancing unless there's a barrier between them and another person or they're with a family or household member. There are now

06/03/20 11 active cases in Lake County and 30 cases total.

4 more cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Lake County. The Public Health Officer reported 11 active cases, one person in the hospital, 1 in the Lake County Jail and 9 others are stable in home isolation. Dr. Gary Pace says they've seen clusters of infections but there's not been widespread community transmission. He says there's also been strong contact tracing with each new positive test. He says there may be more cases due to how contagious it is and how it can spread in households quickly and more businesses are reopening along with the Lake. Dr. Pace says if you think you may have been exposed, immediately get tested. There are free drive thru testing sites in Lake County.

AgVenture is canceled this summer. The event's steering committee says it's due to COVID-19 and thanked all of who have participated over the decade they've held the event which has graduated almost 120 professionals, elected officials and community leaders. The committee says the coronavirus pandemic has shined a light on how farming and food production are essential to our daily lives. And that farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, haulers, processors, suppliers and anyone else working in the Ag industry is an essential worker. AgVenture has educated many over the ten years on how important agriculture is to Lake County's economy.

4 people recovering after a crash between two cars and a cement truck on the 101 in Willits. The CHP reports a Honda Civic going 65 MPH, followed by a Subaru Legacy also at that speed when the Peterbilt truck was headed in the other direction. The Honda drifted over in front of the cement truck, spun over to the side of the highway, then the cement truck rolled and blocked traffic. The Subaru was hit by part of the truck which had separated from its cab on impact. The driver of the Honda had major injuries and was arrested for DUI, the other two drivers and the Honda passenger all went to the hospital too. No word on their conditions.

The rest of Lake Mendocino will be open for visitors. Parts of the area had already opened, but no campgrounds and boat ramps. The South Boat Ramp, the Dam Parking Lot, the North Boat Ramp, day use areas Pomo A, and Pomo B, Shakota trailhead: accessible from both Pomo A and B; the Overlook and Joe Reilly are only open for walk-in and bike-in traffic. There are some restrooms open too and single use picnic tables, but those are being discouraged for use. Some of the areas will remain closed for the summer, Oak Grove, Pomo C, Kyen Campground, playgrounds, and group picnic areas. There are also safety precautions in place all around. A warning with the opening, that if it starts to get too crowded, it could be closed down again.

A little closer to permanent protection for Mill Bend. The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy has announced they've been awarded over \$2 million in grants to protect 113 acres of coastal wetlands and some surrounding hills in the Gualala River Estuary. Money came thru the US Fish & Wildlife Service, which is part of the Dept. of Interior, the California Natural Resources Agency, and the California State Coastal Conservancy. The last bit of the project is now to raise the last \$205,000 for continued stewardship of Mill Bend so it's protected as a park and conservatory.

Woodland Community College is planning to reopen all three of its campuses for in person classes. The College President says they're working closely with state and county health officers, and district leaders. He says it's important for them to be equitable and accessible, especially to low-income and students of color who may not have access to technology and money to succeed. They will however have online classes this summer at their Woodland and Lake campuses. And three classes will be in person at their Colusa County Campus. The school's currently working with instructors to make adjustments so students still get a great educational experience online. They're enrolling in person, with minimal staffing for the fall.

A judge in California's Second Appellate District has been removed from the bench after sexual misconduct charges against him. The Commission on Judicial Performance reports Justice Jeffrey Johnson will no longer serve after multiple complaints of misconduct. The final decision is confirmed within 30 days, subject to discretionary review by the California Supreme Court. The commission says Justice Johnson touched four women without their consent and engaged in sexual harassment against seven others. He's further accused of trying to develop personal relationships with three other women. He's also accused of being at work drunk, and making disparaging remarks about colleagues.

The Commonwealth Garden (CG) across from Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital is giving away plant starts. They plant on their five-acre site that has a greenhouse, orchard, bee boxes and organic produce each June. The garden is run by the hospital's foundation. Their plant giveaway started about a month ago with plant starts going to more than 150 households, but they still have more. They ask because of the pandemic and the need for social distancing, to call first to schedule a pickup. They're free but say donations are welcome to help defray the cost of water, soil and seeds. Call (707) 459-2777 to volunteer and get more information about the CG.

Since Mendocino County is generally following Sonoma County, we thought we'd update you on what's happening there. Sonoma County slowed the phase 2 reopening because of a spike in cases. While some restaurants opened around Memorial Day, churches, barber shops and hair salons did not. The Sonoma County Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase now says she will allow a larger piece of the economy to open by Saturday. That will include indoor dining at restaurants, wineries and brewpubs, in-store shopping at malls, and haircuts at barbershops and hair salons. She will also allow places of worship to welcome congregants, but only 100 at a time. Dr. Mase says the outbreak is stable, and if it holds the rest of the week, most services closed in her original stay-home order went from March 18th could reopen again.

After some blow back from the public the Sonoma County Sheriff showed up at the latest Board of Supervisors meeting. Sheriff Mark Essick made headlines last week saying he would not abide by the Public Health Order which held at the first part of phase 2 while surrounding counties opened. Essick saying it wasn't in alignment with the state, but the Board of Supervisors stood by the Public Health Officer who got strict after a few outbreak clusters in the County. Essick at the Board of Supervisors meeting last night, the Press Democrat reports, to make peace. Of course it was a virtual meeting due to the pandemic. But he acknowledged he made a mistake and said he was optimistic there was a clear path forward, agreeable to all, and in the best interest of Sonoma County.

You may see some smoke billowing in the air around the airport as the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority reports they will be conducting a training exercise. The burn tomorrow night at 6 pm at the south end of the airport. Two men from Ukiah have been arrested for a ripoff at Ukiah Valley Athletic Club. The Sheriff's office reports two people went into the gym and lifted a large industrial pool heater and a large roll of industrial rubber flooring. Both of the items together had a combined value of \$3,700.00. The gym's surveillance video caught the theft and posted the video on their social media platforms. Then deputies got an anonymous tip about a familiar car to the incident parked in Talmage. Deputies went to the area and found two men, with evidence from the gym and various other businesses. Jesus Malfavon-Sandoval and Luis Magana-Alvarez were arrested on several charges, Grand Theft and Conspiracy, but released after booking because of the COVID-19 emergency order by the Judicial Council. Their bail was set at zero dollars.

A man from Covelo has been sent to prison for being in possession of ammunition. The DA reports 33 year old Luis John Oliver was sentenced last Thursday to 51 months in prison. He was indicted by a federal grand jury in February and convicted of being a convicted felon in unlawful possession of ammunition and a few weeks later also indicted by the same grand jury of being a convicted felon in unlawful possession of both a firearm and ammunition. The DA says after his prison time he'll get 36 months of supervised release.

A big homeless camp in Ukiah is being torn down north of the airport. The City is cleaning up the area along Hastings Avenue and posting notices for those living there that they have to clear out by Monday, June 8th. The Deputy City Manager told the City Council they posted "preliminary notices" regarding the upcoming clean-up in the airport's Runway Safety Zone. The area has to be cleared out for safety reasons and because there is a paving project underway. Apparently there was a holdup with the County due to the pandemic and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention saying homeless encampments should not be broken up, but the County ultimately siding with the City to support the decision to break up the

06/04/20 encampment.

The former Mayor of Ukiah and current City Council member Maureen Mulheren trying to get more donations for the Ukiah Food Bank. The Daily Journal reports Mulheren is using her birthday, which is tomorrow, to get more community contributions. She says she sent a citywide email out and posted in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Facebook group, noting several area nonprofits that could use support. Mulheren says North American Organics donated \$500 to shop for the Ukiah Food Bank. She says she had been planning a street party for her birthday and a fundraiser for the Caring Kitchen Project, but that all changed due to the pandemic.

The Willits City Council discussing how the City will reopen businesses and how to deal with people who violate public health orders. The meeting held over the telephone May 27th to discuss a possible Urgency Ordinance that would include penalties for violations. But the Council ultimately decided to table the idea after a couple of members said they didn't understand how it could be enforced and didn't like the way it was written. The mayor said they should reconsider and bring it back in the future. Some agreeing there should be some consequences. Also, the city manager says the city was trying to get information out as quickly as possible, but that they didn't have the time or money to translate everything happening with the pandemic into Spanish.

For the second week in a row a fire's started at the large Gibson Creek tunnel under South Orchard Avenue. The Daily Journal reports the area's frequently used as a temporary shelter. Yesterday, the second Wednesday in a row, the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority and Ukiah Police Department were in the area after at least two callers reported seeing smoke billowing out of a creek bed. Police are looking into the fires as arson and someone was being counseled against smoking cigars in the creek.

The Sonoma County Health Officer is speaking out about the protests and how they could wreck the work done to slow the spread of coronavirus. Dr. Sundari Mase is reminding those protesting after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis that coronavirus is still active in the community and to be careful, wear a mask and be sure to physically distance themselves as much as possible. She warned those at higher risk of contracting the virus not to go to places where you cannot protect yourself. Mase did not say if anyone has contracted the virus at any of the protests over the last couple of days. Even though the general election is months away, the Gov. has announced several hundred polling places will be added across the state for in person voting. Gov. Gavin Newsom says they're committed to protecting Californians during the continuing pandemic, but also says he recognizes some citizens want, or need, to vote in person. He had said in the past that every person in the state would get a mail-in or absentee ballot, but national Republicans had criticized the move calling it abuse. The President also weighed in and has repeatedly said there's widespread cheating with mail in voting. Even still the Gov. was criticized for his recent decision by a Republican Assemblymember in Rocklin who says it's unlawful and another reason to take away Newsom's broad emergency powers during the virus outbreak.

The Lake County Public Health Officer not committing to moving deeper into Phase 3 of the Governor's 4 phase plan. The Record Bee reports the State Public Health Officer told local public health officials that there's a two step process for phase 3, if the County has been approved for a variance, which Lake County has. So it's up to the County to reopen certain sectors if they've been given guidance from the state and the local health officer gives their approval. Dr. Pace says as he receives more guidance from the State, then he'll decide what comes next, and that Lake County has to be stable enough for further relaxation. He says the state had been looking at reopening gyms and fitness centers but there's been no guidance on that. They're closed along with bars and nightclubs, entertainment venues, large public events and gatherings, convention centers and nail salons. Non-essential travel is also prohibited.

A protest to honor the life of George Floyd who died while being held by Minneapolis police has been held in Middletown. Several community members out yesterday downtown for a peaceful protest. Reports of about 150 people showing up for the Black Lives Matter gathering which was organized by 3 Middletown High School graduates. Protesters lined the sides of Highway 29 and chanted, then towards the end, they kneeled in silence for nearly nine minutes. That's the amount of time Floyd was reported to be under the knee of a police officer who's been charged with second degree murder. Several county officials, including the Sheriff Matt Kendall and Board Chair Moke Simon.

Congressman Mike Thompson's holding an online forum regarding the protests across the Country. The town hall today at 4:30 with fellow Calif. Congressional member Rep. Barbara Lee of Alameda County. The discussion on racism and injustices in America. They are expected to discuss possible congressional action, including legislation Rep. Lee is introducing for a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation. To join you have to get in touch with Thompson's office and ask to be added to the Zoom conference, which has a limit of 500 participants. Those confirmed will get an email with instructions.

A possible bond measure for California in November to bring broadband infrastructure to rural California. During the pandemic, it's shed a light on how many families are without, even a hotspot, to log onto the internet. Chromebooks and iPads were given out to students across the state after leaders went direct to companies for free service for students for long distance learning. But some kids couldn't even take class because they couldn't log on. So Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi of Torrance is sponsoring the California Broadband Infrastructure and Distance Learning Bond Act. It looks to bring in between \$3 billion to \$4 billion and construction of fiber cables and other necessary infrastructure in remote parts of the state. It could also pay for computers and professional training for teachers on how to effectively use technology for instruction.

You are invited to all Ukiah Unified School District 2020 Graduation and Promotion Celebrations, which will be held virtually over the next several days! Please join us in celebrating this monumental achievement that so many have worked so hard to achieve.

[Watch the celebrations on Comcast Channel 3, or the UUSD Live YouTube C](#)
SCHEDULE

Pomolita Middle School – Thursday, June 4, 2020, 6:00 pm

Eagle Peak Middle School – Friday, June 5, 2020, 6:00 pm

Big Picture Ukiah – Thursday, June 11, 2020, 6:00 pm

UISA – Friday, June 12, 2020, 6:00 pm

Ukiah High School – Saturday, June 13, 2020, 6:00 pm

Billions in budget cuts for schools and healthcare are a nonstarter.

Legislative leaders said no to the governor's deep cuts to public schools and health care services because of the pandemic. The Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed ways to close the \$54.3 billion dollar budget gap. The state had a surplus before coronavirus reared its ugly head. State revenues have gone way down since March when the Governor's shelter in place order went into effect to slow the spread of the virus. And after that more than 5 million people filed for unemployment. The Governor has also been asking, along with the state legislature, for congress to shore up finances, with no luck. The latest state spending plan from the Governor would take billions from public schools and cut out health benefits for some unless the state gets money from the Fed by July 1st.

The owner of the Ukiah Valley Athletic Club says people are yearning to get back into the gym. Just days after a ripoff of some of their equipment, the owner tells the Daily Journal people say they need to get inside to exercise to relieve emotional stress, and of course to stay in shape. The club has been upgraded since the family bought it a few years ago. Now they have beefed up their cleaning protocols and expanded their cleaning staff. They also put in air purifiers to run during fire season. They've been closed since March 19th. They've also done a bunch of upgrades during the closure which they thought would only be two weeks long. That includes new flooring in some areas, new landscaping, resurfacing the hot tub, draining and refilling pools and replacing the siding on the building and putting up new signage. They've reopened this past week just for the pool, the gym

06/05/20 and locker rooms remain closed. They say they hope to reopen on Monday.

The Lakeport Speedway's approved for car races. They will start in a week, but the grandstands will be closed to spectators. They have their twilight shows planned to start at 4 p.m. next weekend and the one after. There will be a limit on race teams for only of 6 people, 5 and the race car driver. Those who participate have to sign a release already, and now an additional COVID19 waiver/release. All teams have to pit 10 feet apart and follow 6 feet Social Distancing.

Officials in Mendocino County say the Covid-19 testing site at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds is being underutilized. The Daily Journal reports a spokesperson for the OptumServe testing site has only been at 75%. The County has to have it utilized more in order to meet certain benchmarks for reopening fully. Yesterday, state Assemblyman Jim Wood tweeted the "Ukiah testing site is underutilized. We could lose it." He says the city's not taking full advantage and could lose it if that continues. The testing site hasn't said how many more tests they need to comply. Appointments were booked solid when it first opened, but then as of yesterday, they still had same day testing available. The process is ten minutes, from entering, to testing and leaving. The city manager is also urging residents to get tested, and he suggested not to go just once, but every two weeks, especially for those in frequent contact with the public.

The name of a driver who rammed a cement truck near Willits has been released. The CHP says 32 year old Brenton Michels of Kennewick, WA was in that 1999 Honda Civic headed south on the 101 Tuesday then drove into oncoming traffic on the Willits Bypass and hit the front end of a Peterbilt cement truck. The Honda went onto the other side of the highway, the cement truck rolled and hit a Subaru Legacy as it came apart from its cab, it also spilled some of its load of concrete on the roadway. The driver of the Honda, cement truck and passenger in one of the cars ended up with injuries. Michels, had major injuries and had to be airlifted to Santa Rosa, then to Sacramento, for treatment. Plus he was arrested on suspicion of DUI. The cement truck driver, Wyatt Phillips of Ukiah had moderate injuries and the Subaru passenger, from Covelo also had moderate injuries.

A resolution to call for the municipal election to be held this fall in Clearlake. At that time all of the three council seats will be decided. The City Clerk says Phil Harris, Joyce Overton and Russell Perdock's seats will then be decided. The filing period for the papers to be filed and the candidates' statement deadlines are July 13 through Aug. 7. If any of the councilmembers decide not to run again, then the filing period for candidates is automatically extended through Aug. 12.

In Lakeport the city has settled on a new budget. The budget, the finance director says, was slightly interrupted by the pandemic. The process normally starts in March, but since meetings went virtual and some weren't held, they had to do a lot of their work at the end of last month. The city manager says the beginning of the year looked promising, then coronavirus happened. She says the sheltering in place by the community was helpful, and the health crisis could have been worse, but even still, it did damage to the economy, with total losses not yet known. The city is expected to spend about \$5.7 million for personnel, \$6 million for operations, \$1.9 million for debt service and \$4.7 million in capital improvement projects. They currently have a surplus, but that could change.

