

KWNE-KMKX FFC Reports Q3, 2023

07/03/2023

Clearlake Police are looking for a missing man named Charles Ness. He was last seen on Friday evening before at 6:30pm on a mountain bike on Old Highway 53 in Clearlake. He may have been headed to J&L Market, according to Lake County News. He is a white man just over 6 feet tall and weighs around 250 pounds. Ness has brown hair shaved short with hazel eyes. He was last seen in blue baggy jeans and a shirt. Please call Clearlake Police if you have any information on Charles Ness.

Clearlake Police have found a missing teen from last week. 13 year old Ismael Orozco was found after being reported missing Thursday.

A 6 six old was swept away in a river east of Covelo Saturday night. It happened at Etsel Ridge and Mendocino Pass Roads. The child was pulled from the water and emergency personnel began performing CPR. Sadly, the child passed away, according to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

An ATV accident killed a woman over the weekend. Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies and CHP are investigating an ATV tipped over on a narrow trail near Young Creek Road in Ukiah on Saturday. Apparently, the woman began tipping, got out and tried to stop the ATV from falling when the machine fell on her. The 54-year-old woman died on the way to the hospital. Authorities are investigating.

Willits Police were called to a rolling road rage incident where a man pulled a gun at another driver and followed them. Willits Police tried to stop the vehicle but the suspect sped away. CHP and the Mendocino County Deputies were brought in. The victim knew who the suspect was and led police to Shannon Henson, who was on probation. The victim said Henson tried to run their car with kids inside off the road. Deputies used a K9 officer who tracked Henson down. Henson is on probation and a convicted felon. He was taken into the county jail and charged with at least 7 felony violations, including domestic violence, stalking, child endangerment, assault with a deadly weapon and more, according to a Willits Police Department release.

The City of Ukiah is hosting an "All-American Picnic in the Park" tomorrow from 10a to 2pm at Todd Grove Park. Games, music, kids activities and more will be on hand for the Independence Day celebration. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority will serve up free hot dogs until they are out.

CalTrans has reported some roadwork this week. On Highway 175 tree work will begin west of Diener Road on Wednesday with slight delays. On Highway 1 in Mendocino County bridge work continues in Fort Bragg on the Pudding Creek Road and Bridge with major delays weekdays till 7pm. On Highway 20 paving continues near Road 10. It began last Friday with 10 minute delays for travelers from 7a to 6pm. On Highway 253 utility work concluded last Friday at Singley Cattlepass. On Highway 271 road work in Piercy continue with a full road closure in effect weekdays from 7a to 6p.

Sheet1

California State Parks announced their work with location technology called what3words. The program gives dispatchers technology to help people when they get lost, stranded or otherwise need emergency help. In a posting in Lake County News, what3words gives users simple ways to communicate their location. It divides the area into a grid of 10 x 10 feet with letters for each square being a word. Every public space will have its own what3words address. The program is free to download on both Apple and Android devices. The program covers Earth and all of California's 280 state parks and campgrounds. The what3words grid can also be used for directions to a specific place for people not experiencing an emergency.

The Emergency Warming Shelter Director Yvonne Cox was fired and spoke at last week's board of supervisors meeting in Lakeport. During a public comment period, she discussed paying out of pocket expenses for last three months for food and cleaning supplies up to \$2,400 per month. According to the Record Bee, she said her termination was a "hostile takeover" being replaced by someone who is inexperienced. She also said her replacement has been accused of "misappropriating funds." Sunrise Special Services issued a release last week thanking her for her service. The Co-founder of Sunrise Special Services says they remain in compliance and good standing with the state and Lake County. The company said Cox's statements were slanderous and accusations of illegal spending are false. The program manager at Lake County Behavioral Health Services says as of last week, the next phase of operating the shelter had not yet been awarded to the company, with another applicant in the wings.

Officials are predicting a marine mammal die off that is in Southern California will spread to the North Coast. The Press Democrat reports sea lions and dolphins are showing up poisoned by toxic algae. Domoic acid is the neurotoxin that is killing animals on the shore. There have been 20 people bitten by sea lions with domoic acid in their systems, making them more aggressive. Back in 2016 the Dungeness crab season was delayed due to high domoic acid concentrations in crab. This time, the toxin is being found in larger mammals. Rescue centers like the Marine Mammal Center in Marin County are keeping watch and groups along the North Coast are preparing.

A Mendocino County judge refused to reconsider an appeal by the Skunk Train Friday. Mendocino Railway requested Superior Court Judge Nadel to set aside her judgment a month ago, where she decided the railway did not have power to seize landowner John Meyer's land for the train. The judge her limited arguments from the railway company in a hearing Friday, but said she was disinclined to reconsider her decision, according to the Press Democrat. The railway president says he will appeal, based on a letter from the California Public Utility Commissions confirmation of the train as a common carrier. The commission said they are a "regulated railroad, but not a public utility." Meyer's property west of Willits has been the center of the eminent domain claim by the Skunk Train for over two years.

California State University proposed higher undergrad and graduate school tuition by 6 percent each year, starting fall of 2024. Thursday, the school published the proposal that would raise rates by over \$1,000 by 2028. Cal State leaders are proposing an increase each year for at least the next five years. CalMatters reports that the board will hear the formal proposal at it's next meeting on July 11. If approved, they would vote on the tuition increase in September. With a \$1.5 billion deficit, last spring raising rates was discussed to fill the budget hole. The proposal would increase the university's revenue by nearly \$150 million in year 1 and up to over \$800 million by year 5.

Sheet1

A new law protecting pigs took effect on Saturday in the state. Voters approved legislation that gets pregnant pigs out of small cages where they can't stand or turn. The state is giving farmers and retail stores time to adjust to the new rules to avoid pork shortages. The bill includes protections for laying hens and calves for veal. Proposition 12 was approved by voters in 2018 that mandated more space for sows, allowing the mother freer movement. The US Supreme Court upheld the law when pork producers appealed. KTLA reports pork ranchers have had to adapt to protect gestating sows without caging them in. Bacon, which can be frozen shouldn't necessarily increase in price, but fresh pork may be a bit steeper.

As the wildfire season warms up and reminders about illegal fireworks are everywhere, the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County is offering pet owners a handy tip to keep animals calm. Mendocino News Plus posted a Box Fan Hack on Facebook over the weekend. They say to aim a fan toward where fireworks sounds are coming from inside your home. They say it's ideal for dogs with sound sensitivity, noise reactivity, thunderstorms and fireworks. The air currents bounce off walls and help break up sound waves. It makes hearing a specific sound outside harder and can help pets withstand our Independence Day booms.

Fort Bragg Police arrested a fugitive from Washington, wanted for attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon. In a release posted on social media, Charles Nutter was caught Friday night. Residents reported that the 30 year old from Spokane was seen at the Safeway acting erratically. There are no additional details as to how police were able to arrest Nutter.

Now that the U-S Supreme Court has declared affirmative action in college admissions unconstitutional, private colleges in the state will have to find other ways to support diversity in the schools. Public universities in California had to change their strategy back after voters banned race-conscious admissions, passing Prop 209 in 1996. Mamie Voight with the Institute for Higher Education Policy says schools should recruit heavily from high schools in low-income communities of color. Advocates also call on schools to promote equity by eliminating legacy admissions and beefing up financial aid to low-income students, according to the California News Service.

07/05/2023 Clearlake Police are searching for a missing woman named Brittany Spurling. The 29 year old was last seen in Lakeport on June 20. Brittany is white, and 5 feet 4 inches tall weighing around 130 pounds. She has blond hair and blue eyes. If you have any information on Brittany Spurling, please call Clearlake Police.

Another shaker hit the shore in Mendocino County on the 4th of July. A magnitude 3.9 quake jolted residents west of the North Coast just before 8am. On Monday, a 4.0 quake hit on the Mendocino fault west of Cape Mendocino, according to NBC Bay area news and KymKemp.

The City of Willits posted a temporary swimming pool closure today online. There was a failure in the pumping system. The city is working to fix the problem.

Sheet1

Lake County is getting one new CHP officer. Lake County News reports California has over 100 new CHP officers after their graduation ceremony at the Capital last week. CHP now has over 6,500 sworn officers in the state. Another new class of 128 cadets are expected to join classes at the CHP academy bringing the number of new men and women to the highway patrol to 366. That will bring in the highest number of cadets to train in over a decade. The training takes about half a year before officers can officially report to stations across California. The office would like to hire 1,000 new officers after they began the "Join the CHP 1,000" campaign.

A man near Willits was bit several times by a rattlesnake on Saturday, according to reports in KymKemp. CalFire Howard Forest was called by a man just before 10pm, who had been bitten and tried to drive himself to a nearby hospital, when he couldn't continue and stopped in front of the Little Lake Willits Fire Department. Medical personnel got there and took him to get medical attention. Officials say symptoms of rattle snake venom includes extreme pain and swelling at the bite location, excessive bleeding, nausea, swelling in the mouth and throat, trouble breathing collapse and even shock. UC Davis urges washing the wound with soap and removing watches rings and other jewelry near the bite.

The summer heat in Norcal is helping snowmelt mosquitoes. KCRA reports the record snowfall's melt surged over the weekend pushing the mosquitoes out of hibernation. A Mosquito and Vector Control District manager says if things stay over 100 this month, we'll get even more of the pest, basically going from zero to one hundred. The population density depends on location, elevation and snowmelt conditions.

A suspect accused of assaulting people in Healdsburg was found dead in a parking lot Monday morning. Healdsburg Police were sent to a lot on Matheson Street after 10am, where with medical personnel where they pronounced him dead. Sonoma County officials have yet to id the man. In a Nixle alert around 11am police closed off the area where they found him. Police reported getting calls on the man who apparently assaulted people downtown and was threatening more with a hammer. Authorities learned he had been fighting with a group of people before he was found. The Press Democrat reports an autopsy will be performed to help find out how the man died. Anyone with information about the man in Healdsburg is asked to call police.

In a case first reported on Monday, we have more information on a fugitive from Washington. Willits Police have issued a release about a homeless man who was assaulted while sleeping last Thursday morning. Willits Police discovered Charles Nutter was a suspect, with a heads up from Spokane Police that he was wanted for stabbing a homeless man there on June 6th. Fort Bragg Police arrested Nutter Friday night, and took him to the Mendocino County jail as he waits to be extradited back to Washington.

There was an accident after a vehicle rolled off of Highway 20 near mile marker 27. An air ambulance was called to help a trapped person get out of the crash 300 feet down an embankment west of Willits. The dog, that may have fallen out of the rolling vehicle and is still missing. Her name is Gracie, and older dog with a heart condition. She is a 40 pound dog, micro-chipped and wearing a black harness with tags. She appears to be a border collier Australian shepherd mix. You can see a picture of her and more details of the accident on social media on the Mendocino Action News page.

Sheet1

The Clearlake City Council will meet Thursday for a budget workshop and regular meeting at Clearlake City Hall. The annual financial report and audit will be presented for the fiscal year 2021-2022, according to Lake County News. The council will discuss benefits plans and consider a 3 percent cost of living increase for city workers. Other items on the agenda include a bid award for the City Hall Remodel Project of over \$1.2 million. The council will discuss authorizing a side letter with the Clearlake Police Officer Association and the Clearlake Middle Management Association.

Lake County is receiving \$2.4 million as part of infrastructure funds from the California Transportation Commission. The commission approved about \$2 billion last week to improve infrastructure and also approved \$2.3 billion in future work. Lake County News reports the Lake County funds will support roadway and guardrail upgrades, left-turn lanes, lighting, pedestrian lights and curb ramps on Route 29 near Middletown. An additional \$2.7 million has been earmarked for emergency work on embankment repairs and drainage work on Route 175 near Lakeport. Another nearly \$2 million will fund roadway, drainage repairs and more on US 101 in Humboldt, Mendocino and Lake Counties. More projects are slated along Route 1 in Mendocino County at Navarro Ridge Road. Local projects of around \$6 million will go to fund Ukiah Urban Core Rehabilitation and Transportation Project.

Monday's temperatures marked the hottest day on the planet according to the Press Democrat. Earth's average temperature rose to nearly 63 degrees for the first time in history. In a report by the University of Maine with information from NOAA, July 3rd beat the previous temperature by just a few tenths of 62.4 about a year ago. Researchers say climate change and El Nino may have contributed to Monday's heat. And scientists say this summer could get even hotter. Locally, Sonoma County and inland areas were about 20 degrees cooler than normal.

California's State Assembly got a new speaker Friday. Assemblyman Robert Rivas was sworn in as the first legislator from a rural district to hold that office in modern history, according to the AP. The Democrat representing the Central Coast is replacing Speaker Anthony Rendon who terms out at the end of next year after serving in the lower house as leader for the last 7 years. At the Capital Fri day he said priorities include housing and homelessness, he hopes to improve public services and infrastructure while fighting climate change. The position change was bumpy as former Speaker Rendon fought to stay in power. Rivas was chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee prior to the new position.

A controlled burn is planned for this weekend in Lakeport. Lake County News reports the Lakeport Fire Protection District will work on the prescribed burn from 8am Saturday through noon. The blaze is set for land near Larrecou Lane and Lakeport Blvd. Residents will see smoke during the burn, and are asked to stay away to let firefighters do their work.

Voting begins for Women in Cannabis at the California State Fair Cannabis Awards to on July 23rd. The Women, Weed and Wellness categories include California Educator of the Year, Thought Mother of the Year and Legacy Woman of the Year. The group Club Kindness joined with the state fair to spotlight women in the cannabis industry, who educate, influence and advance plant medicine. They are showcased on the voting portal page. Voting for women in cannabis is open until Friday, July 14th. Check out ClubKindness on their website for more information.

Sheet1

The Round Valley Tribal community is hoping a skate board legend will help bring in funds for a skate park. The town of Covelo is hoping Tony Hawk will visit to publicize the creation of the skate park project. Hawk founded The Skatepark Project over 2 decades ago for guidance and grants in low-income communities to build safe public skate parks. His non-profit has helped well over 600 skate parks in the nation with over \$11 million in grants. The Press Democrat reports young people have been dying in the community, with a teen girl who was murdered earlier this year. The tribal community hopes a skate park will help people come together, after seeing positive results with their portable ramps and boards monthly at a recreation center. They're hoping to have a competition including Hawk to raise money for the project.

California Highway Patrol issued a report on the outcome of the maximum enforcement period through Independence Day. 68 people were killed in crashes in California between Friday evening and midnight on the 4th. Nearly half those who passed were not wearing a seat belt. Across the state, deputies wrote more than 9,700 speeding tickets. And CHP officers made over 1,200 arrests for driving under the influence. The next maximum enforcement period is scheduled for Labor Day

07/06/2023 Weekend, according to Lake County News.

California Highway Patrol issued a release about an ATV rollover on the Cow Mountain OHV area on the border of Mendocino County. Saturday morning after 7am, five people were in a Wrangler when it rolled off the road and ejected the driver and several passengers. The driver, Felipe Ramirez of Rohnert Park was killed during the crash. Several others weren't hurt, but one person did have with minor injuries. The incident on Scotts Creek Road happened on BLM land. The accident is under investigation.

There was a three acre fire that threatened buildings in Kelseyville. Residents in the area were asked to evacuate. It started around 4pm yesterday. The Sylar Fire burned near Sylar Lane and State Street. Within half an hour, forward progress was stopped according to scanner traffic. Firefighters were putting out spot fires as they contained the blaze, according to reports in KymKemp.

Lake County officials will hold public meetings to help thousands of residents figure out if they meet the reinstated requirements for Medicaid and more. Lake County News reports increased eligibility requirements are back after the COVID emergency. Counties are now required to process redeterminations. All active Medi-Cal residents will be reviewed over the next year according to Lake County Social Services. There are over 37,000 recipients in the county that need to go through the process. They are asking residents who are on Medi-Cal to check your contact information and watch your mail. Lake County Social Services will be in their Anderson Ranch Parkway in Lower Lake to help Monday thru Friday 8am to 5pm.

Lawmakers with law enforcement representatives and tribal leaders will meet today at 1pm to learn about a new law on the Feather Alert. AB1314 mandates that the public is notified when children are abducted or missing, or when seniors are missing. In a release issued by Assemblymen Ramos and Wood in MendoFever the groups will meet to discuss violence against Native American people, in particularly women and girls. More Native Americans than any other state live in California that also has the sixth highest death rate of indigenous women. The new Feather Alert system is aimed to help authorities work with the public to help find missing people. The meeting today will be at the Coyote Valley Casino in Redwood Valley with a roundtable discussion from 1 to about 4pm, then cultural presentations until 5pm.

Sheet1

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Mendocino College announced it received a \$1.5 million grant from the California Community College system. The five-year grant will help the school continue providing resources, support and more to their Native American students. The college plans to hire staff and facilitate even more significant engagement with tribal communities. Mendocino College recently boasted the highest number of Native American students in California's community colleges. Some of the college's work for Native Americans this year included moving their Native American Student Resource Center to a better location near Pomo Plaza. They have a tribal community that shares cultural content with supplemental support. The college adopted an official Land Acknowledgement, has renamed the main quad as Pomo Plaza and added more cultural events and more.

The Unified Cannabis Enforcement Taskforce just issued a release on quarter two results of their work this year. The taskforce more than doubled the amount of illegal plants seized in quarter 1 statewide. The retail value of their results is about \$109 million dollars. From April through June, they seized over three times the number of firearms. The report summarizes this year's plants seized to over \$160 million dollars. The taskforce was created last year to support the cannabis industry along with the local and federal partners. Their mission in part is to halt transnational criminal organizations, like cartels and gangs to safeguard the environment, the legal industry and residents of California.

A Mendocino County Deputy is credited with saving the life of an overdose patient with the administration of Narcan. It happened Monday morning when the call came in of an unresponsive man in Ukiah on Orr Street. The Narcan was given and the man was taken to Adventist Ukiah Valley. Narcan or Naloxone began widely available to Mendocino County Sheriff's Office in 2019. In 2021 the California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard reported that Mendocino County ranked 2nd in all opioid overdose deaths. Officials want to remind people that Narcan can reverse the effects of an overdose for up to an hour, but medical help should be sought right away.

California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways is accepting applications from marina owners for grants in 2024. KymKemp reports in a release that the federal Boating Infrastructure Grants could fund up to three quarters of private and public marinas for renovations and upgrades, through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. Grants are aimed at enhancing access to recreational, historic, cultural and scenic resources. They are focused on strengthening community ties to the water's edge, promoting public/private partnerships, and promote awareness of transient boating opportunities. Information for interested applicants is available by contacting Ethan Tratner at 916-902-8823.

Sheet1

The city of Ukiah approved a permit for MedStar ambulance. The medical transportation company can operate out of a site on North State Street with non-emergency ambulances. During a public hearing in late June, the Planning Manager said the permit applied to a couple of buildings on a lot with the front building set for administrative purposes and the rear building proposed for staff quarters. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports Zoning Administration discussed noise complaints surrounding sirens the lights of the ambulance rigs. Conditions were set to allow sirens and lights once they reach State Street. The permit was approved after they discussed adding more ambulances to the site just in case.

Cal Fire is getting 24 more firefighting aircraft. The Record Bee reports the department is beefing up its air operations for a second year in a row. Over \$72 million in funding was given by Governor Newsom's administration. This year, 19 helicopters and 5 planes were secured to help the statewide efforts in fighting wildfires. The 3 fixed wing aircraft tankers can carry up to 4,000 gallons of retardant and are strategically placed in regions across the state, including in Humboldt, Napa and Sonoma Counties. Cal Fire reiterates their request that people not fly drones over areas with fire activity, so their air operations can do their work helping firefighters. Researches and fire officials are warning with the latest round of heat and extra vegetation this year's season could be worse than last year.

The Department of Cannabis Control and Mendocino County have streamlined their licensing process for cultivation. In a Canna Note today, they announced Ascent Environmental is contracted to work on an environmental impact report on cultivation in the county. The California Department of Cannabis Control will be the lead agency overseeing Mendocino County in all licenses going forward. The department is reminding those who are licensed that the transition to state licensure requires local permitting.

07/07/2023 A controlled burn is planned for this weekend in Lakeport. Lake County News reports the Lakeport Fire Protection District will work on the prescribed burn from 8am Saturday through noon. The blaze is set for land near Larrecou Lane and Lakeport Blvd. Residents will see smoke during the burn, and are asked to stay away to let firefighters do their work.

The Annual Police Actives League Fishing Clinic is happening tomorrow from 8am to 1pm at Joe Moura's Pond on Ocean View Drive in Fort Bragg. The event is free for all coastal kids grades preschool to 5th graders, and must have a parent or guardian with them. The clinic will teach how to fish and clean it up to eat, according to the Advocate News.

Mendocino Land Trust volunteers will meet at the Hare Creek Beach Steward program from 10am to noon at the Mendocino College Coast Center. The clean-up event includes pulling invasive plants, picking up trash and maintaining the trail. The clean-up day happens on each second Saturday of the month. Volunteers should dress to get dirty for the event tomorrow, according to the Advocate News.

The 5th Annual Virtual Broadband Summit is early next month to discuss efforts across the North State to bridge the digital divide. The North State Planning and Development Collective is hosting the event set for August 3rd. State, local, federal and North Coast leaders will be there to work on connecting everyone in the north state. The event registration is underway. You can find a link to register at the North State Planning Development Collective online.

Sheet1

California has begun the process of creating its own supply of Naloxone through the CalRx Initiative. The program, announced by the governor early this year sets aside \$30 million to work with partners to develop, manufacture and distribute a Naloxone nasal spray. The medication, also called NarCan can reverse opioid overdoses and save lives. Lake County News reports the USDA recently approved increased access to the drug for over-the-counter-use. The aim of the state is to create an affordable version more accessible to communities across California. CalRx has been working to secure manufacturing essential drugs that are affordable to its residents.

A Laytonville man was arrested by Ukiah Police and is in the Mendocino County Jail waiting to be extradited to Sacramento for attempted murder charges. Sacramento Police say they found a woman with a gunshot wound early in the morning of June 25. Jeremy Marchi is the suspect in the shooting crime, and had allegedly violated state parole with a warrant in Mendocino County. Marchi was arrested last Monday on charges of violating parole, petty theft and attempted murder. Marchi had been arrested 2 years ago for mail thefts around the Capital, according to KymKemp. Since then Sacramento had been looking for him, and plan to extradite him back to face attempted murder charges for the woman who he apparently shot.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife has a project studying snake fungal disease, or SFD that has seen an uptick in the state. The three year study has so far utilized surveillance that has found new cases. It began in 2019 when the department confirmed a couple of detections of the pathogen. SFD was found in samples discovered from skin swab samples throughout the state. Snakes infected appear to have scabs, have crusty or flaking scales, open wounds, swelling and more. There is no evidence that the fungal pathogen can pass to humans, but can spread snake to snake in contaminated environments. Lake County News reports the CDFW recommends people not handle free ranging snakes. Wear boots and keep captive snakes in their habitats while cleaning regularly. More information is on the CDFW webpage.

The FBI in San Francisco is warning leaders and parents to help protect kids from online predators who are using "group grooming" to find and use children for sexual exploitation. In information published in KymKemp the bureau says they uncovered evidence on online predators that have banded together to victimize kids. "Group Grooming" involves working together to target victims and assess them. Children who are lured into sexually explicit chats, games and groups by predators who pose as their friends and peers are targeted. Authorities are warning parents to keep tabs on your kids online habits and report any sexually inappropriate conversations and more.

A Ukiah woman was killed in flooding in Sonoma County last January and her husband is now suing the county. A wrongful death lawsuit was filed last week in Sonoma County Superior Court. Marcellino Fontino says the county is at fault for his wife's death, in negligence to road conditions. Daphne Fontino drowned after her car was swept away on Trenton-Healdsburg Road east of Forestville. The Press Democrat reports the road was flooded by the Mark West Creek, which was inundated for over a week. Mr. Fontino's suit alleges that county officials were aware of dangerous conditions but didn't do enough to prevent harm. Daphne Fontino was one of at least four who died in a series of atmospheric rivers that fell in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. Mrs. Fontino was a driver for North Bay Transit and was working when she was overtaken by floodwaters.

Sheet1

The most current budget includes about \$10 million to extend the CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot program. It matches dollars for up to \$60 each month for CalFresh recipients at grocery stores and farmers markets. The Advocate News reports the Harvest Market in Fort Bragg and Harvest at Mendosa's in Mendocino are in the program to help feed those in need. The new budget agreement will allow the program to continue through at least 2027 and beyond. The extension also expands produce purchases to include non-California grown fruits and veggies. Advocates hope to make the program permanent. You can check with the Fort Bragg Food Bank to apply for CalFresh and learn more about the program to keep providing nutrition to low income people and families.

The Lake County Theatre Company is hosting the sixth annual Mr. Lake County pageant at the Soper Reese Theatre in Lakeport. Saturday at 7pm 12 contestants will compete in several categories to win the competition. Pageant categories include formal wear, talent and more. The theatre company holds the Mr. Lake County pageant to fundraise for the theatre. The goal is to continue to use the theatre space to continue performances and acting programs, according to the Record Bee. The winner of Mr. Lake County will be voted on by the public, and is open now to the public at laketheatre.org. Votes are a dollar each with voting closing Saturday evening during the pageant.

The California Water Commission is hosting workshops this month themed "Weather Whiplash" The state has seen extremes of climate change with severe heat and drought conditions, to flooding. The commission is creating strategies to protect communities, fish and wildlife during three workshops. The first will be on July 19 from noon to 3. The commission has a survey they are asking people to participate in through July 12th. Attendees will be asked to share drought impacts, response and feedback on preliminary strategies that include groundwater recharging, watershed planning and community efforts to respond to emergencies. Check cwc.ca.gov for more information and to register.

Entry dates for the Redwood Empire Fair have been extended to July 10th. The fair theme is "Jungle of Fun." The Fair CEO announced in Willits News that cake decorators, floral artists, gardeners and more are urged to enter. There will be hundreds of vendors and exhibits highlighting the community and California. Anyone from kids to adults can enter in scores of categories. The Redwood Empire Fair runs August 3rd thru the 6th.

Legislative staff in California won't get to unionize yet, as a bill did not make it thru on the last day of session. The bill was changed this week to not take effect until 2026. CalMatters reports lawmakers took a look at the bill to figure out a way to get it passed. There were 42 co-author legislators who are advocating for the 1,800 staffers, according to the Press Democrat. The bill now includes amendments on how to enact legislation to increase salaries, ethical policies and conflicts of interest. Provisions may be considered to mandate what happens if the union goes on strike. It's headed to the Senate Judiciary Committee next Tuesday.

Clearlake Police are looking for a missing woman. Vanessa Rowe is a white woman who is 5 foot 7 and weighs around 200 pounds. Rowe has red hair and blue eyes. She was last seen in Lakeport over a month ago wearing a white dress and pants, according to Lake County News. If you have any information about Vanessa Rowe,

07/10/2023 please call Clearlake Police.

Sheet1

A group of armed men reportedly broke into a Covelo home Saturday evening. According to KymKemp, it happened on Barnes Lane near Highway 162. Apparently the suspects drove away and crashed into a creek and abandoned their vehicle. According to reports, there were four Latino men armed with handguns reported just before 7pm running up the creek on Biggar Lane. Police are investigating.

The City of Fort Bragg will hold a city council meeting tonight at 6pm. On the agenda is the ordinance Street Sales Tax to be reviewed and renewed. The council will confirm pay rate increases for city workers. Their electric vehicle fleet program will be included in resolutions as the city receives a \$32,000 incentive to the infrastructure account. A solar project with Syserco Energy Solutions will be discussed, as well as a contract with Argonaut Constructors for the street rehab project. They will consider a resolution with CHP to conduct preventative and proactive enforcement for driving under the influence. The council meeting will also be available on Zoom for those who can't attend in person. The city has cancelled their Finance and Administration Committee meeting that was scheduled for Wednesday.

Laytonville High School had an incident Saturday night, as a group of people crowded around a man accusing him of sexual crimes. Police reported the man had made suicidal threats and tried to get away from the area, according to KimKemp. A crowd detained the man until authorities got there. Several local authorities including CHP and the Mendocino Sheriff's Office cleared the crowd just after 11pm and are investigating the incident.

The Lakeport Economic Development Authority will meet Wednesday morning to get updates on city projects and the new budget. Lake County News reports they'll discuss the business plan and business walk, how it went in 2022 and the review for this year. The group will go over the strategic plan with arts and culture. It will be the last meeting before their September 13th scheduled meeting.

With hot temperatures and dry conditions, CalFire is reminding people not to mow in the heat of the day, but rather before 10am. According to Lake County News, Cal Fire is asking residents to avoid making sparks from landscaping equipment and more. Already this year, the Cal Fire Sonoma Lake Napa Unit has reported blazes caused by mowers. They also urge people who use weed eaters, chain saws, grinders and welders to be cautious. Cal Fire urges people to keep exhaust systems in gas powered machines clean and in working order. People who start fires by mowing or using equipment can be held liable for damage caused by fires.

The US Forest Service released an update with the Mendocino National Forest. In it, they announced the Covelo Ranger Station is open for visitors weekdays from 8:30 thru 4pm with a lunch break at noon. The station on Covelo Road cannot currently sell permits or passes, but soon will be able to. The service also announced that the Plaskett Meadows Picnic day use area has reopened after the Mendocino Hotshots Crew 12 cleared out standing dead trees and debris along the fishing trail. There are nesting birds in the area, and the service asks that people not disturb any wildlife. No motorized boats are allowed there. And archery hunting opened this weekend for Zone A North. Hunters must be licensed. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has all the seasonal regulations.

Sheet1

Adventist Health Mendocino Coast will be hosting a free Sports Physicals and Back-to-School Fair for students on Saturday, July 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Medical Offices. The Mendocino Beacon reports there will be free physicals for youth athletes. The group will also have supplies like backpacks, and more for kids to return to school this fall semester on a first come first served basis. A sports physical is required by California schools before joining in any school sports. Annual exams are recommended for all students in their overall health. The Back-to-School Fair will have organizations there like Mendocino Coast Children's Fund, the Fort Bragg Mendocino County Library, Healthcare Foundation, and the Fort Bragg Police Department with resources for families. Mendocino County Public Health will be onsite offering a selection of vaccines for free as well.

The Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care will host its Annual Membership Invitation Event one week from today, the 17th at their next meeting. It's part of the Housing and Urban Development and is a collaboration of people, agencies and more to end homelessness. The group's aim is to harness federal funds to help people get housed. They will focus on community issues related to the homeless and work to find solutions to positively impact the community at large. More details are on the Mendocino County webpage.

The Mendocino International Summer Music Academy will be making their debut in Ukiah this month. Tomorrow, a Piano Solo Concert performance is set for 7pm. Pianist and composer Scott Lowell Sherman is known globally for his lectures on classical music. He'll speak on "Great Piano Works from the Baroque to the Impressionists" Thursday evening. It's part of a new program at the Dharma Realm Buddhist University. Along with renowned pianists there will be an Artist Faculty Concert and a saxophone concert. In a release, the program enables mentorship and individualized instruction. Their commitment is a holistic musical education to inspire and support the community. Check out the Mendocino International Summer Music Academy for a lineup this month.

The Jackson Demonstration State Forest will hold a Recreation Task Force meeting this coming Saturday at the Cal Fire Woodlands Station in Mendocino. The meeting starts at 9:30 and will run through 2pm. In it, the group plans to discuss land management for public trails including new trail development. They'll work on trails that are up for adoption around Little Lake and more.

California has permanently expunged 11 million criminal arrest records in the first six months after the implementation of a criminal-justice reform bill, according to data just released by the California Department of Justice. Assembly Bill 1076 required the D-O-J to automatically clear eligible records for people with arrests but not convictions, for people with convictions on most crimes that did not carry a prison sentence, and for those who have successfully completed their sentence. After the bill passed in 2019, the state developed software to analyze the records and began the expungements last summer, providing relief to 2-point-1 million people in the first six months, according to the California News Service. In California, an estimated 8 million people have an arrest or conviction on their record and face thousands of legal restrictions to jobs, housing and more.

Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will work on a letter to the county's congressman about the Scott Dam removal. In their meeting tomorrow morning at 9am they'll go over the effects of decommissioning and removing Scott Dam. The board will also go over a possible resolution for PG&E's decommissioning of the Potter Dam. Congressman Mike Thompson has been discussing the PG&E proposed decommissioning plan and restoration measures that the county has opposed, according to Lake County News. Also on the agenda is the MediCal initiative. Homelessness is an issue on the agenda as well as local emergencies on the Atmospheric River Event and tree mortality. Behavioral health services and substance use treatment contracts are on the agenda. The board will also discuss a new agricultural well in the Big Valley Groundwater Basin.

07/11/2023 Governor Newsom streamlined and approved a group of infrastructure bills aimed at cutting red tape. The Hill reports the governor also signed the "Budget Bill Jr." yesterday that amends last month's draft and is virtually the final budget agreement. The budget reflects a high level of reserves while protecting the public. The infrastructure bills passed last week will help streamline workforce equity, labor agreements and projects for CalTrans and the Department of Water Resources.

And today the California Welcome Center in Ukiah will host a ribbon cutting at 4pm. Guest speakers and performances by local groups will be included in the festivities. Ukiah will now be one of 23 welcome centers in the state. News signs are up and the lobby has undergone some work. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports local governmental and business leaders will staff a team along with tourism professionals to increase tourist services and promote the local community as well as the state.

The California Department of Health Care Services announced funding of over \$9 million for the Mendocino County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. The money will be focused on projects to expand facilities and provide mental crisis and substance use disorder services to residents. Mendocino County is one of 33 projects throughout the state to get the funding. A Psychiatric Health Facility is in the works to help the community in a continuum of care. In a release issued today, the department plans to enhance psychiatric treatment to help with patient's conditions in a program designed to stabilize people and help return them to a less restrictive setting.

The Lakeport Planning Commission is meeting this week to go over a project by the Lake County Tribal Health Consortium. The meeting is set for tomorrow at 5:30pm in the council chambers at Lakeport City Hall. The agenda includes an application for architectural and design review by the Lake County Tribal Health for a property on Bevins Court. If the application is approved, construction of a patio, shaded structure, bathrooms and an outdoor kitchen will be planned at the property. The Bevins Court Facility would be under 2,000 square feet according to Lake County News.

The California Public Utilities Commission approved the Rural Regional Energy Network late last month to expand access to services for people in rural areas, covering almost half the state. Starting at the beginning of next year, the seven member partnership will work together on programs with more than \$177 million in funding to underserved communities. The RuralREN will help utilize energy efficiency programs to customers in 31 counties, including to 66 Tribal Governments. In a release in KymKemp, the group hopes energy efficiency will help with the state's policies to combat climate change. Member organizations include the Lake Area Planning Council and the Mendocino Council of Governments.

Sheet1

Cal Fire announced a new app to follow California's Reforestation Efforts in their pine cone survey. It's the annual Cone Crop Survey that the department is asking for the public's help. The Reforestation Pipeline Partnership announced the Cone Observation Survey for Apple and Android phones. Along with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection officials want to identify conifer cone crops in the state that can produce seeds for projects in reforestation and post-fire restoration. They aim to have a Seed Bank and need to collect over 76,000 bushels to meet reforestation needs. Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and more fir trees are needed as they cultivate trees below 6,000 feet in elevation. Check for the Cone Crop Survey app on Cal Fire's webpage.

CalTrans issued a release on roadwork planned for this week. In Lake County, on Route 29 road work east of Kelseyville began Friday from Route 281 to Private Drive, with lane closures. On Route 175 culvert work began yesterday in Kelseyville near Route 29 with one way traffic from 8am to 4pm. Other culvert work in Kelseyville will happen today from Mathews Road to north of Route 29 with lane closures thru 3pm. On Route 175 bridge work began yesterday at Bottle Rock Road with one way traffic from 7a to 5pm. Also, utility work will happen there from Bottle Rock Road to Road 10. In Mendocino County, CalTrans announced road work on US 101 in Ukiah at Route 253 today and tomorrow with a full off ramp closure from 8a to 4p. Tree work north of Laytonville near Spyrock Road begins today with one way traffic.

The Middletown Area Town Hall is meeting on Thursday for updates on projects and fire season. They'll meet at 7pm in the Library at Middletown. They'll begin with an update on fire season from Cal Fire and Callayomi County Water District, according to Lake County News. Later, the group will go over a cannabis project on Jerusalem Grade. The meeting will be open to the public and available via zoom as well.

This year's Mr. Lake County is Wess Nelson. The Record Bee reports after competing in the pageant Saturday Nelson won the Mr. Lake County Belt. The fundraiser for the Lake County Theatre Company raised \$4,000 during their auction, and also earned money with vote, ticket and merchandise sales. It wasn't all men in the show at the Soper Reese Theatre, ladies performed a choreographed dance and a preview performance of the Lake Theatre's "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton.

Farmers Insurance is jumping on the bandwagon and getting out of new policies in California. After the company got a spike in applications for homeowners insurance they announced limitations on new policies in the state effective July 3rd. The Press Democrat reports Farmers is following actions by State Farm and Allstate to stop writing new insurance policies. Some warn future insurers could pull back and lead to a crisis of coverage in California. The state is the largest insurance market in the country and fourth largest in the world. Concern about costly wildfires prompted the exodus as well as catastrophic events like floods. State regulations, inflation and catastrophic events have caused cutbacks. Proposition 103 mandates companies may not use AI property analysis to raise rates.

Sheet1

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter is at its capacity for dogs, and has been for months. The shelter now has to euthanize some to make room for others. Sadly, people who are dropping off animals labeled as strays are sometimes found with a microchip naming the same people as owners who are giving up their pets. The shelter is asking people to hold on to strays while they try to locate their owners, before bringing them into the shelter. The shelter faces hard decisions and has exhausted all their options, according to a release. They are running an adoption special to free up kennels. They are also asking that if you are missing your pet, please contact them immediately to get their animal. Animal care services is asking the community for help as high occupancy continues to lead to sad decisions.

A body was found in a Healdsburg parking lot and was identified as a man who assaulted people in the area including hotel employees. An autopsy is scheduled for Thursday. Late last week, Healdsburg police posted details about Abel Garza of Santa Rosa. Residents in the area called police after 9am last Thursday with reports Garza had assaulted two hotel employees knocking one to the ground trying to hit them with his skateboard. Garza was next reported at another hotel on Healdsburg Avenue and climbed onto the roof. Police did not find him until after 10am when he returned to the first hotel with a hammer threatening employees. Police found him lying on the ground unresponsive, according to the Press Democrat. Officials think he was involved in a fight with three employees with one injured. Police are investigating.

The Jackson Demonstration State Forest announced that they have firewood permits available beginning on Thursday at 2pm. The permits will be limited to two cords per household at \$20 per permit. The firewood area will be open Thursday and is slated to stay open until the first of October, or until the wood supply is gone. The Forest only has 75 permits available. Due to Sudden Oak Death, sales are limited to Mendocino County residents only, because wood cannot be taken out of the county. There are fire safety rules permit holders must abide by The Cal Fire Fort Bragg office has more information.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a release inviting public comment on a proposal for new requirements to preserve water quality in vineyards. They'll consider adopting the new regulations by the North Coast Water Board this year, according to MendoFever. A technical advisory group was created last year to implement management practices like ground cover around vines and maintain setbacks to help keep cool temperatures in streams. With programs like the Fish Friendly Farming, California Certified Sustainable and more, over 80 percent of North Coast vineyards have already seen results of conservation practices. 95 percent of vineyards in the North Coast Region are within the Navarro and Russian River watersheds that are also habitats for threatened and endangered species.

There won't be closures overnight this week at the Pudding Creek Bridge in Fort Bragg. CalTrans and contractor were able to relocate the sanitary sewer main line last week so the closures planned for this week won't be needed, according to the MendoVoice. Plus, the 10 night scheduled closure for dates in July and September has decreased to only 4 nights while they install the power line. The traffic light Caltrans put up is working better than originally thought, and is reported to work more efficiently than manning the site with flaggers.

Sheet1

07/12/2023 The mercury is climbing in California with an excessive heat watch headed into the weekend. Dry conditions also mean an increased risk for wildfire. Temperatures are slated to heat up to around 110 degrees in Mendocino and Lake Counties. The heat can be dangerous to anyone without hydrating or finding cool spaces. The US National Weather Service warns people to consider making plans indoors as we look ahead to Friday through Sunday. Agencies are also warning of ground temperatures as, for example, if it is about 102 degrees, a blacktop could rise to a scorching 167 degrees. Keep in mind bare human feet can burn, and so to can your pets. It may be best to stay close to home, and inside this weekend and make sure all outdoor animals have plenty of water and shade. And as always, follow CalFire's precautions on operating outdoor equipment.

Fort Bragg City Hall was evacuated yesterday morning when a bomb threat was received. Law enforcement searched the area and cleared it finding nothing explosive. KymKemp reports a call came in Tuesday morning around 10:40am. Authorities are investigating the call and anything connected to the threat.

There was a 4 acre fire yesterday afternoon northwest of Cloverdale. Cal Fire reported the Hog Fire began on Highway 128 around 4pm, heading uphill with winds charging it. 3 firefighting tankers and three copters were brought in to extinguish the fire with dozers and handlines working to contain it. The Press Democrat reports firefighters remained on scene through the night and are monitoring the area for a few days.

A hitch hiker was given a ride to the Power Mart in Lakeport but then stole the drivers car after the ride. Lakeport Police report the victim went inside the store around 8pm and came out to find his car had been stolen by the man, who was identified as Samuel Rhea of Clearlake. Minutes later, a Lake County Sheriff's Deputy spotted the stolen car going south on Highway 29 speeding away. A high-speed car chase ensued, with the deputy following. Authorities used spike strips that worked to slow the chase, as Rhea continued recklessly driving and hitting a utility truck, ending his ride. Rhea began to run away, but a deputy with his K9 partner caught him in Lower Lake. Rhea was booked into jail for a felony vehicle theft, evading with wanton disregard and more.

The California Water Commission is creating strategies to help communities and fish and wildlife in case of drought and is looking for public input at several virtual public workshops. Lake County News reports next week, Wednesday the 19th from noon to 3pm the commission hopes to discuss drought impacts, response and feedback. The plan is to increase capacity, scale up groundwater recharge, perform watershed level planning to aid the ecosystem's impacts of drought and to help communities respond to drought emergencies. The commission is also asking the public to participate in a survey open through today. For more information and details of next weeks meeting, and meetings on the 25th and 27, visit cwc.ca.gov

The Larry Spring Museum in Fort Bragg is getting a \$25,000 grant from the California Humanities For All Project. The project "Redwood Time" began July 8th and includes local histories with a different perspective. Fort Bragg's surrounding redwoods have been part of the city's history and dedicated in 1943. The project encourages people to critically think about the narratives of settlement and resource development on the North Coast, according to a release in MendoVoice. The project will run for two years with a series of live performances, public art installations, gatherings and more.

Sheet1

A follower of Charles Manson was released out of a California prison yesterday. Leslie Van Houten was released after serving more than 5 decades for her part in two murders. Van Houten was released to parole according to a Department of Corrections statement. The Press Democrat reports she had been at the California Institution for Women in Corona east of LA. Governor Newsom announced he would not fight an appeals court ruling that she should be paroled. She had been sentenced to life in prison for helping murder Leno LiBianca and his wife Rosemary. Van Houten is slated to spend a year in a halfway house, and spend about 3 years on probation.

Advocates for affordable health care are backing a bill (AB 716) in the California Legislature to make sure people don't get hit with surprise bills when they need to be transported in an ambulance. The bill would guarantee that patients with insurance would only have to pay the in-network cost-sharing amount. The California News Service reports people without insurance would be charged the Medi-Cal or Medicare rate for that service. And if the ambulance provided doesn't have a contract with a health plan, the ambulance company would be paid a rate set by local authorities.

Clearlake City Hall is getting some work done, after nearly 3 decades in service. Lake County News reports last week the City Council approved the City Hall Remodel Project. During the approximately \$1.2 million project, the Planning, Public Works, Administration and Finance Departments will temporarily move to the Lake County Campus of Woodland Community College on Dam Road. Operations will be closed tomorrow as employees move to the college to reopen there next Monday. The Planning Commission and City Council meeting will still be in the City Council chambers during the renovation. Funding for the rehab comes from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund that will help the city of Clearlake with over \$2.8 million, according to the City Clerk.

The Historical Society of Mendocino County held its grand opening last Friday. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the non profit aims to preserve the history of Mendocino County at the location on Dora Street at the William J. and Molly Toney Archival Building and the Held-Poage Memorial Home. The historical society has been working together for over a half century, with the Little Red Schoolhouse on Highway 20 as one of their first projects, completed 60 years ago, and it's still standing. Since then, the collection has grown as they built an additional archival building. Now with the new space, formal archival and cataloguing can continue. The group is digitizing memorabilia and more to preserve the county history for decades to come.

Book bans have been on the rise recently across the country, but a bill in California may make it more difficult to censor and remove books from schools. The Bay Area News Group reports AB 1078, approved by the assembly requires a two-thirds vote from a school board to remove books. It would also fine districts that do not provide materials that provide "inclusive and diverse" perspectives. The new bill was made in response to a Southern California district Temecula Valley Unified began banning a social studies curriculum that included information on gay rights. The Temecula board removed it after a 3 to 2 vote, with 11,000 students left with no social studies curriculum their next year. The bill passed through the Senate Education Committee last week.

Sheet1

TikTok Challenges have created havoc worldwide. Last week, a man got his Nissan stuck in a drive-thru redwood tree in the Avenue of the Giants. He thought he made it all the way through, but lost a side-view mirror. SF Gate reports signs have been posted along the drive for years warning people of the dimensions of the path through the giant tree, but the driver wasn't that careful. The opening is 7 x7 feet tall and wide. Other TikTok videos show a Chevy Suburban and a Cadillac Escalade making it through the Shrine Drive-Thru intact. There are other trees in Northern California that may be a bit easier for people to drive through.

California is one of nine states to get part of over \$207 million in grant funding to improve the state's electrical grid. The North Bay Journal reports as a heat wave moves over the state with triple digit temps the current grid will be put to the test. California will get more than \$67 million for projects aimed at the state's infrastructure as part of the president's Investing in America agenda. The funds will be granted next year, after work on grant acceptance is set up by the energy commission that will host public workshops this fall. The state program called Community Energy Resilience Investments help projects that will decrease the frequency and duration of power outages. Project candidates include fire resistant technologies, utility pole management, undergrounding of electrical lines and equipment and weatherization techniques.

Tribal law enforcement in California may get access to a national network of local and state authorities to help investigate crimes and more. The system maintained by the FBI, the DMV and other agencies would give access to tribes under AB44 that passed the Senate Public Safety Committee yesterday. The bill would give tribal governments access to the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System and more. Tribal governing bodies will need to adopt the resolution to comply with procedures and policies to use the network.

Decommissioning is imminent for the Cape Horn and Scott Dams. The two aging dams in the Eel River are about to be shut down and removed as PG&E steps away from the projects. The Potter Valley Project provided irrigation to the valley and water for Lake Pillsbury. Diversion now, is the focus of the watershed as organizations and residents have to creatively sustain the new pathways for the Russian and the Eel Rivers. The Public Policy Institute of California writes in a release this week, that the dams' removal will open up 150 square miles of coldwater habitat to the struggling species of salmon, trout and other animals. After decades of infrastructure was built to support the dams, the Russian River is now dependent on them, and dealing with the dam removals will be the challenge faced by many groups, including the Russian River Water Forum and others.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife just finished this year's waterfowl breeding population survey. In a report in Lake County News, the data shows breeding ducks have increased by about a third. Though the total number of ducks has increased by a little over 100,000, they estimate the number is still about 8 percent below the average, long-term. Loss of habitat and the drought may have been part of the decline. The Breed Population Survey Report is available on the CDFW website that illustrates waterfowl habits and breeding areas along the Pacific Flyway.

Sheet1

Veterans who are eligible for the health care and benefit expansion known as the PACT Act should apply for retroactive coverage by the 9th of August. Representative Mike Thompson made an announcement in local media today urging veterans to apply. Thompson said the PACT Act fulfills a promise made to veterans to help them financially and with more resources dedicated to their health. The act expands and extends health care for Veterans with toxic exposures during the Vietnam conflict, the Gulf War and post 9-11 events. It adds more than 20 conditions related to burn pits, Agent Orange and radiation. Veterans or survivors can file claims to apply for the expanded benefits.

The more than 170,000 homeless in the state cannot find adequate medical care, until their condition makes them seek out emergency care at the last minute. CalMatters reports more than half of the MediCal budget of \$133 billion funds the top 5 percent of high needs users. Street Medicine Teams may help California's Health Care Services Department. Bringing medical care to the homeless may help lower those dire conditions that cost so much to a homeless person, and to California's medical services. Street Medicine Teams can now get reimbursed and help guide the homeless in their MediCal benefits. In an all encompassing report, CalMatters and Catchlight followed street teams to document the process in the Press Democrat.

California has instituted a \$400 million extreme heat action plan to protect workers and help vulnerable communities. The state is expected to move into Phase 2 of its Extreme Temperature Response Plan this week. It calls for increased coordination with state and local officials. Excessive heat watches and advisories are in effect. CalOES released information warning the heat event that begins tomorrow through Monday will "rival some of the worst heat waves this area has ever seen" according to the National Weather Service. The AP reports employers in California are reminded to give outdoor workers water, shade and regular breaks to cool off, per state regulations. Officials say the power grid should be able to withstand the heat wave. Bay Area News Group reports heat not only increases risks of fires, but the weather tends to bring snakes out and about, so watch where you're walking. And the

07/13/2023 California State Fair has cancelled horse racing events for the opening weekend.