Further into Phase 3 for Lake County. The Public Health Office has announced dining in at local restaurants is a go. Dr. Gary Pace says they're grateful for residents taking precautions which slowed the spread of the virus. The businesses that reopen have to follow certain protocols of course, including social distancing and business certification which can be done online. As the state releases new guidance, further sectors may reopen. Good news in Sonoma County after some recent cluster outbreaks the County is moving swiftly into Phase 3 with restaurants, hair salons and barbershops and more reopening. There's no limit on the amount of people that can go to a restaurant, as long as social distancing is adhered to. Mall shopping is allowed, outdoor pools are opening too. 17 more people were confirmed to have the virus as the Public Health Officer made the announcement. The new Public Health Order goes into effect tomorrow after a two week pause because of those outbreaks and to slow the spread. Also reopening, wineries and brewpubs, in-person church services and many outdoor recreational activities, including being able to rent kayaks and paddleboards.

Clarification on fees if you want to grow cannabis. The Lake County Board of Supervisors all agreed on a clarification of the cannabis tax collecting policy. The tax in Lake County is a buck a square foot for outdoor grows, two bucks per square foot for mixed-light cultivation, and \$3.00 per square foot for indoor cultivation per Measure C, also known as the Cannabis Cultivation Tax Ordinance, for unincorporated areas of the County. Last year supervisors came to an agreement on how to collect taxes, then this week they clarified Measure C. The taxes to be collected on a calendar year model, no matter when the operations for the cultivator began. They would be charged for the whole calendar year. Growers can opt out for this calendar year, 2020, that has to happen now and up to June 15th because of the pandemic.

Six people have been arrested for illegally growing marijuana in Covelo. The Sheriff's Office went to serve a couple of search warrants Wednesday at two locations, one in a remote area of vacant Tribal Land, finding several plastic green houses with growing marijuana inside. Deputies took more than 1,500 plants and found and took a loaded .22 caliber rifle. At the second location, the Sheriff's Office reports finding four Hispanic men in a car and held them in connection to the illegal grow. Then they found two other Hispanic men and held them. Four others got away. In all there were fourteen green houses filled with marijuana. All of the weed was also watered by an unlawful water diversion from a nearby creek. Deputies found more than 3,140 plants, a loaded AR-15 rifle, two loaded handguns and several high capacity magazines. So all of the six men were arrested on several felony charges of conspiracy and illegal cultivation of marijuana. The DA could also charge them with illegal weapons and illegal water diversion.

5 new positive tests in Mendocino County from Optum Serve testing this week. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer reported on the latest on COVID-19 today. She says the five who tested positive at Optum were told directly about their results, but the County did not find out for another day. But they were in quarantine, so Dr. Doohan did not have concern. She also says Optum Serve is very important to have and wants everyone, even people who are visiting the County to go get tested there. This is to meet the requirements of having the Optum Serve site in the County. There are 33 cases, and one in the hospital. Dr. Doohan is moving the County into Phase 3 but says she's waiting on further guidance from the state. She says the changes are coming June 12th, but will share it with the Board of Supervisors Tuesday. She says it should include some lodging, campsites, gym openings, wineries, family entertainment centers, and areas having to do with summer camp and schools. But Doohan says not tourism, which is too dangerous for the County.

There have been 33 cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County. The Public Health Officer had her Friday press call and explained false positives, there were 2, the new Public Health Order she will discuss with the Board Of Supervisors tomorrow and the Optum Serve testing site. Dr. Doohan explained that one type of testing is only good for people who are showing symptoms, the Abbot ID Now, otherwise it could point to a false positive. It's a quick test being used for surveillance testing and before surgeries, across the state. Dr. Doohan says there were two false positives connected to this type of machine. Last week we also had five new cases, bringing the total to 33. 9 are in isolation, and one is in the hospital, 16 close contacts are in quarantine. Dr. Doohan also encouraged people to be tested, for free, at the Optum-Serve site or we could potentially lose it, if we don't use it. . As far as the new Public Health Order, she will discuss that tomorrow with the Board, but hinted it may involve campsites, gyms, wineries, family entertainment

06/08/20 centers, and schools/day camps/daycare.

A woman in Northern Calif. is suing Safeway for wrongful death after her husband got infected with coronavirus, then died. Pedro Zuniga had worked for several years in the produce division of Safeway's Distribution Center in Tracy where more than 50 employees got infected at the warehouse in April. Court papers say the company prioritized their own greed over the physical health and survival of employees. It claims Zuniga's death could have been prevented if the company was following state and federal guidelines. The suit also claims Zuniga got ill because other employees came to work ill, they worked closely together and there was no social distancing. It also says they were "deterred" by their employer from calling in sick and told they could be penalized if they did.

The Kelseyville Unified School District is facing steep budget cuts due to coronavirus. Ed Source reports there could be a more than \$2 million in budget cuts for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Lawmakers are fighting the governor's deep education and healthcare cuts and the Assembly and Senate have come up with a joint budget proposal. Theirs doesn't cut as much from schools as the Governor is proposing as they hope for help from the federal government. And Forbes reports the U.S. Senate has intimated they would be passing another stimulus package, but there's no word who or what sector it would target for help.

The community center at Little Red School House, in Cobb is in disrepair and may not be repaired anytime soon. The building has structural problems, including needing pest control, it has damaged siding, it needs new exterior paint and flooring, exterior drainage, and the front entrance has no landing at the top, plus it doesn't comply with ADA regulations. The Lions Club Secretary says they're in danger of closing permanently. They're considering grant funding and say they're working out a plan to try to stay open for food distribution. Apparently the Lions Club has been bringing in about \$20,000 a year, not enough for the repairs and improvements.

A new report shows California had the first shelter in place orders in the Country and how that's worked out compared to other states. The Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies shows the average daily growth of confirmed Covid-19 cases before the Stay Home order was 19%. In NY, the hardest hit state in the country was 39.5% for the four days before its shelter-in-place order. Research has shown physical distancing measures did more in more urbanized centers. The report made up a fake state with similar features as California. It showed, had the stay home orders not been put in place as quick, found reductions in deaths, up to 1,600 COVID-19 deaths in one month.

The Lake County Public Health Officer reminding coronavirus tests are free. Dr. Gary Pace says anyone can get a Verily test, which at a private clinic would cost about \$130, but at a County drive thru site, it's free. You have to get an appointment about 48 hours in advance. They do the testing in Clearlake on Mondays and Tuesdays and Lakeport on Thursdays and Fridays. They switch between Clearlake and Middletown on Wednesday. Dr. Pace also clearing up some common misconceptions about the Verily registration process, Google does not track your test and you do not need insurance. He just reminds that the County has to have adequate testing to meet the governor's mandate for reopening and to make sure residents stay healthy.

New information from the state on what it will look like in the next phase, of phase 3 of reopening. It includes Gyms, with major restrictions for physical distancing, of not only members, but machines, and some high touch activities will be off limits. Family entertainment can reopen including bowling alleys, mini golf courses, arcades and batting cages, also museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums with restrictions on equipment and supplies. Hotels but with restrictions, like no more ice machines common in hallways, pillow protectors and more. Day camps in social bubbles. Music, TV and film production can start again, and professional sports without live audiences. Bars and wineries with lowered capacity and social distancing. Schools can open in the fall with guidance from the state. In Lake County, it all starts this Friday, we are awaiting Mendocino County's orders which we should hear more about tomorrow at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Churches have reopened in Sonoma County, with lowered capacity. It's been almost three months since they've closed due to coronavirus. The Press Democrat reports many churches had virtual services, some on Facebook, others in other online platforms. The new health order in the County allowing restaurants to reopen with limited capacity, hair salons and houses of worship with social distancing requirements. Church services can have no more than 100 people or 25% of the building capacity.

Coronavirus in nursing homes across the country has been top of mind for healthcare professionals and government officials. Now a new report shows deaths in California from COVID-19 went way up last month. Nearly 1,200 nursing home residents lost their lives to the infection in May, that was more than half of the state's total deaths from the disease. There are almost a half million residents at the facilities in the state, but nursing home residents make up about half the total deaths since the outbreak started. The state Dept. of Public Health and the state Dept. of Social Services reports of the 4,422 deaths from COVID-19 as of last Thursday, 2,244 were in nursing homes or assisted living centers. And across the country, about 30 percent of the total deaths from coronavirus were in these facilities.

A man in Covelo's been arrested after another man says he threatened him with a firearm. The Sheriff's Dept. reports Round Valley Tribal Police reported to them that a 23 year old man and three others were working at a marijuana farm. The owner of the farm showed up, he was identified as Emergene Phillips. The 23 year old says Phillips started yelling at him and he didn't understand so he got his brother in law to come to the property to translate. The brother in law says Phillips claimed his brother in law owed him \$30,000 and if he didn't get it he'd shoot him. The victim says he could not pay the money until the marijuana at the property was sold. But then apparently Phillips forced the man into a truck and drove him around after pointing a rifle at him and shooting it into the air. Phillips and another man identified as Leonard Whipple are accused of various crimes including Kidnapping for Ransom or Extortion, Assault with a Deadly Weapon Firearm, robbery and criminal threats. Phillips was held on \$250,000.00 bail and it was up to the DA to decide if Whipple would also be charged.

A man accused of being involved in the disappearance of his former girlfriend and spending time in prison for unrelated charges has been arrested again. Reports of a car crash in Covelo, bring police to the scene last Thursday when they came upon Negie Fallis. They say as they arrived Fallis tried to leave the scene and deputies ran after him as he backed his car away from them into a driveway. He was on Post Release Community Supervision for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Cops say he reached down towards the floorboard under his seat, where they believed he was hiding a weapon and ordered him to step out of the car. He was arrested and charged with various crimes including violating that supervision order, being under the influence of a controlled substance while armed, felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. He was held \$75,000.00 bail.

Since the pandemic started the Lake County Library's Zip Books program took off. The program delivers books, large print books, and audiobooks to the homes of those interested. Now the library has received a grant for more funding to continue the popular program. All you need is a Lake County Library card and you have to live in Lake County to get a Zip Book. You can order the book thru the library's website under the tab, "Books and More".

A man in Ukiah's been arrested after a call to police finds he has a stolen car. It came after deputies got a call to an assault with a motor vehicle last Thursday. They found Oscar Bernal and asked him about the reported assault and found the ignition assembly on the car looked like it was altered. They then found the car was stolen from Cloverdale. They also found Bernal was on felony probation in Mendocino County. So he was arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle and felony violation of probation. He denied everything, then police found meth in his pocket so another charge was added, smuggling controlled substance into jail. He was being held on \$10,000.00 bail.

Evacuations after a fire in Clearlake breaks out. The fire yesterday afternoon around 3:45 near an apartment complex spread to nearby brush. Lake County Fire Protection District reports getting there minutes after the report came thru that apartments and nearby structures were threatened, including power lines. Police put out a Nixle alert about 15 minutes later ordering evacuations. Air support starting dropping retardant over a couple acres. There was also wind reported in the area. But within 45 minutes firefighters reported having control at three acres. And the wind had died down thankfully too. The downed power lines affected 2,575 PG&E customers from Anderson Marsh south to Hidden Valley Lakes and east along Morgan

06/09/20 Valley Road.

Thousands of California workers have filed workers' compensation claims. CalMatters reports from January through May 5,000 workers filed claims and already 1,000 were denied. But that was before the Governor signed an executive order extending protections for essential workers infected with coronavirus while at work. It is only good for those who got sick on the job on or after March 19th which was the first official day of the state's lockdown order. The nonprofit news agency reports workers' compensation claims were way down during the lockdown though because so many businesses were closed and way less people reported getting injured at work. There were just under 1,100 claims filed in May, compared to more than 50,000 in January. Many COVID-related claims have been denied, but some experts say those cases could possibly be overturned in court.

Since the pandemic broke out parks and beaches were closed. But as we slowly reopen, so do they... the Willits Skate Park opened again last week, with strict rules. The new guidelines are posted on a fence at the park and must be followed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Daily Journal reports the Public Works Superintendent says it's on the city to show that they can comply with the new orders. So to make sure there's social distancing, they're only allowing 12 people in the park at a time. Parents can watch, but they're counted as part of the bubble of 12. A local says he'll hang around as a guardian, to make sure people are following the rules. Also, Willits Police and Public Works will check in routinely to ensure proper social distancing is being followed.

A new president has been announced at Adventist Health Mendocino Coast. Judy Leach has been part of the hospital system for two decades. Her last position was the strategic planner for the hospital's Pacific Northwest division. Her background is in organizational management, communications and strategic planning. The Daily Journal reports Leach is not a doctor, but has been in the medical field for years, including work at ABC News as a health reporter.

After the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis the Sonoma County Sheriff has announced a new policy of no carotid holds. That's similar to the neck restraint that killed Floyd and a major reason for the ongoing nationwide protests the last two weeks. The Governor has also ordered police training programs in the state to stop teaching the restraint and he's urging all law enforcement agencies to ban it. A man in Sonoma County died last November after the neck restraint was tried on him after a car chase. The Sonoma County Sheriff Mark Essick did not immediately ban the carotid hold last year after the death. But an autopsy showed the death was ruled homicide.

The Public Health Officer in Sonoma County says she's waiting to see how moving deeper into Phase 2 goes before allowing more relaxation of restrictions for the Stay Home Order. The Press Democrat reports there's no plans for the next phase yet. That would include gyms, fitness centers, campgrounds and hotels for tourism. Then after June 22nd she will reassess. But the rest of the state has the option to open those sectors depending on what Public Health Officers say in those regions. Dr. Sundari Mase though says opening too soon could cause a surge in cases and she's rather wait to avoid hospitalizations and deaths.

The Lakeport city manager has announced her retirement. Margaret Silveira has been in the position since April of 2010 and will leave July 31st. She says it's been "the greatest job of her career." She says the city council has been very supportive and progressive in support of projects. She came to work in Lakeport after being the city manager of Gustine. She was one of more than 60 applicants for the Lakeport city manager job and only the third city manager in Lakeport.

A perfect score for a student representing Cobb Mountain Elementary in a national vocabulary competition. Fifth grade student Lily Morita got a perfect score in the final of three meets in the WordMasters Challenge. There are nearly 125,000 students a year competing. She was in the Blue Division and got the perfect score of 20, which only 86 other fifth graders across the country got. The contest encourages critical thinking and gets kids interested in new words that are much harder than their grade level.

A fire in Solano County is closer to full containment. The Quail fire started last weekend near Winters. It has charred more than 1,800 acres and is reported to be 75 percent contained. Cal Fire reports the fire started Saturday and they evacuated several homes as hundreds were threatened. As of last night three homes had burned and about 100 others were still threatened. But they lifted the evacuations.

Ukiah hair salons can reopen as part of Phase 3 in the Governor's 4 phase plan. The governor announced what sectors could open in the plan as we further ease restrictions related to the stay home order. Counties can move along in the process if they have less than 25 new cases in a population of 100,000 residents. Hair Salons and Barbershops have new restrictions though including mask wearing by workers and their clients, physical distancing to the maximum extent possible, frequent handwashing and regular cleaning and disinfection, and workers need to be trained on the specific businesses COVID-19 prevention plan. Many of these businesses already opened last week.

MCPH confirms 3 more cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County. The Public Health Officer says 2 of those were in Ukiah Valley identified from Optum Serve and are from community spread. One of the cases was at a graduation party where nobody had on a mask.

Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan says the other person who tested positive was on the Coast and exposed out of County.

06/10/20 Be on the lookout for some road closures as you head onto the 101 north of Wilson Creek Bridge. For four nights, starting Monday, there will be overnight closures from mile post 13 to Humboldt Road which is mile marker 23.8 in Del Norte County. It's part of the continued work on the Last Chance Grade. The closures are from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. June 15th to 18th. There is no detour set up, they will have piloted traffic through the area every two hours.

The Lake County Health Officer is further explaining his new Public Health Order due to closures related to coronavirus. Last Friday more business sectors opened and this Friday even more, they are expanded childcare services, schools with restrictions, same for day camps, Casinos operated by Sovereign Tribal Nations, Music, Film and Television Production, Professional Sports without Live Audiences, the reopening of some Campgrounds, RV Parks, and Outdoor Recreation, Hotels and Vacation Rentals, Cardrooms, Satellite Wagering Facilities and Racetracks, Family Entertainment Centers, further opening of Restaurants, Bars and Wineries, Fitness Facilities and Museums, Galleries, Zoos and Aquariums. Check the Lake County Public Health website for further explanations.

A group of Mendocino County businesses are working together to further define safety protocols in alignment with the state and the Mendocino County Public Health Office after our lengthy shelter in place orders. The groups include local government officials, the Chamber of Commerce and business leaders in various sectors including restaurants, retail and lodging and Visit Mendocino County. The groups meeting with the Board of Supervisors and the Public Health Officer. The Visit Mendocino County Executive Director says they've pledged to provide a safe and secure environment for tourism employees, inbound visitors and the local community. They've also pledged on ways to stay sanitary with intensive cleaning protocols, signs for businesses as reminders of the new protocols and personal protective equipment and social distancing.

www.visitmendocino.com.

The Ukiah Unified School District has picked back up with its Summer Food Distribution. Starting today, they'll have food to give out that's enough for 15 meals (3 meals X 5 days) for any child 18 years of age or younger at the Ukiah High School. The distribution takes place every Wednesday – today and thereafter from 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. They say their food deliveries by bus are not happening over the Summer though. They ask as you arrive to pick up the food, to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Call 707.472.5003 with questions.

A wildfire outside Yorkville reported by Cal Fire. The firefighting agency on the scene 3 miles south, southeast of Yorkville in Mendocino County. They're calling it the Vineyard Fire and say it's burning in grass, oak, woodland and timber. So far it's charred 150 acres and is 10% contained. There's no word if any homes are threatened. No injuries were reported.

A new report shows there's been more domestic abuse during the stay home orders. The NY Times report says the abuse is like an "opportunistic infection, flourishing in the conditions created by the pandemic". The Daily Journal reports in Mendocino County from March to May, Project Sanctuary Crisis Line got 230 calls as opposed to the normal 100 or so calls they got during the same time period last year. The newspaper reports the executive director for Project Sanctuary says those who work in the field weren't surprised. And a judge in Mendocino County says they saw a spike in filings for emergency protective orders. Because of court closures during the pandemic, some orders were done over the phone. They had almost double the requests, 45 this year over 21 a year ago, all were granted.

A woman in Ukiah's been arrested after deputies say she hit another woman with her car. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports getting a call to the Talmage bridge over the Russian River last Thursday night around 10:45 p.m. for reports of a woman hit by a car. The victim says she was standing outside her car talking to her boyfriend, then an acquaintance, identified as Julie Legendre, pulled up, started arguing with her, backed up her car and pointed in towards her, twice, but slammed on her brakes before harming her. The victim then reportedly took a wrench and slammed it into Legendre's car and broke a passenger-side window. Then Legendre gassed the car and hit her with the driver's side fender and mirror, then hit her car and drove away. The victim treated at the scene and the next day Legendre was arrested on suspicion of felony assault with a deadly weapon and booked on \$30,000 bail.

A fire that took down power lines in Clearlake is 100% contained. We reported on the fire that started Monday night and led to evacuations being quickly corralled. Now more info, that the fire charred three acres. Both the Lake County Fire Protection District and Cal Fire reported to the scene working together with several other agencies who arrived later. Several fire engines, a couple of choppers, two bulldozers, two ambulances and four air tankers were also there. Fire officials say fast response and hard work led to the quick work on the fire. No injuries were reported and the evacuations were lifted soon after. About 2,575 people were in the dark for a while too, until the PG&E lines were repaired.

Congressman Mike Thompson's having a virtual town hall meeting, this one about the economy. The meeting tomorrow at 4:30 with the chief economist from Moody's Analytics, Mark Zandi. They'll be talking about the economy and how to help working families get back on track in the time of Covid-19. It's the eighth town hall Thompson has had as of late where he's had other Congress members or special guests with him. They're hosting on Zoom and only have room for 500, so you have to email the Congressman's team to get an invite. You'll be notified by email with an invitation if you made it in time. He's also streaming it on his Facebook page if you don't get in.

A man in Lucerne's been sent to prison for possessing child pornography with kids in the Philippines. The Lake County Sheriff's office says 63 year old Richard Berry was sentenced to four years after an investigation in Lake County led them to the Philippines. The Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit got the heads up that sex offender Berry may have kiddy porn in his possession, so they got a search warrant of his home. After several months and several images of child pornography were found on his electronic devices, he was arrested and booked in to jail last May. At the same time detectives were in touch with counterparts in the Philippines who conducted a raid at a home, rescuing children, one as young as 6 years old from sexual exploitation. Two victims were related to the Berry investigation locally. He's going to state prison for possession of child pornography and could face federal charges for the production of child pornography related to two children in the Philippines.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors spent a good chunk of time on COVID-19 and how it's affected the budget. They Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo reported the County's spent \$5,000,000 on the pandemic.

That includes the Emergency Operations Center, Testing, Emergency Food Program known as Great Plates, Project Roomkey for the homeless to get a hotel or motel room, the Health Emergency Alternative Care Site and Emergency Food Services and Distribution. Angelo likened the loss of revenue from the pandemic to what happened in the recession of 2008. There is a hiring freeze and Angelo says they're looking at every dollar.

6 people have been arrested in Covelo after several 911 calls came in about a shootout. Deputies report four separate 911 calls about up to 200 shots fired from a semi-automatic or fully automatic rifle. Round Valley Tribal Police also responded and found one man with a rifle ran from the area. He was caught, then Tribal Police caught two other men, one with a rifle.

Witnesses also says multiple armed Hispanic men ran from the area when police arrived. The CHP also reported to a ten acre piece of land where they found 38 "hoop houses" used to grow marijuana and several campsites.

Deputies arrested four men after finding more than 10,000 marijuana plants and rifle rounds, several had been fired into a car. There were also handguns, and shotguns, AR15's and high capacity magazines. The Sheriff's office says it looked like it was similar to other grows where tribal members leased land to non-tribal members. Four men were arrested, booked, and cited for cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana for sale with more charges possible. Others for more serious charges like assault with a deadly weapon and conspiracy.

Bacteria found in Clear Lake after the Lake was closed for weeks due to the Shelter-in-Place and statewide Stay at Home Orders. The Public Health Office is warning after testing done earlier this week by Austin Park Beach, an elevated level of Cyanotoxin was found. There are now caution signs posted around the park where large algal blooms were seen. They were sent to a lab and confirmed. 28 other sites around the Lake have been tested but did not show the same elevated levels. But the Public Health Office is urging visitors not to have direct contact with or use the water that has the positive test for cyanobacteria in Lake County. They especially

06/11/20 remind keeping children and pets out of the water.

[The Sheriff Matt Kendall and the County Fire Chiefs Association President Cf](#)

The Public Health Officer in Sonoma County allowing visitors back at wineries, breweries and distilleries to be seated and allow what the area is widely known for, tastings. The Press Democrat reports the relaxed restrictions allowing tastings. Before wineries had to also offer food with wine. Now, they can open like they were before, without food, many don't have kitchens. Tap rooms at breweries are allowed the same, as well as local distilleries. As of May 23rd tasting rooms could open, but only if they also had food and only outdoors. Indoor openings were allowed last week, now Friday, the next step in the 4 Phase plan to reopen the state.

The zero bail policy that hit jails cross California has been canceled. Judicial leaders relaxing the zero bail policy which was imposed so jails would not be over crowded during the pandemic. They were also allowing the release of low level suspects. As of yesterday the statewide policy of \$0 bail for misdemeanors and lower-level felonies stopped. They have not moved on other pandemic policies though, including ending emergency orders to suspend foreclosures and evictions. They also said if individual counties wanted, they could continue the \$0 bail policy. Another policy to allow more time for arraignments has also been rescinded.

A body's been found by Caltrans workers putting up temporary fencing around some work they were starting. The agency reports yesterday afternoon while workers were starting highway improvements on the 101, south of the Indianola Cutoff and putting up temporary orange fencing, they found a body lying in the tall grassy center divider. The California Highway Patrol and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene and found the body face down. No identity or cause of death is known yet, and they say there's no evidence of foul play. Kym Kemp reports police saying it was a male body who had various wallets in his possession. An autopsy will be performed to determine his identity.

The Lake County Fair has been canceled for the first time since World War II, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lake Co News reports the Lake County Fair Board of Directors unanimously decided on the cancelation at their meeting earlier this week. It was supposed to happen, Sept. 3 to 6, always held Labor Day weekend and getting as many as 40,000 visitors a year. The news site reports the Fair Board President said they had been hopeful they could pull it off this year, but after getting info from the Department of Public Health, California Department of Food and Agriculture and the local Public Health officer, the fair board decided to cancel.

After the state government committed to finding masks when the coronavirus pandemic began, the state has become certified to make its own. Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced BYD North America is now certified from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to make N95 masks for the state. Newsom says the supply they already received was a game changer and plays a "crucial role in our state's public safety and reopening strategy". So BYD can manufacture then ship 150 million N95 masks around the state for health care workers and other health officials who need respirator-style masks. The first shipment is expected in days.

PG& E is relocating their headquarters from San Francisco to Oakland. It won't be for more than a year, starting in the beginning of 2022. The company says it's all part of their commitment for changes to benefit customers and communities they serve. They also say it will save money over a long term period. They've asked for formal approval from the California Public Utilities Commission to give back the net gain after the future sale of the San Francisco headquarters to its customers.

The Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan says a new Public Health Order is coming, but there will be more outbreaks of coronavirus. Dr. Doohan at the latest Board of Supervisors meeting saying the Governor is allowing higher risks sectors to reopen including hotels, campgrounds, bars and gyms, but she says we've gotta be careful as we're still dealing with a pandemic. Dr. Doohan expressed concern about one of the cases that came after a graduation party where nobody wore masks. As far as tourism goes, Dr. Doohan says she's working with the Board of Supervisors and lodging leaders so Public Health Orders are written together thru "listening and communicating and collaborating." She says even though there are people saying they need to open, there are others saying they're terrified about reopening tourism.

Mendocino College has a new Superintendent/President. The Mendocino-Lake Community College Board of Trustees reports finalizing a deal with Dr. Tim Karas who was offered the job last night. Dr. Karas takes over officially July 13th. He was the President of the College of Alameda since 2016. He has worked the last 20 years or so in the California Community College system, including at Mission College and College of San Mateo. He says he's excited to connect with the communities of Round Valley, Lakeport, Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Leggett, Willits, and "every amazing community in between". All DMV Field Offices are reopening. Today the agency opens wide so those who need services can visit in person. All 169 of their field offices are opening for the first time since California's Stay at Home order started in March. They're still not going to conduct any behind-the-wheel driving tests and they warn, there could be really long lines. So they encourage continuing with online services as much as possible, which they've expanded. That includes eligible driver licenses and vehicle registration renewals. You can also wait outside and get a text message when it's your turn to come inside. They're encourage social distancing and mask wearing.

[The Area Agency of Aging of Lake and Mendocino Counties is asking for Rec](#)

The first female inmate to die of coronavirus has been announced for a total of 14 deaths in California prisons from the pandemic. It happened Tuesday, an inmate from the California Institution for Women in Corona, outside Los Angeles passed away at an outside hospital. This would also be the first death of a California inmate besides at the California Institution for Men in Chino, where 13 inmates have died, the last one yesterday. The women's prison has 104 inmates who are actively infected with Covid-19 and the men's in Chino has 516 infected inmates. And there have been more than 2,400 positive cases in inmates in the state. 600 have recovered and are no longer considered contagious. Besides the inmates, two corrections employees have died and nearly 500 employees have tested positive. 230 have returned to work.

Mendocino County joining Lake and reopening into Phase 3. The Public Health Officer released new guidance in alignment with the state for allowable activities starting today, June 12th. Since the virus is stable in Mendocino County, the Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan issued a new Shelter-In-Place (SIP) Order yesterday, effective today at 3:00. It means campgrounds and RV parks with daily occupancy capped to 75% of sites (with other restrictions). Hotels, motels and vacation rentals are allowed once again, but by only one household including a maximum of 2 adults and their children, and daily occupancy of hotels/motels capped to 75% rooms. Tasting rooms (wineries, breweries, distilleries) and Bars (12 midnight closing), gyms and fitness facilities, movie theaters (limited to 25% occupancy or 100 persons per showing), family entertainment centers, museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums and public pools with certain restrictions. Other sectors, tanning beds and child care with guidance along with Day Camps too. Also, non-medical therapeutic services like massage

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therapy, chiropractic and acupuncture with masks. Hi-lo sirens will be used in Lakeport during emergency evacuations. Police and the city of Lakeport announced improvements and adjustments as fire season is upon us. It comes after the Mendocino Complex fire two years ago, where the entire city of Lakeport was evacuated for the first time ever. Police will use the hi-lo siren if there's an evacuation order or when there's a large and immediate threat to life safety. It's a dual siren with a high-frequency pitch, then a low-frequency pitch. They want you to immediately follow orders if you should hear the siren. After the siren you will hear the emergency broadcast system and if you've signed up, you'll also get an emergency alert on your cell phone and/or hard line telephone.

A new report says it's going to cost the state almost \$25 million after they sent out several thousand National Guard troops to help police during protests after the death of George Floyd in Minnesota. Most of the money for the 8,000 was for Los Angeles County, where there were 5,500 troops protecting buildings and other infrastructure. The rest in San Francisco and Sacramento and some smaller cities. Since the Gov. declared a state of emergency in LA County, the state can pay the \$18 million by taking money out of a disaster response account. And the state Military Department is asking for the remainder to be covered as an "emergency expense".

Fort Bragg will move back to regular City Council meetings after their last on Zoom this week. The City Council discussed racial unrest across the country and one comment was to adopt the "8 Can't Wait" campaign to stop some policing policies. It's a national advocacy campaign that many municipalities are discussing after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The City manager says the tactics used by police there are not employed by police in Fort Bragg. The City Council all were at a June 2nd Black Lives Matter protest including the Mayor. The council also discussed fixing up an old apartment complex. The developer was on the Zoom call with the council discussing the proposed four million dollar projects.

A marijuana grow in Lake County has been eradicated along with some arrests. The Lake County Sheriff's Dept. reports on the June 5th raid by Narcotics detectives at the illegal grow in Lakeport. Detectives got word from the Lake County Community Development Department that there were about 20,000 marijuana plants and illegal grading on land. The property owner reportedly had an early activation permit to plant while in the process of getting their permit, but that expired in January. Cops also say there was irrigation coming out of a large trench. Seven adults and one juvenile were at the site. The lead grower told detectives there was between 20,000 to 25,000 marijuana plants there. Plus police found suspected Ketamine, LSD, and Ecstasy. Police eradicated nearly 50,000 plants, some guns and ammo. Everyone there faces charges that have been sent to the DA for review including Cultivation of Marijuana with Environmental Crimes, Possession of Marijuana for Sale and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Cal Fire's warning about quickly drying grass. So all outdoor burn permits are banned as hotter and drier conditions are occurring in the State Responsibility Area of Mendocino County. It starts on Monday along with all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris like branches and leaves. The Cal Fire chief says the last few years have been a devastating reminder the public cannot let its guard down. He says there's potential for dry, hot weather that fueled massive fires in the past. Firefighters have fanned out across the state since the beginning of the year, already fighting more than 1750 wildfires. The fire agency also asking the public to be fire safe, take extra time to be prepared by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space around every home and building on your property and be prepared to evacuate if the time comes.

Counties across the state are being allowed to reopen sectors of their economy closed since the pandemic started a few months ago. The new openings include facial coverings, strict cleaning procedures and physical distancing reminders. Hotels can open, but no longer can they have magazines, menus or coupons, no manually operated ice machines, there have to be pillow protectors changed daily and linens removed in single-use sealed plastic bags. Also limits for the amount of people in an elevator. Bowling alleys, mini golf courses, arcades and batting cages, but paper items are gone unless they're disposable or single use. Movie theaters with reduced capacity — 25% or up to 100 attendees. Museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums can reopen but no more group tours or audio headsets and public use strollers. Bars and wineries like restaurants with outdoor seating and social distancing. Lots of people have been waiting for gyms, they're allowed with strict guidelines on bathrooms and equipment spacing and cleaning. No high contact activities like pick-up basketball and a limit on group classes. We still await other sectors to reopen in Calif. like nail salons, tattoo parlors and body waxing studios, nightclubs, concert venues, live theater and festivals. Theme parks and indoor playgrounds. And so far colleges and universities have not been cleared to reopen for in-person learning.

A lawyer in Eureka has pleaded not guilty for dealing drugs and running a drug ring. But the judge has denied lawyer Michael Acosta a challenge on one of his charges. He faces three felonies, maintaining a drug house, selling illegal drugs and selling prescription drugs. He challenged the first charge related to a drug house saying it has to be continuous use to sell drugs or it cannot be a valid order and the Humboldt County DA only listed one date. The prosecution said it would be something to be brought up at his preliminary hearing, not in the arraignment.