The National Weather Service issued an excessive heat advisory this week for Lake and Mendocino Counties with temps expected to rise to about 110 degrees. The Ukiah Valley Conference Center downtown will be open and have ice water, wifi and other amenities out during the week. The library in Ukiah will also be open through Saturday till 6pm. Lake County announced cooling centers will be available this weekend. Friday and Saturday most county libraries will be open through 5pm, with some closing at 3pm. In Clearlake Oaks the Big Oak Peer Support Center will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 4:30pm. Cal Fire officials continue to remind residents not to use motorized equipment as the heat warms up the interior valleys saying there will be significant deep layer warming and drying. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports Saturday and Sunday will be the warmest days. Authorities remind people to stay shaded and hydrated during hot weather conditions and make sure your outdoor animals have plenty of fresh water and shade as well. Check on those without AC and limit outdoor activities. The Press Democrat reports Sonoma County will not open cooling centers because of the limited days temperatures will be in the triple digits.

Sheet1

Mendocino County's 3rd district Supervisor John Haschak released his monthly letter in MendoFever with an update on summer festivities and more. He reports the Board is working to reduce housing barriers. Haschak noted the Board invested \$2 million of PG&E's settlement funding into a carbon reduction fund. Half a million has been spend on electric vehicle charging stations and solar panels. They are planning to convert the county's fleet of cars to EV and improve energy efficiency in buildings. They'll formally present the plan on their July 25th meeting. Haschak says for the first time, the Economic Development Standing Committee met with a goal to bring industry leaders, labor leaders, housing advocates and more to create a more vibrant economy. He'll hold his monthly table talk this morning at 10am at the Brickhouse Coffee in Willits.

Lakeport's new director for the homeless shelter was arrested for inflicting corporal injury on his partner according to information obtained by the Record Bee from the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Christopher Bloodworth was arrested yesterday afternoon and is being held on a \$15,000 bail. A court date for August 29th has been set. The controversial Sunrise Special Services that recently saw the termination of Yvonne Cox has operated under contract for the county. The Board of Supervisors approved the continuation of the shelter crisis for the homeless just this week. Local media is working to get more information on the director's arrest and the state of the shelter.

Financial website SmartAsset released information about ten of the poorest California counties. The Sacramento Bee reports the statewide median household income is about \$84,000 while over 12 percent of residents live in poverty. Lake County comes in at number 9 with a median income of about \$53,400 with over 16 percent of residents living in poverty. The poorest county in the state is up north in Trinity County, with a median income of just \$42,000 with 19 percent living in poverty. The richest counties include Marin and San Francisco.

Junk fees or hidden charges will be illegal in a new bill going thru legislation. Lake County News reports the Attorney General along with senators from the Bay Area are urging passage of the bill that ensures consumers aren't deceived in added costs. President Biden has campaigned for an end to junk fees from banks, airlines, ticket vendors and more. California Senate Bill 478 expands Biden's proposal and would expressly stop junk fees and penalize companies that don't follow the rule. The bill was approved by the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee this week after passing in the Senate.

Governor Newsom spoke up about a bill to make child trafficking a felony in the state in an announcement yesterday. The bill would increase the penalties and make the crime part of the three strikes law, according to the Associated Press. The bill passed the Senate earlier in the year and is expected to have support in the Assembly. Tuesday, Democrats decided to not advance the bill making it likely it won't pass this year. Newsom said he was surprised and called legislators to talk about it. He noted the budget includes \$25 million for services for child victims of sex trafficking. In a surprising move, the governor sided with Republican backers of the bill and questioned why Democrats are stalling. The new Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas says they are working to get the bill right saying he is engaged in the issue.

Sheet1

Representatives Mike Thompson is helping to introduce bipartisan legislation to increase protections of national security sites, infrastructure and farmland. Thompson joined with the Chair of the Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the US and China and others on the bill's introduction yesterday. Thompson said the bill will help identify foreign actors wanting to buy land near military installations while maintaining food security in the nation by protecting farmland. Thompson is calling for a review of purchases around Travis Air Force Base. The Protecting US Farmland and Sensitive Sites from Foreign Adversaries Act would give oversight to sensitive land purchases and more.

California's caregiver workforce is struggling. CalMatters reports caregivers in the state are few and far between and are fighting for better pay. The issue not only affects the workforce, but aging baby boomers will have a hard time in finding caregivers. Some legislators have introduced bills to protect workers and facilitate recruitment and retention. In just over 6 years, almost 20 percent of California residents will be 65 and older. The California Department of Aging suggests there will be a shortage of up to 3.2 million care workers by 2030. Leaders are looking for long-term care solutions that would increase wages and provide benefits to find more and keep caregivers. The governor's budget includes \$1.5 million on a working group for the caregiver crisis. A representative for the workforce says it's a vital first step.

Cal Fire Officials are warning this summer is reminiscent of 2017's wildfire season after a wet winter led to increased vegetation. It was one of California's most destructive fire seasons, with 47 people killed and about 11,000 buildings burned, according to the Record Bee. The state and Cal Fire are investing in new technology to mitigate an expected hot season with drones, satellites, infrared images and AI. They have a new fleet of helicopters that can fly at night, called Fire Hawks. Scientists, researchers and legislators are working to help predict fire weather and prepare communities with the latest information and technology.

The local US Coast Guard Auxiliary in Lake County is again holding a free life jacket giveaway for kids this Saturday. The event will be at the Konocti Bait Shack at Lucerne Harbor Park at 10am. Life jackets will be given to kids 12 and younger with two weight divisions. The group will register and weigh the children and fit them with the right sized vest. They'll also show parents the proper way to put vests on their kids. They'll be there thru 2pm, or until they run out of life jackets. As one of the hottest days of the summer approaches, getting in the water is especially tempting, and the auxiliary and Konocti Women's Service Club want everyone to be safe in the water.

There was a head-on crash near Ukiah causing major trauma on Sunday. It happened after 8pm alone Pine Ridge Road near Low Gap Road as two Subaru collided head-to-head. One driver had serious injuries to her leg and arm. The woman told police she and her daughter, as well as the other driver needed emergency medical attention. CHP is investigating the accident.

This month, the Konocti Women's Service Club gave 11 scholarships to seniors in Lake County. The awards totaled about \$9,000 according to Lake County News. The club worked to raise funds for the scholarships through their Christmas gift basket raffles and a barn dance fundraiser last year. The club thanks the community for their help in assisting local students as they progress in their academic career.

Sheet1

More homes are selling in Lake County and prices have gone up according to the Lake County Association of Realtor's report in Lake County News. In May home sales were up from April, and slightly down from a year ago. Homes sold at about 96 percent of the asking price. The median price of a single family home in the county was about \$340,000 about the same during the same month last year.

The probable record breaking heat that's headed our way will peak tomorrow and Sunday afternoons with highs up to 112 degrees, according to the National Weather Service. In Ukiah, KymKemp reports temps could rise higher than the record of 109 and 110, consecutively. Authorities are advising everyone to avoid heat related injuries by staying hydrated and out of the direct sun this weekend. As the heat dome sits on a big part of the American west people are reminded to keep outdoor animals freshly watered and shaded.

07/14/2023

Lake County issued a release on the General District Election that is scheduled for November 7th. On the ballot are offices of Director for the Scotts Valley Water Conservation District that will be vacated this December. There are two divisions up for bids. Declaration of Candidacy forms are available at the Lake County Registrar of Voters Office on Forbes Street in Lakeport. The filing period for this election begins next Monday through August 11th.

The Ukiah Senior Center on Leslie Street will be open as a Cooling Center Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm. They made the announcement earlier today in response to the excessive heat advisory now through Sunday. Temps are expected to rise to about 110 degrees during the hottest part of weather conditions prompted by the heat dome over the west. The Ukiah Valley Conference Center downtown will be open and have ice water, wifi and other amenities today. The library in Ukiah will also be open through Saturday till 6pm. Lake County announced cooling centers will be available Friday and Saturday with most locations open through 5pm. In Clearlake Oaks the Big Oak Peer Support Center will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 4:30pm. There is a list of cooling centers open on the Lake County Emergency warnings social media.

Cal Fire officials continue to remind residents not to use motorized equipment as the heat warms up the interior valleys saying there will be significant deep layer warming and drying. Saturday and Sunday will be the warmest days. Lows overnight aren't expected to drop below about 80 degrees. Authorities remind people to stay shaded and hydrated during hot weather conditions and make sure your outdoor animals have plenty of fresh water and shade as well. Check on those without AC and limit outdoor activities.

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendal posted about the reversal of some legislators on the Child Trafficking Bill. In a Facebook post last night, he wrote that communities need to get involved in legislation as it impacts the region, urging residents to question state representatives and other elected officials. He writes it's important to educate ourselves and stay involved. He commended the reversal of the Public Safety Committee in the legislature saying the bill will help keep repeat offenders behind bars.

Lake County's recent report on COVID in the area shows a 14 percent increase in test positivity of around 200,000 tests taken. It's a significant increase from the last report a week ago.

Sheet1

The Clearlake Police Department posted an update on illegal grows they searched last week. Around 3,600 plants and over 1,000 pounds of marijuana were taken from five locations. In a social media post, the department says most of the seizures were outdoor grows, with just a few inside. None of the grows were licensed. Four people were arrested for charges of illegal grows, firearms possessions and more

The second Spare the Air Alert of the year is issued for today (Friday) by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District due to smog. The Press Democrat reports along with excessive heat on the way inland so too are concentrations of ozone. People are urged to stay home as much as possible, to limit driving and being outside for too long. The predicted air quality index numbers are expected to be in the unhealthy levels. You can check the air quality at sparetheair.org.

The Mendocino County Sheriff posted a warning of a fire in the Leggett Red Mountain Area near Highway 271 this morning near Red Mountain Access Road. As of about 6am, the blaze has been contained. Fire crews are in the area mopping up. Authorities are asking people to avoid the area.

The Fort Bragg City Council approved Police Chief Neil Cervenka as the assistant city manager in their meeting on Monday. Cervenka will serve in both positions with a slight pay and benefits increase. While some worry one person in two roles may be tricky, the mayor said Cervenka is trustworthy and will step in if necessary. The council also approved a solar project with Syserco Energy Solutions to power city facilities. The company is working with PG&E so any excess power would carryover to work during times when more electricity is needed. The Advocate News reports the project is slated to be done by 2026. The council also accepted a bid for street rehab with two miles of new pavement, crosswalks and other infrastructure work, to be funded by the Special Street Sales Tax.

California Senator Mike McGuire will go over the newly adopted state budget and more in an open virtual session with the GrassRoots Institute on Monday the 17th. The Fort Bragg Advocate News reports as the Majority Leader in the State Senate, Senator McGuire is familiar with the ins and outs of the budget and legislation in the works.

Lake County's only tribal police department celebrated their first federally commissioned police officer. The Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians welcomed Kyle Wheeler as he graduated from police academy. Last night, Officer Wheeler joins Chief Derrell Hochstein as the two represent the Robinson Rancheria Police Department. Lake County News reports Tribal and community leaders were on hand to welcome the new officer as he was presented a certificate from Congressman Mike Thompson as well. It's an historic momentum of tribal sovereignty as the Rancheria is one of 22 tribes in the state with federal cross-deputization that took Wheeler half a year to finish.

State Attorney General Bonta is warning veterans and their families about scams and fraud targeted at them. Lake County News reports the FTC has logged about 40,000 imposter scams to military members costing them over \$164 million. The AG warns military members to protect their identity. Charity scams are on the rise, so people should take their time in verifying a charity before they donate. All charities are required to file with the DOJ's Registry of Charitable Trusts. Be aware of predatory schools that target the GI Bill and other education programs for veterans. There are opportunities at California Community Colleges, Cal State University and UC. And for everyone, home loan scams are on the rise, as well as job and pension scams. Veterans are urged to keep watch on their credit report and report fraud.

Sheet1

There was a garbage truck fire yesterday morning in Ukiah. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority responded to the blaze. It happened at Redwood Coast Fuels on North State Street with a dump truck full of cardboard fully engulfed in flames. The driver reportedly tried to dump the load when he smelled smoke, but hydraulics malfunctioned. The truck was damaged but the blaze didn't reach the cab, so thankfully the driver and others weren't injured. Officials are investigating the cause of the fire.

After stalling on a child trafficking bill sponsored by state Republicans, Democrats in the California legislature say they will pass the bill after intervention from the Governor this week. In a special meeting of the Public Safety Committee yesterday, the group decided to advance the bill, according to the Press Democrat. It makes child trafficking a felony, and part of the 3 strikes policy in the state. The Assembly Appropriations Committee will now go over the bill with some asking for amendments to assure victims aren't penalized and that the law won't disproportionately affect minorities.

This week the Mendocino Board of Supervisors met and responded to a Grand Jury report about human resources issues. They board is tasked with dealing recommendations on correcting workplace issues that the Grand Jury noted have lacked long time strategic planning and institutional knowledge, according to MendoFever. Supervisor Haschak discussed the challenges of finding a new HR director with Deputy CEO Cherie Johnson overseeing the role currently. And the Great Redwood Trail made a presentation telling the board they are working on putting together a master plan. The group says an economic impact report foresees \$100 million in benefits to Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties, with community savings in transportation and health. With some opposition, the Great Redwood Trail group responded to issues brought up including negative consequences and costs. The group will meet again on the 27th.

Those who enjoy classical music can stay cool this weekend at the Sudhana Center Recital Hall in Ukiah with the Virtuoso Concert Series. Tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 there will be a Saxophone Solo Concert with Wenbo Yin. Yin recently appeared as a soloist at Carnegie hall and will perform violin transcribed sets and duets with guitar faculty Alex de Grassi. Sunday there will be a Piano Solo Concert at 7pm with Yaoyue Huang. His performance will showcase works by French composers and Austrian contemporary compositions. The performances are part of the newest Mendocino International Summer Music Academy's program at the Dharma Realm Buddhist University.

The City of Ukiah plans to hold a public workshop on improving the Perkins and Gobbi Street corridors with the City Council. Next Wednesday, July 19th the workshop will begin at 3pm at the Ukiah Civic Center. A draft concept has been created along with the Blue Zones Project Mendocino County and it will be presented at the meeting. Wider sidewalks, landscapes, bike lanes and more are part of the vision, according to a release from the city today. The council would like as much community participation as they study, plan and fund their "Complete the Streets" projects. Help with the infrastructure has been funded through a grant by CalTrans and the California Transportation Commission.

The Lakeport City Council is meeting tomorrow at 6pm for a public hearing on utility fees. In their agenda the council will hear from the assistant city manager on adopting a change in capacity charges for water and sewer fees. The city manager will also ask the council to nominate voting delegates for the League of California Cities Annual Conference in September. According to Lake County News, other items include the filing of third quarter finances and revision of the Master Pay

07/17/2023 Schedule.

Sheet1

There was a fatal ATV crash in Cloverdale over the weekend. A man died, and another injured when an ATV crashed through a fence and into a power pole, according to the Press Democrat. Officials posted on social media that the driver of the ATV was found dead at the scene on Saturday night, with the passenger having minor injuries. Neither rider wore a helmet according to the CHP posting on Facebook. The fatality happened to a 40 year old man, with the passenger reportedly his uncle. It happened Saturday after 7pm on River Road near Highland Ranch Road.

The Ladoga Fire is burning north of Clearlake. According to CalFire this morning, it began last night and is burning about 16 acres. The Cal Fire Sonoma Lake Napa Unit are on scene with the All Hazards Type 3 Incident Management Team. The blaze is in Colusa County on Lodoga and Ladoga Stonyford Roads. There were 2 crews with 7 engines and 4 dozers reported working there to contain the fire on a remote ridge.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors meets tomorrow at 9am and will go over economic development and workforce issues as well as a report on military equipment by the sheriff's office. Lake County News reports the board will discuss property for the Hill Road Slide Repair and Restoration Project in Lakeport. They plan to approve an agreement with Redwood Community Services for the Lake County Family Stabilization Program for the next 3 fiscal years for just under \$800,000. The Lake County Watershed Protection District will be authorized for work with the California Rural Water Agency and an engineering firm with Lakeport and Clearlake. They'll accept and begin a California Department of Pesticide Regulation Alliance Grant for about \$350,000 to quote, create strong and sustainable shorelines on Clear Lake.

Crescent Bay Improvement Company has been purchased by the Golden State Water Company. It will become part of the Clearlake Customer Service Area. Crescent Bay had been unable to finance infrastructure improvements, according to Lake County News. Golden State Water will be able to upgrade small water systems in California with funding help from the State Water Resources Control Board and the Public Utilities Commission. Part of the upgrades will include adding fire hydrants and replace tanks and treatment plants. Crescent Bay customers will get free bottled water until the upgraded water system meets state and federal water standards.

A man seen on a security camera in Fort Bragg was carrying an ax and duct tape. Officials say he was seen near the old firehouse at the intersection of State Route 20 and Babcock Lane, according to MendoFever. Saturday morning, a resident reported the trespasser was diverted from their home when their security camera alerted the man he was being taped. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is looking for the white man in a baseball hat, in a blue hoodie, blue/gray pants and black and white shoes carrying a backpack in addition to the ax. Call the County Sheriff if you have any information on the Fort Bragg intruder.

There was a fatal traffic accident south of Ukiah Sunday morning. CHP reports it happened around 9:30am when a car drove off the road and rolled over. MendoFever reports some saw the vehicle swerving erratically before driving off the road. One person was pronounced dead at the scene, another was rushed from Ukiah hospital in an air ambulance. The accident happened near Highway 101 and State Route 253.

Sheet 1

A couple of fires were reported over the weekend. A 6 acre blaze Northeast of Covelo near Mendocino Pass Road was contained by ground and air resources Saturday night. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Department sent an evacuation warning to those in the Covelo area around 8pm. Within the hour the fire was stopped with resources mopping up. Friday a wildfire was put out in the Piercy Red Mountain Area near Highway 271 as reported by the Mendocino Sheriff.

Mendocino County leaders and residents were brought together by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County to discuss the animal shelter capacity situation at a retreat in Willits. A shortage nationwide of veterinarians and volunteers are concerning animal advocates and communities dealing with overcrowded shelters. During the meeting, the group planned out strategies to face the dire situation. MendoVoice reports getting a mobile spay and neuter service started is one strategy the group agreed upon, as well as enlisting more volunteers and finding more vets. The Humane Society gave the county a proposal for cooperation and funding last week. UC Davis is donating a surgical trailer to the Coast Humane Society and gave a \$100,000 grant to help fund the mobile veterinary trailer with the county allotting \$250,000 to the cost.

The Lake County Board of Education met last month and voted to fill a vacancy on the board with Itzia Rico who will represent Area 5 around Kelseyville. A recent death created the open seat. Lake County News reports the board went through three applications and chose Rico who was sworn in. Her term will go through December of next year. She owns Studebakers Coffee Shop in downtown Kelseyville and is part of the Kelseyville Business Association. Her children go to schools in the district.

A man was arrested for drunk driving in Ukiah after hitting parked cars and injuring his passenger. Ukiah Police issued a release naming Antonio Amador of Willits, who was arrested and charged. His female passenger had a gash in her head that emergency medics helped her with before taking her to a trauma center. It happened around 2am Saturday in Ukiah, with cars struck on Mendocino Drive.

The plans for Ukiah's Palace Hotel have drastically changed. In MendoFever, the details were laid out showing the owner, Jitu Ishwar, suddenly decided to go a different course that he had worked with the city and community leaders on. Instead, he is reportedly working with a new group of investors. The City of Ukiah had spent countless hours and resources planning, developing reviews and studies as well as design work by experts for a historic renovation. Some have worked on the project for years, and were disappointed and surprised by Ishwar's change of plans. The plan was to create a diverse commercial center for the city. The new investors and Ishwar haven't yet provided city leaders with a new plan. According to an attorney with Duncan James Law Firm, who is representing the new group the quick resale purchase has a confidentiality clause.

There will be nighttime lane closures at the Pudding Creek Bridge project this week in Fort Bragg. Tomorrow and Wednesday, full closures will be in effect from 10pm to 4am. One way traffic control will continue on Route 1 in north Fort Bragg thru the end of August. MendoFever reports drivers can continue to expect one-way traffic with 20 minute delays with longer delays on the weekends. The next full overnight closures will be in September.

Sheet1

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will meet today and give an update to the Local Coastal Plan. According to the Press Democrat, the report is 1,000 pages of land management with coastal zoning, mapping and more. The new provisions stop desalination plants and offshore wind farms, discourages pesticide use, with priorities of climate change effects, and sea levels. The plan includes the reintroduction of sea otters to the coast as well as kelp bed protections. Pumped storage hydropower facility construction plans are included. The newly announced hydropower plant will pump water from the ocean to a reservoir to turn turbines to supplement wind and solar power. The plan covers 55 miles from the border of Mendocino to Marin. It must be approved by the county and reviewed by the California Coastal Commission before supervisors can continue the second phase of implementation.

There was an outbreak of COVID in Clearlake at Hope Center. The transitional housing building on Emerson Street put a temporary hold on admissions a few weeks ago. Lake County News reports the facility is owned by Adventist Health Clear Lake and operates 24/7. Six people housed there tested positive on July 5th. They had mild symptoms as hospital staff followed infection control protocols. As of this weekend, no new cases were reported and all who did have the infection tested negative. The outbreak may have been part of the 14 percent increase in test positivity reported in Lake County on Friday that listed only one person in the ICU within the last 10 days.

California's medical aid-in-dying law is still under fire this week. The California News Service reports Friday is the deadline for the state to respond to a federal lawsuit seeking to invalidate it. The California End of Life Option Act allows terminally ill patients with less than six months to live to get a prescription they could use to end their suffering. The plaintiffs include the disability rights group "Not Dead Yet," which opposes medical aid in dying. The California Department of Health reports more than 28-hundred terminally ill residents received prescriptions from 2016 to 2020, and about 18-hundred opted to use the medication. A new film on the subject has just been nominated for an Emmy. "Last Flight Home" tells the story of Eli Timoner, a terminally-ill California man who used the law to die peacefully.

A Ukiah man has been sentenced to over 7 years in prison for driving high on meth and seriously injuring two others. Harvey Rogers turned into the path of a motorcyclist in July of 2021, leaving one man in a coma and another with serious injuries. Rogers accepted a plea deal at the last minute before a jury trial in late May. The Mendocino County District Attorney's Office issued a release saying each victim was critically hurt for long periods of time and they remain in critical conditions. Because their injuries were serious and ongoing the state characterized the crime as violent, which 07/18/2023 affected his sentencing.

Canadian wildfire smoke is plaguing the Midwest and Northeast again this week, while locally, a wildfire in Oregon will keep Mendocino and Lake County's skies smoky. The air quality declined yesterday with decreased visibility in the area. The National Weather Service reports areas will continue to have hazy conditions through tonight. The Flat Fire in southwest Oregon has burned over 4,000 acres as of Sunday when it began at a campground. The Air Quality Index reported the worst conditions are in high areas near Leggett to low valley places like Philo. Authorities are warning those who are sensitive to air quality should stay inside today, or if outside, they recommend an N95 mask. MendoVoice reports to close fresh air intakes and circulate air already inside your home. There are high efficiency filters available as well as air cleaners to reduce indoor particles.

Sheet1

The Lakeport woman who faces murder charges appeared remotely at Lake County Superior Court. The Record Bee reports Melinda Fred's lawyer, Thomas Quinn says there is outstanding discovery asking the prelim hearing to be continued. It has been rescheduled for July 28th. Fred faces murder charges, assault with a deadly weapon and more. It began in May when police found a man who had been stabbed on the ground on Red Feather Lane. Aaron Burrows died at the scene. Fred was questioned and arrested and is still being held on a \$1 million bond.

Mosquitoes in Lake County have tested positive for West Nile Virus. The insects were trapped near Lakeport and Kelseyville earlier this month. Lake County Vector Control District says the virus shows up every year and each July is a reminder to use mosquito repellent outside, especially during dawn and dusk. So far there've been no human cases of the virus in the state so far this year, but there has been a case of St. Louis encephalitis virus in Bakersfield. Lake County News reports that Lake County Vector Control can help with free mosquito eating fish, while urging folks to empty standing water from around your yards. Vector Control can also help with complaints of neglected swimming pools and more. Their county office is open weekdays from 7:30am to 4pm.

Over the weekend a group went public to change the name of Fort Bragg, saying the name is reminiscent of genocide, violence and racism. Change Our Name Fort Bragg plans to petition California's Advisory Committee on Geographic Names. However, KymKemp reports a specialist with the US Board of Geographic Names says the committee only applies to natural features, reservoirs and unincorporated communities. The decision to rename the City of Fort Bragg would have to be made by the city government. Several years ago, the city considered changing the name after the murder of George Floyd. At the time, the City held meetings and surveyed residents and weren't able to recommend an answer. This spring, the Fort Bragg Unified School District heard from activists but issued a statement in May saying it was not in the interests of the community to change the name.

The man who was killed in an ATV crash over the weekend has been identified. Jorge Figueroa of Cloverdale and his 71 year old uncle crashed through a fence and power pole according to CHP. Investigators say the machine was going too fast when it veered off the trail. Figueroa was pronounced dead at the scene. The uncle was injured. Neither one was wearing a helmet. The Press Democrat reports the crash on the gravel road near River Road is still under investigation.

The Lakeport City Council is meeting tonight at 6pm for a public hearing on utility fees. In their agenda the council will hear from the assistant city manager on adopting a change in capacity charges for water and sewer fees. The city manager will also ask the council to nominate voting delegates for the League of California Cities Annual Conference in September. According to Lake County News, other items include the filing of third quarter finances and revision of the Master Pay Schedule.

There were two crashes and two fatalities in Mendocino County over the weekend. The Press Democrat reports CHP responded to one crash just after 10am Saturday morning. A witness had seen a Ford F-150 go off the road and smash into a tree near Mountain View Road east of State Route 1. A 39-year-old man from Boonville was pronounced dead at the scene. In another incident, a woman was killed after her truck drifted off Highway 101 and went down the embankment rolling. The 69-year-old woman was from Ukiah. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is investigating both crashes and do not yet know if drugs or alcohol were related to either one.

Sheet1

A release issued in local media notes PG&E is considering transferring the Potter Valley Project to a subsidiary and reducing the flow of the Russian River. The Russian River Water Forum Planning Committee met last week and updated technical briefings for upcoming Working Group meetings. Last Thursday, the Planning Group outlined The Russian River Water Supply Resiliency with the Upper Russian River Water Sharing Program that included the City of Ukiah resiliency programs and the Sonoma-Marin Water Saving Partnership. The water supply resiliency was covered with updates on ground water recharging, and evaluating the Potter Valley Irrigation District as PG&E considers transferring assets to Pacific Generation. The Planning Committee discussed how the proposed solution for the Potter Valley Project must include water resiliency. Their next meeting is scheduled for August 3rd.

Lake County is getting \$2.3 million from the state in a Parks and Rec grant to improve Nice's Hammond County Park. The funds will help upgrade the main playground and other areas. Two new picnic shelters are included in the center of Hammond County Park with picnic tables, grills and more. A multi-sports court will be developed for pickleball, basketball and more. An overlook will be built next to the wetland area with information about the wildlife. A couple of local tribes are partners in the project and will help with input on the cultural importance of the wetlands and park area. Previous grants are helping with park improvements around the county as well, including at Clearlake Oaks Boat Launch, Kelseyville Community Park, Lucerne Harbor Park and more. Lake County News reports the projects are slated to be done by spring of next year.

Local elected officials are speaking out in support of two bills to usher in offshore wind in California. Assembly Bill 3 would require the state to complete phase two of the offshore wind strategic plan and study the feasibility of manufacturing and building 70 to 85 percent of the projects in state. The California News Service reports the bills aim to move California away from fossil fuels such as oil and gas while promoting clean-energy jobs. Opponents cite concerns about potential disruptions to marine life and military exercises. AB 80 would require the state's Ocean Protection Council to establish a nonprofit West Coast Offshore Wind Science Entity to study the effect of wind farms on the marine ecosystem.

Sunrise Special Services Foundation, the homeless shelter in Lakeport, is responding to the arrest last week of their new director, Chris Bloodworth, announcing charges against him have been dropped. In a release in Lake County News, the foundation emphasized it was a private matter that happened outside of the workplace. They said Bloodworth and his partner are in counseling and are working on the underlying issues. They urge the public to know they have a zero-tolerance policy for any form of violence. They say they maintain an open and transparent dialogue with their employees and residents of Lake County. Bloodworth had been arrested and charged with inflicting corporal injury on his partner, according to information from the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

Sonoma County officials are worried about lightning strikes, after the Lagoda Fire that was started by a strike in Colusa County began Sunday. As of this morning at around 9:30am, the Lagoda Fire has been 80 percent contained at about 22 acres in size. The Press Democrat reports a local fire chief says Sunday's storm is a teaser for what is forecasted to be an eventful wildfire season. As the coastal fog has declined by about a third, summer storms could be cause for increased fires started by lightning. Last weekend, multiple lightning bolts struck in Sonoma and neighboring counties.

Sheet1

There's a new Rapid Care Clinic in Lakeport. Adventist Health has expanded their services in Lake County with a clinic for minor medical conditions. Lake County News reports it's the second Rapid Care clinic in Lake County, after the Adventist Health Clear Lake opened earlier this year. The Lakeport clinic is open weekdays from 8am to 4pm on South Main Street.

New legislation in California may help usher in more farmers' and night markets. Assembly Bill 441 would help build a dedicated permit for markets. Yesterday, AB441 was presented to help cut red tape to help small businesses expand into community markets. Inspiration came to the bills authors from a recent trip to Taipei. The bill had been totally changed when originally its purpose was for an earned tax income credit, but it was withdrawn in the spring after signs it would not pass. Now, instead Assemblyman Matt Haney rebuilt the bill for small businesses to encourage marketplaces without the hassle of seasonal permits. CalMatters reports that there are night markets in the state, like one that began in the San Gabriel Valley over a decade ago. AB 441 would streamline the permitting process. Haney says the bill would remove barriers and cut through unnecessary bureaucracy.

There is a power outage in South Lake County. PG&E noted over 2,100 customers were impacted. According to a posting from Lake County Emergency Warning on Facebook, PG&E took to the skies with a copter checking lines in the neighborhood. The utility's outage map confirmed power is still off in the area, with estimated restoration at 9am this morning. PG&E is assessing the cause at the outage location.

07/19/2023

California State University did not go far enough to respond to sexual harassment and discrimination complaints, according to a report. It's the country's largest public university system and has seen problems with no accountability and a culture of distrust, according to EdSource. The 200 plus page independent report found CSU is not trusted by students, faculty and staff when it comes to reporting misconduct. The report details the need for confidential survivor advocacy, prevention, counseling and more. Staff burnout and high turnover have stifled morale as the system tries to increase personnel. Today, the California State Auditor is expected to release its official report on Title IX complaints, and is expected to show most reports were not formally investigated, according to the LA Times.

A school resource officer and traffic signal updates are what the Clearlake City Council will consider at their meeting tomorrow at 6pm. For the first time in several years, Lake County News reports the council will consider approving a school resource officer for the next school year at the Konocti Unified School. The approval would come with about \$143,000 to fund a full time officer including salary, benefits, training and more. The council will also consider a traffic signal update for about \$47,000 at Olympic Drive and Old Highway 53 where they'll also consider a new video detection system. The council will consider a contract for guardrails too for about \$46,000. They'll also discuss litigation during the closed session on a liability claim against the city, the county and CALPERS.

Sheet1

Lack of information may push Mendocino County's credit rating down according to Moody's. The credit rating agency filed a public record request for a 2022 audit last month, with a due date for response on June 30th. KymKemp reports the treasurer tax collector wrote to the agency on June 23rd that an outside audit firm is still working on the audit and the county does not have a draft of the statement for review, saying they hoped to have it within a month. Last year, it was reported that the county received an increased credit rating after improving financial management. Now, with the county's labor union in negotiations and after balancing the budget with \$7 million in onetime funds, the county's credit may drop.

Last night that was a full road closure at the Pudding Creek Bridge project in Fort Bragg. The closure tonight will start at 10pm tonight through 4am tomorrow morning. Exceptions will be made for emergency responders who will get an escort during the night if needed. MendoVoice reports one-way traffic control continues at the Pudding Creek Bridge through the end of August.

A truck and trailer going south on Highway 101 north of Healdsburg crashed trying to pass a slower vehicle. The 78-year-old Cloverdale driver was arrested on suspicion of DUI. William Stinebaugh was pulling a camping trailer at the time, according to CHP. The Press Democrat reports Stinebaugh rolled his truck and camper off the highway as he tried to overcorrect. Highway 101 had lanes closed for hours after the crash. He didn't hit anyone else and was not injured. He was cleared at the hospital and taken to Sonoma County jail.

The Lakeport City Council met last night with two public hearing on utility issues and more. Lake County News reports the council also chose a delegate to represent them for a statewide conference in the fall. The council approved adding about \$40,000 delinquent utility bills to be included in the Auditor-Controller's Office to be included in property tax bills. The late payments last year were a quarter as high. The council then resolved to change fees for Water and Sewer Expansion Fee Program, a separate program from regular rates paid by customers. The fees spread the cost of infrastructure for current customers and new ones, charging the developers for connecting to the city's systems. Mayor Pro Tem Michael Froio was selected to be the voting delegate at the annual League of California Cities slated for September.

The International Student Exchange is looking for host families in Lake and Mendocino Counties. In a posting on social media, organizer Chrissy Valadez says the 8 students last year experienced an amazing time. There are 6 host families needed this school year. There are currently 4 students who are aiming to come to California by next month. Host families are allowed to choose their students who bring their own spending money, have health insurance and a phone. The foreign students must follow the International Student Exchange rules, and the host family house rules. The posting listed students from Belgium, Spain, Italy and the Czech Republic. Check the Ukiah/Mendo Community Group on Facebook for more information.

Sheet1

The Redwood Credit Union filed an appeal with the Ukiah City Council yesterday, hoping the council's denial for their new branch will be reversed. The branch was slated for the corner of Perkins and South Main Streets. The Planning Commission voted 4-1 to deny the permit that the Redwood Credit Union had been reworked to try to meet city codes and concerns. The Willits News reports there was opposition to the branch because of non conformity with Ukiah's Downtown Zoning Code and they did not include a traffic analysis. RCU has now submitted a sixth version of the proposal removing their drive-thru ATM. They added landscaping and more on the property and added an "Exit Only" lane onto Perkins Street. New architectural features have been redesigned as well. City planning staff may consider overturning the denial and hold another public hearing.

California is prohibiting official state travel fore more than half of US states. AG Bonta announced states were added to the list because of new anti-LGBTQ legislation in those states. Fodor's Travel cite reports California began their travel ban in 2016 as North Carolina approved a law restricting access to bathrooms for transgender people. AB 1887 prohibits state travel using public funds to states with legislation that is discriminatory in targeting people on the basis of sexual orientation, gender expression or identity. Exceptions to the travel prohibition include litigation, contractual obligations, the protection of public health and more. There aren't exceptions for athletic programs, putting university systems in California in a jam. Outside funding must be found for teams to travel to the prohibited states.

California's new mental crisis hotline, 988 has surged with usage. Crisis centers have received nearly 300,000 calls, according to CalMatters. Now, the state plans to hire even more mental health professionals and include a Spanish language option for the hotline. The hotline began after Governor Newsom signed a law to fund crisis call systems. The intention of the bill, according to its author, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan was to cut down on volatile emergency calls that lead to unnecessary force by police. She noted the mental health crisis in the state continues with more work needed.

Sonoma County's Board of Supervisors approved a revised Local Coastal Plan with new protections for the coast. The Press Democrat reports one protection may halt the building of a proposed hydropower project in the Fort Ross Area. The 1,000 page revision to the coastal plan has to be approved by the California Coastal Commission. The original plan made in 2001 has not been updated until now. The new plan prohibits desalination plants, except when needed to preserve health and safety in surrounding communities. It also at least delays industrial scale waste or storm water flows into the Pacific. The board approved the revision to the 55 mile lone Sonoma Coast planning. There still remains debate over pesticide use, public access points and development.

The Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians released a map of the blue-green algal toxic blooms on Clearlake this morning. In a social media post, the map of cyanotoxin data shows danger to the south and east parts of the lake. The town of Clearlake, the area of Lower Lake, Clearlake Oaks all show high levels of the toxic algae. There seems to be low if any danger to the north and west parts of Clearlake. People should avoid going into the water where the highest concentrations of the cyanotoxins are and people should also limit pets and livestock from areas where the algal blooms are appearing at high levels.

07/20/2023

Sheet1

Clearlake Police announced illegal grows were searched this month and seized over 3,600 plants and about 1,000 pounds of processed marijuana. Lake County News reports they also found 12 illegal firearms and over 6,000 rounds of ammo from four locations. Four people were arrested and taken to jail on charges related to unlicensed marijuana operations and firearms charges. Most grows were outside, with a few indoor operations.

There was a motorcycle versus vehicle crash in Ukiah that brought an air ambulance in to take the rider with an open compound fracture to Adventist Ukiah then flown out to another hospital. It happened yesterday just after 6pm when emergency responders were called to South State and Church Streets on reports a vehicle struck the biker. MendoFever reported the vehicle may have fled the scene. Details are still unfolding as authorities investigate.

The Mendocino Historical Review Board is considering allowing outside areas to continue for county businesses that opened their spaces up during COVID. As of now, the temporary permits and allowances for outdoor retail spaces will end on August 8th. Businesses must apply for the permit to extend outdoor uses while the board and the county consider how to formalize the expanded spaces. The Advocate News reports the issue is not cut and dry, and for now, permit extensions are the only answer to keep things like tents erected. There is opposition to the theory of keeping the spaces, but the Historical Review Board only has so much authority. They've decided to seek legal counsel with input from the county.

The Mendocino County Probation Department and GEO Reentry Services are hosting an open house today from 12:30 to 2:30pm for the community to learn about programs for people on probation and more to help participants get back to life, work, sobriety or school. People can learn from substance abuse treatment resources, behavioral treatment, parenting, employment skills, counseling and more. The center offers long-term benefits to the community and is effective at reducing correctional costs while improving public safety and lowering recidivisms, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal.

A report on crime in the state has issued earlier this month. The 2022 report shows violent crimes and property crimes have increased by just over 6 percent in a year. CalMatters reports robberies rocketed up over 10 percent. Attorney General Bonta issued a statement saying gun violence remains a major threat to public safety, and that property and violent crimes continue to have devastating consequences. Residents worry crime is trending up, and is noted in a Public Policy Institute of California. The institute says 2 in 3 California residents call street crime a problem, a large increase from 2020.

Caltrans is celebrating a half century mark. California created the Department of Transportation fifty years ago this month. Lake County News reports what is known as CalTrans pulled together one of the nation's largest transportation systems. Caltrans has released an updated history on the official website.

There will be a workshop for the community on the future public transit routes and more on July 27th at 4:30 at the Ukiah Senior Center. After a meeting last month, the Mendocino Council of Governments had a Rural Mobility Solutions Virtual Public Meeting and heard from some inland residents. The upcoming workshop will focus on a Short Range Transit Plan for the next five years. The project was started with a grant from Cal Trans. MendoFever reports communities along Highway 101 don't have enough public transportation. They focused on the areas of Covelo, Laytonville, Brooktrails, Potter Valley and Hopland. The project aims to use innovative ideas to work for the trips from Ukiah to the Coast.

Sheet1

Lake County artists are being hailed by the Cobb Sculpture Jam organizers to be a part of the event as well as a summer workshop. Lake County News reports the Cobb Sculpture Jam aims to bring the community together and create an outdoor museum without walls. The Sculpture Jam will happen mid October, but they are hoping artists will come together for a workshop planned soon. What they're looking for is the use of natural or recycled and reclaimed materials. Organizers are comparing what they'd like the event to be to sculpture jams in the Bay Area, Cloverdale and Middletown. Highway 175 will be the art corridor where sculptures will be lined up and lit with solar lights.

California's Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention held a first in a series of public listening sessions last week at Sonoma State University. The Press Democrat reports climate change was a hot topic. Cal Fire and other state and local agencies were on hand for the meeting to get a handle on what communities are doing to mitigate fire risk. Overgrown forests, population growth and human sparked fires have contributed to the growing threat. Home hardening can help prevent damage. The group also discussed people who live along parks or public spaces and streamlining a permit process to allow them to cut down brush. The group also discussed controlled burns.

A chain of car crashes shut down Highway 101 near Healdsburg last night. Both northbound lanes were blocked for over an hour at Dry Creek Road. The Press Democrat reports there were four collisions on the highway. One vehicle was destroyed in a crash with one victim airlifted out. The chain of events started in the southbound lanes of Highway 101 around 6pm according to CHP. Gawkers from the northbound lane led to a rear end collision that prompted a third and fourth collision. Three people were injured. A Chevy Tahoe, Nissan Rogue and a pick-up were involved in the rear-end strikes. Traffic was diverted onto Dry Creek Road, until Highway 101 northbound lanes reopened around 7:30pm.

Weather researchers at San Jose State University are studying wildfire behavior in steep terrain. KCRA reports Cal Fire has focused on being actively aggressive in initial attacks on blazes and has been fairly successful. The weather researchers have been looking at smoke with a Doppler Radar for a decade. It allows them to look into plumes to see how fires create their own weather pattern. Those patterns, are larger than one would think, with researchers seeing winds caused by fires up to a mile away from the blaze. All their research will help them model fire behavior to help firefighters and communities. Last year, a team held a burn experiment in a steep canyon and looked at the fire with an array of sensors. As this wildfire season has started relatively quieter than in past years, scientists say when north winds pick up toward the fall, new adaptive mitigation techniques will be put to the test.

The Mendocino County District Attorney issued a release on social media yesterday. A jury deliberated yesterday and announced a deadlock on the case against Mylz Dykes of Willits who was charged with evading and resisting an officer. The three day trial ended with Judge Pekin declaring a mistrial. A new trial date was set so the district attorney can gather a new panel of jurors.

Sheet1

The Little Lake Fire Protection District received USDA grant funds for two new fire engines. The district applied for the grant a couple of years ago and was just awarded the engine grant. In other grant applications, the Little Lake Fire Protection District also was awarded a smaller engine grant. The customizable 4-wheel drive pickup has better maneuverability and can get to places that larger engines cannot. The Type 3 engine was delivered recently and is being outfitted for the district. The Willits Weekly reports at the districts board of directors meeting earlier this month also included updates on repair to the station gate, adding solar power and an EV charging station. The division chief also talked about collaboration between the City of Willits and Little Lake Fire with new software.

Camp Mendocino is getting some rehab work done with the help of AmeriCorps. A group of eight young adults have been working at clearing spots of high fire risk and will continue working on the camp through the beginning of August. The Mendocino Beacon reports the six week project is part of the AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps Summer of Service program. What is usually a nearly year long term provides an opportunity for college students to work with the service group after a few weeks of training in Denver.

Lake County issued a release today for heat associated risks today and tomorrow. Triple digit temperatures are expected for parts of Lake County. They'll be the highest this afternoon. Lake County Library Staff and County operated Peer Support Centers want the public to know their doors will be open portions of today and tomorrow. Most libraries are open today and tomorrow through 5pm. The Big Oak Peer Support Center in Clearlake Oaks will be open until 5pm today, and through 4:30pm tomorrow. Authorities want residents to stay hydrated and inside or in shaded areas when possible. Check on those without air conditioning and consider your pets and livestock. Have plenty of fresh water available and shade too. Be cautious of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat stroke is an emergency situation. If your body temp exceeds 103 degrees, call 911. Other symptoms include hot, dry skin, rapid pulse or dizziness to unconsciousness.

07/21/2023

The Lake County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services is urging caution, calling today a fire weather Friday. In a release, the office says hot temperatures with low humidity and gusty winds have increased the risk of fire starts, and rapid spread. Officials ask that residents not drive in tall vegetation. Do not start any sparks by using equipment like welders, grinders, mowers and more. Make sure you don't have chains dragging behind your vehicle. Be careful bbqing near dry brush, and have a fire extinguisher nearby if you do cook outside. Follow the sheriff's office, Lake County OES and fire district alerts on social media.

The SEIU Local 1021 that organizes Mendocino County employees may go on strike. MendoVoice reports union leaders have said the county board has bargained in bad faith on issues of pay and more. In a press release yesterday, the union said the county discussed having employees pay more for benefits and retirement, adding to an already stressed labor force. A poll shows about 85 percent of union members would strike. Local 1021 has more than 700 members, most of the county's employees. The union says they are voting to go on strike to save services for the community's families, children and elders. The Voice reports Fifth District Supervisor Ted Williams responded to a possible strike by saying the union is sidestepping the issue of a plethora of empty positions. SEIU members have about a week to cast a vote. Mendocino County has thru today to respond to the unions charge of bad faith bargaining.

Sheet 1

Lake County Board of Supervisors approved a project after a landslide destroyed homes in Lakeside Heights 10 years ago. Lake County News reports in their meeting this week, the Public Works Director got the go ahead to compensate properties to be bought for the Hill Road Slide Repair and Restoration Project. The land across from the Sutter Lakeside Hospital campus had homes destroyed and the road washed out. A lawsuit delayed the project when homeowners sued and settled with the county for 4.5 million in 2017. The county has nine properties to purchase, most for just over \$9,200 each. Leaders hope the project can get underway without any further delays.

City of Ukiah officials are dealing with discrepancies in the zoning code as Redwood Credit Union offers a new proposal to better fit within requirements. The Ukiah Planning Commission denied the last proposal for the branch last month, as it didn't fit into their codes. At the city council meeting Wednesday night, Mendofever reports RCU presented their sixth proposal. The proposed bank branch location on Perkins and Main Streets currently has two buildings that would be demolished. The city considered the bank's latest plan that proposes a one story project with a faux second story. City is reportedly working on a long term plan to align and clarify all the municipal codes. Mayor Rodin proposed making a list of suggestions for the next design iteration to find a balance between the current code requirements and what the developers can do.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors approved the annual report on the Sheriff's military equipment. The board heard updates from the North Bay Workforce Alliance about how the local workforce compares to other counties and what can be done to grow labor. Top jobs in demand in the county include healthcare and nursing positions as well as municipal positions. They discussed funding opportunities for broadband and an updated communications master plan. The Record Bee reports other economic development items like EV charging stations could give the county tax credits and attract tourism development. Millions are available to the county as part of the Redwood Region Rise with Community Economic Resilience Funds.

A Civil Grand Jury released a report on the election last November in Lake County. The Record Bee reports the report shows the professionalism and security with which the election was conducted. The Registrar of Voters was interviewed as well as previous poll workers. The Jury saw each of the 22 polling locations on November 8, 2022 and watched how they worked. The jury reported that public observers and Grand Jury Observers be trained on procedures. With 80 precincts in Lake County, staffed by 34 boards, hours of training are required. They recommend a training video that covers all aspects of policies. Also, the Registrar of Voters should assess connectivity of county issued cell phones and support materials.

As officials warn of fire risk weather today, it may be good to know about how hot your medications can get before they degrade. The Tribune News Service reports on what the Mayo Clinic Network says are medication tips. Some medications can degrade, while some may cause heat intolerance in people. Insulin is a medicine best kept cool, and dry. Blood pressure meds can cause heat intolerance in people, as well as antihistamines, and psychiatric medications. Medical personnel say call your pharmacy if you have any questions about heat and your personal prescriptions.

Sheet1

California's three largest electric providers, including PG&E are considering a plan to charge customers based on their household income. California's utility bills are some of the highest in the US, and prices are forecast to rise. Opposition to income driven bills warns of rising costs to solar energy users and less electricity conservation. CalMatters reports the utilities say income driven bills would save residents about \$300 per year. For those making more than \$180,000 annually they could see an increase of about \$500. The Public Utilities Commission has set a deadline to decide on the charges about a year from now. Legislators and the governor signed a comprehensive energy bill last year that mandates new pricing. The power companies say part of everyone's bill will include usage, with a portion to lower costs for lower and middle income customers.

Mendocino County comes in as one of California's counties with the worst commutes, in data put together by Stacker. The Press Democrat reports that the average time a Mendocino County resident spends getting to work is about 21 minutes. The county comes in at number 50. Nearly 8 percent of commuters travel over an hour. About 73 percent of county residents work outside of Mendocino County. And about 73 percent drive alone to work not markedly using public transportation. The list finds that almost 10 percent of residents work from home. Sonoma County is on the list ranking 34th. Sonoma County commuters average about 26 miles to work, with about 10 percent traveling over an hour. About 14 percent of commuters travel to another county and most drive alone. Lake County is near the top of the list, ranking at number 15.

The Ukiah Library Kids Farmers Markets are popular and overflowing. The Ukiah Daily Journal writes the markets that happen each Wednesday morning are in the 34th year. From sourdough bread to produce and flowers have filled the spaces round the library with more than enough vendors. The kids like to trade baked goods, and have learned to measure, cook, price and market their wares. Other youngsters plant, tend, pick and price vegetables, plants and other produce. Some bring art inspired by nature.

The Fort Bragg City Council set their agenda for their meeting next Monday. In it, they plan to classify two positions into one with the Assistant City Manager and Police Chief roles to be held by Neil Cervenka. They plan to readopt the master traffic resolution and approve work proposals for the Bainbridge Park Enhancement Project. They'll discuss work on the fire station rehab project with block grant funds. During the public hearing session, they'll go over the development plans and loan agreement for The Plateau in the amount of about \$2.2 million. The council plans to consider approving the 2022 Streets Rehab Project for just under \$200,000. Their meeting is set for Monday at 6pm.

A woman from Mendocino had a stroke on Highway 101 north of Leggett on Wednesday. KymKemp reports multiple drivers called into CHP worried about the woman's erratic driving. A driver successfully slowed down the woman in her car near mile marker 95 as she suffered from a stroke. Emergency responders arrived shortly thereafter to help stabilize and fly her to a Redding Hospital.

There was an update released by the Mendocino County Sheriff of the drowning in the Russian River on Saturday. The body was identified as Jorge Medina, from Ukiah. Medina was pulled from the East Fork of the river just before 4pm. Someone at the scene with Medina tried to do CPR until emergency responders got to him and tried to revive him, but they were unable to. It happened when Medina waded into the river to get relief from the heat, reportedly complaining of a bad headache.