Since the massive fires of October 2017 whole neighborhoods are being brought back to life. The old Fountaingrove gated community in Santa Rosa is getting another 200 new homes on the former site of Fountaingrove Inn and Fountaingrove Round Barn. The proposed 224-unit Fountaingrove Inn Apartments just across from the 101 and adjacent to another larger development with more than 500 planned apartments where the destroyed Journey's End mobile home park used to be. The Tubbs fire destroyed 4,600 homes, more than 3,000 in Santa Rosa, and more than half of those in Fountaingrove. Only 344 Fountaingrove homes have been rebuilt and about 500 more are being built now.

The Ukiah Police Dept. says if you'd like to know about their stance on training procedures and the use of force, it's all posted on their website. The dept. says they had several inquiries and say their policies are a guide to the way their staff performs its duties, and they're based on local, state, and federal law, legislative rulings and case law, best practices and recognized policing principles. The statement also says as practices and standards continue to change, then so does their policy. And further, they're performing a full review of their policies and training outlines to ensure they're embracing principles of modern policing including de-escalation alternatives. Updated guidelines for Lake County on reopenings. The Public Health Officer in alignment with the latest rules from the state Department of Public Health (CDPH) Dept. includes Nail Salons and Other Personal Care Services estheticians and other skin care, cosmetology services, body art, tattoo parlors and massage therapy. They will all be allowed to open this Friday following guidelines the public health office releases for the sectors

06/15/20 the same day.

The Lake County Public Health Office reports on more tests for cyanobacteria in Austin Park, adding now, also Jago Bay. The two spots on Clear Lake are confirmed to have elevated levels above the Danger level, so signs are up from the Public Health Dept. They say boaters and recreational users should avoid direct contact with or use of the water that contains cyanobacteria. Wading, swimming and other contact with the water, scum, foam or algae at these locations may present serious health risks. The CDC recommends at these levels for people and animals to stay out of the water and avoid any contact near the shore.

Technical difficulties caused a cancellation of the viewing of the Ukiah High School Graduation Celebration for the Class of 2020. Quick notice went out that they would reschedule the broadcast date sometime this week and that they sincerely apologize for any inconvenience to the graduates and their families.

A few more cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Mendocino County for a total of 39 cases. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer says most are in the Ukiah Valley and that we're not out of danger yet. She says we're now seeing cases each day, last week we had 36 cases. She says there's no community spread in any other part of the county. 30 of the cases are in Ukiah Valley, and 22 are under quarantine after having close contact with a known case. That means they were within six feet for 10 minutes or more. There are also three more being quarantined on the North Coast and one other on the South Coast. There are currently no hospitalizations. Doohan was asked in her Friday update the riskiest activities and she said gyms reopening worry her. Activities in an enclosed space with deep breathing and exhaling is very concerning and that exercising outside is a better idea. And singing in a group in an enclosed area can possibly spread Covid 100 feet.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer will be with us a while, at least until the end of the year. We've been on the lookout for a new officer as Dr. Noemi Doohan has physically moved to San Diego, but the County's has not found a new officer yet. Doohan will reportedly stay on for at least 20 hours a week at \$125 an hour, which could pay her up to \$100,000 through the end of the year in case she has to work more, travel or be otherwise reimbursed for expenses. The Board of Supervisors says there's a possibility the County could be reimbursed up to 75% for their costs for her services from FEMA.

The Lakeport Police Chief is presenting a report to the City Council on police brutality and use of force. Chief Brad Rasmussen with a presentation tomorrow on his department's use-of-force policies which is reported to be in alignment with eight recommended police reforms known as "8 Can't Wait." The policies from an anti-police violence organization known as Campaign Zero. They claim this can bring police violence down by as much as 72%. It includes a total ban on chokeholds, strangleholds, and shooting at moving vehicles. It also requires officers de-escalate situations, give a warning before they shoot, and generally exhaust alternatives before a shooting, only use the amount of force necessary, intervene when they witness a colleague using excessive force, and report all uses of force. Some departments have already put the reforms in action, but after recent protests, more so.

July 4th will go in Clearlake... with some restrictions, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The main annual events will be modified. The Lakeshore Lions Club is in charge of the annual Independence Day celebration and they're reportedly working to bring the 63rd annual event to fruition next month. The fireworks show, usually also a parade, carnival and classic car show, but some of that won't happen due to the pandemic. However the Lions Club does expect to put on the public fireworks display and there will be food vendors. They will host the event as a drive in experience and picnic in the park. They're inviting a \$10 donation to park cars to make up for a loss of fundraising this year. They're encouraging social distancing and mask wearing when attendees are away from their designated area or car. They will have bathrooms open and handwashing stations.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors still taking a cautious approach to their weekly meeting, hosting again online. Tomorrow the Board will consider ways to enforce public health rules and possible fines for violators, the upcoming fiscal year budget and the draft housing element and they will continue a discussion from last week's meeting on temporary compliance officers being hired to help businesses and individuals with the gradual reopening of Lake County during the continuing public health emergency.

Congressman Mike Thompson along with Bay Area Congresswoman Barbara Lee had a town hall discussing racism, racial inequality and systemic injustice. And Lee announced legislation in the House of Reps. she has brought forward for the first ever United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation. She says 40 other countries have something similar they've done to help change their countries with social change and racial disparities. Congressman Thompson has signed on to a coalition of other members of Congress to support the legislation.

A drive thru movie outing in Lakeport brought out the crowds. The owner of Lakeport Auto Movies, who's also the President of Paradise Cinemas and owner of the Lakeport Cinema 5 reopened last month following guidelines from the CDC, the state and local policies for safety and social distancing. They also have walk in movies reopening now, but Lakeport Cinema 5 has no reopen date. For the local drive in, he has installed Plexiglas partitions, sanitizing stations and placed the markings for cars to park 10 feet apart. So only 200 cars, not the normal 400 car park.

The number of cases of coronavirus continue to rise in Calif. As California reopened another large sector of its businesses Friday, the number of coronavirus cases continues rising with more than 5,000 deaths. The state has tallied nearly 150,000 cases. LA County with the highest spike and public health officials say many are from a backlog of test results and easing stay home restrictions. Gyms, other fitness facilities, museums, swimming pools and hotels have reopened along with music venues, film and television production with restrictions. Hospitalizations were reportedly down a tad, by 1%. But last month it was down around 15% to 16%.

A judge in California has agreed with some Republican legislators... that Gov. Gavin Newsom over-used his power signing several dozen emergency orders during the pandemic regarding public meeting procedures and if tenants can be evicted for not being able to pay rent. The judge in Sutter County only stopped one order though regarding the upcoming general election and ordered the Governor not to sign new orders that could appear like he was usurping the Legislature's responsibilities. There's also a hearing June 26th to consider issuing a preliminary injunction.

A man in Covelo's been arrested after a fight at a home on the Round Valley Indian Reservation. The Sheriff's Dept. reports getting a call from Tribal Police, one officer with facial injuries and lacerations on his ear that were bleeding heavily. Kenneth Whipple was accused of vandalizing the home, and when police got there, they say he attacked one officer, slugging him in the face with a closed fist. The Tribal Officer tried controlling Whipple and he was bitten by Whipple on the neck and ear. Then he ran away. A woman (his ex-girlfriend) where Whipple retreated, says he attacked her and threatened to stab her, and he used a huge rock and tossed it at her car. He also destroyed electronics and appliances in her home. He was found and booked into jail on multiple charges including Mayhem, Making Criminal Threats, Felony Vandalism and Battery with Serious Bodily Injury and booked on \$50,000 bail.

A woman in Willits has been arrested after reports of an unwanted person causing a disturbance at a home last weekend. Deputies responded June 7th to a home where there was a fight and they had apparently been to the home for other incidents in the past. They found Michelle Cotton drunk at her ex-boyfriend, and father of her toddler son's home. The man says Cotton was asked to leave several times, but she would not and she ran towards him and they knocked heads. He called police and says while waiting, Cotton was hitting and striking him and would not stop. Deputies found her in a bathroom with their son and was not being cooperative. They informed her they would arrest her and she resisted, but they controlled her and took her to jail on multiple charges including domestic violence battery, child endangerment and resisting or delay of a Peace Officer. She had a restraining order against her from the man from a previous incident and was held then on \$25,000.00 bail.

A man in Ukiah's been arrested after an assault with pepper spray on two men. Deputies went to a home in the 800 block of Ford Road and found a man with pepper spray injuries who was reportedly attacked as he stocked shelves in a store. He says the suspect, since identified as Anthony Pelfrey, attacked him. The victim described as an Eastern Indian Man who says when he turned around and tried to run, Pelfrey came after him and sprayed him some more. When he did get away, Pelfrey ran out of the store. A similar attack against was reported against a Hispanic man in Ukiah and when they did the Be on the Lookout report, they found he was wanted for similar racially motivated attacks in Sonoma County. He was arrested Thursday and his record showed he was arrested in 2009 for a racially motivated attempted murder with a machete on two Hispanic men in Mendocino County. He was arrested for Violate the Civil Rights of Another, Causing Injury, Unlawful use of Tear Gas, Felon in Possession of Tear Gas and Burglary with Intent to Commit a Felony.

PG&E is expected to plead guilty today to 84 separate involuntary manslaughter charges. This is the most fatal corporate crime in U.S. history and will be the final issue the utility company deals with as it finally emerges from its Bankruptcy protection. But it's also separate from that case, the plea from a publicly traded company in criminal court. It relates to the Camp Fire in Paradise in 2018, the deadliest fire in Calif. history which devastated the town and surrounding towns as well. The utility will pay a \$4 million fine too. The utility company will also fork over more than \$25 billion to settle claims with survivors, local governments and insurance companies; and they have 06/16/20 to pay a \$1.9 billion penalty from the California Public Utilities Commission. A new outbreak of Covid-19 in Sonoma County. The public health officer is still planning to allow more businesses to reopen even though a winery had an outbreak of cases. Dr. Sundari Mase has not given the name of the winery, just says employees are in production not in a tasting room or area with direct contact with the public. She says they're conducting a "large-scale" investigation to find who may have come into contact with the workers the last two weeks. It's the second winery in as many weeks. 14 employees at the other winery got infected May 29th. But she never gave the name of that winery either. She is allowing the opening however of fitness centers; museums; entertainment centers, campgrounds; and hotels and short-term home rentals.

The Golden State Killer case looks to have been solved. The man accused, former police officer Joseph James DeAngelo Jr., is pleading guilty to avoid the death penalty. The 74 year old will confess to 13 murders and at least that many rapes June 29th. The Press Democrat reports on the plea deal, which sources told the paper, they were not allowed to even divulge. They say DeAngelo agreed he would admit the crimes, even ones he was not charged for, because the statute of limitations had expired. He was accused of crimes between 1973 to 1986 in more than a dozen California counties.

The Gov. says he won't cut funding after all for some programs due to coronavirus after an outcry. The cuts in the Governor's budget proposal to childcare and health insurance for low-income older adults because the state has an estimated \$54.3 billion budget hole. The Governor's budget would have meant fewer elderly folks could get Medicaid and that would have supposedly saved the state almost \$68 million. Plus, he proposed 10% in cuts for childcare programs, but after working with lawmakers, he agreed those cuts did not have to happen after all. The legislature is supposed to approve a new operating budget in coming days, but legislative leaders have not finalized a deal with the Governor, who can sign, veto, or change anything the Legislature sends to him anyway.

Two more cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Lake County. Our neighboring County catching up to Mendocino, they have 34, we have 39 cases. No word on where the new Lake County cases were confirmed. But of all of them, four are active and 30 have recovered. We have no current hospitalizations in either County. The Lake County Public Health Officer says they've tested more than 3,400 residents and 149 tests are pending. Calif. has confirmed more than 155,000 positive cases and more than 5,100 people have died.

PG&E has the green light to come up with new microgrids which the company says will bring down the amount of customers affected by public safety power shutoffs. The utility says it will also help those who have to deal with the intentional power shutoffs. If you recall we had several last year, some back to back with only a couple days of power between them. The company says they must continue in wildfire weather, but their new Community Wildfire Safety Program includes the new grid technology, hardening the electric system, and performing enhanced vegetation management. The company says that would mean shorter and smaller public power downs.

A drive thru wildfire preparedness event for the town of Cobb which was devastated by the Valley Fire almost five years ago. This was supposed to be the 3rd annual community-organized wildfire preparedness event on Cobb Mountain. The pandemic canceled regular preparations so instead organizers put together the first annual Drive Thru Wildfire Preparedness Fair. The Record Bee reports there was a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Fire Safety Center at the new Cobb Resource Hub. There were also evacuation kits handed out for participants.

Some dents in the new budget for the City of Clearlake. The proposed budget is supposed to be approved by the city council in just a couple of days. The City Manager says the pandemic wrecked what was supposed to be a banner year for the city after years of devastation from fires and floods. He says the impact of the shelter in place order which closed businesses will be felt for some time. City revenues could take on a 10 percent hit, so they've cut back on all non-essential spending, put a freeze on some construction projects and the same for unfilled city positions.

The state's biggest police unions say want police reform. The unions ran full page ads in various major newspapers after protests related to the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis and now the death of a black man in Atlanta. The ad in the newspapers said, in part, that they have an "obligation as a profession and as human beings to express our sorrow by taking action." To start, they plan to compile a database of former police officers fired for gross misconduct so other law enforcement agencies won't hire them. And they've also called for a national use-of-force standard.

Vaccinations for kids in the time of the pandemic went way down. The shots that kids normally get in early years apparently were put on the backburner as families had to contend with statewide stay home orders. Vaccinations for children in April down more than 40% compared to the same month a year ago. The info from the state Department of Public Health for children ages 0 to 18 included nearly a dozen legally required shots for kids who go to public school in California.

Police on the lookout for a sex offender they say used a flashlight to beat his wife in Willits. Cops say he cut off an ankle monitoring device he was wearing and ran from the scene about a week ago. The wife of John Courthern says he got out of prison in January after a 22 year sentence. She married him while he was in prison but they agreed last month the marriage was not working, but they couldn't do anything due to the pandemic. Police say they found the woman bleeding profusely from her head and holding her head with a bloodied towel. She went to the hospital and police went to locate Courthern. He's listed on the Megan's Law website for his past crimes including molestation and kidnapping. His picture can be seen on the Red Headed Blackbelt news site.

Temporary traffic lights in the city of Ukiah while construction on the Streetscape project continues. The new flashing signals at State and Perkins/Standley streets. The city reports they will make adjustments as needed as they see too many people are blowing through the intersections without stopping. Workers doing Pipe bursting on State Street which means traffic will be disrupted during the construction work. They will allow pedestrian access to businesses, but warn it's messy work. The work this week on State Street between Church Street and Henry Street and the intersections of State and Church streets, State and Perkins streets, State and Standley streets, and State and Smith streets between 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. thru Friday.

The number of cases of COVID in Mendocino County jumped by 6. The Public Health Officer says it's due to the graduation party where someone contracted the infection while folks gathered without masks on, and a church service. There wasn't much more info on the church though. The County has set up more testing for anyone who has attended a graduation service or church services in the Ukiah Valley. The public health office will have testing from 4:30-7pm tomorrow and Thursday morning from 7-10. Mendocino Voice says they spoke to the public health office about recent protests to see if any cases have turned up, and they say test results starting to come in from the Bay Area does connect the protests with some increased spread. Pacific Gas & Electric has admitted in court they were responsible for the death of 84 people due to the Camp Fire in Paradise in November 2018. The PG&E CEO Bill Johnson was in court and entered the 84 guilty pleas to involuntary manslaughter. The Camp Fire was blamed on their equipment and an old electrical grid. He said in court, "our equipment started that fire" then he apologized directly to victims' families. The company had to admit wrongdoing as part of a deal that brings the case to a close and an end to the Chapter 11 bankruptcy they filed in January of 2019. The Butte County Superior Court Judge read each fire victim's name as pictures were flashed in the courtroom on a big screen. A grand jury indictment is also supposed to be released blaming corporate misconduct by the utility for the fire.

It's a no from the Lake County Board of Supervisors to enforce the current Public Health order for mandatory mask wearing and social distancing during the pandemic. The board spoke on the issue yesterday during their meeting with a bunch of people in on the online meeting telling supervisors it's a bad idea, others all for it. But none of the supervisors moved on a motion for the draft ordinance to get a vote. Lake Co News reports the issue was raised at the meeting last week to have Code Enforcement Officers help

06/17/20 the Public Health Office educate and enforce public health orders.