07/24/2023

Sheet 1

The US Geological Survey reported an earthquake near Rio Dell early this morning just before 4am. The magnitude 3.1 quake reportedly rolled through the Eel River Valley, according to KymKemp. The epicenter was about 5.5 miles west of Rio Dell. There are reports of people who experienced the quake in Fortuna.

The car crash reported south of Ukiah yesterday may have been due to someone driving under the influence. Ukiah Police released new information today about the collision yesterday morning just after 10am. Police identified Malia Donovan drove a Jeep north on Highway 101 near the Rivino Winery. Brian Bozeman was driving a Tacoma also going north. Donovan's Jeep lost control after hitting the Tacoma and rolled off the road and went up in flames. She was able to get out of the Jeep before becoming fully engulfed. Firefighters were able to contain the fire. Northbound traffic was slow as a life flight arrived to carry Donovan to the hospital. Police believe alcohol was a factor.

A special city council meeting was held last week in Ukiah to go over the vision to improve the downtown area. A presentation was given by the Director of Innovation and Inspiration at Blue Zones along with the Executive Director of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute to workshop infrastructure plans for the future. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the meeting highlighted recent work on State Street and put a focus on infrastructure improvement. Greenway median plans and one-lane roundabouts were discussed to make it easier for people to walk around downtown and improve overall traffic safety. Development to improve property value includes transitioning to an urban form and increase property values by 800 percent. The City Council voted to move forward with the concepts of the workshop.

The Scotts Valley Community Advisory Council will meet today at 5pm at the Scotts Valley Women's Clubhouse in Lakeport. The meeting will include Fourth District updates, roadwork and more for Scotts Valley roads, Clear Lake hitch in the area and groundwater updates. They'll discuss Scotts Creek in and out put, efforts to clean it, rehab and repair and more. The council will also discuss plans for the Fall Neighborfest.

There was a brush fire that claimed a building during the blaze on Saturday in Clearlake. The fire was going uphill when it was stopped after burning about an acre. The Vegetation Fire was reported by Lake County on social media. There were evacuations in the area round Benton Drive and Barbara Road. 200 homes were threatened until firefighters were able to stop the burning. Aerial resources were used as well as multiple ground crews. Another fire was reported Saturday near the East Side Potter Valley Road and Burris Lane according to the Mendocino Sheriff.

A car chase became a ground search in Ukiah with two men ran away from police near a golf course next to Todd Grove Park. MendoFever reports scanner traffic pick up information on two white men trying to escape authorities when they were stopped an elementary school just after 3pm. They two headed into the golf course. There was an aerial and ground search last reported. Suspects were still at large and police believe they may be armed.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow morning to discuss extending the emergency homeless shelter's agreement. The second amendment with Sunrise Special Services would extend the shelter through October and the board will also increase compensation for this and next fiscal year for just under half a million dollars. The board will go over delinquent water fees and collections of delinquent water and sewer fees. The board will discuss litigation on the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project in the closed session.

Sheet1

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors have two cannabis prohibition proposals on their agenda. As industry regulations have been codified, the county is working to clarify policies and regulations. Cannabis prohibition zones, or CPs, add more restrictions. If the board approves the zones, marijuana crops won't be allowed for a decade if most of neighboring people get special board approval. The Planning Commission will hear from residents who want the prohibition zones and make recommendations to the board. Kym Kemp reports tomorrow, the board will hear a proposal for a CP in Redwood Valley. The commission first heard the proposal in May, but did not make a recommendation. The commission last week approved a CP east of Willits, excluding one small operation that is in the permitting process. Two growers in Redwood Valley have secured attorneys if the zones are approved to fight for their business.

Motion-sensor cameras have picked up wildlife returning to the once burned area of the Mendocino Complex Fire of 2018. UC's Hopland Research and Extension Center on the Russian River is about a dozen miles south of Ukiah. Small and medium mammals have been studied through the center and released a study today. It's one of the first such works to look at wildlife before and after a megafire. In the report, researchers say six of eight animals in the study were more resistant to the impact of the fire and showed up to the same spots. The coyote, black tailed jackrabbit, gray fox, raccoon, striped skunk and bobcat all seem to adjust to the burn. The western gray squirrel and black tailed deer were found to be more vulnerable and did not return as frequently as the other animals. Small areas of trees and brush spared by fires provide areas for animals to find shelter. The study will help fire mitigation efforts as prescribed blazes help keep some forest intact.

Mendocino County released their CEO report with updates on county plans and strategies. The office released an update on the late winter storms when the county was added to the Major Presidential Disaster Declaration. Disaster Recovery Centers helped residents register for assistance. 320 Mendocino County residents applied and 123 were approved for nearly \$600,000 in direct disaster assistance for the first round of winter storms of late December. The Second round of storms in February also impacted the county with widespread damage. Initially, FEMA did not approve the county for the Individual Assistance programs through the declaration, but finally addressed the equity concerns and got the final approval for that assistance program. The Disaster Recovery Center in Willits and the Mobile centers helped affected residents apply for help through last week. 366 residents registered with FEMA and 161 of those were approved for about \$1.4 million in direct assistance.

Governor Newsom announced a \$4.5 million program to help undocumented workers. The state's pilot program will give help to undocumented farm workers who deal with pay issues and extortion along with a long list of other complaints. Newsom says farm workers are the backbone of our economy... and California continues efforts to support immigrant families. The project for legal help aims to focus on state labor investigations, case review services and legal advice. The Press Democrat reports the United Farm Workers Foundation reacted saying farm workers must be able to enforce their rights without threat of retaliation.

Sheet1

In the first round of Medi-Cal cuts, nearly a quarter of a million California residents' benefits have been suspended. The Record Bee reports as of July 1, over 20 percent of the 1 million residents who were due to reapply for coverage didn't make the cut, according to health officials last week. Eligibility rules were paused during COVID, but the process has begun again. State officials are trying to reach enrollees multiple ways to verify them in the program. Officials are urging people to watch the mail and make sure your contact information is correct, so that Medi-Cal can work to cover you. The state has to review nearly 16 million residents in the next year. The good news is that those who may have had benefits stopped can apply to reinstate coverage. Almost 40 percent of Californians were on medical during the pandemic. Covered California is an alternative transition.

In a released CEO report out of Mendocino County, they announced that Behavioral Health and Recovery Services were granted over \$9 million to help fund the Whitmore Lane Psychiatric Health Facility. The funds were awarded by the California Department of Health Care Services Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program. The center has plans for community education and awareness events including back to school resources for Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg.

A man was caught after reportedly stealing a car and leading multiple area authorities on several car chases. Dustin Blakesley was arrested after he escaped police during a pursuit around Cow Mountain. A stolen car was reported Sunday out of Sonoma. MendoFever reports Ukiah Police were notified when the stolen car was seen on North State Street. When police tried to stop the driver, he sped away to the south. Police followed the driver on South State Street to Talmage Road, Old River Road and onto Mill Creek Road, where officers lost sight of the car. Ukiah Police accessed the GPS system of the stolen car and found the suspect near Guidivile Reservation Road. Blakesley was found sleeping in the drivers seat and arrested. Blakesley is connected to several pursuits; chased by CHP, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and more, with multiple injuries reported. He had an active warrant and was taken to

07/25/2023 jail.

A blaze started just after 5pm last night near Laytonville off Steele Lane. The quarter acre fire slowly burned up to half an acre as it moved from brush to timber within minutes. Two tankers and an air attack including a copter responded to the fire with ground crews, according to KymKemp. By 5:30 it was reported the fire had been contained.

Ukiah Police issued a release on a stolen vehicle from Lake County. Police saw the stolen car going north on Dora Street. A car chase began when the officer tried to pull the car over. The suspect drove the car west on Mendocino Drive then north back to Dora Street to the Todd Grove Park area where witnesses pointed police toward the stolen vehicle. MendoFever reports the suspect reportedly crashed into a concrete retaining wall. The 17 year old suspect was id'd as the driver who also had a passenger with him who took off on foot. After a search with the help of a drone the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office weren't able to find the passenger. The teen driver was booked into Juvenile Hall.

Sheet1

A winery in Sonoma County has settled with over 20 former employees who accused the winery of retaliating against them by speaking out about unfair working conditions. The Press Democrat reports Mauriton Farms in Healdsburg will pay about \$328,000 to 21 farm workers according to the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board. The winery's general manager said the settlement was a business decision. The plaintiff workers had visas to work as part of the H-2A program. A nonprofit, North Bay Jobs with Justice helped the employees with complaints about the winery's denials of meal and rest breaks and mistreatment. As part of the settlement, the Agricultural Labor Relations Board will visit Mauriton Farms to read a notice to farm workers and post information about their rights.

The Redwood Credit Union is hosting their annual free shredding event this Saturday from 9am to noon at their branch in Ukiah on South Orchard Avenue. People can bring 3 boxes of confidential documents for their "Shred-a-Thon" with free shredding by Shred-It and e-waste collection by Conservation Corps North Bay. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the e-waste collection includes old computers, printers, cell phones and other electronics. It's a free event, but there is a place to donate money for Plowshares, a Ukiah nonprofit that gives hot meals to those in need.

A Lake county Superior Court case involving a Lakeport man charged with a hit-and-run early this year has assigned a new judge per the request of the district attorney. The Record Bee reports the trial is set for July 26th, with the new Judge Markham. Al James is the defendant and was not in custody during the new judge request. James pled not guilty and denied special allegations. It happened in January when CHP a crash on North Main Street in Lakeport injured a woman. When police got there, the driver had left. She was taken to Sutter Lakeside and later transferred by air to another hospital. James was charged with the crime and booked into jail with a bail set at \$10,000. He was bailed out and is now facing a new judge for tomorrow's court date.

California is starting a program to give gift cards to meth users who test negative for the stimulant. CalMatters reports the "contingency management" model rewards those for drug tests that are negative for meth. The US Department of Veterans Affairs has been using the program for decades. The program is growing with a recent waiver by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that will cover the costs. California is launching the pilot program in counties including San Francisco and Sacramento. Costs for the Recovery Incentives Program will be paid by CalAIM, the most recent expansion of the Medical. Meth is the most common choice on the streets according to a recent study. If the program is successful, it will be rolled out statewide.

Questions of whether recent spikes in consumer costs have been caused, at least in part, by price gouging aren't going away. Attorneys General in more than 30 states, including California, are working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine just how much consumers have been affected, and whether any suspicious activity by corporations is at play. The California News Service reports beyond price structures, the U-S-D-A notes that states will also be on the lookout for conflicts of interest, misuse of intellectual property, and anti-competitive barriers across the food and agriculture supply chains. Business groups like the U-S Chamber of Commerce oppose the move, calling it an "overreach."

Sheet1

California water authorities estimate about 3.8 million acre-feet of water went to underground reservoirs this year after a wet winter and spring. That amount of water fulfills about 11 million homes annually. The Sacramento Bee reports data released last week is helping depleted underground basins that were emptied during the years long drought. Experts say it's not enough. The Central Valley needs between 2.3 to 7 million acre-feet to charge their groundwater. Governor Newsom set a goal earlier to fill reservoirs an average of 500,000 acre feet per year, the Department of Water Resources says more is needed. California recently did aerial surveys using electromagnetic imaging to map recharge areas. Years of over-pumping have left vulnerable communities without water. So far this year, about 316 wells are dry.

In the Mendocino County's CEO report released this week, they announced health and wellness sessions. The Employee Health Benefits team will host Health and wellness benefits Trainings tomorrow in Willits. Two more sessions are scheduled for August in Fort Bragg, and September in Ukiah. There will be morning and afternoon sessions. Included will be flexible spending information, wellness monetary incentives and tips and resources to save money and utilize benefits to stay healthy.

The Lake County Library will hold their "Happy Trails Hiking Book Club" this Saturday at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park in Lower Lake at 8am. It happens on the last Saturday of each month. This month's theme, according to the Redbud Library is marsh or wetland. Members can read any book having to do with the theme and chat with a group on a hike. Coming next Tuesday, as the first one of the month for August the Garden Book Club will meet online at 10am.

The Willits Police Department will host National Night Out a week from today at Bud Snider Park. Smokey's BBQ will have food. Patrol cars will be on display and there will be activities for kids, a DJ and more. National Night Out is happening across the country to build up community relations with law enforcement and residents. It starts on August 1st at 5p and runs through 8pm.

A company has been buying land surrounding Travis Air Force Base for the last 5 years. The Wall Street Journal reported earlier this month, that Flannery Associates have spent about \$1 billion buying up land around the base. SF Gate reports the agricultural land that mostly surrounds the base has been bought by the company from Rio Vista to Solano. The purchases urged Congressman Garamendi to track down who makes up the Flannery Group, based in Delaware. The Congressman said the company paid five to ten times the normal value, and is asking why? Some reports show most of the company's investors are from the US, with a few in Great Britain. There is a military investigation as to what the company plans to do with the newly acquired land.

Express Registration for the Lake County Campus of the Woodland Community College will begin on August 5th. Application assistance, counseling and financial aid resources will be on hand. The event will also include a Culinary Round-Up on the 5th for culinary students to learn about a certificate program as well as an Associates degree. LCC also has over 50 degree and certificate programs available for anyone to pursue their academic goals. The college is ranked in the top 40 of community colleges in the nation. Lake County News reports the school has classes for students of all ages. LCC also has English programs to help non-native English speaking people advance in the language. The event is set for a week from this Saturday, August 5th from 10am to 2pm.

Sheet1

The Wonder Fire near Shasta Lake has burned 100 acres so far. It started yesterday afternoon just after 4pm and was fueled by windy conditions. There are multiple reports on the wildfire, burning in steep terrain. Crews have worked throughout the evening last night to work on control lines. Authorities have kept the evacuation of the area around the Bridge Bay Marina in place. Residents around the south side of Shasta Lake remain on high alert as crews try to get a handle on the fire. Since then, road closures have lifted. As of this morning, crews had the fire at 10 percent containment. A CalFire release lists about 200 personnel and 14 agencies helping in the fire fight. A NOAA image shows the plume of smoke from the Wonder Fire, as well as the Flat and Bedrock Fires burning in west Oregon.

A man was caught after reportedly stealing a car and leading multiple area authorities on several car chases. Dustin Blakesley was arrested after he escaped police during a pursuit around Cow Mountain. A stolen car was reported Sunday out of Sonoma. MendoFever reports Ukiah Police were notified when the stolen car was seen on North State Street. When police tried to stop the driver, he sped away to the south. Police followed the driver on South State Street to Talmage Road, Old River Road and onto Mill Creek Road, where officers lost sight of the car. Ukiah Police accessed the GPS system of the stolen car and found the suspect near Guidiville Reservation Road. Blakesley was found sleeping in the drivers seat and arrested. Blakesley is connected to several pursuits; chased by CHP, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and more, with multiple injuries reported. He had an active warrant and was taken to jail.

07/26/2023

As high temperatures become more extreme, California officials are looking at the economic impact on workers. CalMatters reports the welfare impacts from heat-related work injuries costs California about \$500 to nearly \$900 million annually. Information from the Washington Center for Equitable Growth Study shows high temps causes about 20,000 injuries per year. A new state committee is set to use data to create policies to protect workers. When days are over 100 degrees, the heat leads to a 10 to 15 percent increase in injuries. The advisory committee met at the end of last month for the first time, and is working on legislation to prevent heat related injuries. Outdoor heat isn't the only issue the committee will tackle, but indoor heat has negatively affected workers too. UPS is actively confronting heat rules in their workspace. Their union reached an agreement yesterday after threatening a strike, with more heat protections and higher pay.

New health-care subsidies for low-income families are expected to soften the impact of rising premiums. On Tuesday Covered CA announced that premiums will go up by an average of 9-point-6 percent in 2024. However, state and federal assistance will counteract the increase for most of the one-point-six million people enrolled in plans from the state marketplace. A new state cost-sharing program is targeted to people who make about 34-thousand dollars a year for a single person and 70 thousand for a family of four. The California News Service reports people who are currently enrolled will be notified of premium changes and whether a different plan might help them qualify for more assistance.

Sheet1

Adventist Health Clear Lake just got accreditation from the American college of emergency physicians for their Geriatric Emergency Department. Lake County News reports about a quarter of residents in Lake County are 65 years and older, and the age group is growing. The accreditation means the hospital's protocol-driven approach with geriatric patients is top notch. To get it, Adventist Clear Lake follows best practices to quote, ensure compassionate, specialized care" to the population. The hospital has a specialized doctor and nurse on staff who have specialized training and meet criteria. ERs typically process 60 percent of Medicare patients who are vulnerable.

Fort Bragg Police arrested an aggressive man who was threatening employees at the Boatyard Shopping Center with a stick and tried to carjack someone in the parking lot. Jason Colson of Fort Bragg threatened officers when they arrived as well. Police tased Colson but missed as he fled toward the road. Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies came to help as Colson ran onto SR 1 in the middle of Hare Creek Bridge threatening to jump. The scene stopped traffic as Fort Bragg officers tried to de-escalate and negotiate with him for two hours yesterday. Officers were successful and Colson dropped the wooden batons and surrendered to police. He was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, carjacking, vandalism and more. Police are asking for anyone with information about Colson to call.

California's opioid deaths rocketed up 121 percent from 2019 to 2021, with a majority of those linked to fentanyl according to CalMatters. Fentanyl is relatively cheap to make and has become an increased threat in every corner of the nation. The cheap highly potent synthetic opioid is often laced in counterfeit pills sold to people. Lawmakers have dozens of proposals for legislation and are holding special hearings. Health officials and more are pushing for more fentanyl test strips to be distributed and available for people to detect fentanyl. The most recent state data shows nearly 6,000 people died after taking drugs that had fentanyl in them last year. The rural north coast has seen the majority of overdose deaths including in Mendocino County.

What may be the largest petrified trees on planet Earth are for sale. The Petrified Forest in Sonoma County covers 500 acres of permanently preserved forest that had been a tourist attraction for over a century. The family who owned the space since 1914 is putting it up for sale for \$12 million. The Press Democrat reports the property includes oak woodland, a gift shop, café, living quarters and party barn in over 8,000 square feet of space. Healdsburg Realty and Artisan Sotheby's International Realty are listing the property which includes a mile of Porter Creek. The Petrified Forest has about 30,000 visitors yearly. The history of the forest was recorded when in 1870 a Swedish homesteader found petrified wood there, created by a volcanic explosion that sucked the oxygen out of the forest and created rock-hard fossils.

There are openings for a nomination process to get into West Point at the US Naval Academy, the US Air Force Academy and the US Merchant marine Academy. Representative Mike Thompson announced the opportunities yesterday. Lake County News reports Thompson made the announcement to encourage eligible students to take advantage of the opportunity. Interested applicants must be US citizens and meet specific requirements and medical qualifications. Those who have made academic achievements, are leaders and have a commitment to serve the country should consider the options available. Applications must be postmarked by October 2nd. Students can call Congressman Thompson's office for more details.

Sheet1

Kaiser Health Care workers picked up picket signs and began striking yesterday. Workers say shortages in staffing are negatively affecting patients as well as doctors and other healthcare workers. From the Bay Area to the Capital and throughout the state, health workers say they've had to pick up more of the workload without the right equipment to care for patients. KCRA and the Press Democrat report pressure on workers is unhealthy. Workers say seeing Kaiser's profits in the tens of billions of dollars is unsettling, and they'd like to see more hiring, and better pay. Unions are negotiating with the organization to improve operations, services and benefits for existing workers. Some staff are demonstrating during their lunch hours, not wanting to leave patients with no help.

The California State Controller published payroll data for state departments, courts and CSU for 2022. Almost \$28 billion in payroll was listed on the Government Compensation in California website. Lake County News reports nearly 400,000 positions are listed on the site. Locally, Lake County Superior Court had 44 employees with wages total about \$2.7 million with about half a million in retirement and healthcare. Last year, Superior Court judges in Lake County made over \$200,000. State law requires municipalities to report their annual salaries to the controllers office. People can check out the government website and search by region and other data categories.

California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment finds vulnerable people in Mendocino County and other rural NorCal regions are disproportionately affected by climate change, according to MendoVoice. The disenfranchised often suffer more and are less equipped to deal with climate catastrophes. Governor Newsom has set about \$48 billion for the next five years for climate projects and infrastructure. California Climate Adaptation Strategy projects including the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians work to turn a motel into affordable housing have been used as models for state funded climate adaptation. Compounding climate disasters are expected to rise, combining floods with fires, droughts and extreme heat events. The Voice reports Mendocino County temperatures are expected to increase about 7 degrees in the next century.

In a Forest Service Update, the Mendocino National Forest announced some offices will be closed for training today through Friday. The visitor information offices in Upper Lake and Covelo will reopen Friday afternoon. The Willows information center will close tomorrow only. In their announcement, the forest also announced open positions. The Forest Service is looking to hire forestry technicians. The position helps the forest service to promote the natural resources and promote engagement with the public.

A special workshop to reduce stress is planned for a couple of weeks from now. The free workshop called "Building Resilience: Self-Empowering Tools for Reducing Stress and Trauma as Close as Your Own Hands." Lake County News reports the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church is hosting the event. The first session is Saturday, August 12th at 4:30pm with a second session the next day at noon. The workshop highlights ways to relieve stress through body based skills to help balance yourself. Techniques like breathing and visualization are part of the session as well as Tai Chi, emotional freedom tapping, acupressure and more. The event is hosted by Reverend Judy Slater, who is trained in healing. She is active with the Red Cross and works with people on anxiety and emotional issues.

Sheet1

07/27/2023 Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies found a body in a field east of the North State Street Ramp to Highway 101 north in Ukiah. The body found Monday, seemed to have been there a while. Deputies found the body was a homeless man. They could not ID the body due to its decomposition. The Sheriff's Office and coroner are working to identify the man and how he died.

There was a wildfire yesterday northeast of Willits just before 7pm. Fire crews headed to North Highway 101 and Ryan Creek Road to the 3 acre fire. The Ryan Fire was visible on the Laughlin Ridge fire camera system. Cal Fire and county crews responded via air and ground. Within minutes, forward progress was stopped thanks to a Cal Fire plane. MendoVoice reports ground crews stayed on to mop up the burn area and watch for spotting.

There is more information on the fire crash on Highway 101 near Ukiah last weekend. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports a Santa Rosa woman crashed her Jeep, it rolled and went up in flames according to CHP on Sunday. Malia Donovan was headed north on Highway 101 when she veered off the road after 10pm. During the incident, Donovan's Jeep hit a Tacoma. The driver of the truck was not hurt. CHP reports alcohol was a factor in the crash, and Donovan was arrested.

A home caught on fire in Point Arena last night around 8pm. People inside the building evacuated as firefighters headed toward a plume of smoke on Windy Hollow Road, asking for additional help. MendoFever reports the two alarm fire was threatening a nearby building. The fire commander reported the home was fully engulfed. No word on any injuries.

California is rapidly expanding a program that allows students to pursue certain bachelor's degrees at their local community college. Right now 27 schools offer or will soon offer a baccalaureate degree in career-oriented fields that are in high demand in the Golden State. A bill passed 2 years ago allows the state to approve up to 30 new degree programs per year. The California News Service reports the programs are very cost-effective – four years of tuition for the Baccalaureate study cost about ten thousand five hundred dollars, and many students save money by living at home. You can find a list of schools and programs on the California Community Colleges website.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will be on their August recess beginning next week, in a release issued yesterday. The recess will give the clerk time to catch up on annual tasks, records filing and preparation for the upcoming fiscal year. Members of the board will continue to meet for other regularly scheduled committee and public meetings during the month.

The state's unemployment rate increased slightly last month and Lake County's rate went down as the area moves into the summer agricultural season. Lake County News reports California's unemployment rate was down over half a point to 3.9 percent in June. Lake County's unemployment rate went down a point to 4.6 percent last month. In the last year the state's nonfarm jobs increased by nearly 400,000, or just over 33,000 per month. Nationally, unemployment last month was 3.6 percent, the same number as June of last year. According to the Employment Development Department, Lake County ranks as number 38 among the state's 55 counties. Mendocino County's jobless rate was 4.6 percent for June.

A DUI driver in Mendocino County has been found guilty of his second offense yesterday. The Mendocino County DA announced that a Mendocino County Superior Court jury found defendant Juan Calvillo Rivera of Willits was guilty of drunk driving and more. Rivera admitted in he had a prior misdemeanor in Sonoma County for a DUI in 2018, a marked mistake on the defense team. The case now moves to sentencing. A date has not yet been announced.

Sheet1

A man with two active warrants walked past the Mendocino County Superior Court on North State Street in Ukiah, when a deputy recognized him. Kristoff Suba was walking east on West Standley Street when the deputy confirmed his felony and misdemeanor warrants. Suba was arrested and booked into jail, held in lieu of a \$35,000 bond, according to a release from the Sheriff's Office.

Last night there was a police pursuit that led to a traffic accident in Ukiah. Police detained 2 people at the crash scene on Clara and North Orchard Avenues by Kohls. MendoFever reports it happened just after 10pm last night with one injury reported. There are reports that one of the people police detained had a history of evading police.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors met this week and granted the homeless shelter in Lakeport, Sunrise Special Services another 90 day extension to continue operations. The board heard a request to increase total compensation. Board members raised concerns on recent issues with the shelter citing more time is needed to address those issues. They also heard a request for help under the California Disaster Assistance Act to mitigate tree mortality in the county. Administrators estimated the pervasive tree mortality covered about 31,000 acres with over 90,000 dead trees needing to be cleared. About 22,000 of those are in high traffic areas or on evacuation routes, according to the Record Bee.

The California Office of Emergency Services issued an extension for people impacted by the late winter storms. MendoVoice reports federal assistance application deadlines will be extended through the 1st of September. Residents and business owners in Mendocino County who were impacted by the February through March storms can still get help under the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. People have 45 additional days to seek help online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov), via the FEMA mobile App or through their phone lines.

The Wonder Fire in Shasta County has grown to over 150 acres. The Press Democrat reports the blaze began Monday afternoon south of Shasta Lake. It's the first significant wildfire in NorCal that forced authorities to evacuate areas around Bridge Bay Marina. Cal Fire reports that as of last night the fire is at about 50 percent containment with 10 crews on scene and 19 engines. The steep terrain the blaze is spreading in is creating difficulty for firefighters. Meanwhile, to the east a fire in Butte County has burned about 65 acres and was 10 percent contained as of last night. The Turkey Fire has 3 crews responding with 13 engines. The blaze in eastern Butte County is burning in heavy brush near a ridgeline. Multiple spot fires have been reported as crews worked overnight to cut containment lines.

In a Forest Service Update, the Mendocino National Forest announced some offices will be closed for training today and tomorrow. The visitor information offices in Upper Lake and Covelo will reopen Friday afternoon. The Willows information center will close today only. In their announcement, the forest also announced open positions. The Forest Service is looking to hire forestry technicians. The position helps the forest service to promote the natural resources and promote engagement with the public.

Sheet1

California's population growth has significantly slowed. According to projections from 2013, the state finance department estimated there would be close to 53 million people in the state. A decade later, that projection has slimmed way down to just under 40 million residents. The stagnation could threaten California's economy, according to the Mercury News. More people are moving out of state than in and a study says the people who are moving are taking about \$340 million in tax revenue with them. The study shows more wealthy people are leaving the state citing taxes as the cause. Companies that have moved out of state have erased billions in projected tax revenues. The study finds 40 percent of Californian's have seriously considered moving out of state because of high taxes.

The new app for the Mendocino County Cannabis Department is up and running, and the department is working on tweaking it for the best possible and most efficient use with residents in the permitting process. The department is developing guidelines to help navigating the new app. There have been some challenges brought up, and the team is working to respond and upgrade the software.

[A teacher at Nokomis Elementary in Ukiah began a 17 day journey on the sea to survive](#)

07/28/2023 Ukiah Police issued a Nixle alert on a structure fire this afternoon. They are asking the public to avoid Leslie Street between Peach and Gobbi Streets. They're asking the public to use an alternate route.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies were called to Ukiah in reports of a gunshot victim. The initial report noted the victim said he accidentally shot himself in the shoulder. Tuesday evening deputies arrived and found the injured man with his girlfriend. The pair said he accidentally shot the gun while cleaning it. He was airlifted to the hospital. During the investigation at the scene, authorities discovered the girlfriend, Mandy Vanarsdale and the victim had been fighting. They believe she shot the victim, and arrested her for felony attempted murder. She is being held on a quarter million dollar bail according to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors denied a cannabis prohibition zone in Redwood Valley this week. An attorney for cannabis growers reflected that prohibition zones are contrary to established farming rights on the agricultural zoned lots, when CPs were considered. KymKemp reports legal growers in the Redwood Valley have gone through legal permitting and licensing. Cannabis applicants called the petition to have prohibition zones was an example of racist gerrymandering. Those who petitioned for the CPs listed crimes, spoiled views and heavy water use among more. The board denied the CPs, but wants code enforcement to crack down on those creating problems in the Redwood Valley.

Sheet1

The governor announced new investments yesterday for mitigating wildfires and their impacts. Its part of a \$52 billion California Climate Commitment budget to support nearly 100 prevention projects statewide with a portion dedicated to underserved communities. Lake County News reports the projects support the state's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and the Strategic fire Plan. In Lake County over \$1.7 million is being allocated to the second phase in a project by the Clear lake Environmental Research Center. The county will also get over \$370,000 to focus on the Resource Conservation District's Tree mortality Mitigation and Public Safety in Lake County Project.

This week there was an update announced with the Mendocino Cannabis Department about the Accela portal as they continue to make it better for users. They also have announced that in person operations will reopen on Bush Street in Ukiah by September 1st. As the department went through upgrades and has been streamlined by the board of supervisors. The state has granted an additional year for the transition of provisional licenses for annual license holders. They will now have expanded counter service hours and will be open weekdays from 8a to 5p in addition to having the new online portal available.

The Mendocino Board of Supervisors voted to consider a department of finance in their meeting this week. IN light of recent problems in financing, it's the first step to create the department for best practices according to reporting in MendoFever. Supervisors noted the necessity for information, especially when handling the public's money. The board discussed empty positions within the county that need to be filled. Good record-keeping was discussed to provide checks and balances. They need to decide if the position to lead a new finance department would be elected or appointed. They also noted the need for codified policies and procedures for work with the county's finances.

The Lake County Library system announced is has free online language resources. Mango Languages programming offers personalized learning with enhanced tools in over 70 languages, including endangered and Indigenous languages. They also have 20 specialized English courses. The new software has voice comparison to help with pronunciation and cultural notes. Check with the Lake County Libraries for more information on the Mango Language programming.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office issued a release on convicted murderer Dino Blackbear Lincoln's sentence yesterday morning. Lincoln was sentenced to 76 years to life for the murder of Kenneth Whipple in September of 2021 when he left a bar in Covelo walking south on Highway 162. When a car pulled over in front of them, Lincoln pulled out a gun and fired and hit Whipple, killing the man. Lincoln is a two time felon meaning this third strike under the law affected his sentencing. Lincoln was only 43 days into a released parole when he decided to shoot his gun at someone.

A man and his two dogs died yesterday near Cloverdale when his car drove into Yorty Creek. It happened just before 4:30pm at Lake Sonoma Yorty Creek Recreation Area when a white sedan was seen in the water. The Press Democrat reports a witness tried to do CPR on the driver, who was pronounced dead. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office said they are investigating.

Sheet1

California's fast food workers have a right to continue to wear masks. Companies like In-N-Out attempted to ban face masks but will not be allowed to. The company will ban masks in other states where it operates like Texas, Utah and Nevada. CalMatters reports California's COVID workplace rules continue to protect workers rights to decide for themselves. IN a memo, In-N-Out said they want customer experiences to include workers' smiles. They would allow employees who are sick to continue to wear masks for medical reasons. In-N-Out followed the state's COVID rules during the pandemic, but was a vocal critic of vaccine mandates. All of California's employers can require workers to wear a mask, with exceptions for those who can't wear one for medical reasons.

The Bureau of Land Management has made agreements with Cal Fire, Caltrans and the CCC to increase restoration work, fuels reduction and forest health project on managed public lands in the state. Lake County News reports the three agreements are being funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Department of Interior will get \$1.5 billion in those funds to invest in wildfire mitigation and preparedness, \$15 million is set to go to BLM areas in California. Plans include cross-jurisdictional coordination for landscape restoration with projects like the Good Neighbor Authority. The California Conservation Corps project with \$4.2 million will be used for restoration work including fuel breaks, post-fire burned area rehab, controlled fires and habitat improvement. A Caltrans project with \$4.2 million will scale up forest management; reduce wildfire hazards and more on BLM lands near highways.

Another insurer in the state will stop offering new policies. This time, it's Liberty Mutual who announced starting in October they'll no longer offer business owners policies, citing inflation and increased catastrophic losses. Reuters reports the company will also stop renewal of some current clients starting in December. Liberty Mutual joins a group including State Farm, All State and more. The exodus of property insurance companies is creating stress in the state as both home owners and business owners have to search out insurers.

Local legislators introduced a bill that would exempt fire victims from taxes on help from funds paid to wildfire victims. Representatives Mike Thompson and Doug LaMalfa yesterday gave a revised protection to cover payments from the \$13.5 billion settlement in the Fire Victim Trust for wildfires from 2015 through 2018. Lake County News reports Thompson and LaMalfa don't want survivors to pay taxes on compensation. The two discussed working with the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Ways and Means Committee and Congressional leadership. The revised bill relieves wildfire victims of being taxed on the money. The bill that was introduced yesterday would also remove requirements that limit payments to the trust funds to protect disaster aid recipients.

There is more information about the body of a man found near a Highway 101 on-ramp in Ukiah this week. The Press Democrat reports the body seemed to be someone simply sitting beneath a tree at first. The person who spotted the body, drove by again a couple days later and saw the body in the same place. The witness got out to check on the man, when they discovered he was dead. Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies arrived and found he had some personal stuff surrounding him, leading them to believe he was transient. The body had decomposed through multiple days of 100 degree heat, so he was not immediately identifiable. Officials don't think foul play was related to the death.

Sheet1

The popular reality show, American Pickers, plans to return to NorCal for episodes to be broadcast this September. MendoFever reports the History Channel show is headed to the area and wants to find hidden treasure. They are specifically looking for people with unique antiques and more who are not part of a public collection. The show runners are following safe filming regulated by the state and the CDC.

07/31/2023 The Lakeport City Council is set to meet this week and go over a new department leader and get an update on a new park. Lake County News reports at the meeting tomorrow night at 6, the council will hear a presentation from the Lake County Tourism Improvement District and greet the new Community Development Director. The council will also get an update on the Lakeport Splash-In and Taste-In Lakeport events. The Lakefront Park Project will give an update to members as well. The council will consider approving parking zones around the fairgrounds for the event one month from today.

There was a Nixle alert Friday afternoon in response to a fire in downtown Ukiah. Police evacuated an apartment complex after large trees began to blaze and damage buildings on Leslie Street. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority was called downtown before 2pm. Many 40 foot tall cypress trees were ablaze very near to peoples homes. Heavy smoke damage was reported along with parts of attics in a building. Thankfully, the Ukiah Daily Journal reports there was no injuries to any people or animals during the fire. Fire crews were able to contain the fire and mop up. An investigation into how it started is ongoing.

A gunshot victim was air lifted out of Hopland yesterday morning around 10am. They have a gunshot wound to the chest and are headed to Sonoma County for medical care, according to reporting in MendoFever. Authorities are investigating.

The Mendocino Railway, owner of the Skunk Train experienced burn damage to one of its bridges. KymKemp reports the Camp Three Bridge burned in the Spurs Fire that broke out on Thursday. Early in the morning when the fire was reported Cal Fire worked their air resources for water drops and contained the blaze. No train has passed over the burnt bridge since then. It's a notable part of an S curve in a narrow gorge, so it will take special teams to rework the route. The wooden supplies are on the way, but the railway is hoping for quick repair and reopening.

There's been a recent surge in COVID infections across the country and in NorCal. The US saw a 10 percent increase in COVID hospital admissions a few weeks ago, according to the Tribune News Service. It's hard to tell how the latest variation of COVID is affecting people, as at-home-tests are widely available and reporting data is not as steady. California had a test positivity rate of 7.6 percent last week up over 4 percent from a month ago. California's COVID hospitalizations are rising. As a record number of people are traveling, this latest round of COVID may include high numbers of new infections. People should remember to be vigilant and avoid sick people and get tested. Long COVID is still being analyzed as a condition many people are still dealing with.

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Sheet1

There's more information to a crash that happened in front of the Kohls store in Ukiah last week. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports a couple had 3 pounds of marijuana and \$25 grand in cash when they crashed after fleeing from police. A man from Pennsylvania and a California woman were in a Chevy when they sped away from officers and almost caused another crash. The couple ended up crashing on the east sidewalk of North Orchard Avenue. The store was damaged and the Chevy was totaled. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and CHP helped Ukiah Police jail the pair and identified them as Monique Martinez and Serxhio Nokaj. The two were charged with drug sales, possession and more.

The California Assembly representative for Lake County, Cecilia Aguiar-Curry was appointed speaker pro tempore. The promotion puts the democrat from Winters reporting to Speaker Rivas with Majority Leader Isaac Bryan, according to Lake County News. She was first elected in November 2016 and represents the Fourth Assembly District. She says after coming from humble beginnings she couldn't ask for a better job and won't let the Speaker down.

The Lake Pomo Gallery in Lakeport was given a \$75,000 grant from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment. The Gallery is collaboration between the Lake County Museum and the Tribal Advisory Committee to the Lake County museums. Lake County News reports its part of nearly \$20 million in funding from the endowment for small capital project resources for museums that were impacted by the pandemic in typically underserved communities. The Secretary for California Natural Resources said the funds will help lift up history and culture. The Lake Pomo Gallery has a vast collection of basketry in various mediums of presentation. A grand opening is scheduled for next year and will include a life size bronze sculpture of a Lake Pomo family.

The Willits City Council met last week and discussed funding over \$330,000 to repair City Hall and the Art Center's roofs. The council also discussed Americans with Disabilities Act, and how they should identify and solve issues surrounding the city sidewalks and more. Sidewalk repair is projected to cost the city about \$35,000 to comply with the federal regulations. The council also discussed Prop 218 that would increase water and sewer rates. The Ukiah Daily journal reports the new fees will go into effect on Tuesday. For residents it means a relatively small increase, while sewage rates may increase about \$50 annually.

The Annual Harbor and Seafood Festival is in need of volunteers for a variety of duties. The fundraiser aims to help the Pier Rehab and Repair Fund. Festival organizers need leaders to step up and help facilitate the event and are needed to join them at a meeting today at 5pm. MendoVoice reports Point Arena's annual festival may be cancelled without residents willing to step up and join the team. The meeting tonight will be at the Point Arena Cove by the monument.

The Department of Social Services in Lake County is prepping to help residents who lost food in this month's power loss with CalFresh. Lake County News reports the SNAP program will help those enrolled in the program replace food that was lost due to the outage on July 18th. Recipients have until August 17th to submit their replacement requests. Call the Lake County Social Services office, go online to benefitscal.com or stop by their office in Lower Lake weekdays from 8a to 5pm.

Sheet1

Fort Bragg announced a hazardous waste drop-off event. Redwood Waste Solutions will host their first free mobile household hazardous waste event this Thursday and Friday from 9am to 1pm at the Caspar Transfer Station on Prairie Way in Mendocino. There is a 15 gallon household hazardous waste limit. Commercial customers with excessive hazardous waste are asked to call ahead to their office in Ukiah, at 234-6400.

The Mendocino County Sheriff announced their new software, Citizen Connect was launched on Saturday. Sheriff Matt Kendall is asking that residents use the platform that lists local events from crime to emergencies. There is a brief user-friendly tutorial on the site. The Sheriff posted the announcement on social media. As summer heats up there are more calls for help. Property crimes are on the up-tick and the Sheriff's Office is reminding people to have as much information on property as possible, such as serial numbers and pictures, to help locate and retrieve stolen items. Authorities remind people to lock up your cars and homes. If you plan on being away, contact the post office to hold your mail. Citizen Connect is the latest in information gathering and sharing for the entire county to use to stay connected and become aware of community happenings.

The California Republican Party changed its rules on allocating delegates in the presidential primary. The LA Times reports the move could make California less competitive in next year's nominations. Pro-Trump supporters denounced the move and nearly came to blows over the weekend. The new state rule makes a Republican presidential candidate who gets more than half of the vote in the March primary would get all of the 169 of California's delegates. If no candidate reaches that 50 percent threshold delegates will be awarded proportionally in the statewide vote. Party leaders say the new plan aims to draw more candidates to compete. Opponents say it makes California less competitive. March 5th is slated for the state primary making it Super Tuesday along with more than 10 other states.

The Lakeport City Council is set to meet this week and go over a new department leader and get an update on a new park. Lake County News reports at the meeting tomorrow night at 6, the council will hear a presentation from the Lake County Tourism Improvement District and greet the new Community Development Director. The council will also get an update on the Lakeport Splash-In and Taste-In Lakeport events. The Lakefront Park Project will give an update to members as well. The council will consider approving parking zones around the fairgrounds for the event one month from today.

The East Region Town Hall is meeting this Wednesday at 4pm at the Moose Lodge in Clearlake Oaks. The guest speaker is the General Manager of the Clearlake Oaks County Water District. The group will discuss commercial cannabis cultivation and a task force update.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is meeting this week to go over a policy for warming and cooling centers and more. Their meeting tomorrow morning at 9am to go over plans of action to predict weather events before they happen to better prepare for health needs of the community. Lake County News reports Supervisor Sabatier is asking multiple departments to formulate a plan, including Behavioral Health, the Office of Emergency Services, Public Health and Social Services. Also in the agenda are considerations for professional services to continue for Public Health and MIS support. An agreement between the county and Redwood Community Services for the Tule House residential substance use disorder treatment services will be considered as well. They'll also go over the interview and appointment of a chief public defender.

Sheet1

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Eight reintroduced California condors spent the night on the Yurok Reservation near the Klamath River for the first time. The huge birds of prey were returned to the range last year with the Northern California Condor Restoration Program. According to the Times Standard, the Yurok Tribe led the work with Redwood National Park. Groups of juvenile birds are stretching out their wings in the wild for the first time, and without parents to teach them, are learning on their own. They will teach new condors how to live in the range they once inhabited before their numbers went down. Late last year, there were a total of 561 California condors world wide. 347 are now free-flying, with 183 in the state.

Starting next year, low- and middle-income families in California are expected to be able to apply for up to 14-thousand dollars in grants to make their home more energy-efficient. The federal Department of Energy has just released guidelines that allow California to receive 582 million dollars from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. According to the California News Service, rebates will also cover upgrades to your breaker box, electric wiring, heating and air conditioning systems, and insulation. The California Energy Commission is expected to move quickly and open up applications early next year.

A fire in Lakeport closed up a restaurant yesterday afternoon. The blaze at Jimmy's Deli and Taqueria began around 2:30pm yesterday. The Lake County News reports fire crews revealed the fire started in an electrical panel. The Nixle alert issued by the Lakeport Police closed one-lane of traffic on Lakeport Boulevard. The restaurant posted on social media they had experienced a small fire. They reported no one was hurt and there was no significant damage. They had to close as power was shut off. The restaurant says they hope to reopen soon.

The SEIU Local 1021, the union representing Mendocino County workers has voted to strike. The motion was approved with over 92 percent voting for the action. In a release in MendoFever, SEIU members say they are frustrated with the lack of leadership. A senior public health analyst for the county and Chapter President said the strike is a clear indication that things need to change. Mendocino County has about a 30 percent vacancy rate, meaning there is a critical staff shortage. The lack of employees jeopardizes the health, safety and well-being of residents. The SEIU noted a nearly 40 percent vacancy rate in Family and Children's Services and a whopping 70 percent vacancy rate for mental health clinicians. The union noted even as Mendocino County had a nearly 45 percent increase in revenue since 2020 the Board of Supervisors continued to bargain in bad faith. They say the County insisted its employees pay more for their healthcare and retirement, equaling a pay cut for those employees. The union says that practice makes staffing shortages worse and pushes more county workers out of the area for better pay.

Sheet1

Ukiah Unified Schools are adding fences to improve safety. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the fences are going up at a cost of about \$5.5 million in funds from Measure A that includes ADA accessibility upgrades and other infrastructure work. The measure was passed in March of 2020. Work on the school district will include replacing roofs, plumbing and sewer systems, ventilation and physical ed facilities for year-round use. The work will also include updating facilities to better educate students in technical classes like computer science and skilled trades.

The Clearlake City Council is set to meet this Thursday and will consider a new affordable housing project. The Lake County News reports the 6pm meeting on the 3rd will also include choosing a voting delegate and two alternates for the League of California Cities conference next month. The council will also hear a presentation of the 2022 Lake County Tourism District Annual Report. They'll also hear about the Main Street Project agreement with Citizens Caring 4 Clearlake and more. In the closed session they'll negotiate with the Clearlake Municipal Employees Association to go over suits against the city by the Ko Nation of Northern California.

A fire north of Healdsburg yesterday afternoon shut down Highway 101 for a short time. The blaze started on the east side of the highway south of Lytton Springs Road and jumped the 4 lane highway before spreading west of it, according to reporting in the Press Democrat. It began yesterday afternoon around 2:30pm and was contained in a little over an hour. Cal Fire officials say the size was just over 12 acres. No buildings were damaged and no one was reported injured in the fire, though it was close to a nearby homeless camp. Cal Fire and area fire crews used about 12 fire trucks and half a dozen air resources. Smoke was reported drifting over Alexander Valley. Highway 101 reopened within 15 minutes of closing as crews got a quick handle on the fire.

The California Tribal Families Coalition is looking for experiences that tribal kids, adults and families had within the child welfare system. Their stories would be part of a new documentary being produced. The Times Standard reports the Coalition would like to hear the stories of Native people to share their experiences. Storytelling is at the heart of tribal traditions passing information down to preserve heritage. The Coalition is working on the documentary to help illuminate the challenges Native people deal with especially in child welfare. They hope to inspire change for the positive and engage the public with their histories.

The Gun Violence Prevention Task Force Chairman Representative Mike Thompson met with other legislators to reintroduce the Ghost guns and Untraceable Firearms Act. HR 4992 would ban the weapons that are created using 3-D printers and gun kits sold online. The ghost guns can be purchased without a background check and sold by unlicensed retailers. Lake County Sheriff's Deputies arrested a Northshore man last year with a ghost gun and other weapons along with a large amount of fentanyl. The new law would mandate online retailers of gun kits and more comply with federal firearm regulations. Ghost and untraceable guns have been increasingly used, according to the ATF there's been a 1000 percent increase in them in the past 7 years. The law would require sellers to put serial numbers on the guns, or parts of guns and mandate background checks for buyers. The bill is widely supported by democrats and some independents.

Sheet1

The cannabis industry in California is on the decline. Last year's California State Cannabis Competition win by Mendocino Family Farms helped promote the cultivator and stave off bankruptcy. The Sac Bee reports there's been a steady decline in cannabis tax revenues in the last few years. Over saturation in the market means growers are having a hard time selling their product. The State Fair mobilized to promote the legal cannabis market and help normalize the crop with exhibits and competitions last year. The Department of Cannabis Control was also at the state fair with a spokesperson saying it's vital that the legal market is supported. Enforcement has gone up, helping eliminate illegal growers and protecting those who are permitted as well as the environment.

The Department of Water Resources announced approval of groundwater sustainability plans for overdrafted groundwater basins in the state. The approved basins include the Ukiah Valley and others that supply a significant portion of water for about 3 million state residents. In a release issued last week, the department noted the amount of work put into the plans and the long term benefits for communities, agriculture and more across the state. They are working with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to give direction to local groundwater agencies and recommend actions. This year, the department along with other state agencies is working with temporary diversion equipment to maximize high river flows from last winter and springs storms, to mitigate potential flood risk and recharge groundwater basins.

PG&E plans to hold a town hall next Tuesday, the 9th on updates about wildfire season. In a release issued on MendoVoice, the utility is inviting North Coast Region customers to a virtual meeting on this wildfire season and resources to prepare for power outages. The meeting is scheduled from 5:30 to 7pm and will feature PG&E officials giving a brief presentation that will include questions from the public.

The criteria for counting COVID deaths has changed in the state. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer issued a release today noting that COVID deaths will be based on the same criteria as other illnesses. The California Department of Public Health COVID dashboard just changed to show 154 deaths, instead of 146. The County Health Officer notes the change does not represent a significant increase saying COVID deaths in the last 6 months have declined and remain low. However, officials are warning that the fall and winter respiratory illness season is getting closer. For those who have not gotten updated boosters, now is the time to vaccinate. The vaccine is available to almost everyone over the age of 6. If you feel sick, take a COVID over the counter test. Health officials want everyone to revisit public health information.

A Fort Bragg man is in jail after shooting a man and fleeing from police. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports yesterday morning before 7am a man was found with a gunshot wound on Highway 20. The victim was hiding behind a truck in his own yard after being shot by Vladimir Ginzburg, who also shot into the victim's home. Deputies arrived within minutes and surrounded a house nearby when Ginzburg escaped from the back into a forest. He was captured and taken into custody. Authorities found several ounces of cocaine in Ginzburg's car. He was arrested for attempted murder and possession. Ginzburg is being held in lieu of a quarter million dollar bail.

08/02/2023

Sheet1

Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a drowning on the Eel River yesterday. Anthony Sasso reportedly drowned after jumping in the river near Dos Rios. A witness says the Laytonville man jumped from a rock about 30 feet above the river, appeared to be in distress and went under. It happened near Highway 162 southwest of Covelo. Authorities were alerted to the possible drowning around 4:30pm. Sasso was pronounced dead by 6pm. The Press Democrat reports its Mendocino County's third drowning in about a month. Officials are warning people to be careful of strong river currents, and wear life jackets when going into the water.

The East Region Town Hall will meet today at 4pm at the Moose Lodge in Clearlake Oaks. The guest speaker is the General Manager of the Clearlake Oaks County Water District. Commercial cannabis cultivation projects and a task force update will be included in a report.

Hazardous air quality conditions are making skies in the inland regions of Mendocino County hazy. In Anderson Valley and the Highway 101 corridor from Laytonville to Sonoma County the air quality index has again risen to be unhealthy. The Flat Fire burning in Oregon continues and was only at about 14 percent containment as of this morning according to sources in Oregon. According to MendoVoice the wildfire in Oregon has grown to over 25,000 acres with smoky conditions impacting the area again.

EBT card skimming is trending in Lake County. The Lake County District Attorney's Office of Welfare Fraud Investigation Unit is warning residents of multiple reports of the crimes in the last two months. Lake County News reports people who receive help from CalFresh, the SNAP program and more are being stolen from. In June, investigators went to retail stores in the county to show employees how to ID skimming devices. They discovered a device and removed it. Authorities with Lake County are monitoring the trend and working with area residents to stop the skimming and help those who've been stolen from get new cards. Residents who are suspicious of skimming devices and more should call the Lake County District Attorney's Office.

A pair of retail thieves are working together in Ukiah. Last night the Costco on Airport Park Boulevard a couple men rushed into the store and left with six televisions. Authorities responded just after 6:30pm on reports at least two men with tattoos driving a red Toyota 4-runner got away with over \$1,000 worth of the electronics, according to video monitoring in the store, according to KymKemp. Police are investigating.

With retail theft on the rise, Willits City Officials are meeting this afternoon to discuss shoplifting with local businesses and the Willits Police Department. Stealing is a year round problem, that Willits Police Chief says ebbs and flows, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. There are usually upticks during the summer months. The meeting today will happen at 2pm in Willits City Hall on Commercial Street as the community comes together to learn how to prevent thefts and prosecute the criminals.

Ukiah Unified Schools are looking for someone to fill the vacant board member seat in Trustee Area 6. MendoFever reports there will be a special election this November for the position. The school district needs someone to be on the school board to help students, shape policy and be a leader in the community. Interested candidates should get nomination forms from the Mendocino County Clerk on Low Gap Road in Ukiah. Candidates have until the 11th to get the paperwork filed with the Registrar of Voters.

Sheet1

An update in the Lakefront Park project was given to the Lakeport City Council meeting yesterday. The Record Bee reports the Public Works Director discussed delays due to weather and updated the estimated timeline on the project to be complete in September. Originally the project was slated to be complete by May. The seven-acre park will include a basketball court, amphitheatre, splash pad, public art and more. Funding for the project came from a nearly \$6 million grant from the city. The Lakeport City Manager said it's been a five year project that is coming together. The next Lakeport City Council meeting is set for August 15th at 6pm.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a shooting in Hopland. A victim was found with life-threatening injuries Sunday morning near Highway 175 and Old Toll Road. He was driven to the Cal Fire Hopland station according to the Press Democrat. There were multiple calls on shots fired in the area. The victim had a gunshot wound and was airlifted to a Sonoma County Hospital. Police are investigating. If anyone has information about the shooting, they're asked to call CHP.

State water officials announced a new plan to source water from sewers. Purified sewage water could help the state recycle the valued resource. New rules would mandate extensive treatment and monitoring according to CalMatters. Some of the steps to purify the water include high pressure reverse osmosis, oxidation, high intensity UV light and more before getting to the process of regular water treatment. Groups of engineers and water quality scientists worked for over 10 years to codify 62 pages of procedures to treat sewer water. It takes a lot of processes and energy, but gives California a renewable and reliable source of water. The new rules were released last month and are still being finalized. The State Water Resources Control Board may vote on the policy by the end of the year.

The Jackson Demonstration State Forest announced there are 75 new firewood permits available. CAL Fire Mendocino Unit issued a release yesterday saying next Wednesday, the 9th, firewood permits will be available starting at 2pm for up to two cords per household. The permits will be available through October or until supplies are gone. There is a new map of available wood supply. Because of the Sudden Oak Death disease, permit sales are limited to Mendocino County.

The Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehab of Clear Lake has over \$1.8 million from the state budget. Lake County News reports Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Aguiar-Curry has been working on the project and thanked Governor Newsom for the state's support. The Blue Ribbon Committee was created under legislation that includes \$15 million for land for the Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project. The latest round of funding adds onto the \$3 million already invested in lake improvements to restore Clear Lake. The project includes helping restore habitat for the Clear Lake hitch. Several projects are centered on the area including the Adobe Creek Hydrology and Groundwater Monitoring with the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians. An Airborne Electromagnetic Survey of Lake County Ground Water Basins will help researchers and Scotts Valley Aquifer Evaluation Project will help with future development, stream flow and more.

Sheet1

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is reacting to the strike that county employees announced this week with SEIU 1021. The County Human Resources Manager tells MendoVoice that the county denies the union's allegations of bad faith bargaining. Union members say the county recently discouraged employees from attending supervisors' meetings with stricter requirements. The Chapter President said workers who request time to attend the meetings were denied multiple times. The union went to the Public Employment Relations Board with the county's unfair practice complaint, for the second time in as many years. The HR manager reacted by asking the state to dismiss any charges against the county on procedural grounds. Further action by the board is not expected until next month, when the board returns from their August recess. It's been over a month now, that the employees have not received a renewed contract.

Governor Newsom is appointing Tai Milder as the first director of the Division of Petroleum Market Oversight. The position was made within the California Energy Commission. According to Lake County News, it's an effort to hold Big Oil accountable. The announcement yesterday is part of the Governor's plan to halt price gouging. Milder served in the US Department of Justice's Antitrust Division and has a history of investigating and prosecuting companies that harm consumers in their corruption. The new office was approved this year and just took effect in June. The Division of Petroleum Market Oversight has been set up to follow the oil industry daily to note any illegal actions, including industry misconduct or market manipulation and make a recommendation to the attorney general for prosecution. A new interactive dashboard was created by the Energy Commission to create transparency in the oil and gas industry.

Opioid settlements are helping pay Mendocino County's bills. Though Mendocino County and other NorCal regions have the highest rate of overdose deaths in the state, county leaders have used the funds to help with budget deficits. KFF Health News reports the board plans to continue to use the settlement funds on projects going forward that don't necessarily target the scourge of opioids. There have been two payments in the two years since the county started getting paid and the Board of Supervisors have used over \$63,000 of funds received to help fund employee health insurance premiums, and other payroll gaps. Though there are programs the county funds that are directly related to substance abuse treatment, the majority of the settlement funds have helped the county balance the books. Local nonprofits want to see the opioid settlement money go directly to addiction prevention and treatment.

08/03/2023

State employees in California are in a labor contract dispute over staff shortages at prisons and hospitals that workers say endangers staff and patients. CalMatters reports the union that represents doctors and other medical staff in correctional facilities said that over 90 percent of members authorized a strike on Monday. It's one of many strikes throughout the state, from Hollywood to Mendocino County. Members say salaries are noncompetitive and working conditions are stressful. The union's contract with the state expired a month ago and both sides are far apart. The union says temporary contracted staff made about twice as much as normal contracted workers, increases the vacancy rate of on-site staff. Psychiatric staff are short about 35 percent of normal staff sizing, with doctors saying about 20 percent of positions are unfilled.

Sheet1

Clear Lake Police are investigating after a car veered off State Route 20 and landed in Clear Lake. It happened yesterday afternoon when a vehicle flew down a steep embankment 50 feet off the roadway into the water between Nice and Lucerne. MendoFever reports there was a female driver in the car, and emergency crews were responding to get her out. An air ambulance was called to the scene. Authorities are investigating the accident, with no further details released at this time.

A high speed pursuit is being investigated after Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies tried to pull over a car on Crawford Road in Round Valley. The driver pulled away and sped off at speeds of up to 80 miles an hour, when deputies lost sight of the vehicle around 9:30pm, according to MendoFever.

Nine people are doing fine, after a tangled traffic crash on Highway 101 yesterday afternoon. CHP information shows a car and two semis were involved in a collision yesterday afternoon near Nelson Ranch Road.

State health officials are warning residents of a potential increased risk for valley fever. The California Department of Public Health notes the state's dry conditions after heavy winter rains could result in more valley fever cases, according to Lake County News. Officials say to know the symptoms of the fungal disease that affects lungs. Respiratory symptoms include cough, fever, chest pain and fatigue. People who have symptoms, that are similar to COVID, should test for that first, then test for Valley Fever with their physicians. Valley Fever happens when someone breathes in the fungus from dust in outdoor air. New research shows that after heavy rains follow a drought, the fungus can grow and increase infection. Cases are usually the highest in the Central Valley and Coast regions but the fungus has widened as climate change triggers more extreme weather events. August is designated as Valley Fever Awareness Month.

The first woman to become a sergeant in 153 years is sworn in at the Lakeport Police Department. Sergeant Sarah Hardisty was sworn in with officers Jonatan Moreno and Austin Eldred took their oaths this week. Lake County News Reports the three new hires have worked locally in the area before and are helping fill the ranks in Lakeport. The department is now fully staffed with 14 officers.

Representatives Mike Thompson and Doug LaMalfa along with Senator Diane Feinstein are introducing the Agricultural Emergency Relief Act as a permanent policy at the Department of Ag to relieve farmers who lost crops in natural disasters. Lake County News reports farmer relief is routine, this will be a permanent program that will help speed aid to farmers and cut the administrative delays. They say climate change is forcing continued support as natural disasters worsen. The Act would become part of the USDA's Emergency Relief Program. The Act broadens the scope of what counts as a natural disaster to include wildfires, floods and more. It would require farmers to buy crop insurance. It lets Congress appropriate supplemental disaster funds more efficiently.

Sheet 1

California is well on its path to decrease gasoline powered engines and move to zero emissions vehicles. One quarter of cars sold in the state in the last quarter were zero-emissions, or ZEVs. California set a goal of selling 1.5 million ZEVs, and surpassed that number two years ahead of schedule, according to Lake County News. The announcement comes as automakers vow to build a public ZEV charging network in a new partnership across the country. Governor Newsom said, the proof is in the numbers. Residents have incentives from the state in the form of rebates and grants for low-income Californians. In addition, the California Climate Commitment has allotted over \$10 billion for ZEV cars, trucks, busses and infrastructure.

Water quality improvement in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties is being criticized from wine grape growers. New regulations aimed at 1,500 commercial grape growers include annual fees, well and groundwater monitoring, ground cover requirements and more, according to the Press Democrat. Vintners and agricultural community members say the regulations are overkill for an industry already aimed at improving the environments they work in. Small growers have already small margins and new permitting reporting and fees will be costly. Staff at North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board who are creating the new rule structures, say the new rules are needed to slow soil disturbance and chemical use that harms local ecosystems including fish habitat in rivers. The board did say that about 80 percent of vineyards on the North Coast already have best practices in place voluntarily.

In a new ballot initiative, state government could be required to be more transparent with its records. The initiative filed yesterday would overhaul the Public Record Act and the Legislative Open Record Act to require state agencies be more responsive and quicker with public records requests. It also would require increased reporting of state lawmaker meetings with lobbyists and allow misconduct investigations to be public. KCRA reports the initiative author with a consumer watchdog group says failures in government transparency can be hazardous to our health and to the health of our democracy. The proposal would give new protections to those who sue agencies for records. It would also ban agencies from deleting or destroying public records within five years.

Consumer groups are fighting a proposal in Congress that would fast-track installation of 5G high-speed wireless internet equipment, by limiting local government input on permitting. House Resolution 3557 would require local governments to process many permit applications within 60 to 150 days depending on the size of the project. If they don't it would be automatically approved. According to the California New Service, Supporters of the bill say local objections are slowing down the rollout of 5G high-speed wireless internet. The Biden administration prioritizes laying fiber over wireless, and advocates say it is future-proof and costs less in the long run because it doesn't need to be constantly upgraded like wireless. So far, the bill has passed one House committee but has not gotten a floor vote.

There's only a few days left of the recreational Pacific halibut fishery season. Tomorrow at midnight, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will close the season statewide. IN a release issued in KymKemp, the department expects this years quota to be about 40,000 net pounds. Fish and Wildlife staff along with the National marine Fisheries Service and more worked together to set the closure deadline. The Pacific Halibut on the California coast are found from about Point Arena to the north and west.

Sheet1

Non-farming community leaders and other residents are getting ready for this year's AgVenture Program, preparing for sessions from August through November. The Lake County Chapter of California Women for Agriculture, CWA, has 14 organizers to be part of the program. Lake County News reports sessions will focus on specific Lake County crops, like pears, wine grapes, walnuts and more and feature guest speakers on the agricultural topics. The group will hear about the history, water and land use, pest management, sustainability and more. The group will go tour local packaging and crop production. The AgVenture program focuses on advocating agricultural practices in the area and is going into its 13th year.

There is an opportunity to get rid of your junk, with the Willits Dump Day on Sunday at the Willits Transfer Station. Residents can drop off large items for free. The event was created through the Governor's Clean California Initiative. It's a \$1.2 billion multi-year clean up program led by CalTrans to keep roads and waterways free of garbage. The event begins at 9am and will go until 1pm, or the capacity of the station is reached. Acceptable items include furniture, appliances, off rim tires, mattresses, green waste and other large items. Hazardous waste, construction debris and commercial tires won't be accepted. Officials are asking that you separate your recyclables from trash and other large items to facilitate an efficient process.

08/04/2023 The Koi Nation of Northern California is suing the City of Clearlake for its lack of cultural protections and legal requirements in the proposed Burns Valley Sports Complex. The Record Bee reports the city is required to consult with the Nation about the potential effects of the project on cultural sites of the tribe. Tribal leaders say city officials approved a rushed project excluding cultural resource protections and without Tribal consultation. Clearlake City Manager Flora reacted yesterday, saying the proposed sports complex is aimed to support the entire community. The Koi Nation temporarily succeeded in stopping hotel development on 18th Avenue in the city with previous litigation.

Representative Thompson, Chairman of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force is calling on Speaker McCarthy to schedule gun violence prevention bills to vote as soon as possible. The House has not voted on any gun violence prevention bills this year. Lake County News reports House republicans cancelled the last day of votes last month over differences in opinion on a government funding bill. Thompson wrote a letter to the Speaker and issued it yesterday saying gun violence has become the leading cause of death in kids and urging him to consider gun violence prevention legislation. Thompson says there are enough votes to pass the Bipartisan Background Checks Bill.

The Mendocino Department of Cannabis Control is hosting a public meeting later this month to go over the draft environmental report. In a release issued in MendoFever, the department is preparing the report for licensing cannabis cultivation in the county. It's a project to improve annual licenses in the county and consider future licenses for cultivation operations. The department created a Notice of Preparation and is circulating it for public review that will end on the 31st. The department will hold a virtual scoping meeting on the 22nd from 10 to noon.

Sheet1

North Coast Opportunities is giving aid to people who experienced hardships during the storms from earlier this year. The group, along with other local organizations is helping those who could not get earlier assistance due to their immigration status. Eligibility includes living or working in Mendocino County from late December thru January with proof of work or residence. MendoFever reports those who experienced financial setbacks due to loss of work, food, power or more could qualify for up to \$4,500 per household. Vision Family Center in Ukiah has information on the program as part of the Community Action Agency.

Low-income seniors are getting help with \$50 in vouchers for the Fort Bragg Farmers Market. Voucher booklets are available in Fort Bragg at the market, open through October from 3 to 5:30pm at Laurel and Franklin Street downtown, according to MendoVoice.

The City of Fort Bragg with the Unified School District have new pickleball courts for people of all ages. Last November, the City and School District used \$130,000 to fix up the school's tennis courts to install 8 pickleball courts. The group also refurbished 2 tennis courts.

The Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah is open for tonight's First Friday Art Walk with live music. There will be a tour of the Wild Gardens and more. The museum is free all day. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the current exhibit includes Artistic Reflections on the Back of the Land Movement with over 30 artists.

The Fort Bragg City Council and Police Department are addressing homelessness. Leaders in Fort Bragg have focused on recommendations in the Homeless Needs Assessment Report that was given to the Mendocino County Board in 2018. The board chose to not adopt the recommendations, according to the Advocate News, however, Mayor Norvell began to work on humane policies to target the issue. Along with Police Chief Cervenka, the Mayor helped design mission guidelines. They worked on zero-tolerance enforcement in shopping carts thefts as well as zero-tolerance for encampments downtown. Chief Cervenka helped develop the Care Response Unit within the police department to help the homeless with resources. The CRU team has reportedly decreased homeless arrests in Fort Bragg by nearly half.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is welcoming 43 newly graduated Wildlife Officers. The department issued a release in Lake County News celebrating the newest officers trained with California Peace Officer Standards. The graduates will now work through a Field Training Program to learn how to use their skills in real life with field training officers. Some of the graduates will go on to help the Law Enforcement Division within the department in marine and cannabis enforcement, petroleum spills and response and more. The division is looking for more candidates; those who are interested should get in touch with the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Redwood Coast Senior Center is offering free training to people over the age of 55 to become senior peer counselors. The program is designed to help seniors with in home counseling for people over 60 in the community. The Advocate News reports starting next month, training will begin on issues related to aging. Contact the Redwood Coast Senior Center for more information.

Sheet1

Congressman Thompson with other lawmakers is introducing the Nurse Corps Tax Parity Act. Lake County News reports the bill would amend the IRS code to equally treat recipients of scholarships and loan repayment systems. It would get rid of a tax penalty on people entering the profession. Thompson says everything should be done to encourage people to get into nursing, as the nation is seeing a shortage of the medical professionals. Lawmakers in support of the bill say Nurse Corps members work in underserved communities helping those with the greatest health disparities. They deserve the same benefits as National Health Service Corps members receive.

The City of Healdsburg is working on a strategy to combat climate change. The city held a workshop last week at the community center as officials collect community input on city plans. The Press Democrat reports a final draft of the city's mobilization plan includes feedback from the community on issues from emissions to contracts. The group engaged with the community on six categories; building energy, carbon sequestration, transportation, water and solid waste. A tree protection ordinance is a popular action with affordable solutions on reducing carbon. The community supported infrastructure improvements to the city's roads and bike paths. The city is planning to support the Regional Climate Protection Authority's climate goals.

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall is thanking residents who helped put out a fire this week. Kendall posted in social media yesterday, thanking people who stopped to help emergency responders put out a fire on Highway 20 east of Potter Valley Road. He notes the rapidly moving blaze was headed towards homes when people nearby stopped to help contain the fire with shovels, water and fire extinguishers.

Some in the area are still experiencing drifting smoke from the Flat Fire in Oregon. As of yesterday, sources report the wildfire has grown to over 31,000 acres and is at about 28 percent containment. Expect hazy conditions to continue with wind changes over the weekend.

There is an opportunity to get rid of your junk, with the Willits Dump Day on Sunday at the Willits Transfer Station. Residents can drop off large items for free. The event was created through the Governor's Clean California Initiative. It's a \$1.2 billion multi-year clean up program led by CalTrans to keep roads and waterways free of garbage. The event begins at 9am and will go until 1pm, or the capacity of the station is reached. Acceptable items include furniture, appliances, off rim tires, mattresses, green waste and other large items. Hazardous waste, construction debris and commercial tires won't be accepted. Officials are asking that you separate your recyclables from trash and other large items to facilitate an efficient process.

PG&E is scheduling another town hall meeting for customers in the North Coast. The utility will host a virtual meeting next Wednesday the 9th at 5:30pm, according to the Press Democrat. PG&E will explain their plans for high fire season and protocols for shutdowns and more. They will discuss their enhanced power line safety settings to minimize fire risk in high winds. A spokesperson said there will also be an update on the undergrounding process and tools they'll use in high fire threat areas. The virtual meeting is open to residents of Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties.

Sheet1

The Cemetery District is one of the topics presented by the Lake County Civil Grand Jury. The over 300 page report includes how local cemeteries are coping with rising costs. Cemeteries have struggled in recent years to keep up with inflation and property operations costs. The Grand Jury recommended the Board of Directors for Lake County's 6 cemeteries charge fees to cover the cost of services to residents. The grounds preservation is vital to the history of the community with an ongoing project to maintain grave headstones, plaques and markers.

08/04/2023 Mendocino County officials confirmed that most opioid settlement funds have gone or are going towards abatement for remediation. The county issued a release Friday, clarifying their uses of money received so far in the opioid settlements. 15 percent is directly distributed to the county for it's lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and distributors. The county says they've only received a small portion of the initial settlement of \$1.4 million, and will use \$275,000 to reimburse county costs related to opioid related healthcare. Continued work with the Director of Behavioral Health, the Board of Supervisors and other agencies, they'll plan out the best use of those funds county-wide.

Water diversion from the Eel River to the Russian River will be reduced. PG&E asked regulators to be allowed to cut the flow into the East Branch of the Russian by a third. They are also asking to cut the flow if water near the Scott Dam is warmer than 60 degrees Fahrenheit, according to reporting in KymKemp. At those temperatures, conservation advocates say is bad for salmon. Recent research into seismic concerns has led PG&E to leave gates at the top of the dam open. Mendocino County officials are concerned people who get water from the Russian may have to ration water. It's one of many issues surrounding the release of the Potter Valley Dam project by PG&E.

Lake County COVID rates have been increasing over the last few weeks. The latest post by the Lake County Office of Emergency Services on social media reported a 15 percent increase over the previous week. It was similar the week before that one. Lake County News reports the state's positivity rate is just under 9 percent. Lake County's numbers have increased since December when the rate was below 10 percent.

Survivors of federal Indian boarding schools discussed their personal stories with US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland yesterday at the Graton Rancheria. The Press Democrat reports Secretary Haaland is on a nationwide listening tour aimed at those survivors and their descendants. Haaland wants to connect communities with trauma informed support and help make their stories part of history. From 1819 through the 1970s, Indian boarding schools were funded by the Department of the Interior. Haaland was affected by the boarding school system herself as the granddaughter of two survivors. There were 12 of those boarding schools in California, half of which were north of the Bay Area, including the Round Valley Boarding School in Covelo.

Lakeport Unified School District is beginning tomorrow. Lakeport Police are urging drivers to be aware of school buses and road crossings for kids as they return to class. Lake County News reports the district is asking parents to know your drop off and pick up times and check with your school for any other details. Lakeport Police will be doing maximum enforcement and education as school traffic returns.

Sheet1

A trial for a Mendocino County Realtor is set for this month. David Ryan was arrested by Ukiah Police in 2021 and charged with sex related felonies. KymKemp reports his charges include burglary, sexual battery and more. With historical reporting from the Ukiah Daily Journal, Ryan has a list of charges decades long of intoxication and even for grand theft. Four women accused Ryan of sexual misconduct and more over 20 years ago. His jury trial is set for August 14th.

The Ukiah Senior Center is in trouble financially. After being in the area for half a century the non-profit's executive director says they are in "dire financial straits" according to reporting in MendoVoice. The center is asking the public for help on social media platforms and has set up a gofund me page. The Senior Center went through COVID, continuing on a minimal level to serve area seniors with food. Then, a disaster at the thrift store, where it gets revenue, was damaged from faulty fire suppression, flooding the store. It was forced to close for 7 months and pay part of the rehab that cost tens of thousands of dollars, even with insurance. 4,000 seniors a month are served there and act as an official cooling station during heat waves. They don't get funds from the city or the state, even though they are contracted with the county for services. Grants mostly fund the senior center. They are facing tens of thousands of dollars in repair after struggling for the last several years.

A former soccer coach and science teacher is agreeing to a plea deal in a case with over a dozen former students of his. The Middletown Unified School District previously employed Michael Dodd from June to September in 2021. Dodd had inappropriate behavior with a female student within the first month of that school year. Within days of the report, the school fired him based on their investigation that added 8 more victims. Lake County News reports last month, the District Attorney's Offices charged Dodd with 14 counts of juvenile victims in 2021, including 3 felonies. Dodd entered a plea deal and will accept the charges of felony stalking and two misdemeanors for molesting a child. After spending time in jail Dodd is on two years of probation and must register as a sex offender after spending months behind bars. The judge mandated that he not be able to teach, work, or volunteer that brings him anywhere close to minors and more.

Mosquitoes are coming up positive for West Nile Virus in Lake County. Lake County News reports the Vector Control District confirmed five more of the insects were tested last week. Officials continue to urge people to wear Deet repellent, long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk, and to drain any standing water near their homes. So far this year, there have been 7 mosquitoes test positive in Lower Lake, Middletown, Lakeport and Kelseyville and one bird found near Cobb. The Vector Control District asks that residents report neglected pools and also offer help with in-ground yellow jacket nests.

Governor Newsom is expediting critical work to protect and prepare communities for rainy weather. The Governor signed an executive order Friday that helps areas fix damaged levees and clear out river channels. Lake County News reports the order allows certain orders can be excluded that would delay any projects to repair and rehab flood damaged areas. The easing of restrictions from the Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and of Water Resources will help usher along fixing infrastructure. The Governor is helping to ease along federal aid to areas where the Presidential Disaster Declaration was enacted to build water resilience and prepare for the state's water supplies to endure increasingly extreme weather.

Sheet1

PG&E is changing its focus on the enhanced tree-trimming program. The utility has a new strategy to mitigate wildfire risks. The Sac Bee reports the utility will continue clearing and cutting trees and limbs away from area power lines. PG&E has been blamed for much of the harm caused by wildfires and still has a backlog of over 385,000 hazardous trees to target. A new program will focus more on their Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings. The new strategy, adopted last year, reduced fire ignitions by almost 70 percent, according to PG&E. It will continue its biannual inspections of trees around power lines and the tree trim program in heavily forested areas. The new program has settings on power lines that work to shut off those lines when touched by branches and more, reducing the risk of sparks. PG&E also has been working on undergrounding lines at a cost of \$20 billion.

The Lakeport Fire Protection District Board is holding a public hearing this week. The meeting will go over the new budget and discuss a property purchase and more. Lake County News reports they'll meet tomorrow at 5pm in the headquarters station on Main Street. There are plans for a presentation on the new Water Rescue Program training. They'll also go over contracts with Cal Fire and Kelseyville Fire Protection District for dispatch services.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will meet and continue the process of interviewing for two positions. The board will meet tomorrow at 9am in the Lake County Courthouse. The board is planning to consider a three year Lake County Mental Health Services Act Program for fiscal years 2023-2026. The board will hear a presentation from North Coast Opportunities on their new program. The board may approve an agreement with the Women's Recovery Services for substance use disorder residential treatment for over \$100,000 for this fiscal year as well as \$266,000 for the Department of Social Services for adoption services. The board also plans to continue the shelter crisis declaration, the emergency declaration for drought conditions, and Clear Lake hitch and tree mortality emergencies. In closed session, Lake County News reports they will continue chief public defender position interviews.

08/08/2023 Clearlake Police are looking for a missing 11-year old boy. Payton Parris is white with red hair and brown eyes. He is about four foot five and around 100 pounds, according to Lake County News. If you have any information on Payton Parris, please call Clearlake Police,

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Cal Fire is planning a prescribed burn at the headquarters on Highway 101 in Willits. The 10-acre controlled fire will be lit Thursday around 10am through 3pm. The fuel reduction project is aimed at promoting natural regeneration and fire personnel training. Smoke will be visible to area residents, as well as fire air resources. Cal Fire will make sure conditions are safe before starting the burn, and if winds or other factors change, they will cancel it.

Sheet1

Lake County is dealing with the homeless and organizations that manage the county's two shelters. In an ongoing series in the Record Bee, the state of homelessness in the county is costing more. The Lake County Board of Supervisors approved a 3 month extension of the emergency shelter declaration in their July 25th meeting and approved an increase in the shelter's budget by about \$45,000. The rise in costs is reportedly due to the higher costs of food and shelter staffing. At the recent board meeting administrators discussed the shelter, Sunrise Services Foundation's problems with directors. Yvonne Cox was fired this spring and the new director was recently arrested for domestic violence. Those charges have since been dropped. The board decided to approve an extension through October to seek solutions for a permanent shelter.

An abalone poacher will serve up to 2 years in state prison. Leroy Robles was caught in a criminal conspiracy to harvest and sell abalone on the black market in April. He was convicted separately of other abalone violations in March while being in possession of over 15 grams of fentanyl. The repeat offender was selling the shellfish for up to \$40 apiece, according to the Mendocino County District Attorney. Robles criminal record includes six felony and eleven misdemeanor convictions. Robles was sentenced yesterday morning in the Ten Mile Division of the Mendocino County Superior Court.

PG&E is considering a new proposal brought by Sonoma and Mendocino County water managers. The plan includes the purchase of part of the defunct Potter Valley Power Plant for future water transfers, according to the Press Democrat. In the conceptual plan, seasonal diversions of the Eel River would supplement supply in Lake Mendocino and the Russian River. The Sonoma County Water Agency, with the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission and the Round Valley Tribe are trying to keep parts of the power plant to channel water from the Eel to the East Fork Russian River. The PG&E surrender would leave communities and farms without enough water, without a plan to preserve part of the infrastructure. In the plan, additional infrastructure would be developed to help fish passage and help restore fish habitat in the Eel. The New Eel-Russian Facility would divert water during wet months and contribute flow to the Russian River water.

Home prices are being forecast to increase over the next year. The Orange County Register reports California home values look to be reversing the recent dip in prices and rise over 7 percent in 2024. The dip followed after prices rocketed up over 36 percent in the last two years. Federal Reserve rate hikes have contributed to the small dip, but demand is pushing those prices up again. The price of a median home in the state in June was over \$700,000. If the job market stays healthy and if mortgage rates go down the price of houses forecast looks good. In the Bay area, there's been an approximate decline in prices from 7 to 8 percent, and could swing back to a 6 to 7 percent gain by next year.

Sheet 1

Backlogs of property assessments and other issues with the Lake County Treasurer Tax Collectors office prompted the Civil Grand Jury to call for modernization of the county system. The Record Bee reports the jury recommended the Treasurer-Tax Collector and Assessor-Recorder's office work more quickly with residents on tax issues. The jury is also calling for software and processing systems upgrade saying it is long overdue. In their report the county currently uses an outdated system for payment processing, slowing the process for weeks and months. The jury observed various social media platforms regarding Lake County policies on taxation and found concerns related to backlogs and staff shortages. The jury was told that the county is switching to an electronic system that should help speed up processing and work on urgent issues. The county offices have about 2 months to respond to their report.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is extending the review period for mental healthcare contracts 2 more months before changing the current administrative model, according to MendoFever. The board is taking over financial oversight of specialty mental care from Redwood Quality Management Company. Board members had questioned the quality of data from the company citing missing information. The Behavioral Health Department decided they will hold contracts with providers directly and make sure there are no conflicts of interest. The current mental health Administrative Service Organization, Anchor Health Management is asking for a full year to transition oversight including patient records.

A red tide is returning to the Bay area, that was so toxic last year, it killed thousand of fish and marine life in the region. The LA Times reports scientists reported seeing red tide water last Friday and are in the process of examining the algal bloom. The Heterosigma akashiwo microorganism created waves of animal carcasses on beaches last year. Bacteria consume the algae and decreases oxygen in the seawater that suffocates fish and more. Researchers are keeping an eye on the red tide that may be driven by high amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous flowing out of wastewater treatment plants. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board is working on solutions.

A transportation needs study is almost complete and will be presented to the Mendocino Council of Governments next Monday at 1:30. The hybrid meeting will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers in Ukiah. The transportation needs of Covelo, Laytonville, Brooktrails, Potter Valley and Hopland have been a topic of study as the inland rural areas deal with little to no public transportation. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting on the study's results. The meeting will also have recommendations to serve the communities, especially with potential life-line transport and more.

A landmark sign that used to be on South State Street in Ukiah has a new home. The neon Mr. Frostie sign has been refurbished and is on display at the Lake County Fairgrounds, according to Lake County News. The ice cream cone shaped sign towered above a hamburger stand starting in 1948. John and Sandra Mayfield offered to fund the rehabilitated sign and offered to give it to the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds in Ukiah, but not accepted by directors there. Instead, the new site of the shimmied and shined up period piece will stand in Lakeport with a dedication planned for this Sunday at 11am. The Board Director for Lake County Fair approved the new placement and acknowledged its place in history as a Ukiah landmark.

Sheet1

A Sonoma County neurologist, Dr. Allan Bernstein is conducting trials on an Alzheimer's drug that could dramatically help people with the diagnosis. The Press Democrat reports the drug, donanemab is in clinical trials that so far researchers say slows the progression of cognitive abilities with people in the disease's early stages. Dr. Bernstein is working in the Eli Lilly study to look at the effects on people without Alzheimer's symptoms hoping to delay the onset as much as possible. State records show increasing numbers of people affected by the disease with up to about 16,000 in Sonoma County alone by 2025. The latest study focused on cerebral changes that can happen years before the disease symptoms present may be a preventative breakthrough Dr. Bernstein is hoping to be a part of.

PG&E is hosting a virtual town hall tomorrow for customers in the North Coast Region on an update of resources during wildfire season and updates on safety outages. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the town hall for Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma counties will run from 5:30pm to 7pm. The utility plans to have a brief presentation on their latest efforts and policies and will have time available for residents to ask questions.

Gas prices in the state are increasing. AAA reported nationally gas was \$3.83, up from \$3.76 the week before. California's average gas price was just over \$5.00 up a few cents from the prior week. Diesel is at around \$6.50 a gallon in the state.

The Clearlake City Council will consider appointment to one vacant seat on the Konocti Water District Board at the August 17th City Council meeting. To be considered, applicants must live within the Konocti Water District and be a registered voter. Interested applicants must fill out the Committee/Commission application on the Clearlake City Council webpage and return it to Melissa Swanson, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk via email or in person at the City's temporary offices located at the Lake County Campus of Woodland Community College by

08/09/2023 Wednesday, August 16th at 5pm.

The Bureau of Land Management is announcing its new approach to mitigate against high wildfire risk via fuel reduction projects across the state. The California State BLM Director signed the decision at the Capital yesterday for the Statewide Wildland-Urban Interface Fuels Treatment Programmatic Environmental Assessment. The decision will increase fuels reduction projects on 930,000 acres of public lands including in Lake County. Lake County News reports it would allow the work to begin within months. BLM will focus on areas of high fire risk and utilize mechanical cutting, controlled burns, herbicides and more on BLM lands. Cooperation between private landowners, the state and county governments and the US Forest Service will work together to identify areas they can work on almost immediately. Over 13,000 acres in Lake County are included in their scope.

A man convicted of domestic violence will serve a few weeks in jail and be on probation for three years and more. The Mendocino County District Attorney's Office issued a release showing Hazzar Arafad Navarro Torres of Willits was found guilty after a jury trial earlier this week. The charges were brought after an incident in March where Torres was arrested and charged with inflicting corporal injury on his spouse. Torres is mandated to complete a year-long Domestic Violence Batter Intervention Program and stay sober. Torres was also ordered to stay away from his spouse, the victim.

Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors are considering a three year Mental Health Services Act Program, and agreed to six month updates with the Behavioral Health Department. During their meeting yesterday, the board continued to formalize the interview process for a Chief Public Defender and more. In a presentation by the Lake County Tourism Improvement District on their marketing report, the Executive Director went over how direct marketing, web traffic and public relations have been their focus. In the report, tourism revenue was down about 24 percent in 2022. Some Supervisors noticed a lack of diversity in the marketing according to Lake County News. North Coast Opportunities, that administers the New Digs housing program presented a report on past work to house people and about current eligible grants could help.

The Middletown Area Town Hall will meet tomorrow and get updates on a new committee on cannabis and on fire season resources. The meeting will be tomorrow at 7pm in the Middletown Community Meeting Room in the Library and is open to the public. Lake County News reports a Cal Fire Division Chief will talk about wildfire season to start the meeting. District 1 Supervisor Simon will then present his update on south county issues.

There is more news from the report of the Lake County Civil Grand Jury. The Record Bee reports officials, staff, students and parents were interviewed about bullying in schools. Their report shows officials note discipline is often undermined. The jury classifies bullying into different categories. Direct, indirect, cyberbullying and combinations can be harmful. Studies show 15 to 20 percent of students will experience bullying in their academic career. The jury notes students don't feel safe and teachers don't have enough authority or responsibility to deal with bullying. There is a need for more trained school resource officers and education. The jury worried that there are no metal detectors in Lake County Schools and made a high-importance recommendation to install them. They made recommendations that the schools make clear policies on student safety, authority and more in immediate responses.

Tribal and community leaders are reacting to President Biden's work on the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon Expansion to the National Monument. Many would like to see similar work under the Antiquities Act to expand Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Lake County News reports local leaders would like to protect the eastern edge of the National Monument known as Molok Luyuk, or Condor Ridge. Conservation groups want to safeguard public lands sacred to local Tribes and preserve the cultural and natural landscapes. Advocates say the region has unique geology and plant and animal diversity that is critical to protect. Representatives Thompson and Garamendi along with Senators Padilla and Feinstein joined Tribal and community leaders in support of the expansion.

A new COVID variant is getting traction in the US. The Press Democrat reports EG 5 is the dominant strain and Sonoma County's interim health officer says it does not cause more serious illness. Dr. Karen Smith says vaccine manufacturers are making the new vaccine to guard against the new strain and for the next few years, health officials will more than likely treat COVID like the annual flu vaccination.

Sheet1

Governor Newsom is directing the creation of California's Hydrogen Market Development Strategy, calling on the Office of Business and Economic Development to build up the market. Lake County News reports the strategy may be similar to the Zero Emission Vehicle Market Development Strategy. The governor hopes it will help build a robust hydrogen market as a source of clean energy in the state. California is in competition to be a federally funded Hydrogen Hub, with \$8 billion funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to make at least four of those hubs in the country. The state's Hydrogen Strategy is part of Newsom's Infrastructure Strike Team to streamline renewable energy projects. The application for federal funds is being led and submitted by California's Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems, or ARCHES.

The Lake County Land trust is announcing that Monitor Island off the shore of Clearlake Park has been entrusted to them. The Record Bee reports the island was transferred to the Land Trust by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Land Trust plans to work with local tribes to manage and protect the island, which is culturally and historically significant to their communities. The group plans to continue to allow the public to visit the island saying they are committed to keeping Monitor Island accessible to everyone.

Advocates of a food prescription experiment want to expand access to fresh fruits and vegetables to everyone in the state. CalMatters reports helping with healthy foods can improve chronic conditions, like diabetes while lowering health care costs and reducing hunger. The Healthy Food RX Program aims to help improve lives for people with heart disease, kidney disease, high blood pressure and more. A study estimates that emphasizing healthy foods could save \$100 billion in healthcare costs in Medicare and Medicaid patients. In California, a five year effort to reform MediCal was launched last year, called CalAim. The strategy targets whole person care and allows MediCal patients over a dozen community support services. Legislators are working on AB1644 that would require MediCal to cover food prescription programs. There are plans to reintroduce the bill next year.

PG&E is hosting a virtual town hall today for customers in the North Coast Region on an update of resources during wildfire season and updates on safety outages. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the town hall for Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma counties will run from 5:30pm to 7pm. The utility plans to have a brief presentation on their latest efforts and policies and will have time available for residents to ask questions.

The Fort Bragg Finance and Administration Committee meeting is cancelled for today. The City announced the Public Works and Facilities Committee meeting for tomorrow has also been cancelled. Fort Bragg's Mayor Norvell posted information in Mendocino News Plus' Facebook page on the city's dedication to youth. He writes that recently, the city allocated \$140,000 to the Fort Bragg Unified Schools District to improve sports fields. The city also recently set aside funds to refurbish tennis courts and build up Pickleball courts. The mayor noted that just last month Prop 68 funds were awarded for the rehab of Bainbridge Park. The City Council is looking for proposals on work there including a playground renovation, camera systems, public art and more. Norvell says "Project Right Now" and the Police Chief's CRU team have been working with youth along with projects in their Police Explorer program.

Sheet1

A zone deer season is getting underway this Saturday. Lake County's deer herd is slowly declining. The growing coyote population and loss of habitat are part of the reason the deer population is going down. Lake County deer are all Columbian blacktail, a subspecies of the mule deer, but smaller, according to the Record Bee. Lake County is one of the most popular deer hunting zones in California and the blacktail are a species that takes patience and skill to successfully hunt. Department of Fish and Wildlife game wardens will be out enforcing licenses and deer tags. State law requires hunters use steel ammunition. The department is warning hunters to follow all state laws, including unloading your weapon when you're driving and watching for private property signs.

A Redwood Valley resident is in jail for fatally shooting a trespasser. Just before 8pm last night Timothy Abshire was shot in the chest on Richards Road. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office issued a release noting the shooter, Clinton Maxwell called in the emergency request, saying he shot someone trespassing on his property. Emergency responders arrived to Abshire with three gun shots in his chest. Around 8:23pm, he was pronounced dead at the scene. Maxwell was arrested and charged with homicide. He is being held in lieu of a \$500,000 bail. Anyone with information about the events last night is asked to call the Sheriff's Office.

08/10/2023

Cal Fire and the Bureau of Land Management are partnering together in a Good Neighbor Authority agreement. In a release issued today, Cal Fire and BLM entered into a contract worth around \$4.5 million to coordinate on projects to mitigate fires and restore forests. About 15 percent of land in California is under the purview of the BLM. The two agencies will pair goals to work together on wildfire resilience and enhanced responses. The Deputy Director says the Good Neighbor Authority agreement is the first step for the two to work together and said management opportunities will go beyond wildfire to include climatic events like floods and drought. The agreement gets rid of jurisdictional boundaries. Together they'll work on the National Environmental Policy Act to include fuel reduction and watershed restoration. The goal of the partnership is to treat one million acres of forest and wildlands annually by 2025.

Cal Fire is working on a prescribed burn at the headquarters on Highway 101 in Willits. The 10-acre controlled fire was started around 10am and will continue through about 3pm. The fuel reduction project is aimed at promoting natural regeneration and fire personnel training. Smoke will be visible to area residents, as well as fire air resources.

Cal Fire announced \$6 million in Fire Prevention Grants to Mendocino, Humboldt and Sonoma counties' fire departments. Mendocino will get \$4 million for their fire fighting organizations.

The Redwood Empire Fair livestock auction broke a new record with over \$1.1 million in total auction sales. MendoVoice reports there were over 220 exhibitors with rabbits, sheep, goats, pigs, beef and poultry. There are about 24 more exhibitors this year over last, with 2022 sales just below this year's record. Sales of Market Steer from 4H were down about \$55,000 while 4H Market Swine increased about \$30,000 and Market Lamb sales were up over \$20,000. Turkey bidding was significantly higher topping out at over \$21,000. Poultry was up as well, at nearly double last year's numbers at nearly \$17,000. The local 4H and FFA groups saw increased interest this year as residents support the families and kids who dedicated their time to raising these animals.

Sheet1

Mendocino County is hosting a series of public meetings in census tracts designated by CalOES. Grant funds were awarded last year in a "Jumpstart" fund. There will be a meeting in Hopland a week from today, Thursday the 17th from 5:30 to 7pm in Hopland at the Veteran's Memorial Building. The county is planning listening sessions in Boonville, Redwood Valley, Covelo, Ukiah, Willits and more, according to a release in MendoFever.

The counties of Sonoma, and Mendocino, along with the Leave No Trace organization, have launched an initiative to help coast-seeking visitors contribute to a Cleaner California Coast. With over 10 million visitors each year who visit the coastline and its neighboring counties of Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino. Over 55,000 pounds of litter were picked up from the coastal environment across the three counties last year. Mendocino County aims to adopt practices from Leave No Trace. Residents can help at an upcoming clean-up event: this Saturday with the Mendocino Land Trust. It's the Second Saturday Beach Clean Up at Hare Creek (Park at Mendocino College, Coast Campus) Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023, 10:00 AM – Noon

[The Ukiah Library will be hosting Fire Preparedness with the Mendocino County Fire S](#)

The California Department of Public Health is reminding residents to get your updated vaccines, especially as students return to school. State law requires vaccinations to enroll in public schools and childcare centers. Families can check out ShotsforSchool and Don't Wait, Vaccinate webpage run by the Department. Vaccines that aren't required but recommended are available as well including HPV. The seasonal flu shot is on its way as well as the updated COVID vaccine that is targeted at the latest strain. Check with your local health department or your medical care provider for what vaccinations they recommend.

A man from Clearlake will be spending the rest of his life in prison for sexual crimes against three children. Yesterday a judge sentenced Travis Hill up to 75 years to life after a jury trial found him guilty of nine counts of sexual assault. Lake County News reports Hill was arrested about 2 years ago, charged with sexual assault on three kids at his home in Lucerne from 2015 through 2017. The District Attorney's office confirmed the kids were aged 6 to 9 years old. Hill's trial was in April and sentencing was delayed but finally happened yesterday.

Senator Dianne Feinstein took a fall in her home and was taken to the hospital for a short time. The Associated Press reports her office confirmed the hospital visit yesterday. The senior Senator returned home after a brief check up. Feinstein has experienced health problems related to shingles and has vision and balance impairments from the infection. Some are urging her to step down, while others are supporting her last term in office. She will not seek reelection next year. If she leaves before then, the Governor would have to name her replacement; one he's said would be a diverse candidate. The Senator did ask to be replaced on the Senate Judiciary Panel, but Republicans refused to allow it. The Senate is expected to return to work next month.

Sheet1

A special workshop to reduce stress is planned for this weekend. The free workshop called "Building Resilience: Self-Empowering Tools for Reducing Stress and Trauma as Close as Your Own Hands." Lake County News reports the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church is hosting the event. The first session is Saturday, August 12th at 4:30pm with a second session the next day at noon. The workshop highlights ways to relieve stress through body based skills to help balance yourself. Techniques like breathing and visualization are part of the session as well as Tai Chi, emotional freedom tapping, acupressure and more. The event is hosted by Reverend Judy Slater, who is trained in healing. She is active with the Red Cross and works with people on anxiety and emotional issues.

The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority is planning a controlled burn for tomorrow morning near the Transfer Station. There will be a live-fire burn beginning at 8:30am on Saturday at 300 Plant Road. The crew is targeting the invasive Star-thistle weed and will reduce hazardous fuels. The fire will also help Fire Authority teams with experience. They will monitor the blaze and weather conditions so that everything 08/11/23 will be controlled safely.

A zone deer season is getting underway tomorrow. Lake County's deer herd is slowly declining. The growing coyote population and loss of habitat are part of the reason the deer population is going down. Lake County deer are all Columbian blacktail, a subspecies of the mule deer, but smaller, according to the Record Bee. Lake County is one of the most popular deer hunting zones in California and the blacktail are a species that takes patience and skill to successfully hunt. Department of Fish and Wildlife game wardens will be out enforcing licenses and deer tags. State law requires hunters use steel ammunition. The department is warning hunters to follow all state laws, including unloading your weapon when you're driving and watching for private property signs.

Mendocino County is getting Amtrak service in an expanded route. MendoVoice reports the route runs from Martinez to Arcata through Mendocino County. The expanded service will include 18 stops. The railway will also have the ability to sell bus only tickets along their routes. Route 7 will have bus stops in Ukiah, Willits, Laytonville and Leggett. Amtrak made the announcement with a spokesperson saying the move is a part of extensive collaboration with regional transit providers and to grow the Amtrak service statewide. The move will make bus tickets along the route available in Amtrak's Thruway bussing. The expansion will improve transit to underserved areas, reduce air pollution and increase revenue for California.

Mendocino County has launched the Heads Up Project to collaborate with local agencies and groups with human services resources in the community. In a release the county says the project began with Ukiah Police, the Probation Department, Behavioral Health Department and the Special Projects Team and more to meet regularly and work with area residents with repeated and unproductive interactions with law enforcement and mental health services. The Mendocino County Sheriff joined the group last year and helped grow their project significantly. They work in response to 911 calls that were not necessarily criminal in nature and found many callers were the elderly, family members concerned for loved ones, neighbors and more seeking their help. The Heads Up Project is not funded directly. Each partner works within their scopes and more to help people in need.

Sheet 1

Governor Newsom is deploying help to the Hawaiian island of Maui with resources and urban search and rescue following the deadly wildfires that have devastated the island. Newsom is directing Cal OES and members of the Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces to help in recovery operations. Lake County News reports they will also help in the continued search for survivors. Yesterday, the governor announced help from the Sacramento and Oakland firefighting personnel. This year, California has helped disaster recovery resources in Oregon, New Mexico and Montana.

Mendocino County District 3 Supervisor John Haschak made his monthly update on the state of the county in MendoVoice. The supervisor discusses county employees with SEIU 1021 on strike. Haschak confirms the Board has not offered a cost-of-living increase this year and cites rising health benefits costing employees more. He urges more productive conversations between board members and the union are necessary to get back on track. Haschak did comment on the restructuring of the Cannabis Department with streamlined practices. He says more work is expected in other departments like Planning and Building, Animal Care and more. The supervisor also said the Transient Occupancy Tax for Short Term Rentals should be increased and would create revenue to help increase wages, fund infrastructure work and improve public safety. Haschak says the next Board meeting will be on September 12th with some short term solutions.

The Point Cabrillo Lighthouse hasn't had its Fresnel light burning since the end of last year. The Mendocino Beacon reports the Coast Guard has the responsibility to maintain the light. There seems to be a problem getting a new motor for the lighthouse that has been steering ships for over a century. The motor uses electricity to light the way, in a full rotation every forty seconds. The lighthouse was damaged in the storms of January when it was flooded. The damage estimates are in the tens of thousands of dollars. The California State Parks helped restore the structure and is putting new doors and says rehab efforts are still needed, at a cost of around \$35,000. The Point Cabrillo Lighthouse Association is looking for donations to help in the costs.