A man from Ukiah has been killed in a car accident on Highway 175 near Hopland. The man's name has not been released, we only know he's 32 years old. The California Highway Patrol in Ukiah says Justin Jimenez of Willits was headed east on Highway 175 and for some reason his Ford F-250 pickup veered off onto the right shoulder, then crossed back over onto the other side of the highway and into the victim's 2002 Honda Civic. The Ford reportedly rolled, landing in the middle of the Highway. The Honda driver was pronounced dead at the scene. The passenger of the Honda and Jimenez both had major injuries.

Litter an issue on the side of state highways, but now the state Department of Transportation and the CHP starting a campaign to get rid of the trash. They had stopped litter cleanup on the side of the road after the stay home order in March. The Caltrans director says the litter can increase the risk of fire, plus it pollutes waterways, threatens wildlife and costs taxpayers millions of dollars to remove. They ask residents to be more mindful of the issue as Caltrans maintenance workers work with industrial hygienists on litter removal during the current health crisis.

Red Flag weather but no notice of a public safety power down. Cal Fire is temporarily banning outdoor residential burn permits in Sonoma, Lake, Napa, Solano, Yolo, and Colusa counties. And last night the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued the red flag, or high-risk fire weather conditions alert until tomorrow for all inland areas of the state, east of Sonoma County. The fire agency's burn permit suspension after several dry months, including in February, the driest in the state since the 1850s, which Cal Fire warns is a devastating reminder of the potential for a dangerous summer, where dry, hot weather can fuel fires like years past.

The statue of Christopher Columbus that's long been the centerpiece of the California Capitol rotunda is being removed. The statue there since 1883 is being taken out after a decision just yesterday by legislative leaders saying it's hurtful to indigenous populations. But the statue being removed now after massive protests about racial injustice after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Other statues coming down across the country, including in Kentucky, the statue of Jefferson Davis, the only president of the Confederacy, and the former capital of the Confederacy, Virginia, will take down the statue of the Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Here also in California, Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento took down the John Sutter statue, he was a slave holder of Native Americans.

The CHP reports their work to respond to protests across the state has cost them \$38 million. That means the state's now spent as much as \$63 million across various law enforcement agencies. The CHP reports nearly a half million hours of unplanned overtime between May 28 and June 11 with 12 hour shifts for some officers after the CHP Commissioner declared a "tactical alert" that officers had to act on, "threats to the immediate health and safety of persons or property throughout the state."

New coronavirus case counts show the latest cases are in younger folks. A new report released this week shows almost half of the new infections are in those 34 years old or younger, 44% as opposed to 29% a month ago. The drop in cases of older folks from 46% to 30.5% in the past month. Middle aged Californians stayed the same, not a spike or a decline. The state does not report trends, this info is from the Calif. Dept. of Public Health. It shows those between 18 and 34 years of age make up the largest chunk of new infections in Calif. It's also not known if its due to more testing, statewide protests over the death of George Floyd or ignoring mask wearing and social distancing measures.

As expected the Grand Jury has indicted PG&E for repeatedly ignoring warnings about its decrepit equipment, which we now know caused the Camp Fire in Paradise. The report from the Grand Jury investigation says the utility company exhibited "a callous disregard" for the life and property of residents, that they failed to inspect declining power lines and performed inadequate inspections, all to focus on profits and that the company was not interested in learning from past catastrophes. The CEO of the company earlier yesterday pleaded guilty on the utility's behalf to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter for the deaths in the Camp Fire. Although 85 people died. The fire destroyed Paradise, gutting more than 18,000 homes and other structures. This comes after the utility company was also convicted 4 years ago for the San Bruno explosion which killed eight people.

[Lakeport Police have reported procedures to the City Council at the same time](#)

The Bullet Train program looks to be tabled. The state Assembly passed a resolution to put the final contracts for the long awaited project on hold. The legislature has to set aside \$4.2 billion in state bonds for the project, but right now continuing the project is not feasible. There's already been one segment under construction for several years in the San Joaquin Valley. But the Governor has not supported the project since his election, but then added money to the project after taking office. The Assembly Transportation Chair Democrat Jim Frazier has been critical of the project and says the Legislature has to be consulted before any future appropriations.

Hospitals in Mendocino County connected to Adventist Health are restarting elective surgeries and other non-essential procedures. As part of the County reopening in Phase 3 of the state's stay home order, the president for Adventist Health for Mendocino County announced the edict. Jason Wells says they've looking forward to reconnecting with patients and to continue their mission of caring for the community. He also says they're ready to provide care in a "very safe environment." They're also saying it's okay to go to the emergency room. Many across the country have been staying away from ER's as we were told to in case we had coronavirus. But as many are doing that, others who really need to get to the ER in case they're having a stroke or heart attack should go. Patients will have to go thru a screening process for symptoms, and it's mandatory to wear face-masks and practice social distancing.

[PG&E's hosting a webinar on wildfire safety and prevention for residents in butte](#)

At a time when Confederate statues are being removed all over the country, the Fort Bragg City Council is considering, should the name of the city change. The council put it in a Facebook post saying they were getting requests, some of them were locals, many were not locals, that the city should change its name to no longer be associated with Confederate Army General Braxton Bragg. The post which has more than 1,000 comments says the City Council will consider the matter at their meeting Monday. So the matter could end up on the November general election ballot. The town got its name all the back in 1857 for the US Army officer considered by many historians to have been one of the worst generals in the Civil War. And he also kept slaves at his plantation in Louisiana.

There will be no Salmon Barbeque in Fort Bragg. The Salmon Restoration Association says the 2020 World's Largest Salmon Barbecue which is held every year around the July 4th holiday, is not happening because of the pandemic. The Associations Exec. Director says they'll start over again next July. They usually use the money raised at the barbeque to pay for other projects, like watershed education and the preservation of streams, specifically the Eel River Recovery Project. But they've been funded and the public health issue takes precedence. The nonprofit touts itself as working to improve the County's spawning streams and is run entirely by volunteers.

The new lakefront park in Lakeport is being designed for two parcels the city just bought. The City Council has approved the design contract for the park on Main St. The Lakeport Unified School District Board heard from the School Superintendent they finalized paperwork to sell one piece of the two properties for the park. It's going to be developed with a nearly \$6 million dollar grant the city won earlier this year. And an architect out of Santa Cruz has been hired to plan, design, engineer and do project management for the park project. They were one of more than a dozen proposals that were then whittled down to three or four. Construction plans should be out for bid by the end of the year.

Lakeport says it's suing Opioid manufacturers as part of the California Opioid Consortium. Lake Co News reports there are now 36 counties and cities who make up a population of more than 11 million residents. They've filed suit in federal court where it's ended up after in Ohio where more than 2,800 others have filed similar lawsuits. The case in Lakeport will be under the umbrella of the rest, looking to get taxpayer money back that has been used in the City to fight the epidemic. The City Manager tells the news site the city has had no choice but to respond due to "irresponsible multi-billion dollar corporations, which have placed profits over public safety."

The surge in cases of coronavirus continue in Mendocino County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan says end-of-school year gatherings along with in-person church services in Ukiah may be to blame. Six more cases were confirmed last night in the Ukiah Valley, four in teenagers. Dr. Doohan put out a press release late yesterday that confirmed the case count is now 53, with 19 people isolated, one in the hospital in the ICU in someone between 18 and 35 years old. The County following the state with a surge in cases in that age group. Doohan says eight of the recent cases were traced to two end-of-school-year or graduation parties and four others are connected to church services, all in Ukiah. The Public Health Office was conducting outbreak testing after the spike, yesterday and today.

A restaurant owner along the Mendocino Coast has been slapped with a \$10,000 fine for continually ignoring the countywide health order to slow the spread of coronavirus. The owner of Fiddleheads Cafe reportedly worked to be in compliance yesterday, but the Press Democrat reports it looks like owner Chris Castleman wouldn't continue to follow county standards during the pandemic. He says he's not going to make his staff wear masks even though they're preparing, handling or serving the public food. He says what his staff does or doesn't do is between them and the County. He says it's about personal responsibility and personal choice. Seven people work at the café in Mendocino. The County's Interim Code Enforcement Manager told the newspaper this may be the first refusal to comply with the Public Health Order.

Graton Resort and Casino is about to reopen. Three months after the shelter in place order for the state, the Resort could be the biggest employer to reopen in Sonoma County. They have a hotel and indoor dining at several restaurants and a 24-hour gaming floor. They're considered to be the Bay Area's biggest gambling destination and plan to open their doors again this morning with a brand new layout to allow for physical distancing and a limit on capacity, which previously held up to a thousand people. Mask wearing is mandatory and temperatures will be taken at the door. Management says they will be very strict with policies. There is no valet parking or live entertainment and the resort's pool, spa and fitness center are still closed.

The Mendocino County Sheriff and Fire Chiefs Association President present <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87209580733?pwd=eWJ4OVZCbGcrS1I4SnZ2M3>

Billions of dollars in funding to national parks thanks to a bill in the U.S. Senate co-sponsored by Northern California senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris. The bill would permanently move millions annually from offshore oil drilling revenues to pay for city parks, swimming pools, sports fields, fishing piers, trails and campgrounds across the country including in places with limited park resources. The "Great American Outdoors Act" passed overwhelmingly in the Senate and heads to the House next. 9.5 million would go to fix roads, restrooms and trails and campgrounds at national parks including Yosemite. The money from royalties from oil, gas, coal and renewable energy sales. And a guaranteed \$900 million a year for the Land and Water Conservation Fund forever.

The State Schools Superintendent says schools which have been long named after Confederate leaders or other racially insensitive figures that are being renamed is a good thing. Tony Thurmond commenting in response to a question by a reporter after the Berkeley Unified School District Board unanimously decided to rename two of their schools. Thurmond says when “institutions, not only schools that are named for Confederate leaders who perpetuated racism, lynching and hate, it exacerbates feelings of race in our schools”. It comes after public protests for weeks after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Confederate statues being defaced and toppled by the public.

Several thousand pounds of potatoes have been sent to the Fort Bragg Food Bank. Last month they got 40,000 pounds of onions and now it's 42,000 pounds of potatoes from the FarmLink project, for Mendocino and Sonoma County distribution. The Advocate reports the FarmLink project is a nonprofit that is helping farmers and foodbanks due to food instability during the pandemic. The FarmLink project was started by a group of college students across the country, they've distributed more than 280,000 pounds of food to food banks in the last month. Also at the Food Bank, the Summer Kids Bag Program. It's donating food on Tuesdays this summer from noon to 3 p.m.

The Sonoma County Public Health Officer is allowing further opening of businesses including nail and waxing salons, massage and tattoo studios, and skin care boutiques. These were added by the state in an updated list of sectors to open during the pandemic, with restrictions. Dr. Sundari Mase had intimated, but not confirmed, many other businesses could open too, including hotels, resorts, campgrounds and vacation home rentals. No word yet though on gyms and yoga studios, bars, movie theaters, card rooms and family entertainment centers including bowling and miniature golf.

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The Lake County Public Health Officer is allowing more businesses to reopen in his updated stay home order. The County has 34 cases of coronavirus, but Dr. Gary Pace says things remain stable in the County because people are taking precautions. There are only 2 active cases and contact tracing is ongoing for the 34th case identified Monday after a social gathering. So the businesses allowed to open today include Nail Salons, Estheticians, Skin Care, Cosmetology Services, Electrology, Body Art Professionals, Tattoo Parlors and Piercing Shops and Massage Therapy.

The Governor has signed a bill into law so every Californian will get a mail in ballot. The Governor citing public health safety and large groups of people gathering at polling places. The bill approved by the legislature yesterday. There will still be voting booths for those who want to take part. The bill passed the Assembly 68-5, those against were Republicans. Others in their party said the ballots wouldn't be mailed to people who were considered to be inactive voters. Another part of the new law says any mail in ballot sent in will have 17 days to get their ballot back to the Secretary of State.

Mask wearing in the state mandatory. The Governor has put out a new order saying masks are critical to “keep people around you safe, keeping businesses open and restarting our economy”. The order as the state keeps opening deeper into the 4 phase reopening plan and spikes of coronavirus reported across the state. Nearly 4,300 new cases were reported Thursday. Most counties are now allowing dining at restaurants, shopping at malls, hair and nail salons, family entertainment, camping and more. The new order requires facial coverings when your inside or in line at any indoor public spaces, in a healthcare setting such as a hospital or pharmacy or while waiting for and riding in public transportation and any outdoor spaces where you cannot physically distance yourself at least six feet away from others.

Police chiefs across California endorsing a plan for finding and getting rid of bad cops. The California Police Chiefs Association looking to help toss officers with a history of bad behavior, may be mentally unstable, have criminal records or a history of misconduct. The Attorney General Xavier Becerra is backing a similar plan. The Chiefs also looking to work with Becerra's office for investigations into deadly force incidents, but that's only if it's requested by local officials.

After a spike in new cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County, the Ukiah City Manager says he's trying to get as much info from the County about where it was contracted. Seven cases reported this week for a total of 54. The Mendocino County Health Office had announced many of the new cases in the Ukiah Valley from graduation or end of school year parties and church services. Ukiah City Manager Sage Sangiacomo says he wants additional details about the dates of those events while understanding privacy needs to be protected.

The winner of Congressman Jared Huffman's annual Congressional Art Competition is from Ukiah High. Diya Patel's artwork will be shown in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year and she'll win two tickets to Washington D.C. for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception for the new display. They've not said when the trip will be yet due to the pandemic. The 11th grader's piece is entitled "Trapped". The artwork is submitted each year to recognize and encourage artistic talent in each congressional district dating back to 1982. Since then, more than 650,000 high schoolers have participated nationwide.

The Willits City Council voted against the urgency ordinance to fine people if they don't follow the County's Public Health Order. Last month the Council considered the ordinance and last week they gave it a resounding thumbs down. The ordinance needed four of five councilmembers to vote yes for it to be approved. The ordinance, if it passed would have made it a violation of the law to attend mass gatherings. But councilmembers said they heard from the public that they were already challenged after businesses had to close. But one councilmember supported the idea if some wording in it could be changed to make sure folks knew it was more about education and they wouldn't be heavy handed or intending to hurt the community.

PG&E had a webinar to hear from the public on the expected public safety power shutoffs this year. They were looking to explain their new approach to the intentional power downs, hoping to impact less people, they say, than last year, when millions of Californians were without electricity for several days at a time. It's planned for red flag or fire weather days to prevent wildfires, like when there's strong winds, low humidity, and dried-out vegetation. The utility's Wildfire Safety Program Director explained that last year there were multiple weather events triggering the power downs and they expect it to be less this year with improvements like substation microgrids. They're also preparing 63 substations across 19 counties.

Most of the University of California's undergraduate campuses are offering classes only online in the fall. Some may be in person, but nine have announced online classes due to the coronavirus pandemic. Berkeley, Riverside and Santa Cruz announced this past Wednesday they'd be online after Davis, Irvine, Merced and Los Angeles had already announced most classes would be long distance learning except science labs and small discussion seminars. UC San Diego has not made an announcement. The California State University system is doing the same, with most classes online except those that are hard to do virtually.

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County doling out money for relief during the pandemic has granted \$200,000 to the West Business Development Center. The grants to support micro-businesses impacted by COVID-19. The Business Innovation and Resiliency Fund for Mendocino County announced it would distribute grants of up to \$5,000 each for as many as 40 micro-businesses. Those getting the grants have to have less than five full-timers, show their business could survive after the pandemic with a specific need for the money in order to pivot their work. They're accepting applications for part of this money starting today. You can find more info online at the Chamber of Commerce website the Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance and of course at The Community Foundation of Mendocino County.

Schools in Willits have some new ways to handle the upcoming school year during the ongoing pandemic. During their school board meeting this week, board members continued their discussions from a week before with the school Superintendent Mark Westerburg. He discussed three possible scenarios: return to normal operations, start with a "COVID Schedule", with smaller classes and social distancing, or resume distance learning. Board members say they've been getting questions and hearing from the public that they wanted to help with the decision making. And Westerburg says they have to consider the safety of students and teachers, the quality of education provided, and whether the district can afford whatever the plan is. They meet again on Monday.

Since the Governor has added certain activities under Stage 3 of reopening the state, the Mendocino County Public Health Officer has changed our Public Health Order to coincide with the state. That means additional industries can open, and there are some other changes going into effect today. This means masks or facial coverings are mandatory. Personal Care services which require touching a client's face or body, can reopen but workers have to wear a face covering the entire time, same with customers unless it's a face treatment. Dr. Doohan is also allowing transient or outside visitors to stay in hotels, motels or vacation rentals, but with family members of one household. And there has to be 24 hours between vacancy for deep cleaning. Public saunas, steam rooms and hot tubs are closed, but private hot tubs in these businesses can be used by one family but must be drained and cleaned between each reservation's use.