Kris Kristofferson is selling his Mendocino Coast ranch for over \$17 million. The Press Democrat reports the property along Highway 1 covers nearly 560 acres in Elk. Sotheby's is listing the sale. The singer-songwriter and actor bought the land in 1980, that includes several barns and a four bedroom ranch style house. It has nearly a mile of ocean frontage with views of the Point Arena Lighthouse and Manchester State Park. Kristofferson kept the ranch simple, without elaborate buildings or other development that would clear the property; instead he's conserved the area. The family tells the Press Democrat that they hope a new steward will carry on in maintaining the property, that hasn't changed a whole lot in 100 years.

Lake County issued a release about this weekends high temperatures. Temps over 100 degrees are headed to the area for a while and the county is reminding residents that their libraries are open on Saturdays to help cool residents. There are also Peer Support Centers open to help as well. Officials urge everyone to be aware of the symptoms of heat exhaustion, heat stroke and more. Everyone should stay hydrated and try to stay out of the direct sun. Never leave kids or pets in closed cars. Keep outdoor pets and livestock in plenty supply of water and access to shade. The San Francisco Chronicle reports subtropical moisture is also headed our way for a humid weekend. Cyclone Eugene is spinning north toward the Bay Area bringing in chances of thunderstorms. The weather pattern called a rex block is expected through Saturday and Sunday and into next week.

Sheet1

COVID numbers in California continue to increase with sub-variant Eris dominating the nationwide surge. EG5 has some immune evasion characteristics, but officials say it doesn't mean it will be a big wave. Eris is a sub-variant of the Omicron and has been found in increased levels in wastewater in parts of the state. Test positivity rates have increased in recent weeks, according to the Press Democrat and municipal data. Lake County's latest data show an 18 percent test positivity rate over the last week emphasizing a growing trend in the region. Vaccines that are about to roll out for the autumn are targeted toward the right variant and should start becoming available soon.

The Mendocino Railway is announcing the return of the Chiggen steam engine. The owners of the Skunk Train are bringing back the train to the Redwood Route. Weekends in August and September will include the historic locomotive on a 7 mile roundtrip experience along the Pudding Creek Estuary. In a release in MendoFever, the railway says the Chiggen Train will leave from Fort Bragg with a stop at Glen Blair Bar for a little over an hour journey. The steam engine is similar the original train that ran on the same tracks since 1885.

Mendocino County residents who are permitted cannabis cultivators in unincorporated areas will now only pay 1.25 percent in taxes for this and next year. In a Canna Note issued today, the county announced all other cultivators and businesses will continue to pay \$2,500 per year and dispensaries would pay a 5 percent tax. Check the Cannabis Department in the county for more details.

The Mendocino County Unit Chief of Cal Fire is announcing the closure of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest project sites for a Greenhouse Gas Fuels Mitigation Project starting today. The sites include Bob Woods, Camp 8, Cribwall, Dunlap, Fairbanks and Top of Hare will close for fuel reduction treatments. Cal Fire personnel will be operating with the Department of Forestry and local law enforcement as well as licensed Timber Operators and others to reduce hazards like falling trees and limbs as well as controlled fire mitigation burns.

The Fort Bragg City Council is meeting Monday the 14th at 6pm and hear a presentation from Redwood Waste Solutions on CRV Redemption Centers and more. The agenda was issued today, and includes an update to the city's personnel rules and regulations on catastrophic leave. The council is expected to approve the Community Development Block Grant COVID relief Business Assistance Loan Program. Fort Bragg will get a marketing boost as the council will consider work with The Idea Cooperative. In the closed session, the council will work with legal counsel on anticipate litigation of 3 cases.

Fire crews are mopping up and watching for spotting in a blaze near Clearlake. The Oak Fire burned near Clearlake Oaks and closed Highway 20 last night. According to KCRA news crews from Cal Fire's Sonoma Lake Napa Unit were on the scene of the 26 acre blaze. Highway 20 was closed from New Long Valley Road to the Lake and Colusa County lines. It was 30 percent contained as of last night, and Cal Fire reports forward progress was stopped. It began just before 4pm yesterday afternoon. KymKemp reports the Walker Ridge Fire Camera showed multiple columns of smoke. Scanner traffic said a helicopter pilot saw two different fires growing at a moderate rate of spread with the wind. 14 fire engines, 5 crews, aerial resources and more are fighting the wildfire. In a social media post from Lake County, CA Emergency Warning and Preparedness on Facebook crews were still

08/14/2023 working on spotting and more as they maintain control.

Sheet1

An excessive heat warning is in place for Mendocino County. It began yesterday at 11am and will go through 11pm on Wednesday. Ukiah, Hopland, Redwood Valley, Willits, Potter Valley, Laytonville and Covelo are in areas that will experience temps over 100 degrees. The National Weather Service issued the warning saying extreme heat will increase the potential for heat related illnesses, especially those who work outside. Covelo and Round Valley will have highs between 104 and 106. MendoVoice reports unstable air created by Tropical Storm Eugene will usher in potentially dry thunderstorms, which means lightning is probable. Wildland fire risk is up from low to moderate. So far PG&E have not declared any power safety shutoffs, and the county has not yet announced any cooling centers. Residents should be prepared for the heat and potential fire risks.

The Fort Bragg City Council is meeting today at 6pm and will hear a presentation from Redwood Waste Solutions on CRV Redemption Centers and more. The agenda includes an update to the city's personnel rules and regulations on catastrophic leave. The council is expected to approve the Community Development Block Grant COVID relief Business Assistance Loan Program. Fort Bragg will get a marketing boost as the council will consider work with The Idea Cooperative. In the closed session, the council will work with legal counsel on anticipate litigation of 3 cases.

Mendocino County is hosting a series of public meetings to target Jumpstart grants by Cal OES to build resiliency in high-hazard exposure and social vulnerability. IN a release, the county is announcing a meeting in Hopland set for this coming Thursday, the 17th from 5:30pm to 7pm at the Veteran's Memorial Building. The county will host additional sessions in Boonville, Redwood Valley, Caspar, Covelo, Ukiah, Willits and Leggett in coming months. The listening sessions are intended to help target grant funding, in addition to the Jumpstart grant to help the communities become more resilient to disasters and weather events.

A law shortening the waiting period for medical aid in dying has led to a 47 percent jump in prescriptions for the medication, according to a new report from the California Department of Public Health. In 2021, lawmakers amended the End of Life Option Act to cut the mandatory waiting period between the two required oral requests for the medication from 15 days down to 48 hours. According to California News Service, the data also showed that almost 4 out of 5 terminally ill patients waited less than 15 days between the two verbal requests. A 2018 study from Kaiser showed that 21 percent of patients who requested to use the End of Life Option act died during the 15-day waiting period.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will put the Rockfish Conservation Area boundary line in effect next Monday. It will be the first "offshore only" fishery in the Northern Groundfish management Area, according to a release issued in Lake County News. Boat based ground fishing is only be allowed seaward from the boundary line. The 50-fathom Rockfish Conservation Area, or RCA, defines a boundary set to help preserve the species. No gear is to be deployed shoreward of the boundary line when shelf rockfish, slope rockfish or lingcod are on the boat. Quillback rockfish are being monitored by the department for both recreational and commercial fishing in the state. Fishers should check the CDFW's Marine Region Groundfish information on their webpage.

Sheet1

The Great Redwood Trail is being challenged by the Skunk Train. Supervisor McGourtney gave some notes to MendoFever, explaining what was discussed at the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting last week. Cannabis code enforcement, the Potter Valley Project, disaster prep and more were part of the meeting topics. McGourty is proposing relaxed construction codes for buildings less than 2,000 feet. The supervisor discussed bringing a code enforcement representative and the county sheriff to the next meeting. In a water update the Redwood Valley County Water District and Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency lifted the 55-gallon per day domestic limit. There was an update to the Potter Valley Project, discussions and further study will continue. Disaster preparation was discussed and coordination with area residents to create a group to help oversee and contribute to disaster recovery in emergencies.

Ukiah Unified School District is dealing with its attempt to sell the Redwood Valley Elementary School property, with no bids yet received. The district had a bid deadline of August 10th. Board members will consider next steps in the near future to sell the property in a bidding process with a minimum bid of \$900,000. The district voted to approve the resolution on the sale last June. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the 12.4 acre property in an unincorporated area of Mendocino County sits vacant as the school district will have to decide what to do next in the process.

There's a new wolf pack in California. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed wolves in the southernmost pack in the state in an announcement on Friday. The new pack is over 200 miles away from the known pack in northeastern California. The new pack was seen in the Sequoia National Forest in July. The new pack has at least five wolves that haven't been id'd in the state, including two male and two female pups. It's been over a decade since the first identified wolf crossed into the state from Oregon. The wolf was father to four pups in the Lassen Pack. According to SF Gate, the gray wolves remain under the protection of the California Endangered Species Act.

California workers on strike may be able to get unemployment benefits if legislation is approved in the last weeks of this legislative year. The Sac Bee reports hundreds of thousands of laborers are on strike, from writers to municipal employees. Senate Democrats are hoping to print up legislation that would allow benefits for those on strike within the next two weeks, according to Politico. Though no new bill can be created, legislators can chose to overhaul an existing bill to include the change in unemployment eligibility when lawmakers return from recess today.

Thanks to \$15 billion in state and federal funding, school districts are ditching hot dogs, pizza and chicken nuggets for lunch. 6 million public school students will see organic salads, free-range grilled chicken, and vegan masala. California's program is the first on the country to provide free breakfast, lunch and snacks to nearly 6 million students in California public schools, according to CalMatters. The move to fresh, made-from-scratch high-quality meals is very popular with students.

Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow at 9am and go over a new Public Health position and approve support for the expansion of Berryessa National Monument. Lake County News reports the board is considering former Public Health Officer for Mendocino County, Dr. Noemi Doohan as Lake County's Public Health Officer. They will consider adding to the vehicle fleet with the Public Works Director. The board will approve an agreement for water and sediment sampling and sign the notice of completion for the Cooper Creek Witter Springs Road Bridge Replacement Project. The board is expected to support adding Molok Luyok, or Condor Ridge to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. The board will continue its search for a Chief Public Defender. They plan to go over litigation including the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project.

08/15/2023 The National Weather Service is continuing to warn of lightning strikes in the area through this afternoon in a Red Flag Warning. Northeastern Mendocino is in an especially dangerous pattern that could bring gusty winds. Authorities are warning if you hear thunder, go inside. Unstable atmosphere and mid level moisture is still a threat to the area. Residents are urged to report any fires and to be aware of potential lightning strikes. Five small fires were reported near Covelo last night, according to KymKemp.

The Mendocino Cannabis Alliance is congratulating California State Fair Cannabis Award winners with a special reception August 20th at the Bohemian Chemist in Anderson Valley. The event will also feature a Craft Cannabis Marketplace with some of the winners from this year. Nine Mendocino County farms won a total of 18 State Fair Cannabis Awards and dominated the Outdoor category in 7 out of 10 Golds. Last year, 8 Mendocino growers won 17 awards. Those who would like to celebrate with the best in the state must be over 21 years old. The market will open at 11am and run through 6pm, with the reception from 5 to 6 pm.

A Mendocino Forest wide Prescribed Fire and Fuels Management Strategy is giving legal notice to the public of a draft decision on that will include prescribed fire and fuel reduction treatments. Projects must meet site specific conditions and will be vetted by a team including community members, local tribes and other agencies to help identify potential treatment areas. The forest has published an online map called "Returning Fire to the Landscape" with a visual summary of the forest wide strategy. Funding for the strategy has been provided by a PG&E recovery program. A Forest supervisor says this project has flexible strategies that can change over time. The aim is to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfires and more. The draft decision on the Mendocino National Forest includes time to allow the public to object in the legal notice on the project website.

The Lakeport City Council is meeting today at 6pm where they will meet new Lakeport Police Department officers. Lake County News reports the council proclaim August 31st as International Overdose Awareness Day. During the public session, the council may approve military equipment use by the Lakeport Police Department. The council will go over this years' Harvest Festival and approve participation in the National Night Out event and more.

Sheet1

Caltrans District 1 and the county of Mendocino is announcing a Clean California Dump Day event for this Saturday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until capacity reached at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds in Boonville. The event will allow residents to drop off mattresses and off-rim car and light truck tires for free. Tires on rims cannot be accepted. Caltrans reminds motorists to properly secure and tarp all cargo loads prior to driving. Transporting unsecured loads is unsafe, illegal, and pollutes California's roads and waterways. Loads that are not tied down, enclosed, or secured by tarps or other means will not be accepted. Officials say to completely cover loads with tarps. Remove loose materials and don't overload.

The death toll from the wildfire on Maui is at 99 this morning, and bound to rise. It has become the deadliest US wildfire in over 100 years. The AP reports the historical town of Lahaina is being searched with cadaver dogs, with officials saying only about a quarter of the fire footprint has been searched. The catastrophe is bringing back traumatic reminders to Californians with three recent fires in the top 10. The Camp Fire in Paradise in 2018 led to the death of 85 people and forced tens of thousands to flee the area. In 2017 a firestorm killed 24 in Sonoma County, nine in Mendocino County and 11 others in Napa and Yuba Counties. The 2020 the Lightning Complex fires killed 31. The AP reports scientists predict high-risk conditions will persist as climate change continues to lead to high temperatures and stronger storms.

The Westshore Pool is going to be demolished. The Lakeport Unified School Board voted to have the property demolished in their meeting last week. The pool has been open for fifty years with swimmers including the Channel Cats, and the Kelseyville High and Clear Lake High Schools swim teams. Lake County News reports the pool was closed because of leaking pipes in 2018. In recent years, the pool has been vandalized and filled with trash. Residents are eager to see it removed. Over the years pool construction plans came and went but so far there are no new plans to build a new pool.

The California Hall of Fame is announcing their 16th Class inductees. Governor Newsom was at the California Museum yesterday and announced the new class of trailblazers in public service, sports, entertainment and more into the California Hall of Fame. Lake County News reports among this year's class are actors Carrie Fisher and Shirley Temple. Pilot and physicist Maggie Gee is included. Singer Etta James and Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully are included. LGBTQ rights activist and pioneer Jose Julio Sarria is in this year's class along with Archie Williams the Olympic gold medalist. History making Californians have made the grade in the California Hall of Fame since it's inception in 2006.

The 40th Round Valley Blackberry Festival will be held on Saturday, Aug. 19 and Sunday, Aug. 20, beginning at 10 a.m. The festival runs through 6 p.m. on Saturday and 5 p.m. on Sunday with arts and craft booths, Mendocino wine tasting and live music both days with children's activities and more. There will be a square dance Saturday evening at 7 p.m. next to the festival grounds. Sunday will feature a car and motorcycle show. Admission is free.

Sheet1

California Democrats are focused on helping the Governor in his goal to change the US Constitution with gun violence prevention. Gun ownership age limits, universal background checks and an assault weapons ban are all on the table. The Sac Bee reports lawmakers introduced a joint resolution supporting Newsom's gun control amendment yesterday. They are calling for a constitutional convention to create an amendment to allow states and local governments to limit firearm possession. They'd like to see the legal age to purchase a gun be 21. Newsom calls the effort the "Right to Safety Amendment." Two thirds of states would be needed to pass constitutional convention legislation to make the amendment successful. California's governor told reporters last week that he believes it can happen. Lawmakers in the state have passed some gun control bills and some believe other states will follow.

State Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire is calling a proposed hydropower project at Fort Ross State Historical Park "dead on arrival." The Press Democrat reports advocates for the plant will hold a meeting this Thursday to engage the public and answer any questions at the Jenner Community Center on Highway 1. The environmental impact the project would make is angering residents and community leaders. US Representative Huffman says the project is a serious threat saying not enough planning went into the proposed project. Alabama based Hydro Green Energy chose three coastal locations in the state, with the Sonoma Coast location proposed for massive hydropower storage. Officials say the project would have to go through a substantial regulatory process if the Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission approves the plan. Sonoma County plans to file a motion to intervene, saying the project is illegal.

The EPA is investigating how California manages water after complaints from some Native American tribes and environmental groups. The agency is looking into the California State Water Resources Control Board, and how they set rules for the state's water, according to ABC news. The board is legally required to review their rules every three years, but has not reviewed the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Tribes say California is leaning on outdated rules that have led to increased toxic algae in one of the largest estuaries in the country. The cyanobacteria is threatening cultural and religious practices for several tribes. Native American tribes have not been included in the water governance with some saying Governor Newsom is privately negotiating with big water agencies. The board is considering adding tribal uses for tradition and subsistence fishing and says it will release a report on the proposal later this year.

Officials with the Mendocino National Forest are issuing fire restrictions starting today. In a Forest Order, the fire prohibitions are aimed at minimizing chances of human caused wildfires through the end of the 2023 fire season. A Fire Management Officer says the public can use a campfire or stove fire in designated fire-safe campgrounds as long as they have a California Campfire Permit. Smoking and lighting fireworks are prohibited in recreation sites. Other restrictions are in place for using internal combustion engines and other tools that spark ignitions. The restrictions also apply to neighboring public lands in Mendocino County. During high risk weather events it's important to be aware of anything that can light a fire as high vegetation dries and becomes fuel throughout the state.

Sheet1

Cal Fire is celebrating another community that has joined the Firewise USA program. In a release issued today, the department is welcoming Sonoma County into the group as the 700th community in the state, as recognized by the National Fire Protection Association. Cal Fire Chief Daniel Berlant says reaching the 700th community so quickly is a major accomplishment for California. The burn scars from the 2017 Tubbs Fire and the 2020 Glass Fire were the focus of work with the Sonoma County Fire District, Cal Fire and other community partners. Fire prevention workshops and community groups promoting fire safety helped the area of the Upper Mark West receive grants to reduce roadside fuels and more. An evacuation drill and other projects helped meet the standards for a Firewise Community.

Lightning strikes causing over a dozen fires surrounding the Covelo area are still being put out, mopped up and more with Cal Fire working non stop to extinguish all the flames. The group of 14 fires being called the MEU August Lightning Fires. Cal Fire says 10 engines, 5 air resources and nearly a 100 crew members have worked to contain the fires ranging from a 10 by 10 foot spot to around 20 acres in size. The largest fire burning is near the Bald Mountain area where Cal Fire says forward progress was stopped as of last night. The department says they'll stay in the area until all fires have been located and extinguished.

08/16/2023

Lake County Public Health and Vector Control District are warning of West Nile Virus activity in the area. Officials say the infection can range from zero symptoms to deadly forms of the disease. The first human case reported this year in Lake County got sick in the third week of July. A second probable case is under investigation, after someone became ill recently. Both people seem to be experiencing the neuroinvasive form producing symptoms that can range from meningitis to more permanent effects on the nervous system. The county has now four confirmed human cases this year, and one fatality. Health officials say people over 50, and those with chronic conditions are at a higher risk for severe forms of the disease. Everyone is urged to wear Deet repellent, wear long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk and to drain any standing water nearby. For symptoms of West Nile Fever and more information contact the Lake County Vector Control District or check with the California Department of Public Health.

The National Weather Service Excessive Heat Watch continues through today with temps from 105 to 110 in Northern Mendocino and in Lake Counties. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the hottest conditions will continue today, but cooler conditions are on the way. There have only been trace amounts of rain reported in the area near Redwood Valley. Authorities remind people to stay hydrated and out of the direct sun. People are reminded that if they hear thunder, to go inside, as lightning strikes have caused dozens of fires in Northern California. The California System Operator is warning that high temperatures could lead to a Flex Alert. The Press Democrat reports the alert aims to save energy during the hottest part of the day from 4 to 9pm by asking residents to reduce electricity usage.

Mendocino County is hosting a series of public meetings in census tracts designated by CalOES. Grant funds were awarded last year in a "Jumpstart" fund. There will be a meeting in Hopland tomorrow, Thursday the 17th from 5:30 to 7pm in Hopland at the Veteran's Memorial Building. The county is planning listening sessions in Boonville, Redwood Valley, Covelo, Ukiah, Willits and more, according to a release in MendoFever.

Sheet1

Officials with the Mendocino National Forest are issuing fire restrictions. In a Forest Order, the fire prohibitions are aimed at minimizing chances of human caused wildfires through the end of the 2023 fire season. A Fire Management Officer says the public can use a campfire or stove fire in designated fire-safe campgrounds as long as they have a California Campfire Permit. Smoking and lighting fireworks are prohibited in recreation sites. Other restrictions are in place for using internal combustion engines and other tools that spark ignitions. The restrictions also apply to neighboring public lands in Mendocino County. During high risk weather events it's important to be aware of anything that can light a fire as high vegetation dries and becomes fuel throughout the state.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is investigating the discovery of two dead men in a culvert near Middletown. The Sheriff's Office identified the two as Devon Stark and Leandro Natalgarcia. The two were found in a tent under Highway 175 in a concrete culvert. Authorities say so far there are no signs of foul play, according to Lake County News.

The City of Fort Bragg issued a notice on social media that they will be working on changing out all water meters within the city. Coleman Environmental Engineering will be out with employees in yellow hard hats and vests notifying residents that their meter is scheduled to be changed out. Some may find door hangers that are giving residents 48 hours notice that their water will be shut off to change out the meter. The shut offs will last about 2 hours depending on the state of the meter. There are over 2,000 water meters in the city, so the crew will be working in batches.

In a series of storms that produced lightning, over 50 wildfires were reported in Northern California from Mendocino to Siskiyou Counties. The Head Fire in Siskiyou County has grown to over 3,000 acres as of last night and is aggressive. According to reporting in KymKemp, the rapid growth of the blaze caused evacuations for miles in the county. Cal Fire is holding all fire personnel on duty to help fight the wildfire. Over a dozen lightning sparked fires are burning in Humboldt with a dozen in Mendocino County. Most in Mendocino are contained, with a 20 acre fire progress stopped. Be sure to know your zone in case of evacuations at zonehaven.com

Mendocino County is actively working to battle opioid epidemic that lists the county with the highest rate of overdose deaths in the state. The County and the City of Ukiah have received settlement funds of around 1.4 million so far. The Ukiah City Council has committed a part of those funds to update systems at the New Life Clinic, a methadone treatment center on Standley Street. In Fort Bragg, police are working with about \$345,000 in grant funds for a Youth Opioid Program. The strategy will expand the police department's Care Response Unit to help young people with treatment and rehab, according to MendoFever.

Willits Police are looking for an endangered man. Raymond Tyler is 5 foot 7 and weighs around 150 pounds. He has red-blond hair with blue eyes and freckles. His sister and area authorities have been looking for Raymond since he was released from Shasta Regional Medical Center on August 3rd. According to his family and police he was taken back to Mendocino County but they haven't been able to check in on him or confirm he's back in Willits. MendoFever reports here have been some sightings of the man, who has mental health issues according to his sister, Colene Brown. She has posted on several area social media sites and is working with officials to try to locate her brother. Anyone with any information on Raymond is asked to call the Willits Police Department.

Sheet1

The Chairs of California's statehouse committees are calling on the Governor to bargain with the SEIU 1000. The Sac Bee reports Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and Assembly and State Committees on public employment and retirement sent a letter to the governor urging him to bargain fairly and reach a contract agreement this week. Nearly 100,000 state employees are covered by the union and have been bargaining with the state since April. The previous contract ended in June. The California Department of Human Resources spokesperson says CalHR is working in good faith with the SEIU to reach an agreement. The union has asked for a 30 percent raise over a three year period. The state countered offering an 8 percent raise. The union commissioned a study that shows members are struggling financially, particularly women and employees of color. If the two parties don't come to an agreement before September, union members could be left without raises until lawmakers reconvene in January to vote on a new contract.

The Biden Administration's Inflation Reduction Act turns one year old today – directing \$370 billion dollars to clean energy efforts through tax incentives, grants, and loan guarantees. That public money has in turn spurred private investment to decarbonize the economy. According to the California News Service, Republican opponents of the Inflation Reduction Act have cited concerns about the deficit and the impact on jobs in the oil and gas sector. So far, private companies have announced plans for 96 gigawatts of clean power, enough for almost 20 million homes. U-S battery manufacturers have ramped up projects that will support the production of 10 million electric vehicles per year.

Lightning fires are burning in the Mendocino National Forest. Two fires, called Slide 1 and Slide 2 were merged north of Mt. Linn. The Slide 1 fire is burning in timber and brush in about 60 acres. Fire managers say the blaze has potential to burn at a high rate of spread in the area that includes the 2020 August Complex footprint. Seven smokejumpers were part of the initial attack with multiple fire resources including an air tanker. Firefighters in the Covelo Ranger District worked to contain the one acre Hole Fire near Hell Hole Creek. In a release issued in MendoFever, the increased potential for lightning has led for authorities to call a red flag day through 10pm tonight.

The Clearlake City Council will welcome new police staff and more at it's meeting tomorrow at 6pm. The council is considering appointing a vacant position on the Konocti Water District Board. They will receive a presentation on the Recreation and Events Division quarterly report. In closed session, the council will go over anticipated litigation and an existing lawsuit, according to Lake County News.

Ukiah Unified Schools are back in session next week. Superintendent Kubin is urging area residents to slow down and watch for kids getting on and off busses, on bikes and families dropping students off. Authorities warn that passing a school bus is illegal and are asking drivers to stay farther behind buses than they do other vehicles.

The Mendocino Cannabis Department is offering a workshop on recent revisions to the county's cultivation ordinance. The workshop will be next Tuesday, the 22nd at the UC Cooperative Extension Conference Room on Bush Street in Ukiah from 1 to 5pm. Their latest Canna Note includes information on how to join in the workshop virtually as well.

Sheet1

The Mendocino National Forest has an update to the Slide 1 fire. As of 10am this morning, the fire north of Mt. Linn grew to 340 acres. Though firefighters are making progress, the Forest Service says they are still at zero containment. The Slide 1 Fire is in steep, rugged country. Crews are focused on the east and south edges of the fire to contain it. In addition to the remote nature of the fire, temperatures are creating hazards for the crew. Temperatures will continue to be over 100 with a chance of thunderstorms that have the potential to increase fire behavior. Tuesday, they reported over 156 lightning strikes sparking several fires. One lightning started fire is in the Sanhedrin Wilderness near Impassable Rock called the Rock Fire. As of this morning it has grown to be 2 acres and is burning in heavy fuels. Smokejumpers and hotshots are working on the blaze.

08/17/2023

The National Interagency Fire Center's Coordination Center for NorCal has extended the high fire risk through today. Isolated thunderstorms are still possible with little rain, meaning lightning is still a threat. MendoVoice reports the excessive heat warning is in place for Mendocino County through tonight. Increasingly dry and hot weather continues to be a threat though technically the winds don't meet the National Weather Service's parameters for a Red Flag warning. Still, conditions are dangerous and residents in Mendocino County are urged to stay hydrated and inside if possible today.

Lake County Behavioral Health Services is reaching out to residents this month as they recognize August 31st as International Overdose Awareness Day. The department would like to recognize all of those lost to drug overdose and those struggling with addiction.

In 2022, over 100,000 people died of overdose in the country, 79 in Lake County. If you suspect someone is experiencing an overdose, immediately call 911. SafeRx will host a free event in observance of International Overdose Awareness Day on August 19 at Austin Park in Clearlake, from 10am to 2pm. Participants will have the opportunity to honor loved ones lost to overdose and get training on how to administer Narcan. Those who complete this training can also be provided Narcan, increasing the chances this life-saving drug will be available where and when it is most needed.

Willits Police Chief Fabian Lizarraga confirmed he is resigning in early September. KymKemp reports the Chief has been at the Willits Police Department since 2021 after working in Fort Bragg and in LA. He has been with law enforcement for over 40 years. The Chief says he's ready for rest and relaxation and is stepping away from law enforcement and city governments. There's no plan from the city of Willits for plans on replacement yet.

CHP will have a drivers license safety and DUI checkpoint in the unincorporated area of Lake County tomorrow. Officers will be checking for drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs as well as drivers who are unlicensed. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and CHP want to send a message that driving under the influence has consequences that include getting your vehicle towed and more. They will be targeting roads where there is a high frequency of intoxicated and illegal drivers.

Sheet1

Mendocino County Fire Departments are getting money to buy new fire engines. The five departments chosen will get the funds within the next two years. Senator McGuire announced last week the state committed \$2 million to rural fire departments in Mendocino and Humboldt Counties for type six fire engines, designed for rugged conditions. Fifteen rural fire districts and departments have met with his office in the last year to work out a regional fire defense plan, according to MendoFever. Covelo, Laytonville, Leggett, Piercy and Westport will get the engine funding. McGuire said about \$4 million in grants from Cal Fire will be awarded to Mendocino, Sonoma and Humboldt Counties for fire departments, districts and nonprofits across the region. McGuire calls the funds a “down payment” on modernizing equipment, hinting at more money on the way.

Lake County Public Health and Vector Control District are warning of West Nile Virus activity in the area. Officials say the infection can range from zero symptoms to deadly forms of the disease. The first human case reported this year in Lake County got sick in the third week of July. A second probable case is under investigation, after someone became ill recently. Both people seem to be experiencing the neuroinvasive form producing symptoms that can range from meningitis to more permanent effects on the nervous system. The county has now four confirmed human cases this year, and one fatality. Health officials say people over 50, and those with chronic conditions are at a higher risk for severe forms of the disease. Everyone is urged to wear Deet repellent, wear long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk and to drain any standing water nearby.

The National Weather Service has extended the Red Flag Warning to the north through today with temperatures over 100. Officials are warning to know the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and to stay hydrated and inside if possible. There is a continued potential for thunderstorms and lightning today as well. The high-risk fire weather continues as major fires are burning in Humboldt, Trinity, and Siskiyou Counties to the north, as Cal Fire and local fire crews are watching several fires in the Mendocino National Forest and more.

Green jobs in The Golden State are projected to increase by more than 7 percent over the next five years, according to a new report from WorkingNation. Last year California had more than 210-thousand workers in the green economy with more than 53-thousand openings. According to California News Service, California is spending billions to expand solar and wind power, build the E-V charging network, promote energy efficiency and make our homes, cities, roads and environment more resilient to the effects of climate change. The state also offers agricultural technical assistance programs to help farmers and growers to make their operations more sustainable.

Governor Newsom is announcing \$73 million from Cal Fire for schools to replace asphalt with trees and more to protect kids against extreme heat. The funds add to the \$120 million the state has distributed for projects to fight the effects of climate change. The Green Schoolyard Grant program helps create drought-tolerant natural areas on playgrounds and other ways to help kids connect to nature. Lake County News reports it's part of the Governor's Extreme Heat Action Plan. The funds are aimed at creating pathways shaded by trees, nature based exercise and play areas, drought tolerant landscaping and more helping kids learn skills for future careers.

Sheet1

Caltrans District 1 and the County of Mendocino announced a Clean California Dump Day event for Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds. This Dump Day allows residents to drop off mattresses and off-rim car and light truck tires for free with a limit of nine per load. Dump Day events are an initiative by Governor Newsom with the Clean California Act. Boonville area residents can bring stuff to the fairgrounds starting at 10am through 2pm, or until capacity is reached. Caltrans reminds motorists to properly secure and tarp all cargo loads prior to driving.

This weekend Covelo is celebrating the 40th Round Valley Blackberry Festival. Saturday and Sunday events will kick off at 10am. The festival runs through 6 p.m. on Saturday and 5 p.m. on Sunday with arts and craft booths, kids' activities, Mendocino wine tasting and live music both days. There will be a square dance Saturday evening at 7 p.m. Sunday will feature a car and motorcycle show. Admission is free.

The Fort Bragg City Council met this week, and approved a contract for marketing with The Idea Cooperative, a PR company aimed at increasing tourism in the area. A presentation was given by Redwood Waste Solutions that began service the Fort Bragg area last year. They went over their CRV redemption centers for area residents to recycle metals, plastics and glass. The company provided an update on hazardous materials with a mobile drop-off event early this month. According to the Advocate News, RWS described how they are working to comply with the state's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Law by turning compostable waste into compost and more.

Mendocino County officials have been test a new communication pathway to increase collaboration between criminal justice and human service organizations. The Advocate News reports officials are now ready to amp up the project. The Heads Up Project aims to put the right resource in places of need. The Ukiah Police Department, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, Social Services and Behavioral Health Departments will work with each other and other organizations to support the community through referrals. The project is focused on appropriate resources to respond to the community during issues of concern. The collaborative project has so far responded to over 250 situations. They hope to defer situations that are non-criminal in nature to the appropriate agency or department.

CHP is ramping up actions to stop retail theft rings throughout the state. Along with other law enforcement resources the department used their Organized Retail Crime Task Force on a large operation in the Central Valley last weekend arresting over 50 people and recovering over \$60,000 in merchandise. In a release in KymKemp, the CHP Commissioner says this year the task force has increased investigations and will continue to do so. Since the start of the task force in 2019 there have been nearly 2,000 investigations that have disrupted retail theft rings and prosecute organized retail criminals.

Residents of Ukiah noticed FBI agents with CHP raiding West Coast Ag Products this morning in Carousel Industry Park. MendoFever reports agents also searched a home on Kennwood Drive. Witnesses say the raids happened this morning around 6am. According to court records, West Coast Ag Products' CEO is involved in a lawsuit surrounding claims of unfair business practices. The company is a pesticide and herbicide manufacturer.

Sheet 1

The Lake County Continuum of Care is announcing over \$100,000 in funding is available. In combined federal funding for providers for homeless services, the department says there are two tiers categorized for applicants for grant money. In Tier 1, there is over \$45,000 in a renewed Domestic Violence Grant. Rapid Rehousing Services for victims has been the goal of that project. In Tier 2 funding, there is \$50,000 available for a new Domestic Violence grant. Projects must serve survivors with supportive services or rapid transitional rehousing. A bonus grant is also available for over \$18,000 for projects that support housing for the homeless. The deadline to apply for these grants is August 28th. Check with the Lake County Continuum of Care for more information.

The Slide 1 Fire in Mendocino National Forest is now 20 percent contained, as of 10am today. The Forest Service issued a release on the wildfire attack on over 650 acres. Thankfully there was no growth overnight. Crews are working on the south and east edges using trails as natural barriers. A closure for the Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness in the Grindstone Ranger District is expected to close later today. Firefighters are also working on the Rock Fire that is about 2 and a half acres. Gusty winds are possible tonight but temps are trending down as Hurricane Hilary moves up from the west Mexico location, and may bring rain.

08/18/2023

Local residents with experiences of homelessness, community service providers, members of the public, community leaders and more are invited to join with the Mendocino County Continuum of Care Annual Membership Invitation. The event was rescheduled to this coming Monday, August 21st at their location on State Street in Ukiah. The group works to bring federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to assist people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness. The group focuses on developing solutions to homelessness that also positively impacts the larger community. Community members and residents are welcome to attend the public meetings.

North Bay areas have been listed among the 40 best small towns in California in a recent article in Country Living. Sonoma, Healdsburg, Guerneville and all made the town of Mendocino also made the magazine's list. Healdsburg was listed as 13th and recognized for its Michelin-starred restaurants and art galleries among wine tasting and more. The Press Democrat reports Mendocino came in at number 18 with breathtaking views around every turn, according to the article.

Residents of Ukiah noticed FBI agents with CHP raiding West Coast Ag Products yesterday morning in Carousel Industry Park. Multiple sources report agents also searched a home on Kennwood Drive. Witnesses say the raids happened Thursday morning around 6am. According to court records, West Coast Ag Products' CEO is involved in a lawsuit surrounding claims of unfair business practices. The company is a pesticide and herbicide manufacturer.

A Lakeport man is facing 45 years to life in state prison for the sexual assault of two women last year. Sean Daughtery was sentenced this week after a jury convicted him of three counts of sexual assault and more. The trial began in May after an initial trial last year ended in a hung jury. According to Lake County News, the victims ranged from a 16 year old run-away, to several homeless women and more. Daughtery was aggressive before the court during sentencing and had to be removed by three bailiffs. He was sentenced to 45 years to life for the violence against the victims with a high degree of cruelty and callousness to women who were especially vulnerable.

Sheet1

The Lake County Continuum of Care is announcing over \$100,000 in funding is available. In combined federal funding for providers for homeless services, the department says there are two tiers categorized for applicants for grant money. The deadline to apply for these grants is August 28th. Check with the Lake County Continuum of Care for more information.

CHP will have a drivers license safety and DUI checkpoint in the unincorporated area of Lake County today. Officers will be checking for drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs as well as drivers who are unlicensed. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and CHP want to send a message that driving under the influence has consequences. They will be targeting roads where there is a high frequency of intoxicated and illegal drivers. There are other DUI checkpoints planned throughout NorCal today, including in Sonoma County. CHP in Ukiah will have a checkpoint looking for intoxicated drivers tomorrow evening.

Hurricane Hilary is headed towards the west coast of Mexico and into California, prompting flooding concerns for the southern part of the state. Farther north, winegrowers in the North Bay area are concerned about the potential for heavy rains and high winds forecast to head north this weekend into next week. The Press Democrat reports it's a critical time for winegrowers with an already delayed season and more. Vineyards are worried about powdery mildew and other diseases that wet weather could make worse. It's too early to pinpoint Hurricane Hilary's path, but growers have been tracking the multiple scenarios forecast by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

Lawmakers are working to make housing and infrastructure equitable with school proposals to practically finance communities in need with special tax measures. Lake County News reports Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry held a press conference yesterday to support the Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1. She says the bill targets urgent needs of local communities to increase affordable housing and supportive housing as well as the supportive infrastructure. ACA 1 would reduce the vote threshold for bond approval and change special tax measures from a two thirds vote to a 55 percent supermajority. The California Professional Firefighters and the State Building and Construction Trades Council are co-sponsoring the bill. If passed the bill would go to the November 2024 ballot.

The Ukiah Police Department is looking for officers to fill vacant positions. Tom Corning was promoted from lieutenant to the role of captain, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. Corning filled a vacancy created when another officer was promoted. The department is recruiting for a police lieutenant, an officer, a dispatcher, a firefighter paramedic and more.

Fire crews are working to extinguish five remaining fires in the Covelo region; out of 15 that were lightning sparked this week, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. In an update yesterday, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection reported the remaining fires are in remote areas and range in size from a portion of an acre to 40 acres. Cal Fire says cooler temperatures are expected to help fire crews but the remote and rugged terrain continues to be a challenge. The Slide 1 Fire inched up containment to 5 percent as of last night, at a size of over 650 acres. The Mendocino National Forest is planning a closure order today within the Grindstone Ranger District. Firefighters are also attacking the Rock Fire in the Sanhedrin Wilderness on the Upper Lake District. While it is at zero percent containment, the blaze is still under 2 acres.

Sheet1

The new carwash that was approved for Ukiah this spring has an appeal to deal with. After the Ukiah Planning Commission approved a permit to demolish the vacant car wash and build a new improved one on Talmage Road the Splash Express Carwash now faces new opposition. The appeal was slated to go before the Ukiah City Council at their meeting this week, but has been moved to the September meeting. Members of the public are concerned about the new car wash near the airport. The current site has been a place for the homeless to congregate and find shelter. Ukiah Police regularly visit the old Redwood Plaza Car Wash that has been vacant since 2017, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. The Planning Commission will hear the appeal next month.

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and the Open Space District to support the transfer and future conservation.

The FBI led a series of raids around California in an 18-month investigation in an alleged criminal network of police officers. The Mercury News reports that federal authorities charged 10 current and former officers with a range of offenses. The most serious charge is civil rights violations, with the officers reported actions to "injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate citizens of Antioch. Four types of cases were brought against the officers, which alleged brutal tactics, steroid sales, a reported wiretap tipoff and accusations of a plot to acquire fake degrees.

Firefighters are working on containing the Slide 1 fire, and did serious work over the weekend to bring it to 75 percent contained. The Forest Service issued a release on the progress saying plans for suppression repair and resource demobilization are underway. The fire remains at around 473 acres. Cooler temps and a little rain in the forecast the beginning of this week bode well for the fire crews before things dry out

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and warm again toward the end of the week. over the weekend after a thunder storm cell pushed the fire outward and intensified it's spread. It is now over 22,000 acres and has zero containment, according to reporting in KymKemp. People have been evacuated from the area. The electricity in the area has been de-energized by Pacific Power. Widespread haze worked its way through the area over the weekend with the air quality map showing smoke over much of Northern California. They expect air quality to get better this week with some rain from Tropical Storm Hilary.

The National Weather Service issued a gale warning for waters from Cape Mendocino to Point Arena. ClimaGuard posted the warning this morning with the expected gusty winds through early afternoon. Gusts could be as strong as up to 40 knots. Visibility is reduced with the swelling seas. Mariners are urged to avoid the hazardous conditions and stay in port or seek safe harbor.

officials were warning of flooding asking people to stay off the roads. Mudslides were reported with dozens of cars trapped across the Coachella Valley. Officials expect the storm to break up today. After Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency officials were ready and in place. The southern part of the state also shook with a 5.1 magnitude earthquake in Ojai, northwest of LA. The Press Democrat reports the first quake was widely felt and followed by aftershocks.

Change Our Name Fort Bragg will sponsor a public debate on the name change tomorrow, Tuesday the 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Fort Bragg Library. The Advocate news reports the debate is free and open to the public.

Police are investigating the discovery of a missing man who was found dead. Raymond Tyler was found along Highway 101 north of Willits. Sister Colene Brown confirmed his body was found near a home he was dropped off at earlier this month. He was declared missing after being released from Shasta Regional Medical Center in Redding, and driven to Willits, according to MendoFever.

Sheet1

news service reports confusion is rampant because the system does not issue receipts that prove that documents have been received or notify people that their packets are being processed. Help is available on the state Department of Health Care Services' website and with local public health agencies.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Department is investigating a drive by shooting. Saturday before noon, over a dozen kids were at Ukiah's Orchard Park when a group of people in a black Honda fired shots at them. Multiple calls were made to dispatch as the kids went home. Officers found bullet casings in the road, as they closed it searching for evidence. About 12:30 all the kids were returned to their parents, according to reporting in KymKemp.

reports people are invited to come together in a show of solidarity to help those impacted by the Maui fires. now at 75 percent containment. with the beginning of hunting season, the Mendocino National Forest reminds bow hunters the closure may affect plans. Fire restrictions remain in effect throughout the area. M22 is open but drivers should be aware of fire resource traffic.

The City of Clearlake has been busy finishing 17 roadway projects over the past five years. In an email update, the city says funding was made possible by state and federal grants and the local Measure V tax dollars. Of the \$19 million used to complete these projects, \$8 million was from grant funding. Six more road improvement projects are planned to be complete in the next two years. They will be improving the Ballpark area South of Redbud Park, Clearlake Park, Arrowhead and Burns Valley roads, and more. The total cost of the six projects is \$21.5 million with \$10 million from state and federal grants.

Officials are investigating a barn fire that erupted on Poonkinney Road off Highway 162 near Covelo. Just before 5pm on Saturday, firefighters arrived to find a barn fully engulfed in flames with multiple vehicles around the area. KymKemp reports witnesses say one person was in the barn, and was deceased. A few minutes after 5pm, crews knocked down the fire with a small spread to surrounding brush. Firefighters were there for a few hours mopping up. No more details on the death have been reported as of yet.

A vehicle fire was put out in Hopland yesterday. Multiple firefighting and law enforcement agencies responded to the fire on the side of Highway 101 around 2:30pm Sunday. The fire was near the intersection of Comminsky Station Road south of Frog Woman Rock. MendoFever reports the fire did not spread and was contained by Hopland Fire and Cal Fire.

The Mendocino County Air Quality District is warning residents of wildfire smoke impacts. In a release the district announced air quality in the area was good to moderate in the coastal areas of the county. The agency says the Smith River Complex and other fires in the state are bringing in smoke. Current wildfires ignited by lightning remain active. Widespread haze worked its way through the area over the weekend. They expect air quality to get better this week with some rain from Tropical Storm Hilary. Fire weather conditions may be hard for sensitive groups. The most up to date information with the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District is online at mendoair.org.

Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow morning and go over a response letter to the state over the approval of a syringe exchange program. Lake County News reports the board is arguing that the state didn't fully consider the program and its effects on county and city agencies. They will make a request to the California Department of Public Health to reconsider approval of syringe service in the county by the Any Positive Change's program. Local emergencies will be continued and the board will also go over a grant program and continued funding for the Behavioral Health program and more.

Crescent City Harbor Commissioners are sending a letter to Assemblymember Jim Wood, Representative Jared Huffman and Senator Mike McGuire asking for a moratorium on banning all ocean fishing along the North Coast. The Triplicate reports last week Harbor Commissioners held a couple of emergency meetings on the statewide directive. Earlier this month, the Department of Fish and Wildlife sent out word of the ban that started today from Mendocino north to the Oregon border. The ban extends into the ocean 15,000 feet. The department is citing severe population declines in quillback and other groundfish. They are asking the boundary to be changed for the Northern Management Area to move the shoreline boundary to 3,000 feet to protect fishermen. The fishing industry is reeling with the current order; the group says creates an economic domino effect for the entire area.

08/22/2023 The Lake County Air Quality Management District is reporting smoke from fires in NorCal and Oregon is impacting regional air quality. Lake County News reports current monitor readings through the county are unhealthy for sensitive groups. Yesterday, all areas of Lake County had moderate to unhealthy air. The forecast through tomorrow will be in the same range with higher elevations experiencing most of the smoke impact. Gusty winds may bring worse areas of haze. In Mendocino County air quality inland is a bit better this afternoon with decreasing air quality along the coast. Point Arena is a point of worsening air quality. Smoke is being pulled into the area by Hilary's air pattern according to the Press Democrat.

People along the Mendocino Coast have their power back after experiencing a power outage yesterday afternoon. MendoVoice reports nearly 3,800 PG&E customers on the coast had no power yesterday from about 11:30am to 2:30pm. The outage was reported from Sonoma County to southern Mendocino County. The cause is under investigation.

The average price of gas in California is at about \$5.25 a gallon, up about ten cents from last week. In Mendocino County, the price of gas in Little River was a whopping \$7.48, according to gas buddy. It's nearly double the national average that AAA reports is \$3.86, up a cent from a week ago.

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Sheet 1

Mendocino County continues hosting community resilience public outreach sessions after the first one in Hopland last week. This Saturday the session is in Caspar at the Community Center from 1 to 2:30pm. The input they're seeking will help decide projects to pursue grant funding for. They'll talk emergency prep, community planning and capacity building, infrastructure, health and social services, housing and more. After the next session on the 26th, the next one is planned for August 30th in Ukiah.

California superblooms last spring are helping conservationists gather seeds for the future. The AP is reporting the seed collection includes goldeneye and brittlebrush among many more. Seed banking is a fire management tool in preserving habitats throughout the state. It's considered insurance for future generations as invasive weeds and wildfires ravage areas. With recent injections of funding from the Bureau of Land Management the seed banking process has risen recently although demand is outpacing supply. This year many agencies and groups are collecting seeds to mitigate vegetation loss caused by the changing climate.

The North Coast Region is welcoming the state's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Regional Workshop a week from today. In the Russian River Water Update, the assessment announced will target resilience priorities to build the 2024 Update to California's Climate Adaptation Strategy and more. The public is invited to help with input on the framework for the Regional Synthesis Reports identifying local priorities to be addressed in the assessment as they find partners interested in being part of regional author teams. The Workshop for counties including Mendocino and Lake will be Tuesday the 29th. It's part of a statewide effort to work with local and regional partners in science and education, Tribal organizations, local governments and more. The North Coast Region meeting will be at the Yurok Tribe Main Office in Klamath.

As the waters recede from the biggest storm to hit southern California in decades, lawmakers in Sacramento are considering a bill tomorrow (Wednesday) to make schools more resilient. Senate Bill 394 would require the California Energy Commission to create a statewide plan to help school districts integrate climate resilience and sustainability into their master plans. The bill has already passed the California Senate and has a hearing on Wednesday in the State Assembly Appropriations Committee. According to California News Service, advocates would like to see school districts get better air filtration and air conditioning systems, plant more trees in schoolyards and more.

Sutter Lakeside Hospital has earned the designation of 5 stars for quality from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The overall star ratings were introduced in 2016 to give residents a summary of performance and are considered the gold standard in the industry. Last year, Sutter Lakeside got 4 stars, higher than the national average. This year, the facility's performance categories of mortality, safety, readmission, and patient experience gained that 5th star. Lake County News reports the facility also decreased healthcare related infections. Early this year, the hospital earned an award for Best Hospital and Emergency Care from the annual Best of Lake and Mendocino 2023 survey. The not-for-profit hospital has continued to earn accolades in their ER and more.

Sheet1

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow and hope to finalize a housing plan. The Press Democrat reports the board will consider approving the blueprint, or housing element, that outlines how to create nearly 4,000 housing units outside city limits over the next 8 years. If approved the plan has to go to the State Department of Housing and Community Development before final adoption. It could make Sonoma County eligible for state funds set for affordable housing projects. The blueprint includes nine areas in unincorporated parts of the county including Cloverdale, and the lower Russian River from Guerneville to Forestville.

The first tropical storm to hit the state in over 80 years has moved on. Hilary flooded roads and created mudslides throughout southern California. Her remnants of thunderstorms and torrential rains are expected to head into southeast Oregon and into Idaho today. The AP reports the storm caused at least one death. Hilary brought tornado warnings to the southern valley. Officials are warning that risks remain in mountain regions where wet hillsides could cause more mudslides. In Palm Springs search and rescue officials rescued 46 people between late Sunday night into yesterday afternoon. And a years worth of rain fell on Death Valley National Park forcing it to close as about 400 tourists sheltered in buildings inside until roads are made passable.

A new scientific instrument created at NASA can spot signs of wine grape diseases that cost vintners billions yearly. Lake County News reports the airborne sensing tool could help, along with ground monitoring. Researchers have studied a virus that attacks grapevine is mostly spread by insects. The viral leafroll associated complex reduces yield and can sour growing grapes. The NASA instrument uses an optical sensor that uses the interaction of sunlight with chemical bonds; the instrument has been used to monitor wildfires, oil spills and air pollution. The instrument is used in research planes and has surveyed around 11,000 acres of vineyards in the state. Researchers say the data can be used with other systems on agricultural decision making globally.

Two more homeowners' insurance companies are leaving the state in what is growing to be an exodus. AmGuard and Falls Lake Insurance are pulling out of California completely. The call comes as State Farm, Allstate, Farmers and other insurance companies are changing business in California or are leaving altogether. The latest two are relatively small in comparison to the national companies. Falls Lake notified the state it is stopping renewals starting in September with AmGuard following suit in November. The Press Democrat reports that there are companies still offering coverage. The California Department of Insurance says over a quarter of homes in Mendocino and Lake Counties are at high fire risk, making finding coverage difficult. For those who are being dropped, an option is the state FAIR Plan.

The Forest Service has a new and final update on the Slide 1 Fire. As of last night, the blaze north of Mount Linn is 100 percent contained. The Mendocino National Forest issued a release on the containment this morning. Firefighters were able to control the fire at 473 acres. Rain moved over the fire early this week and helped hotshot crews finish containment last night. Today crews will be back to pick up supplies as firefighters work with resources on repair. Tomorrow, the type-3 incident will move to a type-4 incident. Officials remind the public that a closure is still in effect
08/23/2023 for the Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness area in the Grindstone Ranger District.

Sheet1

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Part of the smoke impact we've been dealing with this week is coming from the 40,000 acres Smith River Complex Fire in Del Norte County. Firefighters up north are being challenged with still zero percent containment. There are over 1,100 personnel on the scene of the huge Smith River Complex. Other fires north of our region include the Kelly Fire that is headed over the Oregon border today. Fire authorities also expect the Corral and Diamond Fires will merge today, according to KymKemp. Because Pacific Power halted electricity service, the utility is working to get generators working to critical infrastructure. While evacuations remain in place to our north, it's a good time to be reminded of your zone in the case of wildfire or other emergencies.

California boards are aiming to keep their public meetings flexible and available remotely. CalMatters reports post-pandemic, organizations want to keep the right to attend government meetings remotely. As of July 1st, some in-person requirements that were suspended during COVID are back in place. The move also mandates some remote meetings be accessible to the public. Senate Bill 544 aims to keep those exemptions through 2025. The bill passed the Senate last spring and is in line to be heard by an Assembly Appropriations Committee hearing.

The joint power authority between the Cloverdale and Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District is getting \$7.4 million from state and federal agencies. FEMA and CAL OES announced last month the money would come in reimbursements to North County Fire, according to the Press Democrat. The funds are set to be used to manage brush and make breaks to keep fires from spreading and other mitigation work around Cloverdale. The Cloverdale Fire District helped get funding through a grant application to FEMA beginning back in 2020. The grant was given with wildfire protection planning in the community and fire district leadership.

100+ Women Strong for Inland Mendocino County is awarding Hospice of Ukiah over \$13,000 as the organization's winning charity. The event in Redwood Valley recently hosted more than 100 women who each donated \$100 and voted on a winning charity to donate to among 3 chosen, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. The organization also used proceeds from the Thrift Store on State Street in Ukiah to award the winning charity. Hospice of Ukiah not only cares for terminally ill patients, but they strive to add Palliative Care supporting patients and their families. The funds will help the center expand service into Anderson Valley. The 100+ Women Strong is an all-volunteer group working to help the community and help nonprofits in their missions. The next organization meeting will be in Hopland on November 2nd.

Sheet 1

The man who killed a Nice woman in a hit-and-run was not at the Lake County Superior Court in Lakeport for his recent sentencing hearing. William Len's attorney, Angela Carter appeared on his behalf, and asked for a continuance. Len is ordered to appear at the next sentencing hearing on August 28th, according to the Record Bee. Last spring, he pled not guilty in the case. He was found guilty in the jury trial last month. After several court dates where he did not appear the court filed a bench warrant. Last fall Len denied the special allegations and entered a not guilty plea. The charges are from spring of last year, when Amanda Arney was hit and killed by a car as she was walking on Highway 20 after midnight. CHP confirmed she was found down an embankment and was found dead hours later.

Governor Newsom is filing an amicus brief in the US Supreme Court to defend a law that prohibits people with domestic violence restraining orders from owning guns. The Supreme Court is hearing a case that was appealed on its decision that the law is unconstitutional under the Second Amendment. Lake County News reports the governor is arguing the appeal court incorrectly read the decision last year for the feds to enact gun regulations to protect families from violent people. Newsom says "The Second Amendment is not a suicide pact." Other legislators signed on to the letter including Gun Violence Prevention Task Force Chariman Rep. Mike Thompson. There are 45 states that have laws limiting domestic violence abusers access to firearms. California's law has reportedly been used to stop nearly 60 threatened mass shootings since 2016.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors are announcing a new Public Health Officer after about a year. Dr. Noemi Doohan was announced as the permanent position as last week the board voted to approve a one year renewable contract. Her position is effective on September 1st. Dr. Doohan was most recently the Public Health Department Chief Medical Officer in Santa Barbara County and before that held the position in Mendocino County. Dr. Doohan is the first Public Health Officer to be a permanent placement after Dr. Erik McLaughlin resigned in spring of last year, according to Lake County News.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is asking hunters to share quail samples with the state Conservation Genomics Project for the genetic library. The department has been working on the project for quails specifically for the lat year, according to KymKemp. They are looking for mountain quail from mountain habitats. They are looking at sub-species who may be at a greater threat by wildfires and more. They will take wings or organs if not the whole bird body. The department is warning people to keep quail separated if several are taken, to avoid cross-contamination and to freeze them. The state's early mountain quail season opens September 9th and goes until October 20ths in the Quail Hunt Zone along the eastern Sierra.

Two more homeowners' insurance companies are leaving the state in what is growing to be an exodus. AmGuard and Falls Lake Insurance are pulling out of California completely. The call comes as State Farm, Allstate, Farmers and other insurance companies are changing business in California or are leaving altogether. The latest two are relatively small in comparison to the national companies. Falls Lake notified the state it is stopping renewals starting in September with AmGuard following suit in November. The Press Democrat reports that there are companies still offering coverage. The California Department of Insurance says over a quarter of homes in Mendocino and Lake Counties are at high fire risk, making finding coverage difficult. For those who are being dropped, an option is the state FAIR Plan.

Sheet1

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted to stop the moratorium on rent hikes for mobile home spaces as they look to update the ordinance. The moratorium had been put in place through February of next year. The move will affect areas in unincorporated places that have nearly 70 mobile home parks with over 2,000 spaces. During last week's board meeting, supervisors discussed options to preserve tenant protections and affordable housing, according to the Press Democrat. In their meeting yesterday a trade group told the board that rent regulations were a direct attack on their ability to provide affordable housing.

The City of Lakeport and its agencies and departments will hold a town hall meeting on homelessness and mental illness next month. Lake County News reports the complicated issue is going to need collaboration from the police, Behavioral Health Services and more when they meet September 27th in the Soper-Reese Theater. On the agenda are legislative and other changes to criminal justice laws. They'll discuss the mental health system in the state and constraints rural counties face. The meeting is aimed at focusing the community call to action and to get public feedback.

The Cobb Area Council is announcing the Third Annual Blackberry Cobbler Festival for this weekend. The Bloom report the Cobb Area Council is partnering with the Siegler Springs Community Redevelopment Association for the festival at Mountain Meadow Venue this Saturday from 11am to 4pm. There will be over 80 local artisan and food vendors as well as area nonprofits. Live music, beer and wine, kid's activities and more are scheduled throughout the weekend. Bakers are encouraged to enter the Blackberry Cobbler Contest. Also included this year for the first time is the Art Adventure with creative spaces for artists of all kind.

The Forest Service has a new and final update on the Slide 1 Fire. As of Tuesday night, the blaze north of Mount Linn is 100 percent contained. The Mendocino National Forest issued a release on the containment yesterday. Firefighters were able to control the fire at 473 acres. Rain moved over the fire early this week and helped hotshot crews finish containment last night. Crews will be back to pick up supplies as firefighters work with resources on repair. Today, the type-3 incident will move to a type-4 incident. Officials remind the public that a closure is still in effect for
08/24/2023 the Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness area in the Grindstone Ranger District.

The Willits Police Department is voting no confidence in the City Manager's leadership this week. The President of the Willits Police Officers Association told the City Council that City Manager Brian Bender made "impossible odds for the police department and opened the City... to further civil litigation liability by firing a probationary officer for raising the alarm." According to reporting in KymKemp a number of women, including the former Willits police chief, filed lawsuits against the department and city, alleging misconduct like sexual and physical violence and more. A new police chief is on the way and Bender acknowledged staffing is tight and area police departments are helping fill in until positions are filled.

Sheet1

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Kaiser Permanente is mandating staff, patients and visitors to mask up again, with a recent surge in COVID-19. The Press Democrat reports the health organization made the announcement Tuesday after an overall increase in patients testing positive for the virus. An infectious disease specialist with Sutter Health says they've seen a steady increase among outpatient visits. 23 percent of COVID tests are coming back positive, compared to around 15-18 percent last month. Health officials are urging people to get the latest COVID vaccines this fall, along with the flu shot. The surge may be more significant than the numbers being reported, due to home testing and less strict data reporting.

Beginning today, you can donate to the Rotary Club of Lakeport and get coupons for beer. The O'Meara Brothers Brewing Company is collaborating with the Rotary in a virtual beer booth. It's a new way to help the community raise funds and fun with \$1 coupons to the local brewery. Lake County News reports when people make direct donations to the Rotary Club the brewing company will give tokens of their appreciation via beer. People can visit the Rotary Club of Lakeport's website to make those donations and earn coupons to spend at the O'Meara Brothers Brewpub. You can donate for those beer bucks through the end of September.

Mendocino County and the State of California have different requirements for site specific environmental reviews when it comes to cannabis cultivation. The Mendocino Department of Cannabis Control has been streamlining the process of legally permitting cultivators and more, but is still dealing with discrepancies. MendoFever reports those seeking permits have spent up to hundreds of thousands of dollars to meet the environmental regulations to comply with laws that are still not solid. The process had a hitch thrown in when the Cannabis Department Director resigned and a contractor was hired under the state jurisdiction. Growers and industry advocates have been faced with long waits to get to compliance, preventing legal growers from getting to work.

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley is holding a "Day of Remembrance and Hope" in honor of International Opioid Awareness Day next Wednesday. Mendocino County holds the number 1 position in the state for the number of deaths per capita due to overdose. In a release from Adventist, they note that 47 people lost their lives to overdose during the pandemic, beating out deaths by COVID that year. And with the rising use of fentanyl tens of thousands are perishing unnecessarily. At next week's event, there will be guest speakers and their Substance Use Navigation Team speaking and sharing resources and ways to help. The community is invited to come and share stories of how opioids have impacted their families. The event is next Wednesday from noon to 1pm at the old helipad at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley.

Sheet1

Save the Redwoods League are announcing the purchase of Weger Ranch for conservation. The nearly 4,000 acre property is made up of coast redwood and Douglas Fir forest and will add to the growing land to be protected by the conservancy in Mendocino County. So far, the organization has acquired about 41,000 acres that are now protected. In a release in MendoVoice, the league announced the new easement will protect the property from subdivision, development and excessive logging from now on. They say it will also act as a working forest buffering the Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve. Funding came in part through a \$9.5 million grant from Cal Fire, with \$3.4 million from the California State Coastal Conservancy and more.

School is back in session and at Ukiah High School there a new police officer. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports Officer Christopher Mann is the new School Resource Officer for the school district. After working there for his four year commitment, former SRO Brett Chapman ended his watch there last spring. Officer Mann applied for the job and is there now after shadowing Chapman. The School Resource Officer works with school administrators to discourage illegal behavior and protect the safety of the students. According to Ukiah Police the officer will be highly visible and will also patrol local neighborhoods as well.

California is considering expanding the ban of watering ornamental turf as the emergency regulation to conserve water is set to expire next spring. The Bay Area News Group reports a new bill, AB 1572, would make watering decorative grass illegal for businesses. Those who do water grass among office parks, strip malls and more could face up to \$500 in fines daily. The ban would extend to road medians, public use properties, schools, universities and more throughout the state. The rule would not apply to residential homes, cemeteries or functional turf for recreational use. The bill passed the Assembly at the end of May and is now moving through the Senate.

Mendocino News Plus reports a car fire north of Point Arena spread towards brush last night. According to reporting a car was fully engulfed in a blaze in the roadway near Harris Rand Road on Windy Hollow Road. The call to emergency responders went out at about 10pm. Firefighters were able to contain the car and surrounding brush fire within half an hour.

The Care-A-Van mobile spay and neuter program is announcing their service will be aimed at shelter animals and helping other animal rescue groups as they face a staff shortage and high demand. According to California Insights, the group announced they won't do any surgeries or vaccinations for owned animals. The program aims to help remote areas of Mendocino County in aiding animals and controlling overpopulation. The Care-A-Van is looking to hire two new staff members as their schedule is booked up for the next couple of months. With minimal county funding the mobile service depends on donations and community support. They are asking people check their website and social media pages for updates.

Sheet1

Marin County agencies are hopeful about the new proposal of ownership transfer for the Potter Valley Project. The century old hydropower plant in Mendocino County feeds water to Marin via diversion into the Russian River watershed. The proposal submitted by Sonoma Water, the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission and the Round Valley Indian Tribes transfers parts of the soon to be decommissioned PG&E facility into a new entity to continue Russian River water diversion, according to the Marin Independent Journal. Marin County officials are eagerly watching the complex reorganization. The new entity, according to the proposal, would upgrade old infrastructure and improve fish passage. PG&E is reviewing the proposal, but it's ultimately up to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Uber is raising its minimum age requirement for drivers in California. Today the company upped the age to taxi people around to 25 year to keep their auto insurance affordable. The AP reports the new rule applies to drivers in Uber's ride-hailing service. Uber Eats drivers need only be 19. Homeowners and auto insurance rates have rocketed up in the state. Uber says "personal injury attorneys have created a cottage industry specializing in suing rideshare platforms like ours... pushing costs to rise by more than 65 percent..." The company has to have at least \$1 million of liability coverage for each ride. Lyft already has upped the age to 25. The companies hope to work with legislators on regulatory changes in California.

Cal Trans is announcing that the state has been moved from California's "High Risk" List with recent state infrastructure projects. The California State Auditor is recognizing the progress California has made in upgrading the state transportation system. In a release today, the department says the progress comes after the passage of Senate Bill 1 in 2017 that ushered in a new era of infrastructure investment to rebuild the state. Along with the Governor's streamlined package and a \$15 billion investment in clean transportation and federal funding, the state is in a unique position to keep making progress and accelerate our transition to a cleaner, safer, more equitable and connected transportation system. The Auditor notes that most recently, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has given the state a real boost of \$22 billion while also creating nearly 48,000 jobs.

The US Geological Survey is reporting a small earthquake shook parts of Northern California this morning. The quake was a magnitude 4, about 4 miles deep, centered near The Geysers just after 7 AM. Reports say about 30 people, from as far away as Napa and Kelseyville felt it. There are no reports of damage. Seismologists say magnitude 4 quakes are often felt but don't usually cause damage. The U S G S now uses the term "magnitude" instead of the old "Richter scale" to grade the power of quakes.

08/25/2023

The state says the number of COVID cases is going up. State health data puts the 7-day positive test rate at 13 percent. That is the highest rate since July 2022. The CDC says most new cases are a variant called BA.2.86. It has been detected in wastewater samples across the country. No word on any new guidelines, but the health department says vaccination with the latest booster is still the best defense, especially for people in high-risk groups.

Sheet1

The California Transportation Commission is out with a list of infrastructure projects worth more than 3 Billion dollars—and a project in Lake County has made the cut. The state will spend 1.6 million dollars to realign and make other safety improvements on Route 20 near Clearlake Oaks, east to Walker Ridge. The money comes from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and the State Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. Caltrans director Tony Tavares says the projects will have an impact across the state and that commuters, truckers, and visitors will all benefit from improvements. Also on the list of projects, 8.1 million for a cable median barrier along U.S. 101 from Route 20 to Uva Drive/North State Street near Ukiah 17.4 million for improvements at the Jack Peters Creek Bridge on Route 1 near the community of Mendocino.

[A popular campground at Lake Mendocino is open again. The Ky-en Campground has](#)

Tribal Leaders will travel to Sacramento next week for a hearing about an audit that found the California State University system is dragging its feet in repatriating hundreds of sets of remains and artifacts it has collected for decades. That audit, out in June, said the system has given back just a fraction of those items and that many Cal State campuses lack the resources to finish the work. The tribes say the school violates federal and state laws about handling culturally significant Native American objects. The tribes say they are frustrated because 12 of the 21 state schools with collections have not finished mandated reviews, while 16 campuses have little or no repatriation activities. Tuesday's legislative committee meeting will include school officials who will give an update on the returns.

It is almost time again for a Lake County tradition. The Lake County Fair is set to open next Thursday, through September 3rd. The fairgrounds in Lakeport will be alive with all of your fair favorites, including nightly grandstand shows at 8 p.m., rides, contests, and of course, food. The fair website has tickets and other information.

We've got an update on the "Golden Fire". That's the one at US Highway 101 south of Willits. Word was that fire had reached approximately 25-30 acres in size but yesterday afternoon that size was changed to something more along the lines of 12-13 acres. The good news was that forward progress had been stopped and additional resources that had been sent in were being released. The additional water tenders that were sent in seemed to have a big impact on getting that fire under control as well as the supremely competent ground crews. There WAS a three-car crash in the vicinity of the fire but no injuries were reported. We will keep you updated if need be.

08/28/2023

Sheet1

There have been several weather-related disasters in Mendocino County so far this year and county officials have begun to implement a series of public meetings so that residents can provide information on how the county might be able to improve their emergency programs as well as how to build some community resilience. The meetings started just over a week ago and the next one is set for this Wednesday from 5:30-7pm at the Ukiah UC Cooperative Extension Conference Room on North Bush Street in Ukiah and there will be another on Thursday, also 5:30-7pm at Calpella/Redwood Valley Behavioral Health Regional Training Center. That's on East Road in Redwood Valley. The meetings will continue through September 18th.

Representative Jared Huffman from San Rafael will be in Willits tomorrow for a "Coffee with Your Congressman" event. It's a chance for local residents to ask questions and have an opportunity to hear an update on Huffman's work in the nation's capital. You can actually send questions in advance if you like to HuffmanQandA location for the event will be the Willits Fire Department on East Commercial Street in Willits. It will get underway around 10:30am and is expected to last for about an hour.

The number is \$3.1 billion. That's the allocation from the California Transportation Commission for projects, some right here in this part of the state, to quote improve the state's transportation infrastructure, making it safer, more sustainable and more reliable end quote. That's from a press release this week. The projects funded in Mendocino County were listed as:

Approximately \$6.5M of emergency allocations toward roadway, embankment and drainage repairs on U.S. 101 near Willits to Haehl Creek in Mendocino County.

Approximately \$2.6M of emergency allocations toward bridge repairs at South Willits Overhead No. 10-0001 on U.S. 101 in Mendocino County.

Approximately \$8.1M in federal IJA funding toward the construction of a cable median barrier along U.S. 101 from Route 20 to Uva Drive/North State Street near Ukiah in Mendocino County.

Approximately \$17.4M including more than \$15.4M in federal IJA funding and \$356K in SB1 funding toward improvements at Jack Peters Creek Bridge No. 10-0150 on Route 1 near the community of Mendocino in Mendocino County.

Approximately \$100K in support allocations toward the construction of a left-turn lane on Route 1 at Ocean Drive near Gualala in Mendocino County.

Approximately \$2.6M of emergency allocations toward roadway and drainage repairs on U.S. 101 near Hopland to north of Cominsky Station Road in Mendocino County.

Approximately \$1.9M of emergency allocations toward roadway and drainage repairs on U.S. 101 near Leggett to north of Cummings Road in Mendocino County.

Approximately \$125K of emergency allocations toward the removal of hazardous trees at various locations on U.S. 101 in Mendocino County.

[It was another successful event for 100+ Women Strong for Inland Mendocino County](#)

It's been around five years that the Lake Mendocino facilities have been closed, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced this week that the popular campground is once again open. The Operations Project Manager at Coyote Valley Dam/Lake Mendocino, confirmed Wednesday that the Ky-en Campground, was opened again this week. The campground had been a site used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency five years ago to house wildfire victims. Upgrades had been made to the power, sewer and water hook-ups for all the sites back then. Additional upgrades and improvements have been made and now the Lake Mendocino campsites are once again available.

Would you like to vote for a local hero? Well, here's your chance. Three of the area's newspapers have teamed up in a joint project with other newspapers here in the north part of our state that are all part of the California Newspaper Partnership. Now, they're asking you for nominations for their very first "Mendocino County Hero". Just send an email to nominate a hero to heroes, or heroes, or heroes. Tell them why your nominee should be the Mendocino Coast Hero. Nominations are due by Friday, Sept. 1, at noon. The winners will each receive a \$500 cash prize.

The new school year began last week and Christopher Mann is now back at school. Although he is not a student! Officer Christopher Mann is the new School Resource Officer for the Ukiah Unified School District. The SRO position is a four-year position, according to Ukiah Police Chief Cedric Crook. Officer Mann spent time watching and learning from previous SRO Brett Chapman. Officer Mann's new duties will mostly be at the high school but the officer also responds to needs in other schools in the UUSD. Previously the UPD had a description of the SRO's role as working with school administrators to discourage illegal behavior on campus and protect the safety of the students.

[This week marks a huge event. Thursday, the world's largest annual campaign to end](#)

Sheet1

The National Weather Service is issuing a red flag warning for Lake County and northeast Mendocino County including the Round Valley and Covelo areas. Starting tonight at 11pm through 8pm tomorrow the warning is being issued for high risk fire conditions. Strong winds, low humidity and warm temperatures can bring extreme fire behavior. North winds gusting up to 35 miles per hour are expected tomorrow morning. Dried out brush and vegetation is also a contributor as wildfire fuels. On top of the red flag warning, is an air quality alert. MendoVoice reports widespread smoke impacts in Mendocino County are predicted with fires burning to the north. Residents are urged to be watchful of local alerts and are asked to take precautions during the red flag alert.

08/29/2023

PG&E has issued a Power Safety Shutoff notice for counties in the area including Lake due to high winds and dry conditions for tomorrow and/or Thursday this week. Multiple factors could impact the decision including how widespread the event develops into and if damage to power infrastructure occurs. Weather, wind direction and strength and humidity are factors that may impact part of the grid in the area. With breezy conditions moving in via a low pressure system, they expect the strongest gusts along the coast. As that cell moves temps will increase as vegetation fuels are contributing to wildfires. Check the PG&E shut-off forecast online for more details.

Three people are hurt and a couple of buildings burned in a Clearlake fire early this morning. Lake County News reports around 1am a fire broke out on 13th Street between Country Club and Bush Streets. Power lines were reported down with with a large smoke plume reported in the area. Two homes were burning with spot fires spreading. Cal Fire responded with Lake County Fire Protection resources and addressed the downed lines along with PG&E crews. A Nixle alert was issued around 1:30am urging residents to avoid the area. A nine year old child and an adult woman were flown out of the county via life flight. There were taken to UC Davis in the 2am hour. A third victim was taken to the hospital with leg injuries. Firefighters were able to take care of the spot fire and contained the two house fires around 2am. Extensive mop up continues thru today.

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Sheet1

A Covelo man will spend four years in state prison. Brock Rogers was sentenced last week for assault with a deadly weapon that happened last Thanksgiving. Rogers believed a friend had stolen marijuana, so he reportedly hog tied the man and beat him with a wooden sword. The victim had significant health issues from the attack. The Mendocino County District Attorney reports in MendoFever that Rogers had a long relationship with illegal cannabis with a list of crimes related to marijuana dating back nearly two decades. He is expected to serve about two years before release on probation, but was given the warning that his conviction is a Strike, should be get into legal trouble again could face steep penalties.

CHP is investigating an accident in the Clear Lake Area. Early Friday morning there was a crash on State Route 29 north of Diener Drive. Andrew Parras was driving his Chevy truck north when it crossed into the path of Dale Brandt going southbound semi-truck, hitting the trailer. Lake County News reports the Chevy then ran off the road into a tree, killing Parras. Brandt was not hurt. Anyone with information about the accident is asked to call CHP.

Mendocino County workers are rallying today at the Board of Supervisors meeting. In a release from SEIU Local 1021 in MendoFever, the union says the county is refusing to work in good faith while staff continues to leave. The group will meet around 8:30 this morning at 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah with speeches and more. County workers on strike will be wearing purple union shirts. They are rallying as news from the county indicates a proposed wage freeze and increases in health insurance costs. The union says those proposals will make retaining employees even harder, reducing services, response times and putting vulnerable residents at risk. Mendocino County is short about a third of its normal size staffing, with a 70 percent vacancy rate for mental health professionals.

An arsonist is changing his plea to no contest with an admission to a special allegation filed against him. The Mendocino County District Attorney issued a release on Roland Eskind Jr who was charged in February for setting a building on fire, an arson felony with a sentencing enhancement for doing the act during a state of emergency. Eskind will stay in custody pending sentencing. He admitted to setting fire to the Gualala Community Center that totally demolished parts of the building. The arson conviction constitutes a Strike conviction. The potential state prison sentence is up to seven years. Sentencing is set for September 21st.

Groups interested in the Potter Valley Project are being left out of negotiations and are trying to play catch-up with the latest news. MendoFever reports the hydropower plant decommissioning plans from PG&E include a non disclosure agreement with 3 entities, not including the Planning Group with the Russian River Water Forum. The Mendocino County Inland Power and Water Commission, Sonoma Water and the Round Valley Indian Tribes submitted a proposal to PG&E before the deadline of July 31st. While the utility considers the proposal, water rights, facility financing and governance issues are still unresolved. The next meeting of the Russian River Water Forum will be September 7.

Sheet1

The Point Reyes National Seashore is proposing the removal of a 2 mile fence that encloses the tule elk at Tomales Point. There is controversy over the management plan with three different ideas up for public review in the next month as the National Park Service updates their management plan for the area. The Press Democrat reports other plans for the elk population include using lethal force. Another option would be to maintain the current operations over the nearly 3,000 acre area the elk herd is in now, with increased supplemental water when needed. The Seashore says they prefer to remove fencing and other barriers in coordination with the Graton Rancheria Tribe and more. The proposal would appoint Pierce Ranch as a core location for visitors with increased parking and trails.

The Smith River Complex Fires are spreading into Oregon and have been burning in over 67,000 acres in Del Norte County. The fast progression of the flames has over 2,500 firefighting crew members with still zero percent containment. Winds have blown the fires more to the north in recent days. The plan for attack includes areas north of Gasquet and working on lines around Highway 199. Evacuation levels were lowered Monday but residents are urged to stay vigilant. Currently in Mendocino County the air quality is in good shape, but weather may push smoke south down the road.

The Redwood Valley County Water District is busy pumping a lot of water. According to MendoFever, Redwood Valley's domestic rationing has been lifted. Agricultural water sales are scheduled to continue. The board discussed the ongoing work for plans on the Potter Valley Project including diversion options, governance and fishery health. Meanwhile, the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan was approved by the state and a proposed well at the Masonite site is being finalized. Flood Control users have different water rights which is making measuring how much water to be pumped a complex issue. The next meeting of Redwood Valley will be September 21st.

Mendocino County will be honoring August 30th, tomorrow, as International Opioid Overdose Awareness day. Tomorrow, Adventist Health Ukiah Valley will have a "Day of Remembrance and Hope" event beginning at noon. Professional and community speakers will be speaking on the resources available and share stories of opioid abuse in the area. MendoVoice reports the old helipad at the hospital is where the event will be held. Mendocino County faces the grueling statistic of being the county with the highest number of deaths due to opioid overdose. Speakers will include a Substance Use Navigation team talking about the available resources in the county.

The Leggett community will host the Mountain Folk Festival on Saturday, September 2. This fundraiser is for Leggett Valley Volunteer Fire Dept, first responders for Northern Mendocino County. This family event begins at 10:00 a.m. in downtown Leggett with a parade and ends at the Fire House just off Hwy 101 on Drive Thru Tree Road. The event is free and includes a classic car show. There will activities for kids and live music along with adult competitions. The Advocate news reports an auction will begin at 4:30 pm and vendor booths will be on hand.

Sheet1

The Mendocino County Cannabis Department is announcing approvals can be made via DocuSign. In Canna Notes issued recently, the department says immediately all applicants and agents are encouraged to use the software for permit approval and more. The department also noted phase 3 applicants may have some tax issues to deal with. They may be taxed without having the chance to grow yet. The department noted tax appeals can be filed as they verify license status. As the department works to streamline policy and procedure, they've announced a workshop on September 19th from 9am to noon. The streamline workshop will be held at the UC Coop Extension Conference Room in Ukiah. The meeting will also be available virtually

Senator Mike McGuire will be the pro tem designee. This week, the Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins announced that the Senate Democratic Caucus decided that McGuire will transition to the more powerful post next year. He will be the highest ranking member of the state Senate. Senator Atkins cited McGuire's help with legislation successes including last year's climate package and other negotiations in this year's state budget. Lake County News reports Senator Dodd applauded the decision saying McGuire has been an advocate for wildfire safety and is an expert at bringing people together. Governor Newsom says he is grateful for Atkins work in the position since 2018. She was the first woman to hold the position, and the first person in 150 years to be both pro tem and Assembly Speaker.

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08/30/2023

The governor has declared a state of emergency for Del Norte and Siskiyou Counties because of the Happy Camp Complex Fires. As of this morning, the fires are at about 40 percent containment and are burning over 22,000 acres. To the west of the Happy Camp Fires is the Smith River Complex Fires, as of this morning is at 7 percent containment burning in over 75,000 acres. Currently the smoke from those and other fires is impacting the air quality in Mendocino and Lake Counties. With air quality readings well over 100, the air is unhealthy for sensitive people and in some coastal areas of Mendocino, the air is unhealthy for everyone. Drifting smoke from the northern fires is being blown straight from the north. Air quality will continue to change with those gusty winds. Those who suffer from lung conditions or asthma should stay inside. As the air quality worsens, officials are urging residents to limit time outside.

Sheet1

PG&E is targeting high fire threat areas with power shutoffs today. The Press Democrat reports about 8,400 customers have had their electricity cut off. The utility began the shutoffs around 2am this morning in portions of eight counties. The PG&E public safety power shutoff map shows areas to the east are currently without power. In Lake County there is an area included in the power shutoff, east of Lower Lake. The map also shows a power outage west of Hopland that PG&E crews are working on. Today's power shutoff are the first since 2021. A PG&E spokesperson says they've added more circuit switches to the grid, allowing them to determine more precisely which areas should be shut off for public safety.

Officials are investigating a couple of fires. Last night in Ukiah an educational structure was on fire near the Vichy Springs neighborhood around 7:30pm. KymKemp reports a burglary alarm was triggered just before the blaze erupted. And a mobile home in Willits was fully engulfed around 9:30pm in the Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park on South Main Street. One person escaped the blaze as firefighters were able to knock it down quickly.

A new magazine about food and drinks is coming to Lake and Mendocino Counties. The issue of Edible Mendocino and Lake Counties will be released soon for their inaugural issue in September. MendoFever reports the publication will have personal stories that pertain to the food and beverage community and have topics that include local people, ingredients and seasonal events. Wellness, travel, local dining guides and more will comprise the new magazine. It's part of the Edible network of over 75 magazines across North America with over 1.4 million readers. Sister publications are already in Marin & Wine Country, Sacramento, East Bay, San Francisco and more. The publisher, Karen Elowitz is based in Ukiah and has 15 years of experience as a writer and PR manager.

Fort Bragg is gearing up for Paul Bunyon Days this weekend. On Friday, there will be a Fort Bragg High School Soccer Alumni Game as well as the High School Football teams. Saturday's lineup includes a classic car show, bake sales and craft vendors with Fireman's Water Fights and an Ugly Dog Contest. Saturday evening the Fort Bragg Volunteer Fire Department will host the Fireman's Ball at the Pentacost Hall. Sunday the celebration continues with the Logging Show and Expo from noon to 5pm. Monday it's the Labor Day Parade at noon as well as an alumni soccer match and more.

The Mendocino Railway has an update on the Camp Three Bridge Fire, or the Spurs Fire after the blaze last month. The railway along the Noyo River was compromised with wooden parts engulfed in flames. The fire was contained with work from CalFire's Mendocino Unit, a copter crew and other agencies in relatively short order. The owner of the Skunk Train says repairs have been made to the bridge with new redwood ties. The expected lifespan of the new material is 50 years or higher, according to reporting in the Advocate News. The train will resume regular routes.

California's ongoing teacher shortage is fueling interest in joining the new Interstate Compact for Teachers, which would smooth the way for out-of-state teachers to work in the Golden State. Ten states have signed the compact so far. A bill for California to join them has passed the state Senate and is expected to be taken up by the Assembly Education Committee during the next session in January. California News Service reports the Golden State faced a shortage of 10,000 teachers over the 2021-22 school year.

Sheet 1

Cal Fire is finishing containment of a nearly 12 acre fire that began along Highway 101 between Willits and Ukiah. Sunday afternoon Cal Fire responded to the Golden Fire. Monday the blaze was 50 percent contained with quick action by fire air and ground resources. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports they made headway Monday, with containment growing to 70 percent. There were no injuries reported and no buildings were damaged. Firefighters are in the area monitoring and mopping up the site.

California's Attorney General Rob Bonta is working to take on unlicensed commercial cannabis sales. In a release issued in Mendocino, the AG announced a partnership with the city of Fresno for a first in the state program in the California Department of Justice's Cannabis Administrative Prosecutor Program. It is aimed at helping counties and cities with state legal support to fight illegal cannabis through enforcements and nuisance abatement. The program will help local governments who are part of the program increase illegal marijuana prosecution and more. It's part of the Governor's Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force. Bonta says complex problems require creative and collaborative solutions.

Senator Mike McGuire will be the pro tem designee. This week, the Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins announced that the Senate Democratic Caucus decided that McGuire will transition to the more powerful post next year. He will be the highest ranking member of the state Senate. Senator Atkins cited McGuire's help with legislation successes including last year's climate package and other negotiations in this year's state budget. Lake County News reports Senator Dodd applauded the decision saying McGuire has been an advocate for wildfire safety and is an expert at bringing people together. Governor Newsom says he is grateful for Atkins work in the position since 2018. She was the first woman to hold the position, and the first person in 150 years to be both pro tem and Assembly Speaker.

California correctional officers are getting \$10,000 bonuses through a new union negotiated contract with the state. The move comes as the governor announced the closure of several prisons. The California Correctional Peace Officer Association will see an increase in compensation for over 26,000 guards. They'll get a 3 percent raise and bonuses for health and wellness. Cal Matters reports new cadets will see \$5,000 incentives. A new state-funded retirement plan is being added to their CalPers pensions. Contract discussions are going smoothly according to officials and a tentative agreement is going through an internal process before the union can comment on it.

Northeast of Cloverdale and just south of the Russian River residents of a trailer park are fighting to survive. They are facing eviction with a new landlord and have formed a tenants union. The Press Democrat reports they are calling on the new owners to meet with them and give them more time to find affordable housing. Tenants of Gerdes Apartments and Trailer Court spoke to the press Monday after getting a 60 day eviction notice. They discussed the difficulty of finding housing in Sonoma and nearby counties. The residents say they were told they'd be able to stay with a 10 percent increase in rent. Local advocacy groups are stepping up to help the residents.

Sheet1

California State Parks are giving day-use access to more residents through their Golden Bear Pass program. In a release issued in KymKemp, the state announced the expansion to include those in California's Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. The day-use access pass applies to over 200 parks in the state. The Golden Bear Pass is also going to residents who are on Social Security, CalWORKS recipients, and income-eligible residents over 62 years old. Equitable access to California's state park system is one of the California's First Lady Jennifer Newsom's focus. The pass will go toward low-income Native families and more for valuable time in California's natural wonders. Residents can apply for the Golden Bear Pass at parks.ca.gov. In a statement the parks system says it is the right of all Californians to have access to recreational opportunities and enjoy the cultural, historical and natural resources across the state. The governor and his wife are championing the cause, focusing priorities and funding to create a "California for All."

08/31/2023 Today is International Opioid Overdose Awareness Day. Agencies in Lake County marked the event with proclamations and information sessions. Mendocino County held an event yesterday at Adventist Ukiah with a "Day of Remembrance and Hope." Both counties have been combating the opioid epidemic with harm reduction resources, naloxone, or Narcan information and supplies, behavioral health support centers and more.

The Mendocino County Air Quality Management District is urging residents to be alert to changing air quality numbers today. Through the weekend, air quality should improve with increased ventilation and a chance of rain. However, fire weather conditions with persistent high pressure may bring those unhealthy skies back with smoke accumulation to valley areas. Today, MendoAir.org shows levels are good to unhealthy for sensitive groups, with some coastal areas reaching unhealthy levels. Current wildfires in the north are at low levels of containment that are contributing to smoke in our area.

The super blue moon shone orange last night, and will again tonight over northern California. Smoky skies were reflected in the bright orange moon due to fires in the north. Tonight, you can catch a glimpse as the moonrise starts a little after 8pm, according to MendoFever. It will be the last super full and blue moon combo until 2037.

Tomorrow is the First Friday Art Walk and in Ukiah, the Grace Hudson Museum is participating with live music and the exhibit "Something's Happening Here: Artistic Reflections on the Back to the Land Movement." Art Center Ukiah is also prepping for tomorrow with their "Quick Draw" artists. The artists have been practicing and are ready to create quickly tomorrow. Live music is on tap as well. Art Center Ukiah and the Grace Hudson Museum will be open for the Art Walk 5-8pm tomorrow night.

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Sheet1

The Mendocino Board of Supervisors met this week and decided against a staff recommendation to disband the Municipal Advisory Councils. However, MendoFever reports the County Climate Action Advisory Committee and the Public Safety Advisory Board may be cut, along with some other groups formed years ago, but whose power has waned. County staff estimates dissolving the groups could save nearly a million dollars in General Funds. The county is continuing to account for the costs of councils and committees as they work on the fiscal impacts. Mendocino has six Municipal Advisory Councils, or MACs throughout the County. Council members were upset it was the first time they'd head about cutting out their groups. They say there are much greater costs to consider that aren't on the agenda. Next month, more recommendations will be brought forward as the board looks at an 8-10 million dollar budget deficit.

The Arts Council of Mendocino County is looking for nominations for the Art Champion Awards. They made the announcement in MendoVoice, looking to the community to nominate an Artist Champion, Educational Champion, Business Champion for the Arts and Individual Champion for the Arts. Their 20th Annual Mendocino County Art Champion Awards will be presented by the Board of Supervisors in October. To make a nomination head to artsmendocino.org.

Northern California may have a dryer and warmer than normal winter ahead, due to El Nino. The Sac Bee reports weather professionals are saying the weather phenomenon is unpredictable, but the odds are another rainy winter is on tap. El Nino may shift storm tracks to the south. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting that Southern California will likely get more rain. In a Climate Prediction Center forecast released this month, they're calling for above normal temperatures.

Magic mushrooms may be on the way to being legal in California. The fungus and other psychedelics are trending nationwide for mental health benefits. Cal Matters reports more and more research is coming to light aimed at using them as a tool to help heal those dealing with various mental illnesses. There is a lot of promising information on some psychedelic assisted therapies for PTSD, depression and other mental health issues. A bill to decriminalize plant based psychedelics will be tested in a hearing this week. Senate Bill 58 would halt arrests of people who have some psychedelics, but would not legalize their sales. Advocates say decriminalization promotes responsible use. The USDA has not approved the psychedelics but billions are being spent on research and development.

The first red flag warning of the year this week in Northern California is prompting the state to mobilize firefight resources. The governor's office reports all Cal Fire units are already at peak staffing along with the worlds largest air resource fire fighting fleet, according to Lake County News. Though the red flag warning this week has passed, forecasters with the National Weather Service are looking at tomorrow night with windy conditions and thunderstorms predicted for Saturday. Governor Newsom announced the state is using AI tech to fight fires faster and smarter. CalFire's pilot program using AI monitors is in place and can issue alerts if dangers are detected.

Sheet 1

A bill will be heard in the State Senate Appropriations Committee tomorrow that would stop requiring youths convicted of a crime to pay restitution and change how victims are made whole. Assembly Bill 1186 would instead make those crime survivors eligible for financial assistance through the California Victims Compensation Board. Counties have only been able to collect on 20 percent of the restitution orders since 2010. According to the California News Service, youths would still be held accountable, and could be ordered to take part in restorative-justice programs that involve community service, skill-building programs and job opportunities. The California District Attorneys Association opposes the bill, worrying that some victims would lose access to restitution because not all crimes qualify via the Victims Compensation Board.

Any Positive Change is working in Lake County to focus on California Syringe Exchange Programs. As today marks International Overdose Death Awareness Day, the program aims to change the narrative and cheer on first responders in saving lives. In a release in Lake County News, the syringe program is joining others in California today with memorials and gatherings. Instead of looking down on addicts, the program wants to highlight those individuals who take care of each other. They mention nearly 40,000 overdoses that were reversed over the past three years. The program says funding harm reduction programs has real health benefits to the public. More and more people are using naloxone, or NarCan, provided by mental health programs statewide. Any Positive Change has been serving in Lake County for over 25 years, but was recently transitioned to a state authorized program.

In the waning days of the legislative session in Sacramento, climate change groups are promoting two bills that would smooth the way for offshore wind energy. Assembly Bill 3 would require the state to study improvements to port infrastructure to move power into the grid. AB 80 would research impacts on the ocean ecosystem. An official with the USC Schwarzenegger Institute says offshore wind will help California become energy independent. California News Service reports Plans are in motion to put floating platforms the size of the Eiffel Tower in federal waters about 25 miles off the towns of Morro Bay and Humboldt, where winds blow almost around the clock.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife are reporting four new packs of wolves in the state. Lake County News reports there are currently eight wolf packs that've made California their home since 2015. The four new packs are confirming scientist's predictions that the state has a habitat that is sustainable for the k9s. The latest pack found last month in Giant Sequoia National Monument Park is made up of a mother wolf and three pups. The adult wolf female came from Oregon's Rogue Pack with the father of her babies from the Lassen Pack. It's the southern most spot in the state to confirm the new pack. The gray wolf is native to the state but was nearly extinct 100 years ago. The Federal Endangered Species Act is protecting the wolves

Hunting season is here, and tomorrow is California's dove season start. The Department of Fish and Wildlife issued a release in MendoFever announcing the season that will run through September 15th. It's the first of bird hunting season to open with quail, pheasant, turkey and others with seasons continuing through the end of the year. The department wants to remind hunters to get in education requirements. The dove opener brings in hunting tourism, with the 1st of September being one of the busiest days for the sport. Wildlife officers will be patrolling and check in on hunters statewide. Wildlife hunting areas and seasonal information is available on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website.

Sheet1

Mendocino College is celebrating its 50th Anniversary Exhibit. Next Thursday, September 7th from 4-6pm the college is hosting a reception for the community. It's a closing reception for an exhibition that has featured the history of the area. The Anniversary Gallery Exhibit includes photos, artifacts and documents that show the evolution of Mendocino College over the last 50 years. The community, alumni, students, staff and more are invited to the event at the Mendocino College Gallery in Ukiah.

California Highway Patrol will be doing a Maximum Enforcement Period this Labor Day weekend. The enforcement will begin Friday at 6pm and continue through midnight on Monday, September 4th. Law enforcement will be looking for traffic violations and helping drivers. They will be working to arrest drivers who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Impaired driving continues to be a leading cause of traffic deaths and injury. Last year CHP officers made over 900 DUI arrests in the state along with 5,700 speeding tickets. Labor Day of 2022 saw 52 people killed in crashes on California's roadways.

The State Controller's Office is auditing Mendocino County's annual financial statements. The audit comes after county officials expressed concerns on the financial reports that are required to be given to the state. Lake County News reports the Board of Supervisors requested the State Controller's Office take a look at what some refer to as a financial crisis. The county was recently warned its credit rating may be put under review unless the county finishes its late financial statements.

09/01/2023 State Controller Malia Cohen said the county's failure to deliver the reports on time could put the county at a disadvantage.

The Golden Fire is expected to be contained today! Cal Fire is reporting the blaze that began along Highway 101 between Ukiah and Willits was at 95 percent containment as of last night and is being held at under 12 acres. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the fire began near the entrance to the Golden Rule RV Park last Sunday. Firefighters had it half contained by Monday and have kept it at about 11.5 acres. It was a small part of the smoke effects in the county, as the larger complex fires in the very northern parts of the state have created bad air quality for folks around Mendocino and Lake Counties. The forecast for the weekend is better air quality with winds and some rain expected.

Letts Lake Campground is open with water and other services through the fall. The mud slide that affected the M10 Road has been repaired temporarily. Drivers should use caution and drive slowly on the one lane road and watch for rain events if you do go to the campground, according to the Mendocino National Forest.

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Sheet1

Mendocino County cannabis growers are being celebrated. Visit Mendocino County and the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance honored the county's winners last week who won big time at the California State Fair in the cannabis divisions. The Willits News reports nine farms from Mendocino County took home 18 State Fair Cannabis Awards this year. The state fair presented three Golden Bear Awards to several local growers including outdoor cultivation and mixed and indoor light grows. At a reception on the 20th in Anderson Valley, leaders and tourism officials congratulated the winners. Growers reported that the industry in Mendocino County is difficult to comply with, but in the end, the winners say it was worth it.

Fort Bragg Police have a car theft suspect in custody. A new Dodge Ram 1500 was stolen from the Motel 6 on South Main Street yesterday morning around 7am. Police learned the victim left the truck running while he went into his room to grab something, returned and found it had been driven away. He left his phone in the truck, and the suspect, Shawn Wick answered it. They negotiated with Wick, who fled when he saw officers. MendoFever reports Mendocino County Sheriff's deputies and Fort Bragg officers boxed the suspect in at Cedar Street and Sanderson Way. Officials learned Wick was in a traffic accident on Wednesday, and made sure he got medical care. He was cleared and booked into jail on felony auto theft and felony assault with a deadly weapon as well as felony evading.

Unhealthy pine trees in Low Gap Park are being removed, according to Mendocino County officials. County staff expect to remove about 8-10 deteriorated trees near public areas the park. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports arborists have had their eye on the dying trees and for the past several years tree removal has been ongoing. At Low Gap Park, wildfire fuels have been targeted are part of the vegetation management being done in the park and other parks. Tree removal and fuel management has also been happening at Mill Creek Park near Cow Mountain.

New legislation is going through the capital that would change the way homeless death data is shared. AB 271 would take county level information and make it accessible to government agencies and organizations who work with the homeless. The Press Democrat reports the goal is to analyze data to find ways to save lives of people experiencing homelessness. The bill would help methodically record deaths and would track progress of policies on the issue. If passed, counties would be able to work on developing death review committees and share data.

Lots of end of summer travelers will be out this weekend, including the notorious mosquito. The Lake County Vector Control District is reminding people that West Nile Virus has been found in the area. Officials are reminding people to wear DEET, long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk, and to drain standing water to avoid the blood suckers. Lake County News reports the virus was found in mosquitoes in Clearlake Oaks, Cobb, Kelseyville, and more around the county and in the state. One in 150 people who get the virus will be hospitalized with severe symptoms. As of yesterday, there have been 55 cases of West Nile in California residents.

Sheet1

California State Parks are celebrating biodiversity. Over 40 parks throughout the state are hosting special events and activities all week long from tomorrow through the 10th. Lake County News reports there will be a bioblitz for Clear Lake State Park, it's a friendly competition to see who can record the most species of plants and animals. This is the fifth annual celebration of California Biodiversity Day since it began in 2018. Governor Newsom's 30 x 30 strategy and other actions have built on the state's unique natural resources that everyone is encouraged to enjoy. There is a free app to help people use their phones to record different species of plants and animals called the iNaturalist app, according to California State Parks.

California's second free fishing day is tomorrow, September 2nd. Lake County News reports the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are urging residents to get outside and try fishing this weekend. Fishers are encouraged to check out the departments website for information, rules and regulations, and maps on where to find fish in California's lakes, streams and rivers. Kids 15 and younger can fish for free every day in the state, but Free Fishing Days offer the same to families and friends.

Lawmakers are moving to help striking workers in the state. Yesterday, a last minute proposal was passed to give unemployment benefits to workers on strike. The bill, SB 799 was introduced last week as labor negotiations and strikes continue throughout the state. Opponents of the bill say the unemployment fund faces debt while advocates say it will help workers put food on the table as they negotiate for fairer wages and conditions. The governor said yesterday that he would not comment on pending proposals as they make it to his desk.

Caltrans is announcing that is has awarded over \$41 million in grants to 90 sustainable, climate resilient transportation projects in the state. The move to address local and region impacts of extreme weather events are part of investments in Governor Newsom's clean transportation package in the state budget. Over \$20 million will go to local, regional, tribal and transit agencies for transportation and land use planning. Over \$18 million will go to groups for transportation related climate adaptation development. The additional funding follows over \$12 million from SB1 funding for sustainable transportation strategies. The bill provides \$5 billion in transportation funding each year for road projects and infrastructure investments.

A former Mendocino County Deputy Sheriff is indicted in Trump's Georgia Election Interference case. The mug shot of Stephen Lee has been taken as he is one of the 19 co-defendants in the case. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the now Reverend Lee surrendered himself on August 25th. Lee currently is the interim pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church in a suburb of Chicago. He worked in Mendocino County in the 1980s and was assigned to the coast. He is charged with violation of the Georgia RICO Act, two counts of influencing witnesses and conspiracy of false statements.

09/05/2023 His bail was set at \$75,000 and was released.