The City of Fort Bragg has its first public meeting since the state of emergency went into effect related to coronavirus. The meeting will have strict guidelines and safeguards due to the ongoing pandemic on Monday. The City expecting a larger than normal turnout so there are some rules and notices. First off, traffic closed on certain streets, only nine members of the public and 4 press people with social distancing requirements. It's first-come basis and no in and out privileges. So if you leave, you lose your seat. If you have public comment you have to wait in a socially distanced line outside. There will be marks on the sidewalk to help. The open grassy areas of the Guest House Museum are open to the public and they're trying to put up outdoor speakers. If you're outdoors, masks are required if you cannot keep six feet apart from others.

15 new Covid-19 cases reported last week in Mendocino County. And now Supervisor Ted Williams posted, there were 8 more over the weekend. We don't have an updated official number this morning, except that Williams posted on Facebook, there are 62. The last we heard from the Public Health Officer, Dr. Noemi Doohan Friday was 54 residents of the county were infected. These are not all active cases, some have recovered, and also as of Friday, there was one person, a younger patient in the ICU. But there's no update on the Public Health Office dashboard. Dr. Doohan said Friday the surge in cases were "somewhat expected" because of businesses reopening and after school year or high school graduation parties and church services. She also said there were some youth sports games happening. In her Friday presentation she says the message is, if you're at a gathering or playing sports, you could spread the virus to your family or others, and it's a threat to the community's health.

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Police in Fort Bragg got a report of an attempted child abduction at a local gas station. The call from S. Main Street at an Arco gas station. Cops met with the person reporting the crime and the victim at the police station. They say it was a man that approached their car's front passenger side window. The suspect offered the 13 year old girl to go party with them while the parent was in the back seat. The parent confronted the suspect who ran. They were described to cops who put out a BOLO alert. Shawn Bias of Fort Bragg was arrested for annoying a child. They found the man though was in mental crisis so he was then taken to the hospital and put on a mental health hold.

Stage 3 of the Calif. reopening for Mendocino County now. The Public Health Officer is allowing for more businesses to reopen with precautions and restrictions. Dr. Doohan says of those who've tested positive, 10% have required hospitalization, which is higher than the national average. They were at parties or were doing other things not yet allowed in the public health order. Now higher risk services are allowed to open, but mask wearing is mandatory as the Governor is requiring it. And businesses could be fined if they don't comply. Dr. Doohan says she'll release the names of businesses in the future if they don't follow the rules. If you want to be tested for Covid-19, free tests are available in Ukiah at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds Tue. – Saturday.

The Mendocino County Grand Jury's latest report on County government shows the County has yet to deal with emergency notification equipment or how it's used for residents. The Grand Jury also looked at safety in schools and how tax revenue was being used on various County services. The jury report didn't find much in the way of concern regarding school safety but they did make some recommendations. They did make another recommendation too, about how special districts are collecting taxes.

The PG&E plan to pay \$58 billion to end its Chapter 11 Bankruptcy has been approved by the judge overseeing the utility's case. The deal as you probably recall relates to the Camp Fire in 2018 and the October 2017 wildfire storm in Northern Calif. The fires were blamed on the utility company's shoddy upkeep of equipment and putting money over the welfare of their customers. The judge allowing the payment of a settlement to thousands of people who lost homes and businesses, and family members to the massive and historically devastating fires. A lawyer for the victims says it will probably take up to three months for the money to get into their hands and for the utility company to make other promised payments.

Students in the University of Calif. system say they want more police oversight. Activists and in the system's student governments and some black student organizations calling for more oversight or closures. One UC Berkeley student complains to CalMatters that he was stopped simply for being a black man and that Campus Police had no notation he was ever stopped by an officer. UC Berkeley has a police review board and gets the biggest chunk of money for college policing. At the same time the Cal State police force says they will stop the controversial carotid choke hold.

Lake County planners are still deciding if they should approve a resort near Middletown. The proposed resort at Guenoc Ranch will have to wait until next week as the Planning Commission needs more time to look over the massive environmental impact report. The property about four miles east of Highway 29 on Butts Canyon Road is being considered for Mixed Use and would be built in phases, the first would take a decade. The Environmental Impact Report was released in February and details a luxury resort around the old Langtry estate and winery.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is considering what to do with the old juvenile hall which is being proposed for temporary housing for the homeless. Lake Co News reports the board will hear the proposal at the virtual meeting tomorrow morning from the County Space Use Committee. The County Administrative Officer brought up the matter at the board meeting last week and the board approved releasing a request for proposals for daily operations and fiscal management. The facility's been closed since October of 2015. The committee was supportive of the use for COVID-19 bed requirements for 6 months but they were supposed to re-examine at a later date.

The CHP is asking for public input to get its approval from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc.. They're a nonprofit who looks to help improve law enforcement and public safety services. They have policies and procedures they look to have law enforcement agencies follow for their accreditation process, and so they're recognized for professional excellence. The CHP has already been accredited since 2010. Now the public is invited to comment next Tuesday or be in on a public virtual hearing, the same day.

[To participate in the virtual public hearing, please e-mail \[chp-accreditation@c\]\(mailto:chp-accreditation@c\)](mailto:chp-accreditation@c)

Another positive case of coronavirus in Lake County. The Public Health dept. confirmed the case over the weekend in a county resident. So there are now 35 cases total and only two are active. Not a lot more info was released. Dr. Gary Pace confirmed two new cases last week, so this is the third in the same week. The 34th case, Dr. Pace said was after someone went to a social gathering and they were doing contact tracing, but there was no sign of community transmission. And before that the 31st and 32nd cases were living in the same household. The County has conducted almost 3,400 tests and 211 are still pending.

The Public Health Office in Sonoma County has announced another person dying of COVID-19. The County reports this is the first time since May 11th, the last deaths before that were May 3, April 10 and March 20. The County Dept. of Health Services says the 5th death happened yesterday but there was no other information. A County Supervisor confirmed the death was at a skilled nursing center. There was also a report of 32 more cases, the highest single day count since March, when the pandemic started. The last highest day was 30 cases, on June 13th. The County has a total of 885 total coronavirus cases, more than half, 514 have recovered.

Former Governor Jerry Brown and three others including Arnold Schwarzenegger and the current Gov. Gavin Newsom have recorded a PSA on wearing a mask to slow the spread of COVID-19. Using his tough guy actor persona, Schwarzenegger said "This is not about being weak" while holding up a mask. Gray Davis and Pete Wilson are also in the spot all to bring attention to Gov Newsom's order last week which makes it mandatory for a facial covering in most indoor settings and outdoors when physical distancing isn't possible. The PSA being released as California sees a streak of record breaking COVID infections since the pandemic began.

A man from Ukiah in a solo car crash has died of his injuries. The crash early yesterday morning with James Gardner in a 1995 Toyota T100 headed north on the 101 north of Reynolds Hwy in Mendocino County. The CHP reports for some reason he lost control of his vehicle, went off the side of the road, hit the embankment and rolled. He was ejected from the Toyota and died. Cal-Fire, Cal-Trans, Mendocino County Sheriffs Department and the Long-Valley Volunteer Fire Department all on the scene. The CHP says they're unsure at this time if drugs or alcohol were a factor.

A wildfire breaks out near an illegal pot grow outside Clearlake Oaks. The fire charred about six to seven acres of dry vegetation over the weekend, dubbed the Mule Fire, fully contained in five hours. The fire reportedly spread fast in steep terrain, was one of several on Saturday. Officials are reminding residents to make sure they have defensible space around their homes and that they've taken proactive measures to prevent a wildfire. Also to avoid using a lawnmower after 10 a.m. Also Saturday in Lake County a trailer with a load of hay exploded into flames for some reason in Upper Lake with structures threatened, but no spread. Another fire later in the day near Konocti Vista Casino in Lakeport charred about 3 acres. And a

06/23/20 house fire also reported later in the day in Clearlake.

A man from Madera has been arrested for arson related to a Saturday fire near Clearlake Oaks. Jose Medina Jimenez found by Lake County Sheriff's deputies near the Mule Fire. They reportedly tried to tackle him and had a struggle, then a standoff. They say he was first found standing in the middle of Highway 20 waving his arms in the air, but several witnesses say he started the fire. As he was approached, deputies say he pulled out a knife and started pacing back and forth. They told him to drop it, but he walked towards one of them, then sat on the ground. Someone on the scene helped translate in Spanish for the deputies, and finally the guy dropped the knife and was arrested. They say he seemed to be high on something. He was held in jail. Deputies also say the Mule Fire was burning at an illegal marijuana grow where Jimenez is suspected of working.

A family who lost their home in the Valley Fire is one of the latest recipients of a Habitat for Humanity home. The Rodriguez-Barajas family was living in an apartment in Middletown, then it was totally destroyed. They lost everything. They stayed for a time at the Konocti Harbor with other fire survivors. Then moved to a one bedroom, sharing with three kids, plus mom was pregnant. Then the Clayton Fire came, after they applied for a Habitat home, the Habitat office partially burned, so they had to submit a second application. And this month, they moved into their new home in Lower Lake.

A Zoom meeting for the Cobb Area Council where they took on the Cobb Safe Drive Through and a grant application. The drive through had 250 people show up June 13th, to learn about emergency preparedness. The Council also announced the city got a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco for Housing and Economic Assistance for Development Disaster Recovery. The grant will also be available for those outside of Cobb, including Middletown and Kelseyville.

The July 4th parade is going on in downtown Willits. Some locals decided to keep one tradition alive as others were cancelled, one by one, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The group's organizer Katelyn Garcia sees it as a protest for the right to celebrate Country and Community. There are now about 800 members online in support of the parade. They will have decorated cars in a line, some pulling trailers, like the recent Willits High School (WHS) graduation parade and Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests. The group says they reached out to the City to work together, but never got a response. The City Manager brought up the matter at their meeting last week saying, even with social distancing, it's a mass gathering and a violation of the stay home order. Organizers for their part say it's not a mass gathering, and they're encouraging both social distancing and masks.

Five new cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Lake County. Early yesterday we found out about one case, than last night, the additional five. Lake Co News reports that brings the total in Lake County to 40 cases, with six active. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says most of the new cases were related to previous cases and part of two clusters, all are stable and isolating at home. He also says one was possible community transmission, and that they're getting more information. Dr. Pace was not releasing any demographics on any of the cases until they had a total of 50. That will then include general location, age and gender, and possibly more info on how each person contracted the virus.

Unemployment applications slightly down in the state. The California Employment Development Department reported nearly 313,000 claims last week for regular Unemployment and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. Lake Co News reports that's a total of more than 6.3 million claims since the pandemic started mid-March. Now that jobs are starting to come back, those getting unemployment will have to report why they're not returning to the position, if they choose not to. There would then be a review of their case and a decision about eligibility.

Congressman Mike Thompson is having another of his virtual town halls during the pandemic, this one to talk about education. This Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. with his guest, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. Topics will include what the state's doing to support students during the pandemic. It's the ninth townhall as of late. If you'd like to be in on the meeting, you have to email Thompson's office, they'll email back instructions to join.

Remote court proceedings continue in the Lake County Superior Court. Lake Co News reports jury trials have started back up, but other trials will stay online. There is still a stay home order in place so the court is taking their reopening slowly, trying to limit the amount of people gathering indoors. So the number of cases are lower than they would be in normal circumstances. Social distancing is required in court facilities, face coverings are mandatory and remote proceedings will be the norm whenever feasible. Trials and contested hearings will be in person, Felony law and motion, preliminary hearings will be remote, the Misdemeanor arraignment calendar is in person, Jury trials will start again July 8th, in Clearlake, Branch Operations, i.e., small claims/traffic/unlawful detainer are in person. Court clerk's offices are open, but there's also self help service online.

More info on the fifth Sonoma County resident who died after contracting coronavirus. The Public Health Office reports the death Sunday was that of a man over 65 with underlying medical conditions. He was brought to a hospital from a skilled nursing center and died about a day after. The day after the man died, Sonoma County reported 50 new cases of COVID-19, the biggest one-day jump since March. The last record was just on Sunday, with 32 new cases reported. Dr. Sundari Mase has not released any info on the death or recent spikes in cases but did say it raises "red flags" and that community members need to remain vigilant against the virus.

About 200 health centers across the state have closed their doors during the pandemic because the number of patient visits dropped by half – leading advocates to push for more federal relief. They do get some CARES Act funding, but the Paycheck Protection Act specifically excluded clinics with more than 500 employees. Carmela Castellano-Garcia with the California Primary Care Association says 22 of the state's largest clinics are really hurting financially.

:13 “We are swept in the funding allocations that are not specific to health-center needs. So therefore our needs have not been addressed. So that is why we will continue to push for health center-specific funding.”

Tag: The latest tranche of federal funding allocated dollars for safety-net hospitals but excluded health centers, so advocates are asking the Department of Health and Human Services to carve out a specific fund for the centers.

Second Cut: Castellano-Garcia says the state’s community health centers provide health care to millions of low-income Medi-Cal patients – a population that is only going to grow as job losses mount.

:15 “There are 1,300 sites serving 7.2 million people. We are seeing one in three of the state’s Medi-Cal recipients and one in six Californians.”

Tag: Many health centers are hanging on by offering more visits over the telephone to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Currently, 50-percent of visits are done over the phone, a trend that may persist after the pandemic subsides.

An agreement between the governor and the legislature on how to close a 54.3 billion budget deficit. The agreement will mean a delay in money to public schools and pay cuts for state workers. The deal announced yesterday will hold billions from schools, but not permanently. It also doesn’t cut into health care programs which the Governor had first announced. The new agreement features \$2.8 billion in pay cuts to state workers holding \$12 billion in payments to public schools to future years with the remainder being borrowed from restricted funds that have to be paid back. There are also other program cuts and a temporary tax hike for businesses to take in another \$4.4 billion. Then some or all could be relieved if the federal government releases more aid by October.

A man in Redwood Valley has been arrested for child abuse. The Sheriff’s office reports getting a call about a 22 year old man continually abusing a 13 year old girl. The parents called in the abuse June 6th and found Juan Diego Vazquez-Cendejas accused. They went to his house with a search warrant and found probable cause to arrest the guy of sexual abuse of a minor. After further investigation they added continuous sexual abuse of a child under 14 years of age and took him to jail on \$200,000.00 bail. They want anyone who may know him or think he may be guilty of other crimes to call the Sheriff’s office or their anonymous tip line.

A woman in Potter Valley accused of chasing a man with a knife has been arrested. Deputies got a call June 15th from a man who says his ex-girlfriend, Shaylynn Lockhart became upset and was acting erratic so he locked her out of his home. He says she broke a window and got in, then punched and scratched him, so he ran off and she chased him with a 6 inch kitchen knife. He says he then grabbed a stool to try to fend the woman off. Then police say Lockhart slashed at the victim with the knife. He hit her with the stool, knocking the knife from her hand, and she took off her clothes and started destroying property inside. Someone driving by gave the victim a ride out of there and police found Lockhart asleep in the man's house. She was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, domestic violence battery, and violation of probation and held on \$30,000.00 bail.

A man from Oregon's been arrested after an alarm went off at Laytonville High School. Deputies report they found broken glass on the door of the Special Education room and stolen computer equipment. Someone from the school with a Deputy going thru the school surveillance video saw a man when the alarm went off, so they found Rick Oxford who consented to a search of his backpack. There they found several items that were taken from a classroom so the guy was arrested for possession of stolen property and burglary and was booked into the Mendocino County Jail but not held in jail

06/24/20 after he was booked, due to coronavirus.

Schools in Ukiah have a new fall start date, moving earlier than in the past. August 17th will be the first day because more staff have to train and they need more planning time that was set to last throughout the school year. There's no other information at this time. The school system has also released info on the free Summer Food Distribution plan, that's happening today from 7 am to 1 pm. Families can pick up 15 meals for any child 18 or younger. The program is going every Wednesday at Ukiah High. There are no food deliveries by bus over summertime. A reminder from the school system to please wear a mask and practice social distancing when picking up food.

A man in Ukiah's busted for a burglary in process. A neighbor saw an unfamiliar car Sunday in the 700 block of Vichy Hills Drive so they walked up the driveway to look and heard someone inside the home. The neighbor called the homeowner who said nobody should be there, so they called police. Deputies entered the home, Kevin Dahlund, was seen standing in the kitchen and told by police to leave immediately. He was arrested after deputies found stolen items in his vehicle. He was charged with burglary and booked into the Mendocino County Jail on \$50,000.00 bail

Two people have been arrested in Ukiah after a report of shots fired on Laws Avenue. Deputies went to the area early Sunday morning and heard from witnesses, who said they heard at least 5 gun shots, then saw people running from the area. Deputies saw two men about a ½ mile away, Phillip Lopez and Julian Armas. Lopez was found to be on active Parole and Armas on active Formal Probation out of Mendocino County.