Sheet1

The Mendocino County's Chief Accounting Officer, Chamise Cubbison is accusing some county supervisors of working in bad faith to get the county's financial records to the state. MendoFever reports Cubbison says the CEO office has more budget analysts than she does as Auditor Controller. She says financial information is sent to the CEO, but that they make the decision on what gets to the board. She alleges board members are making the case for chaos in those stalled reports to make a Department of Finance under their oversight, rather than other elected officials. Cubbison says nearly complete updated reports will show there is only about \$10 million in the county's general reserve and faces a \$421 million budget for the current fiscal year. The delayed reporting is also affecting the labor union whose contract negotiations are stalled. She is welcoming the state controller's audit that was announced last week.

The state Employment Development Department is issuing its latest report of state jobs in high-demand and information about resources for job seekers. Lake County News reports the North Bay economic region had a 3.9 percent unemployment rate for July. The department is reporting stats on the regions top job openings projected through 2030. High-skill jobs include general managers, registered nurses, teachers and accountants. Middle-skill jobs include accountants, drivers, medical assistants and more. Entry-level positions include home health aides, hospitality jobs and retail sales positions. California remains strong in job growth, according to the EDD, with over 35,000 jobs gained per month this year.

More than a million Californians with old felony convictions are eligible to have them wiped from their records. An expungement clinic this week in San Francisco aims to move things along. California News service reports Old convictions have thousands of consequences and can prevent people from renting an apartment, getting a job, applying for certain professional licenses, attending a child's field trip, and much more. Many legal aid groups offer help with record sealing, including the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Area Regional Re-entry Partnership, and Inland Counties Legal Services.

A COVID 19 wave is washing into the state as kids head back to school and people retreat back indoors. A state epidemiologist says most of the population has a high immunity now, so people shouldn't panic. CalMatters reports the positivity rate has been growing over the last few months with waste water surveillance confirming a rise in infections. Hospitalizations are also trending up with an increase of nearly 90 percent. Officials say hospitals are not being dramatically impacted, but health professionals are urging people to be vigilant in washing hands and getting the latest vaccination, expected this month. Officials are warning people to also get their seasonal flu shot, with seniors urged to get the RSV vaccine as well.

Police are investigating a fatal motorcycle crash. Saturday morning, Fort Bragg Police went to South Main and Cypress Streets to the scene of a collision. Multiple first responders and health care workers tried to save the rider, but were unable to. It appears the rider was splitting lanes headed north on South Main Street where he ran a red light, hitting a few cars on the way. The rider was struck in the intersection. Throughout the day traffic was detoured away. Anyone with information on the accident is asked to call Fort Bragg Police.

Sheet1

The cost of a new car rose significantly this year in California. Lake County News reports on AAA's annual report, finding that a new car is expected to cost over \$14,000 a year, or over \$1,000 per month. It's a 12 percent increase this year. AAA shows there is an increase in luxury vehicles with extra features that is driving the increase, and especially in California. The auto club says if you need a new car, start shopping early, get pre-approved with a bank or lender, and check several places to trade your old car in. Timing is especially important, with news this morning of a UAW strike possible within the next week or so.

Ukiah Police are investigating a motorcycle crash. Saturday evening around 10pm, a motorcycle crashed into a vehicle near Talmage Road and South State Street. A medevac was called for the 56 year old man on the bike. He reportedly had several broken bones and was in respiratory distress. MendoFever reports emergency responders took the injured man to Ukiah Regional Airport for Transport. Police closed down the intersection for hours Saturday night.

There will be two overnight closures for the Pudding Creek Bridge starting tomorrow night and Thursday night. Workers will be able to escort emergency vehicles over the bridge, should the need arise. MendoFever reports during the first overnight closures there wasn't a need. The bridge will be closed to all traffic from 10pm to 4am as crews continue to work on the east side of the bridge. The new railing on the half-completed bridge depicts salmon on red railings. Caltrans has revealed an extra wide sidewalk on the west side. The new outside lane has a shoulder that is wider than the old lanes. Through this week, drivers can expect delays, but can look forward to two six foot wide walkways, and more.

The East Region Town Hall is meeting tomorrow at 4pm in Clearlake Oaks. There will be a guest speaker from Caltrans District 1, discussing a project along Highway 20 around Upper Lake, Nice, Glenhaven and Clearlake Oaks. Lake County News reports the agenda also includes updates on Spring Valley illegal cannabis cultivation, FireWise Community safety and more. There will be an update from the Northshore Fire Protection District as well.

Assemblymember James Ramos is working to pass legislation aimed at CSU's handling of remains and cultural items with a system wide Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. AB 389 would require monitoring collections and repatriation by December of 2025. In a release issued in Lake County News, Ramos says too many residents' imagine a single Native American group in the state, rather than the complex and individual tribes spread across the state. He says the state is home to over 100 tribes. Ramos says he was enabled to make the California Native American Legislative Caucus to begin the work of focusing on tribal welfare.

Lakes Sonoma and Mendocino have the highest combined storage total since 1985, the first year Lake Sonoma was first filled. In the end of August reporting, Lake Sonoma has about 240,000 acre feet with Lake Mendocino filled with 84,000 acre feet. The reporting is less than nine months after the reservoir on Dry Creek reached its lowest level in history. The Press Democrat reports the combined storage of the two lakes has never been higher, according to the Sonoma County Water Agency. Water officials say the vast amount of rain and conservation efforts created the high levels this year. The new Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations account about 11,000 acre feet in Lake Mendocino on the Russian River's east Fork outside Ukiah.

Sheet1

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife are working with the Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force in the state. A recent operation in Covelo found 29 illegal grows. In a release from the department in KymKemp, officials destroyed 41,000 marijuana plants and over 7,000 pounds of processed cannabis. They also seized 40 firearms. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office with local and state officials estimate the retail value of the latest bust is over \$45 million. 15 suspects were detained at several sites using illicit pesticides with the Department of Fish and Wildlife counting over 120 violations and 34 Water Code violations. The cooperative of officials continues to investigate.

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09/06/2023

The Lake County Registrar of Voters Office has new information for the Presidential Primary Election scheduled for March 5th, 2024. In Lake County, offices open for candidates include Judges for Superior Court in Departments 1,3 and 4. There are county supervisor positions open for district 1 and 4 and Sheriff-Coroner positions. Candidates can submit "In-Lieu-of-Filing Fee Petitions" with resident signatures from September 14th through the deadline of November 8th. All candidates must file a Declaration of Candidacy Form, Nomination papers and pay a filing fee by December 8th to have their name appear on the ballot.

The Mendocino County Cannabis Department is now open in their Ukiah office on Bush Street. The front counter is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. As the department continues to streamline procedures and policies, there are new training "how-to" documents on their website.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Cannabis Program is hosting a couple of workshops on how cultivators can become or remain legal and what to do to continue cannabis operations. The first workshop is scheduled for a week from today, Wednesday, September 13th from 10 to 11am. The department will help cultivators with their LSA agreement. The Cannabis Cultivation Permitting Workshops are aimed at helping legal growers maintain their permit and stay in state compliance. Check out the department's website for details and how to attend the session.

The City of Ukiah is getting ready for Pumpkinfest. The event scheduled for the weekend of October 13th through the 15th includes the giant pumpkin weigh-off. This year's theme is Pumpkins Go To The Renaissance Faire. The annual event will include a haunted house, scarecrow city, plenty of food and drinks and a fire and safety expo. The first pumpkin festival began in Ukiah in 1993 with the Pumpkinfest Steering Committee. This year, there will also be children's activities, dog races and pet costume contest as well as a baking contest and 3 on 3 basketball tournament. Check out Cit of Ukiah dot com for more details and entry information.

Sheet1

California's Department of Motor Vehicles is expanding their digital driver's license program. The department announced its pilot program is growing to allow drivers to get their digital license or ID card, known as an "mDL" or mobile driver's license. KTVU reports the program is open to 1.5 million residents. The program works with both iOS and Android devices and is user friendly. You can use the digital ID at three airports in the state, including San Francisco and San Jose. Las Vegas and Phoenix airports will also accept the mobile ID. It can be used as proof of age at stores and restaurants when buying alcohol. Privacy experts say encryption and biometrics are good security steps. The DMV says it won't permanently store your personal data, but does keep your phone number and an encrypted photo of your license.

The Clearlake City Council is meeting this week to consider the police chief's response to the grand jury report and more. Lake County News reports they'll meet tomorrow at 6pm. There are a couple of presentations on the agenda including a declaration of September 22nd as Native American Day and September as Senior Center Month. The council may adopt a resolution approving the Clearlake Police Department Military Equipment Report. They'll discuss a contract of over \$600,000 for a chip seal project with Pavement Coatings. Police Chief Hobbs will go over the Grand Jury Report on human trafficking and school shootings. In closed session, they'll discuss litigation claims.

Tomorrow is the Mendocino College closing reception for its 50th Anniversary Exhibit from 4 to 6pm. The collection includes photos, documents and artifacts that tell the story of Mendocino College over the last 50 years. Community members, alumni, staff and more are invited to attend the event with light refreshments at the Mendocino College Gallery in Ukiah.

Scientists are talking about the wildfire smoke impacts in the area and throughout the state. Fires in Oregon and Northern California have been creating hazy skies at the whim of the winds. Cal Matters reports the volume of greenhouse gases emitted from the large fires is expected to grow. Researchers are trying to quantify how much the wildfires are contributing to climate change. Last year, wildfires in the state sent around 9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, according to California Air Resources Board estimates. UCLA scientists are calling California's climate goal efforts "up in smoke." State officials are trying to restore the health of forests to mitigate the negative effects. California's air quality agencies don't have to consider wildfire smoke because the blazes are considered exceptional events under the federal Clean Air Act.

Wine grape growers are facing a proposed new order on water discharge requirements. If enacted, the draft order from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board would apply to all commercial vineyards in the Russian River and Navarro River watersheds. In an article from the Sonoma County Farm Bureau in Mavens Notebook, the executive director says the monitoring and reporting requirements are not reasonable. It would put the burden of proof on the vineyard industry to collect and report data on the sediment load of an entire watershed that has numerous impacts from multiple users. Smaller growers could be forced to shut down. The regional water board estimates it will cost about \$24 per acre the first year in addition to management and project costs. After a public workshop last month, the water board staff is visiting local vineyards to see the management practices farmers are already using.

Sheet1

The City of Ukiah is being awarded a grant of over \$920,000 from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services under the "Prepare California Jumpstart Initiative" that gives funding to socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities. In a release from the city, the grant funding is poised to be instrumental in enhancing Ukiah's ability to coordinate plans and response efforts and to secure funding for long term mitigation measures. High risk hazards for Ukiah include wildland urban interface fires, extreme heat events and potential flooding that would be serious threats for the most vulnerable populations. The CalOES grant will fund a new Chief Resilience Officer position with the city, which will work with the community, tribal partners and coordinate county, state and federal levels of resilience strategies.

The Jackson State Demonstration Forest Advisory Group is meeting at the end of next week, September 15th beginning at 9am in Fort Bragg. In their meeting agenda, the group plans to build stronger working relationships between CalFire, JAG members and the public in support of the New Vision for the forest. They also want to include efforts to advance Tribal engagement and co-management. Public comments should be submitted before September 12th. The traveling meeting will begin at the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Bragg at 9am and travel east on Highway 20 to Little Lake Road.

California Department of Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara is urging residents and businesses to look over their insurance coverage to make sure they have the resources to prepare for possible disasters. The department issued a release in Lake County News promoting resilience and getting affordable insurance options. High temperatures and wildfire risk remains a threat in the state, and the commissioner says their Safer from Wildfires regulations have a multi-tiered strategy. The Department is working to expand availability of insurance discounts and recently granted discounts for FAIR Plan policyholders. Lara says to use your smartphone to create a record of your belongings, keep your insurance paperwork easily accessible and make a solid plan with your family or business colleagues.

Firefighting crews are getting traction on a fire in Lower Lake. Yesterday afternoon, around 3:30pm, a fire was reported on Clayton Creek Road. Fire crews including Cal Fire air resources were dispatched to the Creek Fire that spread quickly. The fire was burning north of Highway 29. The sheriff asked for a 'leave immediately' evacuation of Main Street in Lower Lake from from 53rd to Bonham. A 'Be Ready' evacuation warning was issued for nearby areas. Less than two hours later, the blaze had grown to around 28 acres. By 6pm last night, evacuation orders were downgraded. Firefighters are continuing to work on the Creek Fire that held at 28 acres and is 65% contained as of this morning. Last night, mandatory evacuations in and around Lower Lake were downgraded to warnings or were cleared. Part of Highway 29 was closed and has since reopened. Cal Fire says firefighters will stay in the area into 09/07/2023 today to work on total containment, watching hot spots, and mopping up.

Sheet1

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The Mendocino County Sheriff began the installation of the Mendocino County Peace Officers Memorial outside their office in Ukiah. County CEO Darcie Antle and the Facilities and Fleet Department worked with the Sheriff's Office to finish the planning and concept. Fort Bragg Electric finished work for the foundation and conduits for lighting. The Memorial was designed and created by Bell Memorials and Granite Works with help from Machine Inc, according to the Mendocino County Sheriff. Yesterday, the office announced an unveiling to be held tomorrow at 5pm at the Sheriff's Office on Low Gap Road. The public is invited to join local law enforcement officials and families and friends of fallen peace officers.

A couple of bills are moving through the legislature that would help community colleges in California house students. CalMatters reports the bills would allow colleges to keep funds they've already gotten, with help from the state in paying the funds back. Without the bills, community colleges were pulling out of housing projects when over a billion dollars was pulled from affordable housing in June as the governor was addressing the state budget shortfall. The state will help cover annual debt payments that will allow schools to go ahead with housing plans in a new bond arrangement.

The Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show is announcing dates for the 95th annual event. September 22nd thru the 24th in Boonville, people of all ages can enjoy live music, horse shows, the California Wool and Fiber festival, rodeos and more. MendoVoice reports the fair will be open from 9am through midnight at the fairgrounds. There will be wine and apple tasting daily with a classic car show and parade Sunday at noon on Highway 128.

The Mendocino board of Supervisors will meet next Tuesday at 9am for the open session and meet with the Mendocino County Water Agency, Public Facilities Corporation, In Home Supportive Services Public Authority and Air Quality Management District. The board will continue at 1pm in a closed session. In their agenda, the board plans to meet with labor negotiators. The board plans to confer with legal counsel on existing litigation with Your Town Online, Inc vs. the county.

The only tribally owned opioid treatment program in the state, New Life Clinic in Ukiah is making treatment easier than getting drugs, according to the medical director. The Willits News reports the center has been in operation for two years, with medically assisted methadone treatment, urgent care, mental health and more. They say they engage patients in services after they're off meds. Since their beginning, New Life Clinic has seen 70 percent of patients remain in treatment. They see about 100 patients a day in need of medication assisted treatment for addiction and are expanding. With Mendocino County the highest in the state of opioid overdose the clinic works to change that. They'd like to see more residential treatment. The Ukiah Recovery Center is the only one in the county.

Sheet1

A woman who started the Bart Fire two years ago is set to spend four years in prison. Amy Holland of Willits was sentenced this week in Mendocino County Superior Court after conviction of malicious arson. In a release in KymKemp, the court heard testimony from one of the victims of the fire near the Walker Lake sub off Black Bart Road in July of 2021 during Tuesday's testimony. The fire burned two buildings, one, part of a local pottery business. Holland was ordered to pay the victim and her insurance company nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Additional restitution was reserved for two more victims and Cal Fire, for expenses of putting out the fire.

California may soon require judges to consider whether a parent affirms their child's gender identity when making custody decisions under a bill that passed through the Senate yesterday. The Press Democrat reports the vote was split along party lines. Democrats argue the bill would help protect the well-being of LGBTQ+ kids whose parents are divorcing. All Republicans voted against the bill saying legislators were interfering with parents' decisions. The bill would include gender affirmation as a factor courts should consider in custody proceedings, including if a parent has been abusive. If the state Assembly agrees to amendments made to the legislation, it will head to the governor's desk.

The final defendant, the third suspect who was involved in the 2020 Covelo Road armed robberies and kidnappings of two cannabis money couriers will spend 19 years in prison. Jesus Estevan Vargas Jr. took the DA's last and final plea/sentence 'bargain' to serve nearly 2 decades in state prison. In a release in MendoFever, the Sheriff's Office reports Vargas took the no contest plea Wednesday along with two co-conspirators in the crime that took place in September, 3 years ago. The target of their scheme was nearly \$700,000 when they dressed as law enforcement agents and pulled over the courier vehicle on Covelo Road. Vargas' sentence includes a special enhancement for a violent felony, leaving him with now two strikes under state law.

The Mendocino City Community Services District is being asked to record its meetings. In the agency's monthly meeting at the end of August, restaurant owners attending asked for clarity on how the district will deal with tents in town including lot coverage and water allocation. The board said there will be a public meeting on the subject of the enhanced restaurant spaces. The Mendocino Beacon reports the board has created an ad hoc committee to get more information and will work with the County and other local agencies. Superintendent Rhoades said they have finished most of the annual sewer mains cleaning and reported FEMA will cover about \$36,000 in damages from the storms in January. The District says the facility is experiencing system failures and needs \$6,000 in emergency repair of a critical component.

An earthquake is leaving residents shook up today. A magnitude 5.0 earthquake centered near Fall River Mills in Shasta County was nine miles deep, according to the US Geological Survey. NBC reports the quake today hit just before 10:30am with a couple of smaller aftershocks registering at over 3.0. Close to 200 people felt it from Chico to Southern Oregon. Today's quakes follow a smaller quake that was reported 09/08/2023 on the north Mendocino County line registering at about magnitude 3.2 yesterday.

Sheet 1

Nancy Pelosi is confirming she will run for reelection next year. Her announcement today was made before labor allies in San Francisco. The Press Democrat reports Democrats believe they have a chance to get control of the House with next year's election. She was the first woman to become Speaker of the House in 2007. Though Hakeem Jeffries holds the position now, Pelosi says there is more work to be done in San Francisco, California and the nation. Some thought she'd retire, especially after her husband was attacked last year in their home.

The Creek Fire near Lower Lake is now at 85 percent containment as of last night. Cal Fire issued an update on the 28 acre blaze burning north of Highway 29. Around 100 personnel were assigned along with 13 engines and air resources. All evacuation warnings were lifted. Firefighters remain there to fully contain the blaze and work on putting out hot spots. By the end of the day Thursday, resources were beginning to be released.

The Mendocino County Sheriff began the installation of the Mendocino County Peace Officers Memorial outside their office in Ukiah. This week, the office announced an unveiling to be held today at 5pm at the Sheriff's Office on Low Gap Road. The public is invited to join local law enforcement officials and families and friends of fallen peace officers.

The City of Clearlake is approving the city police chief's response to the Lake County Grand Jury Report. Lake County News reports the 303 page report on multiple topics was released in July. Part of topics covered included sex trafficking and school shootings arguing the Clearlake Police Department needs to respond. Police Chief Hobbs offered a response and thanked the grand jurors for the detailed information. Hobbs maintained he will work with the Police Department in training. The council unanimously approved his response. The council proclaimed September 22nd as Native American Day and this month as Senior Center Month. The council also approved a contract to work on city Double Chip Project for over \$600,000.

Under new legislation approved by the state Assembly Wednesday, Californians 21 and older would be able to possess magic mushrooms legally. Veterans who support the proposal say they rely on plant-based psychedelics to treat post-traumatic stress disorder. KBAK reports the bill would require the state's health agency to study and make recommendations on the therapeutic use of psychedelics. Oregon and Colorado have already approved similar measures.

Mendocino County residents in the north may have felt shaking from a 3.2 earthquake yesterday. Around 10:45am a minor quake was reported by the US Geological Survey near the Humboldt and Mendocino County line, west of Highway 101. Reporting in KymKemp notes the tremor went fairly unnoticed with few people saying they felt it. The epicenter of the quake was in a remote area.

Students at the Anderson Valley Service Learning Team are working to fund a skate park next to the Community Park. MendoFever reports the team works under the Community Services District that purchased land from the school district last spring for a dollar. The students say a skate park will help kids stay busy in a productive way. Students hope to get a \$1.3 million grant from CalTrans. The students know a lot of work will have to be done including drainage and concrete. They say even if they don't get this grant, the skate park will be built. The group of students has raised nearly \$50,000 selling merchandise like tee shirts and tote bags. They've been to the capital with Senator Mike McGuire and asked state representatives for a letter of support. The kids are looking forward to a space to be shared by the community and for kids to be engaged.

Sheet1

The Ukiah Valley Trail Group is planning an inaugural fundraising event next month. In a release issued in KymKemp, the group with the Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance is planning a gala on Friday, October 6th. Inspired by Kelseyville's farm to fork dinner, the Ukiah Valley Trail Group will host a "Gala In The Street." Local catering will include seasonal and local produce, wine and more. There will be an auction with the Mendocino Grain Project and include coastal vacations and local getaways with culinary talent. The organization is raising funds to continue preserving and upgrading trails in the inland parts of Mendocino county.

The City of Fort Bragg is meeting on Monday at 6pm. In their agenda they'll consider approving the position of Public Works Administrative Assistant and confirm all City of Fort Bragg Established Classifications. They'll go over the master salary schedule. They'll go over an agreement with the Noyo Harbor District and adopt a resolution to use funds in the Community Resiliency to Climate Change and Emergencies. The council will go over work for the Bainbridge Park Enhancement Project and hear a report on the Fort Bragg School District's repairs to the Tennis Courts and new Pickleball courts. And in Closed Sessions they'll hear from legal counsel on anticipated litigation with the Mendocino Railroad.

California's COVID test positivity rate is 14 percent, the highest since last summer and fifth highest since the beginning of the pandemic. The Bay Area News Group reports some schools are requiring masking in the east. Hospitalizations have increased as well, but not at the high rates of the winter surges in 2020 and 2021. There has been a steady amount of deaths, averaging about 10 each day since the spring. The FDA is poised to approve new vaccines against the newest omicron variant. Moderna's new COVID vaccine appears to be working on the new highly mutated variant. Wastewater data is confirming the upward trend. Public health officials are urging masking return to healthcare facilities in November.

The Jack London State Historic Park, Sugarloaf Ridge and Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve will continue to stay open under local management if Senate Bill 668 is signed by the governor. The Press Democrat reports the legislation would allow the parks to stay open beyond the existing expiration in January 2025. The parks in Sonoma County remained open during the pandemic, with nonprofits supporting the public spaces. Senator Dodd introduced the bill that passed the State Assembly unanimously in the last week of August. SB 668 hit the governor's desk on August 30th.

Police are looking for a Redwood Valley man who was charged in a shooting that left a man with life threatening injuries. Jesse Connolly was charged in Mendocino County Superior Court with a felony count of attempted murder. The Press Democrat reports Connolly has two felony and one misdemeanor warrants already issued along with this week's additional felony warrant. He is alleged to have shot a Hopland man in July in a home in the Hopland Rancheria. Cal Fire was one of the first responders to the injured man who was airlifted to a local hospital.

CHP is increasing efforts to crack down on widespread retail theft. KCRA reports the department is ramping up efforts in cooperation with the Organized Retail Crime Task Force. CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee says there are multi-agency partnerships to working together on the issue. Since the Task Force began in 2019, the state has recovered over \$30 million in stolen items.

Sheet1

In a report from the US Geological Survey restoration efforts of watersheds were studied with dam removal. In Maven's Notebook this week, aquatic habitat impacts with high risk infrastructure removal showed profound effects. The report notes changes in sediment deposits and how they shape the habitats of coastal ecosystems. The report calls for careful management strategies during dam removal to mitigate the harmful effects.

09/11/2023 KWINE and KMAX are working with PG&E on updates to our radio tower on Cow Mountain. Today at 8am, power will be shut off for a period of time between half an hour and 2 hours. As we proactively work on our power and resiliency efforts the radio station is updating our power supply as we transition to a hardened source of electricity. Once the upgrade is complete, power will be monitored 100 percent of the time.

There are multiple fires burning in the northeast part of Mendocino County. KymKemp reports three fires, condensed into the Bald Fire are burning between Covelo and Mina as of this morning. According to reports, one fire began in a logging slash pile and was about an acre and is getting contained. Another fire is burning a couple of acres and a third fire was slowly spreading over 4 forested acres. Firefighting resources were called to stage at Bald Mountain Road with Cal Fire equipment.

Governor Newsom is ushering in new legislation, signing bills aimed at gun violence to decriminalization of some psychedelic drugs. CalMatters reports 220 bills hit the governor's desk Friday. Newsom has until October 14th to sign or veto the final group. Assembly Bill 421 aims to reduce confusion for voters requiring top funders of ballot initiatives to be listed. AB 28 would impose an 11 percent tax on retailers and manufacturers for sales of guns or ammo. The money estimated to bring in over \$160 million annually would be used for violence intervention programs and enforcement. And AB 1078 would penalize school boards who ban books related to Black, Latino, Asian, Native American, LGBTQ people and other groups.

Ukiah Police are investigating a traffic accident. Yesterday a motorcycle and truck crashed on State Route 253 west of Ukiah. MendoFever reports it happened 10:30am Sunday morning. An air ambulance was called to land at Adventist Ukiah to take the patient for medical treatment. The motorcycle rider was conscious, according to reports.

Lake County is welcoming a new Public Health Officer this week. Lake County News reports the Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow morning at 9am to welcome the new official. The Board will see Dr. Noemi Doohan take the ceremonial oath of office after she held the interim position for more than a year now. They expect to approve an agreement with Redwood Community Services for over \$760,000 per year for the next three years. They'll go over an agreement with state and regional agencies on illegal cannabis cultivators and more. The Board will hear the county's final recommended budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 at its next meeting on September 19th.

CHP is investigating a fire that was started by someone's vehicle in Cloverdale. Last night CHP reported a grass fire began just after 9pm south of Cloverdale near Dutcher Creek Road and Theresa Drive. Mendofever reports either a gunshot or a car backfiring was reported. A small fire was put out within half an hour and authorities were put on the look out for the person who sparked the blaze. Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies were looking for the driver reportedly headed north on Highway 101.

Sheet 1

The California Department of Cannabis Control is announcing updated guidelines for the Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant to increase access to local legal cannabis retail businesses. In a release in KymKemp, the department is increasing award amounts to local jurisdictions. The Director of the Department says the revisions are aimed at establishing cannabis retail licensing programs to grow access to consumers. The Funding is part of local jurisdictions permit issuance and policies authorizing retail cannabis. The changes will allow more cities and counties to pursue funding. A municipality can get up to \$150,000 per eligible retailer license and more.

Mendocino County District Supervisor John Haschak is congratulating Senator McGuire who will be the next Senate President Pro Tem. MendoVoice issued the letter applauding the senator for leading the Senate and helping Mendocino County, the North Coast and the state. Haschak notes McGuire has increased funding for CalFire, housing and technical education programs at Mendocino College and more. Supervisor Haschak says county staff are postponing a strike as negotiations continue. He notes the State Controller's audit of the County's finances. He says the Office of Emergency Services will continue to hold resilience meetings, the next one in Covelo on 9/16. Hashchak is announcing he'll be at the Brickhouse Coffee in Willits this Thursday at 10am for Talk with the Supervisor.

The governor is launching an interagency treatment dashboard with the state's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. The beta version will show the size and place of state and federal work with forest resilience projects in California. According to the Record Bee, state emergency officials say the platform has been working well for over a week. An official with CalFire says within the next six months, they expect more data to come from state departments including state parks, the Coastal Conservancy and more. The dashboard is providing information for communities like prescribed fires, timber harvests, and mechanical and hand fuels reductions. It uses a geographic information system using information from Cal Fire, the US Forest Service, BLM and more.

Saturday was California's birthday, and on Sept 9th 1850 California became the 31st state. Admission Day used to be a state holiday, but it was scrapped by Gov. George Deukmejian in 1984 who said it had turned into a "flabby, floating day off work for state employees". As now the fifth largest economy in the whole world, California has come a long way since it's humble beginnings 173 years ago this weekend. Happy Birthday California

COVID infections are increasing in Lake County. Lake County Emergency Warnings and Preparedness posted last week's numbers on social media. With 65 new positive results last week, test positivity is up nearly 23 percent from the prior week. Health officials say over the counter COVID 19 tests can help people know earlier if they have the virus and isolate to prevent spreading it. Lake County's Department of Public Health is asking people to self report their test results, positive or negative to help monitor health in the area.

The City of Fort Bragg is holding a Community Workshop on Emergency Management and Community Resilience at the Veteran's Hall on September 14th, Thursday at 6pm. It's an informal meeting for residents to engage the public with information to increase the community response and resilience efforts following an emergency.

Sheet1

Firefighters are mopping up a blaze near Hopland. A fire burning in oak woodland and grass near Old River Road was around 3 acres and spreading slowly. Yesterday afternoon the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office was urging people to maintain situational awareness according to a Nixle Alert. The Ice Fire was contained, according to scanner traffic with resources beginning to be released by around 6:30pm last night, according to MendoVoice.

The Lakeport Economic Development Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday morning, September 13th. There will be presentations on the Business Walk Program and other city projects, according to Lake County News. Also planned is a discussion from the Police Chief on the homelessness and mental illness town hall slated for September 27th at the Soper Reese Theatre. The group will also go over National Night Out for later this month. After this week, the group's next meeting is scheduled for November 8th.

Legislation in the state is focused on increasing the amount of mandated sick time. Senate bill 616 would increase sick days from 3 to at least 5. The effort comes as COVID left people unable to work for long periods and today can take five days or longer for the virus to clear the body. The Small Business Majority found SB616 is supported by small business owners and even support up to as many as 7 sick days. Proponents of the bill say missing 3 and a half days work equals a family's monthly grocery budget, according to the Press Democrat. Seven cities, including San Francisco and Oakland are providing 9 to 10 days of sick time. If SB616 is passed and signed by the governor, California would join 14 other states to increase sick days.

09/12/2023 The Mendocino Board of Supervisors will meet this morning at 9am for the open session and meet with the Mendocino County Water Agency, Public Facilities Corporation, In Home Supportive Services Public Authority and the Air Quality Management District. The board will continue at 1pm in a closed session. In their agenda, the board plans to meet with labor negotiators. The board plans to confer with legal counsel on existing litigation with Your Town Online, Inc vs. the county.

PG&E is reporting some customers power in Northern Mendocino County went out last night just before 11pm. KymKemp reports some people said they were experiencing windy conditions that may have caused the outage. From Leggett to Richardson's Grove, some power was returned before midnight. Most of not all power has since been restored, with only a small amount of outages on the PG&E Outage Map this morning in Sonoma County.

The Mendocino National Forest is announcing general season for B zone hunting opens this weekend, and they are expecting increased traffic. In a release this week, the Forest Service is reminding hunters that several trails and campgrounds are closed, including the Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness because of the Slide Fire. The Sheet Iron Mountain State Game Refuge is not open either, but most of the public land within the Mendocino National Forest is open to hunting. Visitors can use firearms safely in compliance with state and county laws. Hunters are asked not to field dress deer in campgrounds so as to not attract bears. Hunters are urged to be knowledgeable on the area, the weather and be aware of hazards of burned areas.

The Russian River Water Update is noting an upcoming project for the Ukiah Valley Russian River Cleanup on September 23. The aim of the group meet up is to pick up trash in tributaries before it enters the Russian River this winter. The group will meet at the Low Gap Park at 8:30am on the 23rd for morning coffee and snacks before heading to locations around Ukiah.

Sheet1

This is National Suicide Prevention Week, part of National Suicide Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness of the problem, and ways to prevent it. The California Parent and Youth Helpline reports a dramatic increase in calls about suicide, making up about 60 percent of the calls, texts and live chats received since May of last year. The California News Service reports suicide deaths increased in 2021 and 2022, whereas they had been going down in prior years. Statistics show that 20 percent of children and adults in America suffer from some kind of serious mental health condition. Look online at 'CAParentYouthHelpline.org' to connect with a trained counselor.

The City of Fort Bragg is canceling its Finance and Administration Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow (Wednesday). The city's Public Works and Facilities Committee will meet tomorrow afternoon at 3pm. In the City Council meeting Monday they approved a Public Works Administrative Assistant. A Scope of Work for a Collections Systems Master Plan was approved. Projects were approved to apply for a Community Resilience Center Grant to help improve the community response to emergencies and adapt resiliency efforts for Climate Change. The council approved work for Bainbridge Park and approved payment to the Fort Bragg Unified Schools District for repairs to the tennis courts and new pickleball courts.

The Museum of Sonoma County has a new exhibit. The \$1.2 million permanent exhibit opened last weekend, and includes "Sonoma County Stories." The show includes interviews recorded by former Press Democrat columnist Gaye LeBaron as part of the area's history. The concept has been in the works for over 15 years, according to the Press Democrat. Museum officials wanted to tell the story of the community starting with the area's Native Americans. Santa Rosa's Chinatown is a focal point in the exhibit with interviews, objects and even song. The exhibit covers post-World War II growth and timber industry.

Billions of dollars are heading to the Bay Area and throughout the state with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Bay Nature issued an article on how to find grants related to nature-based solutions in NorCal. There is a wide pool of funds available through federal agencies like the EPA and the California State Coastal Conservancy. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has funds related to coastal resilience and the health of fisheries and habitats. Though the funds have restrictions and eligibility requirements, not all fund seekers need to meet specific guidelines. The California Coastal Conservancy and other groups have collaboration techniques that can help with technical and funding assistance.

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall is dealing with dangerous pesticides. In a social media post, the Sheriff notes the legalization of marijuana did not end crimes in growing cannabis. Kendall notes working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Parks and other state and local agencies, they've noticed dangerous pesticides banned due to their toxicity. Polluted waterways, illegal grading, water diversions, dammed creeks, and other dangerous activities seem to be a constant in the area. Last month, 20 locations were targeted with serious environmental crimes suspected. Over 70,000 plants were eradicated in August. Kendall says some of the chemicals found during the raids include highly toxic pesticides smuggled into California that can create a circle of death, meaning the chemical kills several times.

Sheet 1

Caltrans says local roadway development will be based on a survey from area residents. In a meeting last week at the East Region Town Hall, a Caltrans District 1 Region spokesperson asked residents of Clearlake Oaks, Lucerne, Upper Lake are more on what they'd like to see developed. The Record Bee reports the presentation focused on pedestrian and bicyclist safety on roadways. Pedestrian crossings were a topic residents brought up with a need for safer pathways. Narrow turns on Highway 20 were discussed surrounding the Glenhaven area. The District 1 transportation engineer noted a draft proposal is expected to be complete by next spring for future work. Caltrans officials say they'll hold more town halls with events in Nice and Upper Lake.

The state may lift a ban on state-funded travel to states with anti-LGBTQ laws and refocus on a campaign to advertise anti-discrimination messages. The AP reports California started banning official travel in 2017 and since then the list of banned states grew to 26. The ban negatively affected sports teams at colleges and universities, leaving teams to find alternative funding. Yesterday, California lawmakers passed legislation to end the travel ban. The bill also establishes an ad campaign to raise awareness about LGBTQ issues. The bill is now headed to the Senate before heading to the governor's desk.

The Middletown Area Town Hall is meeting this Thursday, the 14th at 7pm. This week's agenda includes speakers from South Lake County and Cal Fire on this fire season's update. Lake County News reports there will also be a discussion about creating a committee for area projects as well as an update from the District 1 Supervisor.

Nearby, the Lakeport Economic Development Advisory Committee is meeting tomorrow, the 13th from 7:30 to 9am. The meeting will include information presentations and planning for the Business Walk Program and updated city projects.

The Mendocino County Cannabis Department is announcing approvals can be made via DocuSign. The department says all applicants and agents are encouraged to use the software for permit approval and more. The department also noted phase 3 applicants may have some tax issues to deal with. They may be taxed without having the chance to grow yet. The department noted tax appeals can be filed as they verify license status. As the department works to streamline policy and procedure, they've announced a workshop next week on September 19th from 9am to noon. The streamline workshop will be held at the UC Coop Extension Conference Room in Ukiah. The meeting will also be available virtually.

The Senate Education Committee is advancing the ban on California State University from using Native American remains and cultural artifacts in a vote yesterday. The legislation mandates CSU to follow recommendations given by the State Auditor to repatriate the remains and artifacts to the tribes. Lake County News reports AB 389 was changed after a report last spring revealed CSU had nearly 700,000 human remains and more despite federal and state deadlines to return the artifacts to the appropriate tribes. In the bill, CSU efforts to review their collections should be monitored and complete by December of 2025, with full time repatriation coordinators.

Sheet1

A Maui Strong fundraiser is planned for this Sunday, the 17th. The event will be at the Caspar Community Center from noon to 9pm, with 100 percent of the proceeds going directly to recovery efforts in Lahaina. There will be live music, Polynesian dancers, vendors and more. People are asked to bring their own chair to enjoy the entertainment. Kids can get in free and enjoy activities in the kidzone. The Ukiah/Mendo Community Group on Facebook issued the notice for the event bringing the community together to help with the Hawaiian disaster relief support.

An environmental champion in Mendocino County is being remembered. Richard Wilson lived in the northeastern part of the county where he worked hard on environmental causes, including the Eel River. The Press Democrat reports he effectively stopped the Eel River from being dammed at Round Valley. Wilson promoted logging regulations and was the director of the California Department of Forestry. He passed away on August 16th at his ranch. He and his wife had 4 kids; daughter, Sarah says "Buck Mountain and Round Valley were always the center of our lives." Wilson was one of the state's leading conservationists. There was a celebration of life at a Catholic Chapel in Covelo and he was buried at the family cemetery on Buck Mountain.

Authorities are investigating a fatal motorcycle versus tractor-trailer crash in Lake County. Last night just after 7pm, CHP reports the collision happened between Lucerne and Pepperwood Grove on Highway 20. A Dodge truck hauling a backhoe hit the motorcycle head-on when the motorcycle crossed over into the eastbound lane. The westbound rider, from Willits was thrown from the bike and crushed under the utility truck. He was pronounced dead within minutes of the accident. The driver and passenger in the truck weren't injured.

09/13/2023

Representative Mike Thompson is urging local residents to get safe storage for firearms as the Commerce Department approved lifting the tariffs on various gun safes. This week, Thompson visited the Clearlake Tractor Supply store in Lake County. He says the tariffs being lifted on gun safes will help save lives and keep firearms in secure locations. Lake County News reports last year there were 355 unintentional shootings by children in the US and Thompson says stats like that can be lowered with a good gun safe.

A newly discovered comet is traveling over the skies in northern California. Tuesday morning, the green comet named Nishimura came the closest to earth with a long white tail. The Sac Bee reports the comet was discovered in Japan last month. Because of its angle, you can only catch it with the naked eye near sunset or sunrise according to NASA. Scientists say to look close to the horizon near to Venus. After today, it may disappear from sight to those in the Northern Hemisphere.

The 'junk fees' bill is heading to the governor's desk. SB 478 expands on the White House proposal banning pervasive and deceptive practices. Attorney General Bonta is supporting the bill that would halt secretive and hidden fees from consumers. Lake County News reports 85 percent of Americans have paid hidden fees of around \$28 billion per year. California could penalize companies that fail to comply with new rules, if Newsom signs the bill. Bonta says the bill fights for consumers for a "fair and transparent marketplace."

The Fort Bragg Food Bank has new hours. In a Mendocino News Plus social media post, the Choice Pantry hours are Monday through Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. The food bank will be closed on Thursdays, but open on Fridays from 10am to 4pm. Curbside distribution will happen Monday through Friday from 10am to noon.

Sheet1

The Noyo Harbor District and Mendocino Coast Humane Society will benefit from the Wonton and Clam Chowder Cook Off this weekend. The event on the north side of Noyo Harbor will include live music and vendors, a corn hole tournament and kids activities. The event runs Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm with winners announced Sunday at 4pm.

Governor Newsom is announcing the state is investing over \$267 million to combat organized retail crime. The Board of State and Community Corrections is considering awarding funding to 55 local law enforcement agencies across the state. Lake County News reports from the governor's office that the funding would help the Governor's Real Public Safety Plan and is due to be released on October 1st to prevent and investigate cases of organized retail theft and to prosecute more suspects. Newsom says "Californians will soon see more takedowns, more police and more felony prosecutions. Law enforcement departments including Sonoma County are set to get over \$23 million each in the efforts.

Firefighters are still battling the Smith River Complex. A fuel mix-up at the base of operations created widespread emergency vehicle malfunctions Friday, according to the US Forest Service. KRCR reports 42 vehicles were filled with the wrong kind of fuel, causing havoc. Sunday, local tow trucks were headed to retrieve 24 disabled vehicles from the fireline. As of this morning, the Smith River Complex is at 21 percent containment and covers over 86,000 acres. Locally, hazy skies may bring down air quality a bit in Mendocino County.

The California State University Board of Trustees is set to vote today on a tuition increase for its schools. The CSU system wants to increase tuition fees by 300 dollars a semester and that could be a heavy burden for some students. Students in 5 years could expect to pay an additional \$13,000 per year if the tuition increase goes through according to a current student. The increase would generate more than \$148 million in revenue in the first year.

Senator Alex Padilla introduced new legislation to improve disaster relief and to help specialty crop farmers recover from catastrophic circumstances. The Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act could help California growers who produce high-value specialty crops. High land costs and escalating expenses have pushed many specialty farms out of business. ABC News reports the bill would waive adjusted gross income restrictions preventing some farmers from getting relief under USDA disaster relief programs.

Governor Newsom will decide if food additives in snacks like Skittles will be banned in the state. The California Food Safety Act would ban the manufacture, sale or distribution of brominated vegetable oil, potassium bromate, propylparaben and red dye number 3. The LA Times reports the bill passed the Assembly yesterday and is on the governor's desk. If Newsom signs the bill, it would take effect January 1st in 2027 and could fine companies up to \$10,000 for violations. Lawmakers say they don't want to ban Skittles and other candies, but get them to change their recipes. Former California Governor Schwarzenegger is supporting the bill. He said it's common sense, with one of the ingredients banned from lipstick 30 years ago because it caused cancer in lab rats.

Sheet1

The California Department of Public Health is recommending all residents stay up to date on the vaccine for COVID. The department says Californian's 5 years and older should get an updated vaccine if it's been 2 months or more since their most recent dose. Health officials are urging vaccination for people who are at high risk of serious illness. They say it's crucial for everyone to stay up to date with vaccinations including for the flu and RSV. Supplies of the updated COVID 19 vaccine are expected in California in the coming weeks. The vaccines will continue to be free for most Americans through their insurance including MediCal.

West Nile has been confirmed in Cloverdale. The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District confirmed the virus yesterday in adult mosquitoes. Officials say the infected bugs are the first to test positive for the virus in Sonoma and Marin Counties this year. The Press Democrat reports a couple of birds nearby also tested positive for West Nile. Vector control officials are looking for sources of mosquitoes and say they are continuing to trap, test and monitor areas of concern. The district is urging residents to report mosquito problem areas and remove any standing water in their yards. As always, wear DEET, avoid skin exposure around dawn and dusk to protect yourself and your family.

The Point Arena Lighthouse feline is making social media fame with her own Instagram account and is listed as one of the lighthouse's official guest relations managers. Arena Mina can be seen in a TikTok video released last week. A local visiting the lighthouse filmed the kitty walking by the residential lodges and calls the cat fearless. The lighthouse has a couple of books about the cat and merchandise

The California Legislature approved a ban on forever chemicals, or PFAS, used in the manufacturing of artificial turf. AB 1423 is headed to the Governor, and would take effect on January 1st, 2026. Artificial turf has recently been shown to expose athletes in dust from the PFAS used in its production. Lake County News reports as sports fields' age they give off small particles of the chemicals which can be inhaled or ingested and released into the environment and water sources. Those PFAS can remain in the air, water and soil indefinitely. Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont have also introduced bills to regulate PFAS in turf, California would be the first to approve a ban.

The Mendocino-Lake Community College District is holding the Board of Trustees meeting this afternoon at 4pm. Their agenda includes a conference with a labor negotiator and with legal counsel on existing litigation. The board will consider a challenge to the content of student records. There will be a report on the Mendocino College Foundation and a first reading of the College and Careers Access Pathways. The board may adopt the 2023-2024 budget. The board will go over new personnel and discuss reclassification of the management team and go over the Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation Tool.

Clearlake Police are looking for a missing teenager. Lake County News reports Anthony Hopper was last seen Tuesday near Lower Lake High School. The 17-year-old has dirty blond hair and blue eyes. He is 5 foot 4 and weighs around 120 pounds. Anthony was last seen in a black sweatshirt and blue washed out jeans. If anyone has information on Anthony please call Clearlake Police.

09/14/2023

Sheet1

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is investigating a violent incident around Usal Beach. On Tuesday afternoon, deputies arrested James Padgett after he allegedly beat and imprisoned an elderly man in Westport. Padgett was speaking with a crisis line operator after admitting to locking a 72 year old man in a shipping container. Deputies were able to unlock the container and find the victim with many traumatic injuries. Padgett reportedly went to the man's home and confronted him. When the senior tried to call for help, Padgett apparently beat him to the ground with a rifle and dragged him into the container. Padgett was found armed with a handgun when deputies arrived to arrest him and charge him with kidnapping, elder abuse, assault with a deadly weapon and more. Padgett was booked into jail and is being held in lieu of a \$100,000 bond.

Firefighters are mopping up a fire that started near Covelo yesterday afternoon. A wildfire was reported in a situational awareness alert on Nixle on Barnes Lane. KymKemp reports the Barnes Fire burning at the north end of Round Valley was reportedly contained within an hour. In another fire reported near the Mendocino/Humboldt County line firefighters worked to contain a fire in the Cook Valley area starting just after 6pm last night. Air resources were called into the fire with other equipment and it was burning about a quarter acre. In about 90 minutes the fire was reported under control as crew began mopping up just after 7:39pm.

A woman is alleging the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office mistreated her during an arrest last week in Mendocino. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports Kelli Johnson spoke to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors during a public comment session Tuesday. She says she was arrested walking to the beach with a glass of water that she says authorities smashed into the street before she was pushed into the back of a police car. Johnson says she was forced to urinate in the police car when she asked to get to a restroom, claiming she was experiencing a bladder infection. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports she was arrested on September 5th after getting a call of someone causing a disturbance. She was arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct and public intoxication and could not comment further due to pending litigation.

In a meeting in the village of Mendocino this week, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors heard from residents. During the public comment session, the board heard how they'd like more visits, representation and services. Some are asking that they include Mendocino Village and Fort Bragg who bring in a large portion of taxes and revenues for the county. Residents from unincorporated areas of the county say they lack a garbage collection service and a water source. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the board plans to hold more meetings in the coastal area more often. Illicit marijuana grows were discussed in the Covelo area.

Lake County is announcing a change in leadership at the Health Services Department. The Chair of the Lake County Board of Directors issued a release saying they terminated Jonathan Portney as Health Services Director at their meeting this week. There was no comment on the details of the termination. The board appointed current County Administrative Officer, Susan Parker as the Interim Health Services Director. The board will begin recruiting for the position of Director. Dr. Noemi Doohan was sworn in as Public Health Officer Tuesday and is working to get acquainted with the staff and county programs.

Sheet1

The Noyo Harbor Blue Economy Visioning, Resiliency and Implementation Plan is slated to begin soon. The City of Fort Bragg, the California Sea Grant and California Coastal Commission are funding the plan, according to a release in MendoFever. It's part of a regional effort of the Noyo Ocean Collective to put the coastal area in a blue economy investment position. The aim is to support the fishing industry with local heritage and create new industries to address environmental, social and economic issues. The group is putting together an engagement plan for the public and more with an outline of the project.

Legislation is approved and headed to the Governor's desk that would help wheelchair users get their own equipment repaired. Lake County News reports the bill would eliminate manufacturer delays and reduce costs to California's immobilized population. The bill was brought by Senator Dodd who says it stops manufacturers from imposing repair restrictions. SB 271 would help streamline the process for wheelchair users to get them repaired. The legislation aims to make it easier for small businesses and more to repair wheel and power chairs including restrictive software giving owners more access and control over their equipment.

The Jackson Advisory Group is meeting Friday, September 15th in Fort Bragg. They plan to go over future plans at the Jackson Demonstration State Forest. The traveling meeting is scheduled from 9am to 12:30pm, starting off at the First Presbyterian Church on South Sanderson Way. The Coalition to Save Jackson Demonstration State Forest issued a release, anticipating a large group of forest advocates and the public is expected to attend. CalFire is asking JAG to approve a Scope of Work for a new forest Management Plan. The group says CalFire has left out an environmental review of the new management plan, ignoring some considerations and is ending a pause in logging. A facilitator hired to run the advisory meetings recently quit, saying the current process is not truly collaborative. An officer with the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians is planning to be there and express frustration with CalFire's lack of response to the Tribe's efforts in co-management.

Middletown Unified School District is moving sixth grade from elementary schools to middle schools, starting next year. The Record Bee reports part of the reasoning includes new state requirements for public schools to offer transitional kindergarten. At the end of the current school year, elementary schools will hold a step-up rally for both fifth and sixth graders to celebrate their graduation from elementary school as they head to middle school. In the Fall of 2024 sixth graders will go to the middle school campus but with specially tailored schedules for an easier transition. The sixth graders will have access to elective courses and the opportunity to join school sports teams.

US Representative Jared Huffman and Senator Alex Padilla sent a letter to US Attorney General Garland calling for the DOJ to put dedicated personnel in California as part of their Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women and People Regional Outreach Program. In a release issued in KymKemp, Huffman says they recently established an MMIP program to put lawyers and coordinators in 10 states to help in the prevention and response but excluded California. The Golden State has the largest population of Native Americans in the country. Huffman and Padilla are asking for dedicated support in the US Attorney's Offices in the state. The two legislators have called for the Governmental Accountability Office to examine tribal criminal justice.

Sheet1

The California Legislature approved a ban on forever chemicals, or PFAS, used in the manufacturing of artificial turf. AB 1423 is headed to the Governor, and would take effect on January 1st, 2026. Artificial turf has recently been shown to expose athletes in dust from the PFAS used in its production. Lake County News reports as sports fields' age they give off small particles of the chemicals which can be inhaled or ingested and released into the environment. Those PFAS can remain in the air, water and soil indefinitely. Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont have also introduced bills to regulate PFAS in turf, California would be the first to approve a ban.