Deputies detained both men and found a 9mm handgun in a nearby flower bed. They let a police dog out who found smokeless powder used for ammunition and then deputies found 5 spent bullet casings. The men arrested for violating their probation and parole and Armas for Felon in Possession of a Firearm. Lopez held on \$25,000.00 bail. And Armas on \$75,000.00 bail.

The City of Willits is reporting finding COVID-19 in sewage. They did a test of sewer influent and say the virus was in the sewer system. The City says they're still awaiting results from Brooktrails. The sample test collection was last week.

A daily record of cases of coronavirus in Sonoma County is being attributed to the homeless on Santa Rosa streets, residents at a skilled nursing center and continued testing finding the virus in Latino neighborhoods. The Press Democrat reports Dr. Sundari Mase, the County's Public Health Officer reminding what a serious threat the virus is. Last night the County announced another 21 new cases so the County is getting close now to 1,000 cases. 437 of them are still active. Five people in the County have died due to the virus. Mase also says the recent surge could be from community spread, which is apparently the most concerning way transmission happens. It means then that the cases cannot be traced to a close contact of from travel to a hotspot.

A temporary homeless camp is being put up in western Sonoma County for those from Guerneville. The Press Democrat reports on the planned shelter due to the pandemic and risks to the homeless population. The idea to set up widely spaced tents for at least 25 people. There would be medical help, housing navigation and other services to slow the spread of the virus. They're looking at a county-owned park-and-a-ride lot off the north edge of Highway 116, after the fire marshall said no to a 5 ½ acre piece of land along the Russian River.

Health officials in Santa Clara County speaking out about the recent surge of cases in the state. The County had been one of the most aggressive with their stay home orders. The County Executive in Santa Clara is a doctor. He sounded the alarm yesterday saying one model he was looking at projected as many as 15,000 Californians could die from Covid-19 by October 1st. Santa Clara had the first death from the virus in the country in February. It was also a hot spot, but the shelter in place order helped the County flatten the curve. However their public health officer now says there are "worrisome" signs of cases accelerating.

The City of Willits and the County of Mendocino drafted a letter they want to put out to residents that they're against an unofficial July 4th parade. As we reported yesterday, a group of residents said they would have an informal parade. The letter says they're discouraging mass gatherings on the 4th in Willits. The City Council had proposed the letter to organizers of the 'Willits 4th of July' Facebook group due to the Governor's stay home order discouraging mass gatherings. This the letter goes on to say, is a violation of State and County Orders, and State Law.

The chief of police in Lakeport reporting to the City Council on policies and operations. Lake Co News reports Chief Brad Rasmussen spoke to Council at its meeting last week and spoke to the news site as use of force legislation is being advocated for. The news site reports the chief was responding to the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis in May. Rasmussen calling it a tragic incident in the city, for law enforcement, the community and elected leaders who are now getting questioned about policies and procedures related to use of force. He says what happened to Floyd was not consistent with how law enforcement should operate, or how Lakeport Police provides service to the community. Several campgrounds are closed at Yosemite National Park in California after the park started to reopen. The park is not taking at reservations for a half dozen campgrounds thru next month and only half at another after a three month closure and partial reopening... all to slow the spread of the virus after the state of Calif. set a new record, more than 6,000 new infections reported in a single day.

The City Council in Clearlake is looking to sell a piece of city owned land for a new Cannabis processing facility. The 21.25-acre property is being sold for just under \$400,000 to Kim Gardner who made a full price offer. The property was being considered for a Public Works corporation yard and animal shelter facility, but city staff said a few months back there were issues with the property for that use, including needing to move a significant amount of earth and an access road. A new animal shelter facility has already been put in at the current Public Works yard and the city is looking to move the Public Works Yard near the Lake County Sanitation District's Southeast Treatment Plant. The sale was approved unanimously by council members.

Another case of coronavirus has turned up in Lake County, creeping closer to the 50 case mark, when the Public Health Officer said he'd release more demographic info on all the cases so far. The County's hit 41 cases after a recent surge of seven cases in the last week. Dr. Pace confirmed all but one of them on Monday and Tuesday. 34 cases have recovered, so that means, they're no longer considered contagious. The County has completed almost 4,100 tests, with 277 results pending. Nearby cases, Colusa County has had 11; Glenn County has had a recent spike in cases from 42 to 66 in one day; Mendocino has also had a spike the last few days, adding 10 to get to 72 cases; Napa has 245; Sonoma, 956; and Yolo, 366.

More info on the new school year in Ukiah. We reported a mid August start earlier today. Now the School Superintendent there's several scenarios, but the priority is bringing students back into classrooms in the fall because it's the best educational option for most kids. The school district's been working on several ways to do the new school year in the midst of the pandemic including school 5 days a week with safety precautions, like as much social distancing as possible and remote learning if parents are uncomfortable sending kids to school; A hybrid model in which kids are split into two groups, they'd each go in person two days a week or be on virtual classes. And switch off the other three days, and the final idea is straight up Remote Learning if the health conditions in Mendocino County necessitate it.

Mendocino College has received a grant to continue its High School Equivalency Program (HEP). The program is expected to receive \$400,000 a year for five years, starting this coming 2020-21 academic year. The educational program's been around since 1967, serving migrant or seasonal agricultural working families. Since 2001 its served 1,000 eligible migrant/seasonal farm working students in Mendocino and Lake Counties. The school says the mission is to help migrant seasonal agricultural workers and their immediate families in both Mendocino and Lake so they can get a High School Equivalency Certificate, then get a good job, start college or enlist in the military. For more information about Mendocino College HEP please call (707) 472-7253.

Fort Bragg Police helping some officers in Sacramento for a suspected home invasion robbery. An off duty Sacramento officer called local cops to say a suspect in the home invasion robbery in Sacramento was in the area of the Noyo Bridge. Officers found his car and tried stopping him. He stopped without a problem by the McDonalds in the area and was detained. He was arrested then transferred back to Sacramento. Fort Bragg police have not released any more information, they say it's to protect the confidentiality of those involved and the investigation.

Two more cases of coronavirus have hit Mendocino County. A day after a major surge of ten cases. We are now at 74 with both the new cases people between 19 and 49 in the Ukiah Valley. The Mendocino County Public Health Office reports more than 50% of all cases in the county are now among Latino people. Tuesday saw ten more, the largest single day spike we've seen so far, they too, were all in the Ukiah Valley. The last day before that with more cases, Monday, eight new cases. The Public Health Officer 06/25/20 says all of the new cases are disproportionately affecting Latinos.

[Testing is open to the public at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah, Tl](#)
And surveillance testing is happening for residents of Point Arena and the greater south coast at the Point Arena City Hall for free. Redwood Coast Medical Services, Mendocino County Public Health, and the City of Point Arena are working together to provide this service.

Several projects by the Conservation Corps come to a close with work at the Willits Municipal Airport in Brooktrails for a fuel reduction project. The Project Manager says they're using money from their Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and from the City of Willits for the fuel reduction project which happens to also be an evacuation zone. Crews worked around the edges of the airport to clear and also burn brush for wildfire protection. They say the probably cleared about 22-27 acres over a two and a half month period. The corp may move their headquarters from Ukiah to Willits as they bought some land there, but are waiting to get their budget approved before they can start development of the new center.

Lake County poised to use the old juvenile hall facility for the homeless during the pandemic. The facility has been closed for four and a half years. The Board of Supervisors heard from the County Administrative Officer, Carol Hutchingson, who's also a member of the County Space Use Committee then approved a request for proposals for daily operations and fiscal management for a temporary support shelter for the chronically homeless. A committee tasked with finding use for the space is recommending it be used for temporary homeless services, then they will continue discussing long term use of the facility.

More than 500 food deliveries during the pandemic from Lake County's Community Food Drive Project. The new partnership with several local organizations working with North Coast Opportunities has just been at it 11 weeks and has delivered food to as many as 60 homes a week. So since the County has slowly reopened, the project is stopping their deliveries, the final one is next Thursday, July 2nd. The project was for those who had lost their jobs, had no car, were at risk to get COVID if they left their homes, or if they had a positive test. The case manager for North Coast Opportunities says they were grateful to serve during the crisis, but since the County's been reopening and people were slowly heading back to work, they decided to suspend operations.

More info in Sonoma County about the recent upsurge in cases and where they're coming from. The County Health Officer, Dr. Sundari Mase says in the first three months of the pandemic, they saw only about a dozen infections at senior care facilities, but since the beginning of June, 40 cases have turned up. One in an elderly man who died Sunday after contracting the virus in Sonoma, at a skilled nursing facility. The forty cases are in 21 residents and 19 staff members. Dr. Mase says the cases are happening because staff members were becoming infected outside the work setting, may be asymptomatic, and are then bringing in and infecting their elderly patients.

The State Superintendent of Schools says they're in need of school resource officers and he's looking at a new way to utilize police officers in schools, to protect students' safety. Superintendent Tony Thurmond says they're needed in the case of school shootings or bomb threats but they're no longer going to be able to discipline misbehaving students. He says data shows when police are on campus there are more suspensions and arrests, "particularly for African American students and other students of color." He says moving forward schools that still want an officer on campus will get cops who want to be there and have been trained on implicit bias. He now has a task force made up of legislators, researchers, law enforcement officials and advocacy groups to figure out how to address security issues at public schools.

A ban on affirmative action policies in the state more than 2 decades ago may be reinstated, if that's what voters want. The issue to be on the November ballot. Voters will say whether they want governments, public colleges and universities to consider race when making hiring and admissions decisions. The issue was banned back in 1996 by voters with a 55% majority approving of a constitutional amendment to make it unlawful to give preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin. The state Senate has now voted to repeal that, but it has to go before voters first.

The Governor is threatening to hold back as much as \$2.5 billion in the new state budget from local governments who are not complying with mandates on facial coverings, testing and other rules he says will help slow the spread of coronavirus. With strong words yesterday, Gov. Newsom says he's heard from people who just don't care and that he'll use the budget as leverage. The money he says he'll hold back helps governments pay for services related to the pandemic, but the money's attached to whether counties follow emergency orders and enforce safety measures when reopening their local economies. The state had more than 7,000 cases yesterday and 5,000 the day before, contributing to a 69% increase in new cases this week.

A whole new world for the Lake County Board of Supervisors as the chamber is reopened to the public. Next week the board will be in person, mixing virtual and physical platforms. Supervisors, county staff and some members of the public can be physically present and they'll also be able to interact with others who are in attendance virtually by way of a large video projection screen. The meeting will be accessible thru Zoom, Facebook Live or the county's online streaming platforms. They've also remodeled the chambers because of the pandemic with plexiglass between folks.

The state is reimagining its cap and trade carbon program in the midst of the pandemic and the state's recession. The Press Democrat reports the state's carbon trading program has hit almost half the greenhouse gas reductions it promised by 2030. But now the state will reportedly re-examine if it can meet the goals by that due date. The state's EPA Secretary says due to the crisis and the collapse of the world oil market, and the May 2020 Auction, they will carefully reconsider the program, which was the first of its kind in the country, and now one of the biggest pollution markets in the world.

[After a closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Mendocino Coast Botan](#)

The State Senate has unanimously passed legislation from Sens. Bill Dodd and Steve Glazer so critical facilities like hospitals, fire stations and water treatment plants can stay online in the case of a public safety power shutoff as we saw last summer by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. Dodd says as we have a possibility of more wildfires and power shutoffs on the horizon, it's essential for these important facilities to stay operational. The bill allows most essential facilities to stay online during intentional power downs with emergency backup generators. And for electricity to stay on to pump and treat water during such outages, protecting public health and safety. The bill is also sponsored by the California Municipal Utilities Association and the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.

Another case of Covid-19 in Lake County. Now up to 42 confirmed cases after 8 new cases turn up in the last week. The Public Health Office reports only 5 are active and nobody is in the hospital. And only 4 had been in the hospital. The office goes on to say most of the cases were due to recent contact with a known case and now that we've reopened a lot of businesses and there's more movement by folks, the number of contacts has risen. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace says they've been very fortunate in that most contacts have been wearing masks and social distancing, so community transmission has not been found. He does say though that two of the recent cases may have been due to contacts without masks on and they're still investigating the cases. Pace says large social gatherings, especially when combined with more regional travel, congregate living situations and high-traffic and interaction-intensive work settings are when

06/26/20 there's more risk.

The name Fort Bragg is getting a committee. The City Council had first decided not to move on a name change in light of recent racial tension, but that at a lively council meeting Monday night, there was an agreement there would be a new committee to consider the matter in response to public outcry of a new name, or a rededication of the name or to create a task force. The city's named for Braxton Bragg, a Confederate general, who also owned more than 100 slaves. The Daily Journal reports there were protesters on both sides of the issue at the meeting where they also discussed police reform. Taking a back seat to the heated discussion, the City Finance Director announced he's leaving for a new job and that the city would begin wastewater testing for early COVID detection.

A meeting of Sherwood Firewise Communities reminding folks to stay firesafe. The meeting on Zoom a couple of weeks ago with a couple dozen participants and a fire dept. volunteer. They reminded folks to sign up for SafetyNet notifications and make sure they've applied with CAL Fire for compliant address signs. They're also working with a communications expert to get a system online that connects to EchoLink to "link" HAM radios through computers and cellphones. The Fire Dept. also looking to fill a FT paid position for a Program Coordinator and they've applied for a \$25,000 grant to hire others on chipper days and brush clearing for those who are unable or just aren't complying.

The Sonoma County Public Health Officer says even though there are more cases of coronavirus, she's looking more at a trend over a two week period. The County has seen a 40% increase in the last two weeks, but Dr. Sundari Mase says she's following various metrics, hospitalizations, case rates, hospital capacity, testing volume and the case load at skilled nursing facilities. The County added 32 more cases last night for just over 1,000 cases since the pandemic started in early March. Mase says she's watching the county numbers and the state's. Right now there are several active cases and a 10% hospitalization rate.

The Gov. says no, the state will not be requiring folks who come in to the state or leave and come back to quarantine like other states recently announced. NY, New Jersey and CT have announced such a move, but Gov. Newsom says he's more interested in a mask mandate, because closing the state to others is not necessary right now. He does say however he expects visitors who come into Calif. to follow the restrictions here. Separately the governor announced the state had sent 14 million masks to Arizona, with FEMA as that state sees a surge in cases and becomes the country's number one hotspot, followed closely by Texas and Florida.

It doesn't look like the Mt. Konocti Lookout Tower will be up this fire season. It's been offline because of structural issues for some time. The Forest Fire Lookout Association California Central Western Region Director says it doesn't look like they'll be able to get the needed repairs done this fire season. That nonprofit works with local volunteers in fire seasons keeping watch from the Konocti tower's upper deck. They have apparently been some of the first to spot some Lake County fires since they started using the tower in 2015, after more than ten years of non-use. But it was closed again in October last year after a state inspection found it was unsafe for use. Coronavirus cases in some counties are doubling. Outbreaks have been reported at nursing homes and Avenal State Prison in Kings County. Corrections officials report more than 900 inmates and workers contracted the virus. In Santa Cruz County, public health officials reported 50 new cases after one person got infected at a Mother's Day gathering. More south, in Imperial County, there's concern after gatherings for Father's Day because they had spikes after Easter, Memorial Day and graduation gatherings. And Sacramento and Contra Costa counties also say they expect more cases due to holiday celebrations and protests against racial injustice. The Governor is blaming the recent surge on younger folks ignoring mask wearing and social distancing rules.

The Gov. noting the surge in cases the last several days, but says the way the state is handling the virus is driven by scientific data. Gov. Newsom did say though that his administration reserves the right to pause advancing into next phases of reopening and to use the "dimmer switch". This as cases soared this week with 5,000 new cases a day the average. Hospitalizations also up 32% the last two weeks and the positive test rate at just over 5%. LA County has the most Covid-19 cases of all counties in the nation, almost 90,000 cases as of yesterday, about half the state's 195,000 plus cases.

More cyanobacteria reported in Lake County. Water monitoring data shows concern for warning levels of Cyanotoxin at 9 sites, the Elem Indian Colony shoreline (ELEM01, Oaks Arm), Austin Park (AP01, Lower Arm), Keeling Park (KP01, Upper Arm), Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine shoreline (SBMMEL01, Oaks Arm), Buckingham (BP, Lower Arm), Jago Bay (JB, Lower Arm), CL-4 (Oaks arm, center of arm), Lily Cove (LC01, Lower Arm) and Lucerne (LUC01, Upper Arm). The Public Health Office reports because of very warm weather and extended light periods, shallow waters are perfect environments for algae to grow. There have been extensive patchy blooms around the Lake. More test results will be in next week.

More campgrounds are opening in the Mendocino National Forest. Starting next Wednesday, Cal Fire's Mendocino Unit is opening the campgrounds with limitations due to the pandemic. Visitors are being told there will be no staff on hand and all facilities are self-service with recommendations, a maximum of 6 people per campsite from one household, living unit or housing bubble, make sure you bring in your own water, sanitize frequently, and pack out what you bring in.

[A phone scam is being reported in Fort Bragg. Police warn about the calls res](#)

The Mendocino County Sheriff's office says while breaking up an illegal marijuana grow in Covelo they found a young woman who may have been a victim of human trafficking and arrested 8 people. Sheriff Matt Kendall says deputies found a 17-year-old Spanish-speaking female who said she was from Salinas, along with eight others who were quickly detained. Deputies found and confiscated a shotgun, an AR-15, and yanked more than 14,000 plants on two sites and found about 1,750 pounds of dried weed. The female teen said she was not a victim of trafficking but the Sheriff says he thinks otherwise as she didn't know a soul in Covelo and that it's dangerous for a child to be in an armed encampment, and because "this was a juvenile female causes even greater concern." She was taken by Child Protective Services and an investigation to see if she was indeed a victim has begun. Those arrested for various crimes including conspiracy, possess assault weapon, hiring or employing a minor to prepare marijuana for sale and possession of marijuana for sale.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer says the County is experiencing a surge of cases and that the United States is as well. Dr. Noemi Doohan says LA County has the most cases in the nation. She says the current surge won't peak until Sept. Dr. Doohan says the County has so far not been enforcing mask wearing or isolation for people who are infected but... SOT Dr. Doohan says if people cannot isolate, the County will help with housing or whatever is needed. Separately today, Dr. Doohan announced that according to the state there will be more than 50 people hospitalized per day in the County, which she says is very concerning. She also says here and across the state there are too many people ignoring science and not abiding by the stay home restrictions. There will be a new public health order, but no relaxing of any current orders, extending the current order until the end of July, also social and childcare bubbles back down to six people instead of 12.

Several more cases of coronavirus have turned up in Lake County, reaching more than 50. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace confirmed the cases jumped by 12 for 54 total cases, 16 are active, and three are in the hospital, including one taken out of County for "a higher level of care". Pace says community transmission has probably happened at this point as the new cases come from a variety of sources. He says it's happening across the region and in Calif. there was a daily record for new infections for five days in a row as people interact more due to a loosening of restrictions. He reminds that face coverings limit the spread as well as not going to large social gatherings. He says when people aren't as careful, that's when there's more spread. Dr. Pace previously said he wouldn't release any demographic information until they reach more than 50 cases, so he says today, that info

06/29/20 will be published.

Since the middle of the month casinos in Lake County have started reopening. But Gov. Newsom sent a letter to tribal leaders to stay in alignment with the states' reopening plans, warning about overcrowding potentially starting another wave of infections. But the Konocti Vista Casino Resort says they're excited to get back to a kind of daily normal life. They're taking precautions though, cashiers have barriers around them, it's a requirement to wear a face mask the whole time, unless eating or drinking. There will be temperature checks and encouraging social distancing. They're also nonsmoking now.

The Calif. Gov. Gavin Newsom says cases are surging so counties that have been on a watch list have to close bars. They include Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, San Joaquin, and Tulare. The state is also recommending the same for bars in Contra Costa, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Ventura. Newsom is reminding that COVID-19 is still circulating in California, and in some areas, it's stronger. The state public health officer says they're driven by data and science in the way they're monitoring new outbreaks and says closing bars in those counties is just one way of many targeted actions to slow the virus' spread and reduce risk. Also, to remind about mask wearing, socially distancing yourself from others and wash your hands frequently.

The cases of COVID-19 continuing surging, in Mendocino County, there are no new weekend numbers and the state has not posted any new numbers for the county in at least a week. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer, Dr. Noemi Doohan instructed if the County wasn't posting numbers to check with the state...

SOT

Last week Doohan said we had the biggest one day count of cases with ten of them and that there were increasing numbers each day. As of the last update, we had 76 with 10 being attributed to community spread. Dr. Doohan reminds to wear a mask, socially distance, not gather in large groups. She's also rewinded a bit on the Public Health Order, the bubbles or work or childcare groups that were as many as 12 people, are now 6. And Dr. Doohan says she won't be changing the Order for a month.

Another arrest in Covelo in relation to an illegal marijuana grow. The Sheriff's Office working with their own Major Crimes Task Force, Mendocino County Probation, Lake County Sheriff's Office, the FBI, DEA and other law enforcement agencies with the help of the Round Valley Tribal Police brought a search warrant to the grow and found Johnny Azbill with a gun falling at his feet as he ran away. They knew he was not allowed to have any sort of weapon or ammo due to his criminal history. They searched the area and found another gun. There was also another man and woman detained, but released. More than 8350 marijuana plants were growing and green houses were also found there. Azbill was arrested on felon in possession of firearms, cultivating and possessing marijuana for sale.

A call to the Sheriff's office from a woman in Laytonville ends in the arrest of a man for holding her against her will. Deputies got a call about another domestic violence incident at the same address, but Ethan Becker ran. The woman says she had a fight with Becker who attacked her. They put out a be on the lookout for the guy for domestic violence battery and false imprisonment charges. The other call from the woman ended up with the man showing back up at the house and being arrested after attacking and putting the woman in a chokehold. She was rescued by neighbors. The pair in a relationship for ten years ends up with Becker charged with domestic violence battery, false imprisonment and criminal threats and held on \$50,000. Before his arrest, police say he tried to kill himself with a knife, but he was finally taken to jail.

COVID testing in Mendocino County is available today. The testing site at the Fairgrounds is closed on Monday, but there's surveillance testing for coronavirus for residents of Point Arena and the greater south coast starting this morning at 9:30 a.m. at the Point Arena City Hall. There are about 100 tests available, and testing is free. Redwood Coast Medical Services, Mendocino County Public Health, and the City of Point Arena are working together to provide this service. For more information, you can call the Point Arena City Hall at 707.882.2122.

A man from Fort Bragg has been arrested for a burglary at a local thrift store. Sheriff's deputies reported to the Ark Thrift Store for a rip off of about \$3,500.00 worth of store merchandise. Managers of the store showed deputies surveillance footage and saw Shawn Spiller stealing items, then putting it outside in brush. Deputies say they got a call to Hare Creek Beach that Spiller was in the area. They found him and arrested him without incident for burglary. He was taken to jail and found to have a couple other cases he was violating probation for, so he had those charges tacked on. But due to the pandemic, he was released on zero bail.

A man from Willits has been arrested after Deputies conduct compliance checks for those registered as sex offenders in the County. The Sheriff's Office and Mendocino County Office of Adult Probation were in Willits and Ukiah, and visited seven registered sex offenders to make sure the place they were living was in compliance with the Probation or Parole conditions. Two were found out of compliance, one of them in Willits was found with meth in his possession and other items that went against his parole. He was arrested and held on \$75,000.00 bail. The other man in Willits, was being investigated for possible violations, but he was not arrested during the compliance checks.

A woman from Gualala has been arrested for domestic violence. Deputies got a call to the incident last Thursday where a young man says he was living with Yessica Tapia and she physically assaulted him at their place. They say he had several visible minor injuries in alignment with his story. They found the woman at the home and found more evidence to corroborate the man's story and arrested Tapia for domestic violence, battery and resisting arrest after trying with words to get her to listen but say she would not cooperate, she was held on \$25,000.00 bail.

A man in Mendocino's been arrested for public intoxication. Deputies got a call Saturday afternoon after the CHP and Calif. State Park Rangers were holding the man who had an active felony arrest warrant for violation of probation and who was on active felony probation with a term he was not allowed to use alcohol. They say he was heavily intoxicated and unable to exercise care for his own safety or the safety of others so he was arrested. They also found he was in possession of multiple items that belonged to another person. So he was charged with public intoxication, violation of probation, and his felony warrant. Deputies also sent an additional charge of misappropriation of found property to the District Attorney's office.

There's a red flag warning in Lake County until tonight. The National Weather Service says there will be windy, dry, critical fire condition weather. The warning started last night and ends today by 5 for areas above 1,500 feet in elevation across southern and eastern Lake County, mostly the north- and east-facing upper slopes and ridges to the southeast of Kelseyville and Lucerne. The winds are forecasted at 12 to 20 miles per hour today and winding down later this afternoon. There was a prediction though of possible 25 to 35 mile per hour winds earlier today. There are also light winds forecasted thru the middle of the week, but so far, no red flag warnings or high winds.

06/30/20 [Residents in Mendocino County getting a gentle reminder from Cal Fire that fi](#)

Besides the emergency of Covid-19 in Calif. we are also in the midst of fire season. So State Senator Mike McGuire is hosting a tele-town hall on wildfire preparedness with guests like Cal Fire chiefs from our area, the Mendocino and Lake county sheriffs, and a representative from Pacific Gas & Electric. The meeting is NEXT Tuesday, July 7th at 6:30 p.m. Topics to include how law enforcement is preparing for wildfire season during the pandemic and how PG&E is working to reduce the frequency and duration of planned public safety power shutoffs.

[You can attend by dialing 844-721-7241 and entering the code 6666128, and](#)

A grant could help pay for more biking and walking trails in Ukiah. Walk and Bike Mendocino and the City of Ukiah are reportedly applying for a grant to add a three mile section of trail. Walk and Bike is asking the public for input on their draft plan which they say is important to the project. They're looking to add the trail section from Commercial Drive to Plant Road. There's a section already running from Brush St. to Commerce Drive. The new area would convert old decaying railroad tracks to a bike path and park. Walk and Bike and the City of Ukiah say they'd like the trail to eventually become part of the Northern California Great Redwood Trail.

Several cases of coronavirus have turned up at marijuana grows in Humboldt County. Kym Kemp reporting a Southern Humboldt cannabis grow had a mini outbreak, but the Public Health Officer in the County didn't confirm or deny. Dr. Teresa Frankovich did however say there was general concern about legal and illegal gardens and making sure people who work there get tested and stay safe. The spike in cases last week, nine positives Wednesday and five, Thursday.

The paving project at the Ukiah airport is finally done. The nearly \$4 million dollar project paid for by the Federal Aviation Administration to replace 75 feet of center runway, install a new blast pad, and a surface treatment for the rest of the runway. They've also updated some of the lighting, pavement markings and signs. The airport is also a major transportation hub for emergency services and a FedEx Ship Center. The airport is having other critical infrastructure updated too including repairing buildings, parking areas and adding security fencing.

Some recent road construction projects in Ukiah as part of the streetscape project. This week they're finishing up sewer line replacements between Perkins and Smith streets and are now replacing waterlines there. Workers are allowing pedestrian access to businesses but say it's messy work. They're doing pipe "bursting" and other related construction activities on State Street between Church Street and Henry Street and the intersections of State and Church streets, State and Perkins streets, State and Standley streets, and State and Smith streets.

A man in Ukiah charged in the murder of another man has his trial set. Mavrick Fisher's lawyer asked for a continuance, but the court decided to move forward with a Settlement Conference/Trial Setting Conference on July 21st. and the Jury Trial set for Aug. 21st. The case was continued due to the pandemic, but will now go on related to the murder of Grant Whitaker of Mackinaw, Illinois last October. Fisher's charged with not only murder, but assault with a deadly weapon and grand theft of a firearm. He pleaded not guilty last year and had a jury trial set for January, it was continued to March and that too was continued. The victim's remains were found last August on a remote property in Scotts Valley. The two, both deaf, had traveled to No. Calif together, then the Illinois man was reported missing by The Deaf Report. The Sheriff's office say Fisher admitted to killing Whitaker and gave directions to find his body and found it.

As promised, the Lake County Public Health Officer has released demographic information on COVID-19 cases. Dr. Gary Pace had promised the info when the county hit 50 cases, which happened this weekend. He says he'll updated it every week. So of the 56 cases so far, including two new ones confirmed last night, about half were from known cases. There have been 19 cases in Clearlake; 13 along the Northshore; 12 in Lakeport and north Lakeport areas; 7 from Kelseyville to Cobb; and 5, in an area covering another part of Clearlake, and Middletown, Hidden Valley and Lower Lake. Six cases are still being investigated, four presumably came from a work contact, 4 are unknown and two from a living situation, which could include a jail or nursing home. Most cases in those 18 to 49 years of and only five in the elderly and three under 17 years old.

Two more cases of coronavirus in Lake County to bring the total number to 56. 18 are currently active cases, 38 have recovered and are no longer considered contagious. Three people, however, are in the hospital and in an ICU. Dr. Gary Pace, the Public Health Officer says the cases are surging as there's more movement and reopenings. He's reminding to wear a mask and practice social distancing. The County has conducted more than 4,800 tests and 717 are still pending. Mendocino has also had 2 more cases since last week, for a total of 78.

Ukiah schools will have a Citizens' Oversight Committee related to Measure A money. The funds for the repair and modernization of schools. It's a state requirement to have an oversight committee whenever a local bond gets passed to be sure the money is used the way voters intended and to be sure the public knows where the money is going. The committee made up of at least seven volunteers who have to serve for two years. They are community at large, one business, one senior organization, one taxpayer organization, and parents with children in the District. The committee meetings are public and only 2-3 times a year.

Mendocino College will be mostly online in the fall. And registration is currently open at the college. The semester starts Aug. 17th. The college says they've been trying to figure out creative ways to move to the virtual platform due to COVID-19. So most of the classes will be totally online but a limited number will also be hybrid, partly online, partly in person, for example, auto classes, nursing and other career education courses and some art, music and science labs will have limited on-campus classes. The VP of Academic Affairs says the goal is to keep students safe while providing an engaging, high-quality learning environment due to current restrictions.

Two more people in Sonoma County have died due to complications from coronavirus. The county's top public health official Dr. Sundari Mase confirmed the deaths happened Sunday and Monday. They were residents of a skilled nursing center and a residential care home. She didn't give any other information out. So now seven people have died from Covid-19 in the county. The county reported the fifth death last weekend in a man over 65 with previous health conditions. He has also lived at a skilled nursing center, but died at a hospital a day after he was transferred. The deaths come at a time of a major surge in cases in the state. The Gov. has also reported hospitalizations shot up by around 43% in the past two weeks, and that the state's positivity rate was up during the same time period from 4.4% to 5.5%. A neighborhood in Santa Rosa says it wants a cut of the \$1 billion PG&E settlement related to wildfires in 2017 and 2018. Santa Rosa is getting \$92 million after legal fees and litigation costs next month. Coffey Park lost more than 1,420 homes in the Tubbs fire in 2017. After the fire the group Coffey Strong emerged. On Sunday their board members discussed getting a chunk of the \$92 million dollars. The city is reportedly planning to hold meetings on the distribution of funds.

The Golden State Killer admits it all. A former cop who previously admitted to police that he was the one who terrorized people across the state as the Golden State Killer and East Side Rapist, makes it official. Joseph James DeAngelo Jr. pleaded guilty, barely audibly in court as part of a plea deal so he would not face the death penalty. After DeAngelo was arrested in he told police investigators he did it all, admitting he murdered and raped across the state, but it was his alter ego Jerry, who forced him to commit a string of crimes that stretched over many years, ending abruptly in 1986. The deal called for him to plead guilty to 13 murders and dozens of rapes too old to prosecute.

More information on a shooting rampage in Red Bluff that left one man dead and four others shot and injured. The assistant sheriff in Tehama County says Louis Wesley Lane had been fired from the Walmart distribution center near Red Bluff in February 2019 after he didn't report to work. He showed up this past weekend and pulled a semi-automatic rifle and shot randomly at people in the lobby of the building then had a shootout with police after they reported to the scene. Police say there's no motive yet, just that he used to work at the center.

Gov. Gavin Newsom says about three-quarters of the 40 million residents in Calif live in a county with concerning coronavirus numbers. The Gov. says he's going to get stricter with health orders and if things don't turn the corner, there may be a pause in the state's reopening. He's already ordered bars in 7 counties, including Los Angeles, which has been dubbed a hotspot for COVID. Three of the state's largest counties have also voluntarily agreed to close bars, San Diego, Riverside and Sacramento. 19 Calif. counties are on a watch list due to spiking cases, infection rates and hospitalizations.