September is National Preparedness Month. Cal Fire and other emergency responders have a way to create a basic emergency go bag. MendoVoice reports it's important to be prepared to respond to emergency situations quickly, including evacuations. Wildfires, earthquakes, floods and more are just some catastrophic situations that you should be prepared for. Medical supplies and medications, copies of insurance and ID paperwork, a light source and emergency radio are some of the vital ingredients of your go-bag. Authorities recommend you have a three day supply of water and food and blankets. The publication has an emergency guide as well as tips on how to stay alert to local warnings.

The Ukiah homeless shelter has improved staffing levels over the last half year. The Ukiah Planning Commission heard from the facility manager during their meeting on Wednesday. The Building Bridges Homeless Resource Center had been having a hard time hiring personnel, especially after COVID related funding was significantly decreased, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. Redwood Community Services who operates the shelter, was able to permanently house 56 people and are seeing growing opportunities to continue. The commission awarded a contract to operate a
09/15/2023 emergency homeless shelter in Lake County.

The Mendocino County Cannabis Department is announcing approvals can be made via DocuSign. The department says immediately all applicants and agents are encouraged to use the software for permit approval and more. The department also noted phase 3 applicants may have some tax issues to deal with. They may be taxed without having the chance to grow yet. The department noted tax appeals can be filed as they verify license status. As the department works to streamline policy and procedure, they've announced a workshop on September 19th from 9am to noon. The streamline workshop will be held at the UC Coop Extension Conference Room in Ukiah. The meeting will also be available virtually.

In Clearlake, the Lake Transit Authority is hearing about issues with Google Maps not synching with public transportation. During their meeting Wednesday, the group heard updates from Lake Links and Paratransit Services on ride programs. Riders spoke during public comment that public transportation doesn't work with Google Maps, leading people to wait for buses that don't arrive. The Record Bee reports the program manager says Google's system takes days to update. They say the Transit app is most accurate. Paratransit Services says there's been an influx in riders and they are working to repair buses by next month. The Lake Links program is recruiting volunteers with six new drivers this week to help take seniors where they need to go.

Sheet1

Firecrs are mopping up a fire in Redwood Valley. MendoFever reports at around 7pm last night a refrigerator in a home on Road D went up in flames. Last night, six engines and three water tenders were at the fire working to put the flames out. By 8:30 firefighting crews were pivoting to wildland surrounding the home. Dubbed the Kitchen Fire, the blaze could be seen from the Redwood Valley AlertCalifornia cameras with heavy smoke and flames visible after 9:30pm. Just before 10pm, reports indicate the Incident Commander said crews were mopping up and could be there through this morning.

Legislation to modernize California's behavioral health care system has passed. Yesterday, the bills to fund billions for new behavioral health housing, accountability and transparency will now be apart of the March 2024 vote. Governor Newsom says the work represents a key part of solutions to the homelessness crisis and increases mental health for kids and families. Lake County News reports SB 326 modernizes the Mental Health Services Act. Priorities are aimed at those dealing with addiction, the most serious mental illness and invests in veterans. AB531 ads over \$6 billion to develop thousands of new treatment beds and housing units to help more than 100,000 people. The Governor has until October 14th to sign the legislation with a bond will be presented to voters next spring.

The California Public Utilities Commission says power bills for PG&E customers will be going up. The utility says it needs more money to reduce fire risk. Two proposals by the commission were released which would average about \$25 bucks more a month for an average residential customer. That would bump PG&E's revenue by 13%. PG&E asked for the money to bury 2100 miles of power lines.

The Fort Bragg City Council Meeting is creating a California Sea Grant Fellowship position in city hall. The position would help the city with the Blue Economy, focusing on Noyo Harbor. The fellow with an advanced degree will also support engagement and help writing the Blue Economy Plan draft. The Advocate News reports during their meeting on Tuesday, the council also approved a design for Bainbridge Park. They'd like to see a multi-use pavilion, fenced soccer fields, a camera system and surfacing the playground area among other projects. They expect the design to be finished by June of next year, with construction beginning in August of 2024.

There is more news coming from the Mendocino Board of Supervisors meeting this week, held in the Village of Mendocino. MendoVoice reports on Tuesday, the board voted to grant a one-year extension to allow tents and outdoor seating. During that time, the board will design a policy for code enforcement including water use. Residents and board members expressed their support for the continued expanded spaces. The only issue may be with the Mendocino Historical Review Board. While they work on the code, the board says restaurants should apply for permits so that they can know ahead of time how the code will be written and work with the county. The board is concerned about water use saying applicants must demonstrate there is adequate water for operations.

Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is applying for a state grant to retrofit community centers to help in relief efforts during emergencies. The Record Bee reports the county is looking for a half a million dollar grant to help build up Resiliency Centers. The California Strategic Growth Council and California Department of Conservation are overseeing the funding. Senate Bill 155 and Assembly Bill 211 were passed and ensure the Community Rehab Center programs work in collaboration with community organizations and residents. The county would like to see funds to build up the Fairgrounds as a possible center for the community that would have helped in last winter's extreme frigid temperatures.

The Pudding Creek Bridge project is halfway done. During last week's overnight closures a Caltrans spokesperson says they installed 16 concrete beams on pier caps on the east and west sides of the bridge. The Advocate News reports there are no further overnight closures planned. Railings depicting salmon are in place on the west side. Now, the city's waterline will be attached to the bridge. There may be some one-way traffic as they work on that part of the project.

A lakefront Lake County wine estate is up for sale. The 163 acres property is being sold for \$21 million by Jim Fetzer. Realtors say the property is like an estate in Lake Como in Italy. Sotheby's listed the property last Tuesday and immediately began seeing significant interest. The Press Democrat reports the property on Clearlake has mountain views, an expansive vineyard, private beach and a ranch home. 10 acres are dedicated to the wine grapes including cabernet sauvignon, sauvignon blanc, syrah, chardonnay and more. The winery has been known to use biodynamic farming, making about 2 million cases of wine annually.

Sea Lions along the north coast are suffering from leptospirosis. The bacterial infection is attacking the mammals along the coast in an unusually late time of year. KymKemp reports the Northcoast Marine Mammal Center is rescuing sea lions and is urging people to stay away from any sea lions they encounter on the beach. The virus is contagious to people and pets. Dogs have been known to get leptospirosis which can be devastating. The virus attacks the kidneys, leaving mammals in need of antibiotics and extensive hydration. People should stay at least 50 yards away from marine mammals, as directed by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. A spokesperson with the center says people should call the center with the exact location of an animal on the beach looks lethargic, and should keep a long distance.

On the heels of announcing the Middletown Unified School District is moving sixth graders to their middle schools, the district is also announcing a change for the superintendent. Thad Owens is being reassigned to another position. Lake County News reports during the board meeting on Wednesday, they decided to end Owen's contract and move him into an administrative position immediately. The board voted unanimously on the action and also to appoint David Miller as interim superintendent with plans to draw up a contract in their next meeting. It will be Miller's third appointment to the interim position of superintendent. The army veteran has filled several positions within the schools and also acted as the director of alternative education for Konocti Unified School District and more.

Sheet1

California has the highest level of poverty in the United States. The Census Bureau released the new information this week. CalMatters reports the nationwide poverty rate is 11.5 percent, with the Golden State having 11.4 percent of the population below the poverty line. A more complex but accurate supplemental rate includes living costs and other factors that places California over a third higher than the national rate at over 13 percent. The state's cost of living and utilities add fuel to the fire as officials estimate the state is on track to continue to have the highest poverty rates.

The California legislature voted to allow the state to buy huge amounts of power in hopes of preventing future blackouts. The state's power supply purchase will also help to jumpstart the offshore wind industry. The Press Democrat reports taxpayers will foot the bill in a surcharge in utility bills, when the offshore wind supply gets up and running in several years. To meet the state's own mandate to require electricity to come from renewable or non-carbon sources by 2045, the investment now is needed. Advocates for the bill say the move is the most efficient way to control costs. The Department of Water Resources will be given the power to purchase energy through 2035. Opponents of the bill say residents' utility rates will negatively impact the economy.

09/18/2023 People in Cobb are rattled after a 4.6 earthquake hit an area northwest of the Geysers at around 11:20pm last night according to MendoVoice. The USGS reports an aftershock registering at 3.1 magnitude at 6:20am this morning. There are over 55 people who are reporting they felt the quake according to the USGS. The shallow quake registered at nearly a mile deep. There were people around Clearlake who felt the light shaking.

immuno-compromised or have other health conditions should seriously consider getting the latest shot. As COVID rates are increasing in NorCal and the nation health experts say get vaccinated as soon as you can. Both Moderna and Pfizer have the vaccines, and doctors say you don't have to stick with one manufacturer. The shot appears to produce a good immune response against 90 percent of current strains, and even covers the divergent strain worrying some, called BA2.86. You can get the flu shot, the COVID booster and even the RSV vaccine, but officials say you may want to get them at separate times to minimize any side effects.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is warning residents of a phone scam where people are pretending to be from the department. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports a scammer will call and say they are with the Sheriff's Office and ask for payments of fines. The office says one example is someone claiming to be a captain. The Sheriff's Office is reminding people they will never call asking for payment, nor does the office accept gift cards or online payment apps. If someone is contacted, please fall the Mendocino County Sheriff's office to report the call.

Sheet1

The third annual regional economic development summit in Ukiah is this Thursday and Friday. The group including the Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance, the Redwood Coast Region and more are getting together at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center. The theme of the meeting aims to include four counties via the State of the Redwood Coast Region. Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and Mendocino Counties and tribal lands will be included in the regional opportunity to grow local economies. Thursday begins the summit and the agenda includes growing rural counties and attract businesses with a speech from banking professionals. Ukiah will host a reception at 5:30 with food and craft vendors on Church Street. The group plans to focus on how smaller communities can work together to make themselves more resilient to natural disasters. Friday, the summit will discuss housing and industry.

Tomorrow is National Voter Registration Day. Residents can register to vote online at [registertovote dot ca dot gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov). Lake County News reports you can also register if you are a Lake County resident at the Registrar of Voters office in Lakeport. Registration forms are also available at all county libraries and post offices. Students aged 16 and 17 can preregister to vote, so as they turn 18, they'll be able to participate in the next election.

The State of California is suing oil companies saying they misled the public about risks of their products. Attorney General Rob Bonta says the harm of tens of billions of dollars in damage to communities follows years of deceit. The state is seeking an abatement fund to pay for future climate-related damages and community resilience projects. The Press Democrat reports Exxon Mobile, Shell, BP, Conoco Philips and Chevron are the defendants in the case along with their industry trade group. The suit alleges the companies launched a narrative to downplay climate change and says misdirection exists today that minimizes the effects of fossil fuel combustion.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is meeting tomorrow morning to discuss approving the new fiscal year budget. Budget appropriations for the 2023-2024 budget come out to over \$383 million. Lake County News reports the board will designate September 22nd as Native American Day. The board plans to authorize the Lake Water Resources Director to apply for a state Water Resources Flood System Repair project for work on the Upper Lake Levee system and more. In closed session the board plans to interviews for the chief public defender position as well as interviews for the Interim Health Services Director.

Ukiah Police are investigating a fatal crash near Todd Grove Park yesterday. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports a white sedan crashed into a redwood tree at the Ukiah Valley Golf Course on Park Boulevard yesterday around 5:30pm. There were reportedly many witnesses in the crowded park who say they heard the vehicle speeding. One man was taken to a nearby hospital with injuries, while another man died at the scene.

Sheet1

It's open-enrollment season for most health-care plans, meaning within the next month and a half, you can make changes to your health plan. Open enrollment starts today for more than 5 million public employees in California. California News Service reports People with employer-sponsored health plans should check the plan's website for important dates. The Medicare Open Enrollment Period runs from October 15th through December 7th. Open enrollment for people on the state's marketplace for health plans, Covered California, runs November 1st through January 31st, but you have to sign up by the end of December for coverage to start January first.

The Lake County Emergency Warnings posted an update on social media on COVID cases in the area. Over the last week, test positivity has been nearly 19 percent. Health care providers are urging residents to get over the counter self tests to confirm if you've got the virus, and they are asking you report your result to the Lake County Public Health Department. The most recent COVID boosters are still making it to market, but should be available within a few weeks.

CHP is investigating a sideshow of 200-300 cars near Covelo over the weekend. State Route 162 and Howard Street was the intersection filled with people racing and showing off their cars on Friday night. MendoFever reports deputies from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office worked with CHP and Tribal Police to break up the gathering.

Representative Jared Huffman is spreading the word on the "Held Our Kelp Act." IN a release in KymKemp, Huffman says "local communities are working hard to restore vital ecosystems but climate change and an epidemic of kelp eating urchins have created a perfect storm," and he's asking for an all hands on deck approach. The act would create a new grant program to fund conservation, restoration and management work. The legislation would look at the greatest regional declines, long term resilience and identify focal recovery areas by Tribal, federal or state management plans. Finally the "Help Our Kelp Act" would authorize \$5 million per year through 2028.

Ukiah solar power customers are frustrated with the city's billing system. Some are paying thousands of dollars in unpaid city energy bills, only to have the city pay them back for excess power generated. MendoFever reports Ukiah operates Mendocino County's only customer owned utility with membership in the non-profit Northern California Power Agency. With 100 solar-equipped homes in Ukiah, they're supposed to save over \$1,500 annually or nearly \$30,000 over 20 years. City officials say a software glitch is to blame but that customers should still be billed for electricity due to weather or solar panel size and performance. Solar installation companies may also contribute to the confusion but officials say a zero bill is not a certainty. While they work on billing fixes including regulatory fees the city is hoping for a resolution down the road.

Sheet1

A hunter is healing from injuries after a feral pig attacked him in Lake County. It happened Friday before noon around Middletown's Langtry Farms Vineyard. Friends of the hunter tried to move the injured man to the winery, but ended up requesting an air ambulance. MendoFever reports first responders were acting fast to get the hunter to the Middletown Fire Station to meet the medivac copter. The Scanner Lake County Facebook page first reported the incident on Friday.

The Lakeport City Council is meeting tomorrow evening at 6pm. The Assistant City Manager will ask the council for a grant administration for the Adams Asby Group to help the city with state and federal grants including the Community Development Block Grant. During the meeting, Lake County News reports there will be a resolution requested by the Public Works Director to revise parking zones. The council will also consider accepting and approving the Clear Lake Open Bass Tournament and approve the CLHS Homecoming Parade.

that the mussels ARE present in the south Bay Area, where they cause enormous damage to watercraft, water infrastructure, and wildlife habitat. To discover ways to keep our area free of these mussels the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District will be hosting a free event at Low Gap Park this Saturday from 8:30-12, during the Russian River Clean-up day.

09/19/2023

(2)If you're someone who would like to make an immediate improvement to the environment and have fun while doing it, you can come join the annual Ukiah Valley Russian River Cleanup, held on Coastal Cleanup Day, Saturday, this Saturday from 8:30am to Noon. Volunteers will gather for a safety talk and to divide into teams. Come early at 8:30 to sign in and get a cup of coffee donated by Black Oak Coffee Roasters. Bring a water bottle, sturdy shoes, and work gloves. No flip-flops! The event is co-sponsored by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County Water Agency, and Redwood Waste Solutions, along with numerous local partners including the City of Ukiah and Black Oak Coffee Roasters.

The Mendocino Cannabis Department accepted Local Equity Entrepreneur Program (LEEP) direct grant applications earlier this year. Now, after the release of approximately \$4 million in LEEP direct grant and waiver funds to equity applicants, MCD announced that the program would be paused. But this month, MCD was able to restart the processing of LEEP direct grant applications already in waiting. The County's deadline for distribution of LEEP funds is October 31, 2023. The MCD requested an extension of this deadline which was not approved. Right now, approximately \$1 million in funding remains available for distribution through the direct grant program. MCD has already begun processing applications to maximize the amount of funding the County is able to release prior to the grant deadline at the end of next month.

Sheet1

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The Lake County Department of Public Works will have a public meeting on the development of a Soda Bay Corridor Evacuation Plan next Monday, the 25th from 4:30 to 7:30 pm at the Rivera Heights Homeowners Association clubhouse. The department will have staff available with resources and information, and also partner with the Konocti Fire Safe Council. The event is part of the California Fire Safe Council grant-funded plan. The Soda Bay Corridor has three main roads serving primary evacuation routes. Residents are encouraged to get all the details with feedback encouraged.

Be sure to mark your calendar for tomorrow and Thursday for the annual Veterans Stand Down, hosted by the Lake County Vet Connect members. It's an outreach event for local veterans and active military personnel who might benefit from Veterans' resources. Both days, resources will include a significant amount of Veterans services like VetWorks, disability services, DMV, housing and homeless assistance, behavioral health, substance abuse counseling, employment assistance, advance care planning, child support assistance and much more. The Stand Down runs from 9am to 4pm each day. Everything will take place at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Martin Street in Lakeport. Lunch will be served by Vet Connect volunteers.

This past weekend the Mercantile in Lakeport was the scene for the Lake County Wine Alliance as they held their 22nd annual Wine Auction. It has become an extremely popular and effective event, with the live auction alone this weekend raising over \$100,000 which will go to an extensive list of beneficiaries. The event was hosted by Clay and Angie Shannon the Shannon Family of Wines. Jennifer Strong of Strong Financial was the emcee for the evening. She was accompanied by volunteer auctioneer Brian Rose and the Lake County Chamber of Commerce Director Laura McAndrews Sammel. Funds raised by this event over the years so far have approached \$3 million dollars.

Sheet1

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09/20/2023

If you are a hunter, you are certainly aware that general deer hunting season has now begun for the B zone in the Mendocino National Forest. Forest officials remind hunters that most public land within Mendocino National Forest is open to hunting. However, the Sheet Iron Mountain State Game Refuge is north of Snow Mountain Wilderness. Some of the trails and campgrounds are still closed due to that Slide Fire earlier this season. Information about the 2023 California Deer Hunt Zones is available on the CDFW website. The Mendocino National Forest falls within parts of the A, B1, B2, B3 and B5 deer zones. If you do hunt, remember to make sure you have the appropriate deer tag for the deer zone in which you are hunting.

Don't forget that this Saturday is the annual Ukiah Valley Russian River Cleanup. It is held on Coastal Cleanup Day and runs from 8:30am to Noon. It's a chance for you to make a difference by coming out to pick up trash in our tributaries before it enters the Russian River this winter. They will be handing out free T-shirts from Russian Riverkeeper. Bring a water bottle, sturdy shoes, and work gloves. They strongly discourage flip-flops! Meet at Low Gap Park at 8:30 AM to grab coffee from Black Oak Coffee Roasters and some snacks before dividing into groups and heading out to locations around Ukiah. The event is co-sponsored by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County Water Agency, and Redwood Waste Solutions, along with numerous local partners including the City of Ukiah and Black Oak Coffee Roasters.

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October is just around the corner and early in the month, Ukiah Regional Airport will be

That red flag warning signaling a high risk for fire danger continues today until 5pm. The warning reminds us that we're experiencing some very poor air quality conditions and is in effect for the North Bay interior mountains, including the Sonoma and Napa counties. Humidity will be dropping very low as well and that, of course, increases fire danger.

09/21/2023

A Fort Bragg man was arrested earlier this week after allegedly beating a 72-year-old man and locking him in a shipping container. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office says 42-year-old James Padgett was arrested after officers found the man whom Padgett had allegedly beaten in the container at his home. He was described as having traumatic injuries all over his body. He said Padgett had used a lever-action rifle to beat him with before dragging him into the shipping container and locking him in. Padgett has been charged with suspicion of kidnapping, false imprisonment, elder abuse, assault with a deadly weapon and intimidating a witness. He is now locked in another type of container, a jail cell, in Mendocino County.

Pacific Gas and Electric says that today we are still under a watch for a PSPS. That's :

The homeless shelter in Lake County remains in operation for homeless residents and those needing accommodation during harsh weather. This, is in spite of the fact that there are very few staff. Elsie Jones, Lake County Behavioral Health director, says that Sunrise Special Services is helping carry out operations at the shelter in the old juvenile hall until an agreement can be come up with. As of now, four proposals have been received and the negotiations are continuing. One of those is from the nonprofit Redwood Community Services. Redwood is based in Mendocino County but also serves Lake and Humboldt Counties as well.

Sheet1

A significant amount of money has been received to improve access to food during disasters. The University of California Cooperative Extension advisors have recently received \$1.5 million from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Regional Food Systems Partnership Program as well as matching contributions from local government, nonprofits and foundations. They plan to create a California North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership across six counties over the next three years. Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa and Marin counties will all benefit and be able to strengthen local and regional food systems and build community resilience. In recent years, Mendocino County and the Northern Coast have experienced catastrophic wildfires, floods, landslides, drought, earthquakes, and the pandemic, all of which have put increasing pressure on local producers, the local/regional food system, and emergency food aid. These new monies will help in a significant way.

The Ukiah City Council is going to move forward with some much-needed repairs to the Orr Street Bridge. During the City Council meeting this week a set of plans from back in 2019 was brought. Those plans were previously approved but never acted on. The bridge is in very bad condition and some were questioning exactly what the bridge will be used for. An interim fix has received a couple of bids for the project. The council approved awarding the contract to Gregg Simpson Trucking for just under \$230 thousand to replace the decking on the Orr Street Bridge. Debate 09/22/2023 continues on whether to allow traffic on it again at some point.

A Ukiah High School senior is among those named as semifinalists in the 69th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Elizabeth Lu is one of the academically talented high schoolers who now have a chance to compete for over 7,000 National Merit Scholarships worth around \$28 million. You've heard the phrase 'one in a million', well Elizabeth was among 1.3 million high school juniors who entered the program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It's a nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, with each state's high-scoring entrants. We wish Elizabeth good luck!

It's opening weekend for Ukiah Symphony Orchestra. Tomorrow is the opening concert

Mark your calendar for the 2023 Ukiah Country PumpkinFest – it will be held on Saturday

[The Arts Council of Mendocino County recently announced a Get Arts in the Schools F](#)

Here's your chance to meet someone who was, literally, out of this world. Astronaut Nicole Mann, who was the first Native American woman to launch into space, is scheduled to visit Covelo tomorrow. The Round Valley Indian Tribes sent out a release that Colonel Mann was Commander of NASA's SpaceX Crew 5 and she will be featured in tomorrow's parade which is part of the planned Indian Days festivities in Covelo this weekend. She will be speaking in the Hidden Oak Amphitheater at 2 tomorrow afternoon. Everyone is welcome to enjoy all the festivities at the Hidden Oaks Park rodeo grounds on Covelo Road.

[This weekend Covelo is the place for the Indian Days festivities. A press release states:](#)

Grab your bait and poles this weekend and join the crowd at Clear Lake. Even though the next major tournament on the lake won't be held until October, the perfect weather will bring out the fishermen. Although the fishing rating is not great right now, anglers are just happy to get out and cast a few lines. Clear Lake has a lot of baitfish, so many that some fishermen may notice the fish don't strike the lures. There are some species of fish that are credited with making Clear Lake one of the top bass fisheries in the country. The abundant bait fish is a reason the bass, crappie, bluegill and catfish populations are so high. Remember that a bad day fishing is still better than a good day doing just about anything else.

California Highway Patrol reports a hit-and-run just south of the Richardson Grove State Park on US-101. According to witness accounts a man was standing on the side of the road waiting for a family member when a Toyota Tundra, being driven by Earl Castillo hit the pedestrian and then failed to stop at the scene. CHP showed up, took information and tracked down Castillo who was determined to be driving under the influence. He was arrested and sent to the Humboldt County Jail. The California Highway Patrol Garberville Area is conducting follow-up and ask if anyone observed the actual crash or the Toyota fleeing the scene to please call the CHP.

Sheet1

The Fort Bragg City Council is meeting today at 6pm. In their agenda is a proclamation of the first week of October as Banned Books Week. The council will execute an agreement with Mendocino Coast Adventist Hospital to participate in their Charitable Drug Program. The council is expected to approve work for the Fire Station Reconstruction Project. Also, they'll hear from the Ad Hoc Culture and Education Committee on the Fort Building project to build a Tribal Learning and Resource Center. And in closed session the council will hear a staff report on the City Manager Position.

09/25/2023

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is searching for a murderer. Early yesterday morning, deputies were called to a reported physical assault in Point Arena. Apparently, a family member called to say a man had been assaulted while at a bar in the city. Authorities found a man who was the victim of a homicide on Ten Mile Cut Off Road. The California Department of Justice is working with the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney throughout the Point Arena Area, and some areas may still be closed off as they investigate Ten Mile Cut Off from Schooner Gulch to Iverson Roads. Anyone with information is asked to call the sheriff's office.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is investigating a fatal kayak accident south of Russian Gulch State Park. Sunday afternoon a father and son from Ukiah took a trip with their kayaks to the coast. A wave capsized one of the kayaks, drowning the father. The son was able to make it out of the water. The father's body was taken to Russian Gulch Beach using a boat carrying first responders. KymKemp reports State Parks lifeguards and Adventist Health nurses were the first to get to the overturned kayak.

Officials are investigating a 4 acre fire near the railroad tracks on Ford Road. The Factory Fire began Saturday afternoon and was reportedly burning to the east nearing the Russian River. A Nixle alert around 5:40pm urged residents in Ukiah near Masonite and Ford Roads to avoid the area. Gusty winds were fueling the fire as crews began containment and watched for hot spots. MendoFever reports within a few hours by about 8pm, forward progress was stopped. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, Cal Fire, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and more were on scene as they halted the vegetation fire.

Governor Newsom's veto of a bill is shocking safety advocates. On Friday, the governor said more regulation of autonomous trucks is unnecessary because existing laws are sufficient, according to the Press Democrat. He vetoed a bill requiring a human be on board a self driving vehicle. Union leaders say the human requirement would have saved hundreds of thousands of jobs in California. Opponents of the bill say self driving cars haven't caused many serious accidents and businesses say autonomous trucks would help them transport products. The Office of Business and Economic Development says the bill would've pushed the technology out of the state.

Authorities are investigating a 3 vehicle crash south of Hopland. MendoFever reports two cars crashed into a semi close to the Green Bridge. Highway 101 was closed for a while following what turned out to be major injuries from the accident. CHP reports it happened around 1:30am when the collision was blocked all lanes on the Green Bridge. Two patients had major injuries, while another couple of patients had moderate injuries. It took over 2 hours to clear the scene and open the bridge with the help from a tow truck that freed one passenger.

Sheet 1

A town hall is scheduled for this Wednesday to discuss homelessness and the mental illness crisis in Lake County. September 27th the meeting will run from 6 to 8pm at the Soper Reese Theatre in Lakeport. The Police Chief, City Manager, Behavioral Health Director and more county officials will be on hand for the event. Lake County News reports the agenda includes legislative changes to criminal justice laws and constraints rural agencies face. The group will plan for a crisis responder program by Lakeport Police and the Lake Family Resource Center with grant funds. There will be a live stream of the event, available on channel 8. Congressman Mike Thompson is reportedly planning on attending.

Authorities from both Lake and Mendocino Counties are investigating a fatal accident. Saturday morning a car reportedly drove over the edge of a trail on Cow Mountain and dropped 100 yards down. Emergency responders were sent to the intersection of Scott's Creek Road and Trail 17 over 2 miles south of the new bridge. A medivac copter was sent to search the area for any survivors. MendoFever reports emergency responders and authorities were making their way down the mountain to the crash site. Just after noon Saturday, CHP's copter was called in to help recover the victim's body.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating a couple of overdoses at the annual Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show in Boonville over the weekend. The Mendocino County Sheriff confirmed one of the two overdoses happened Friday. One person was revived with Narcan and CPR and taken to the hospital. A couple of hours later, a second person overdosed, and sadly passed away. Sheriff Kendall met with the manager of the fair and also met with the owner of the carnival company. The two workers did not operate rides but they were re-inspected before being able to continue working throughout the weekend. According to KymKemp, the two overdoses happened where carnival workers set up temporary homes while working.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is searching for an alleged murderer. Officials are looking for Jesse James Connolly out of Redwood Valley for a murder in Hopland in July. Connolly is suspected of shooting Joel Ramos in the Hopland Rancheria and was charged with felony attempted murder. MendoFever reports there are several warrants out for Connolly who is also reportedly involved with other felonies and a misdemeanor.

California's medical aid-in-dying law is back in court. Three patients with disabilities and two doctors are asking to intervene in a lawsuit challenging the law, and they want the judge to dismiss the suit. In April, a coalition of disability rights groups and people with disabilities sued to stop the End of Life Option Act, claiming it is discriminatory and "coerces" people with disabilities into using medical aid in dying. The California News Service reports California is one of ten states, plus Washington, DC, that allow doctors to prescribe medication that would allow mentally capable, terminally ill adults to peacefully end their suffering if they choose to take it.

The Mendocino County General Services Agency is publishing their Monthly Operational Update. Last year, the county upgraded all facilities and infrastructure to Sonoma Clean Power's 100 percent renewable service called Evergreen. The Agency is starting an energy conservation and sustainable practice campaign. They plan to meet on site with several projects to go over sustainable practices like energy conservation, organic waste recycling and more. Mendocino County is also moving to electrify all fleet vehicles to reduce fuel and the overall carbon footprint. Currently, the county fleet is 293 vehicles, and will continue to downsize and switch over to electric vehicles.

Sheet1

Highway 101 on the border of Mendocino and Humboldt Counties is back open after closing yesterday morning. CHP reports there was a crash just after 6am Sunday morning involving a big rig that overturned in the north lane of the highway, hurting someone and spilling the truck's cargo across the road. Hazardous material technicians were dispatched to clean up the scene. By 9am yesterday morning, MendoFever reports Highway 101 was opened to one-way traffic north of Leggett.

A Ukiah woman will spend up to 96 months in prison for assaulting a peace officer with a deadly weapon. Rachael Seiverston was sentenced last week in Mendocino County Superior Court. Sievertson's sentence includes two sentencing allegations using a rock to inflict injury on a Ukiah Police Officer and also had a prior Strike conviction in 2021 in the same court for resisting police by violence. In 2019 she was convicted of felony vandalism and resisting arrest causing \$20,000 in damage to fire trucks and equipment at the Hopland Fire Station.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is meeting this morning at 9am in Lakeport. The Public Works Director informed the board earlier this month that the State Water Resources Control Board issued a draft emergency order with notice of public comment and more. Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-5-23 gives California the authority to require every water right holder in the Clear Lake Watershed to submit reports of water usage including location, extraction volumes, frequency and other information in the state's efforts to protect the Clear Lake hitch. The board also plans to hear a presentation summarizing spawning this year from the Lake County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee. There will be two public workshops in October 09/26/2023 for the public to comment on the order.

During the Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting this morning, the Board plans to hear a presentation by North Coast Opportunities on the Lake County Home Hardening Program, according to Lake County News. During the meeting they plan to authorize an agreement with the California Cannabis Authority. Approval is expected for a bid on the Chalk Mountain Bridge Replacement Project for over \$6 million. A public hearing continued from last week will be considered regarding ag-exempt and temporary cannabis structures and more.

The United Disaster Relief of Northern California is planning a \$40K in 40 Days Fundraiser in Ukiah with a matching donation of \$20,000 from Stand For Kindness for the campaign. The organization helps residents with immediate and long-term assistance to those affected by both man-made and natural disasters with resources and information. The Fall Fundraiser is aimed at getting funds for winter months and is entirely virtual. Anyone can contribute at UDRNC.org. Stand For Kindness is based in Ukiah and has been helping fire survivors since 2017. In the six years of its work tens of thousands of people impacted by disasters have been helped.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is releasing an update to a murder investigation. On Sunday Jesus Joel Romero was found dead in Point Arena. Authorities named Antonio Coria Garcia as a suspect in the homicide and arrested him. Authorities were called by Garcia and he was booked into jail for fatally shooting Romero. Early Sunday morning, a family member of the victim called the Sheriff's Office to report Romero had been physically assaulted at a bar in Point Arena. Deputies found his body on Ten Mile Cut Off Road. There is a second person of interest the Sheriff's Office is looking into. The California Department of Justice along with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is continuing the investigation into the incident.

Sheet1

CalFire has a new statewide program to train people in defensible space and home hardening. They'll be working with local and state agencies, academic staff and other organizations in the Defensible Space Assessment Program. The training will help educate property owners about wildfire safety improvements to structures and helping residents and businesses harden spaces to be more wildfire resilient. The California Conservation Corps will host training for its members and staff this Fall. The CCC will then start assessments on state facilities in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The group will also conduct vegetation reduction projects. Those who are trained can then help homeowners reduce fire risk and ensure defensible space requirements.

There is pending legislation to expand the Lake Berryessa National Monument. The Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland along with BLM and US Forest Service leaders met over the weekend to discuss the expansion to include Condor Ridge, or Molok Luyuk and work with Tribes in the management of the area. The monument was established in 2015 to protect the biodiversity and protect essential habitat for fish and wildlife. The Bureau of Land Management has created a new Tribal Liaison position in the state to collaborate with area Tribes. MendoFever reports the visit helped federal and state leaders understand a vision for conserving the natural and cultural resources in the area.

Governor Newsom is announcing legislation that strengthens protections and supports Californians in the LGBTQ+ community. AB 5 sets timelines for cultural competency training by public school teachers and staff. Lake County News reports Newsom also signed SB 857 that creates an advisory task force to help LGBTQ+ student needs and help with support. AB 223 also was signed by Newsom that requires any petition for a change of gender and sex identifier by a minor be kept confidential. A host of other bills were signed by the governor including the Safe and Supportive Schools Act and Foster care resources, school facilities all-gender restrooms and more.

CHP is releasing an update to the fatal crash off of Cow Mountain. On Sunday morning CHP responded to the Clear Lake Area to a crash on Trail 17 near Scotts Creek Road in the Cow Mountain Recreation Area. A Toyota SUV was headed north on Trail 17 when it veered off the road and flipped down the mountain multiple times. The driver, a 64 year old man was thrown from the truck and pronounced dead at the scene. Alcohol and drugs are not suspected in the accident. CHP continues to investigate.

The City of Lakeport is looking to fill positions on the commission or in committees. Lake County News reports the city is looking for applicants for the Lakeport Fire Protection District Board, the Vector Control District board and Economic Development Advisory Committee. The positions would begin January 1st of 2024. There will be a special meeting where appointments will be formally made in early November.

The first tribal-nominated marine sanctuary designation in the country is being announced this month. Tribes are negotiating a partnership that includes 80 national parks including Point Reyes. The Bay Area News Group reports the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria are working with park management to help solve the issue of the tule elk reserve. Strategies include removing a two mile long fence to give elk more access to food and water. Public comment on the project closed yesterday and the tribe will continue working with the park on next steps. In a written agreement in 2021, tribes get preferential access to land in what some call a co-stewardship of the seashore.

Sheet1

The Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit is announcing a nearly \$32 million grant will help extend the line 5 miles from Windsor to Healdsburg. The money is coming from the Department of Transportation's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program. The newest funding has allowed SMART to finance 65 percent of the section along with bike and pedestrian paths. The rail system will also use \$4 million to replace locomotives with newer models emitting less smog. The Press Democrat reports since 2021, the transit system has received over \$221 million to expand the line north.

New legislation will help broaden penalties for human trafficking of minors in California. Lake County News reports SB14, signed by Governor Newsom, designates trafficking of a minor for commercial sex as a felony and a serious crime that would be included in the Three Strikes Law. The bill includes harsher penalties and sentencing enhancements for those convicted. Last year, California funded the Human Trafficking Task Force with the California Department of Justice to arrest more criminals and help victims. California has set aside \$25 million for the prevention, intervention and services for minor victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Roads are closed in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest due to the onset of the rainy season. The closure affects all ATVs, motorcycles and vehicles, but can be used for hiking, biking and horseback riding. If there are roads that aren't formally closed but are wet, drivers are discouraged from driving on the wet and soft surfaces, in order to prevent further damage to forest roads. There are some roads that are open thru the winter, but may close periodically depending on weather conditions or forest management activities. All State Forest campgrounds will be closed from October thru spring.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is taking another look at the Northern California and Southern Oregon Populations of fishers to decide if they should be listed under the Endangered Species Act. In a release issued in KymKemp, the Service is looking for information from the public to broaden the scope of their information. Fishers are medium mammals in the same family as weasels, mink and otters. They are looking at rodenticides and toxicants, the threat of wildfire, vegetation management in forests and climate change projections. Their year long investigation into listing the fisher will go through August of next year. If anyone has information on fishers in their area, they are asked to reach out to the US Fish and Wildlife Service by October 26th.

A bill to help striking workers is on the governor's desk. If Newsom signs it, striking workers could get unemployment benefits. SB 799 would provide benefits to workers who've been on strike for at least 2 weeks, according to the Record Bee. Close to 70,000 Kaiser Permanente workers are threatening a strike if they can't reach an agreement with the chain by the end of this month. So far this year, 180,000 people have joined strikes in the state lasting over two weeks. Labor leaders say the move would help those companies whose employees are on strike, while employers say the bill would force them to pay for strikes and overburden the state's unemployment insurance system

Neighbors of a "drug house" in Fort Bragg are thanking police for putting two alleged drug dealers behind bars. Fort Bragg Police arrested a pair of brothers, Ivan and Esteban Gaeta last week after finding a cache of narcotics on Dick Williams Way. Officers got a search warrant and found xanax, cocaine, illegal cannabis and more as well as distribution material and a couple grand in cash. Esteban was charged with felony conspiracy and possession of controlled substances for sale. Ivan was charged with misdemeanors of possession of marijuana for sale. MendoFever reports authorities included a bail enhancement for the brothers, setting their bail at a

09/27/2023 quarter million dollars each.

Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors are authorizing temporary cannabis processing structures. In their meeting yesterday, the board emphasized there is a safe path for drying plants for new or existing permits. Though they don't like the idea of generators in temporary spaces, they do hope to connect them to electrical lines in the future. The Record Bee reports some previous permits did not allow dehumidifiers and they say the Planning Commission is wrangling with generator rules. An executive with the Farm Bureau said if they want to use ag-exempt structures that use electricity, then the applicant has to go through a separate building permit application with additional fees. A supervisor noted the proposed amendments are rock solid in establishing a permanent process. They plan to revisit the issue in next week's meeting.

There is more news coming from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office on the murder in Point Arena with the identity of a second suspect in the homicide of Jesus Romero. It began Sunday night when an assault was reported on a family member at a bar in Point Arena. Deputies found Romero dead six miles from the city. The first suspect, Antonio Coria Garcia was arrested and is being charged with the murder. Authorities found that a second suspect was also involved, Edgar Arteaga Coria as a person of interest. He is five foot 10 inches tall, weighs around 165 pounds with brown eyes and black hair. Coria has a tattoo on the left side of his neck and the name Arteaga tattooed on the back of his neck. Sheriff's Detectives say Coria is considered armed and dangerous and has left Mendocino County. Anyone with information on Coria is urged to call the Sheriff's Office.

Mendocino National Forest officials are asking for your help with weeds.... Not cannabis, but invasive plants that are infesting the native ecosystem. They say there are nearly 2,000 known infestations of non native invasive plants that may have spread with fire suppression efforts more recently and others that have been there for a long time. They'd like to minimize risks to the environment and human health to eradicate the species while they are relatively smaller in size. A public meeting is scheduled for next week, October 4th at the Mendocino National Forest headquarters in Willows starting at 4pm. Forest service officials would like to include organizations, tribes and state and local governments as well as the public.

The Mendocino County Public Health Department is issuing an update for the beginning of the fall season. They are confirming the rise of COVID and more COVID related hospitalizations. Wastewater surveillance is confirming the increase of the virus across the state. They are urging residents to consider getting the latest COVID vaccine, as well as the flu shot and the new RSV vaccine. The department is letting immuno-compromised people to wear a mask when indoors and general hygiene for everyone as the virus gains traction. Though not as urgent now with vaccine and prior illness, they want people to be prepared and armed with as much information as possible. The RSV vaccine has been approved by the CDC for seniors and should be available at your pharmacy as well as the flu shot and COVID vaccines.

Roads are closed in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest due to the onset of the rainy season. The closure affects all ATVs, motorcycles and vehicles, but can be used for hiking, biking and horseback riding. If there are roads that aren't formally closed but are wet, drivers are discouraged from driving on the wet and soft surfaces, in order to prevent further damage to forest roads. There are some roads that are open thru the winter, but may close periodically depending on weather conditions or forest management activities. All State Forest campgrounds will be closed from October thru spring.

Sheet 1

Mendocino County Sheriff's Officials are charging a group of alleged drug runners after finding over 50 pounds of illegal cannabis during a traffic stop in Ukiah last week. CHP pulled over a blue Hummer last Friday around 11pm after it was seen weaving over the solid white line on US 101 north of North State Street. Officers found 50 pounds of illicit weed. The three from Santa Rosa include driver Jose Luis Bribiessca Armenta along with Jorge Alberto Lozanocasillas and Anthony Escutia Martinez who were booked for possession and transportation of weed and more. MendoFever reports the group was charged with felony conspiracy as well. Their bail was set at \$15,000 each and they were bailed out within hours.

California is working with tribal leaders, law enforcement and lawmakers in creating a new Feather Alert tool to help authorities notify the public about missing Native Americans. Lake County News reports AB1314 took effect in January and effectively authored the Feather Alert to work similarly with the Amber and Silver alert systems in place. Assemblymember James Ramos with CHP and local, state and tribal authorities worked in a roundtable discussion in LA yesterday about how and when the Feather alert will be activated. Ramos emphasized that on reservations, the homicide rate for Native American women is 10 times the national average. Just last spring, the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Mendocino County declared a state of emergency after two members were found murdered.

The town hall scheduled for today in Lakeport on Homelessness and Mental Health will happen at 6pm tonight in the Soper Reese Theatre. Lake County News reports the event including the Lakeport Police Department, the Behavioral Health and Lake Family Resource Center will also be streamed on the LPD YouTube channel. They will issue a public survey link after the meeting and offer a chance for the public to ask questions or give feedback. The agenda tonight includes legislative and voter changes to criminal justice laws and individual treatment, local mental illness response and problems agencies face in rural areas. The Lakeport community would like everyone to engage the issue of homelessness and mental illness as it affects the area, with hope for coordinated efforts.

The Pear Capitol of the World is prepping for the largest free event in Lake County this week. The 29th Annual Kelseyville Pear Festival is slated to start on Saturday and may draw up to 12,000 people. Lake County News reports the event will host 150 vendors with a parade and live music and events. New this year is the Kid's Town with activities for children at a new location at the old Pioneer Park behind Studebakers. Local farmers will feature Bartletts, Bosc, Rosie Red and more pears in a tasting booth. There will be a Farm to Fork Dinner that will officially begin the Pear Festival Friday night with 500 people seated family-style on main street.

The Community Economic Resilience Fund is distributing money across 13 regions in California to support projects to create high quality jobs in sustainable industries. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports North Coast Opportunities is reaching out to the Redwood Region including Lake and Mendocino County and Tribal Lands. The region's CERF initiative is called Redwood Region RISE and is inviting residents to join in the first regional community conversation. One official says the organization is letting municipalities, businesses and tribes contribute to assessments of where they are in economic development plans over the next decade to get an understanding of what is available or will be needed to achieve economic goals. There is meeting scheduled for tonight at the Lake County Middletown Art Center from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

Sheet1

The Mendocino National Forest Service plans to conduct a prescribed fire on Friday at the Red Bluff Recreation Area to reduce wildfire risk. The operation is meant to also restore native grasses and other plants in the area. The fire crews will burn around 300 acres that is primarily grass and woody debris, shrubs and downed trees. In the planned burn, firefighters will protect ecological and cultural resources including elderberry plants. Depending on weather conditions, they'll start up the blaze on Friday and mop up and patrol through the weekend. Access to the Red Bluff Recreation Area will be limited on Friday and they're asking the public to avoid the area. Smoke may be visible in Red Bluff and along the I-5 corridor.

09/28/2023 The effects of climate change – from drought to excessive heat and poor air quality – often fall hardest on low-income communities. So the green banks will target projects that improve so-called “climate equity” such as clean buses, energy efficiency or urban tree plantings that clean the air and keep things cooler. Cities and nonprofits are racing to finish their applications for the 27-billion-dollar Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund – because the deadline is October 12th.. The California News Service reports Communities and nonprofits interested in applying can go to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund section of the E-P-A website.

The North Coast Representative Jared Huffman is talking about the pending government shutdown. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports Huffman says they are anticipating the shut down this coming Sunday. He issued a statement yesterday saying the House and Senate leadership reached a budget deal earlier this summer, but some members are holding the government hostage. Huffman asks federal workers to reach out to representatives before the weekend. Some services impacted include Food Assistance Programs, Head Start funding, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Servicemembers and Law Enforcement Members Pay and more. He says he and his staff are doing everything in their power to help those impacted and hopes it won't be for long.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is rejecting an application for a cannabis prohibition zone near Willits. Instead, KymKemp reports the board is directing Code Enforcement to target illegal grows in the area. The Board also heard a report of an enhanced code enforcement in Redwood Valley after another application was denied. 137 sites were investigated from August through September 7th. Properties growing illegal plants were asked to voluntarily cut them down or work to get legal permitting. 52 grows were hit with violations. In July, the Planning Commission recommended to approve a prohibition zone but a legal grow was already operating. Supervisor Ted Williams said that federal legalization is on the way and that smaller grows are destined to disappear.

A man evading authorities was caught during a traffic stop in Ukiah last weekend. Ukiah Police report Kourosh Sadeghi was riding a motorcycle when he was weaving in and out of traffic lanes and pulled over. He was arrested for driving under the influence and taken to jail. MendoFever reports Sadeghi has been a fugitive for nearly 4 decades, after disappearing on parole for a bank robbery in 1984 in San Diego. It was close to exactly 39 years since he stole over \$20,000 after an armed bank robbery. Ukiah Police realized he had an active Federal Marshal warrant. He also faces felony false identification and faces steep punishments.

Sheet1

The Fort Bragg City Council is looking for a new City Manager. At the end of their meeting Monday, MendoVoice reports the Council accepted the resignation of the City Manager, Peggy Ducey who was appointed city manager last summer. The council voted to accept her resignation and let her stay for up to six months during a transition period while they look for her replacement. Ducey has served in government leadership roles for the last 35 years and retired to Mendocino's Coast a couple years ago.

The state's Attorney General is urging better protection for seniors and people with disabilities. AG Rob Bonta issued a bulletin to law enforcement agencies saying their obligation is to enact policies to help improve enforcement of crimes against the vulnerable population. Lake County News reports the Senior and Disability Justice Act of 2019 urges local law enforcement agencies to improve investigations of elder and disability abuse. He tells authorities seniors and the disabled victims need to see justice that they are entitled to. Across the country, people with disabilities are over 3 times more likely to be victimized.

Robert Lombardi is being honored in Lake County. During the Lake County Fire Protection District meeting yesterday, Chief Willie Sapeta presented Lombardi with a Challenge Medal for heroic actions. Lombardi is credited with saving a child and mother from a house fire last month and is the first to receive the honor. Lake County News reports Lombardi was home on August 29th, when he heard an explosion nearby. He ran into the home and helped bring out a woman and young daughter out of a blazing fire, helping them until emergency responders arrived. The Chief said a fire involved a couple of houses with downed power lines and strong winds.

The Fort Bragg Unified School District has a new building for its preschool program. The Advocate News reports the new building on the campus of Redwood Elementary School is just one improvement along with a paved bus lane and safer sidewalks. The federally funded Head Start building will continue to run – if the government shutdown is avoided – and share play equipment. Earlier this month, the Board of Trustees officially cut the ribbon for the new facility. It can now fit up to 35 children ages three to five with morning and afternoon classes.

The state bird is doing well. Quail season opened last week, and hunters are cashing in on a healthy population. The Record Bee reports Lake and Mendocino Counties have a couple of species, the California and mountain quail. The Mendocino National Forest has both kinds of quail that are numerous in areas like Snow Mountain, Lake Pillsbury, Mendocino Pass and Etsel Ridge. The most productive time of the year to hunt the bird is now as coveys will get smaller by December. The quail season runs through January 29th with a daily limit of 10 and a total possession of 30. Only steel shot can be used and a hunting license is required along with an upland game stamp.

The state's community colleges are rebounding a little bit after an historic drop in enrollment about five years ago. The Press Democrat reports that decline meant less funding. The 2022-2023 school year saw about a 5 percent increase and there are early indications that this year's numbers are increasing as well. It could be due to the pandemic freefall when students left at record rates. With COVID relief funds, community colleges are drawing students back with recruitment events and classes for high school students. Some colleges are redesigning their curriculum with more flexible hours, online classes and new courses.

Sheet1

Exxon Mobile may not ship crude oil to refineries on shore in California. Bloomberg reports a US District Judge in LA yesterday denied the company's request to overturn a decision to reject the oil companies trucking plan last year. The judge maintains Exxon can operate its offshore oil platforms, but does not have a right to truck the crude oil. They proposed using 25,000 trucks a year on Highway 101 and State Route 166 until a pipeline is repaired or replaced. Three offshore platforms of Exxon's Santa Ynez Unit have been shut down since an oil spill in 2015.

The State Water Board will hold a public hearing and workshop on details of the proposed Making Conservation A California Way of Life regulation. The meeting at CalEPA Headquarters in the Capitol is set for next Wednesday morning at 9:30am. The board is aiming at giving all interested parties an opportunity to comment on proposed regulation. There will be an overview of the initial regulatory package that creates a new framework for efficiency goals for water suppliers. The Water Board hopes to reduce urban water use by more than 400 thousand acre feet in 7 years. The new Water Supply Strategy was released last year and is expected to motivate suppliers to invest in changes on water use.

An 18 year old is facing felony counts of driving under the influence causing bodily injury and a misdemeanor charge of driving without a license, after an accident last weekend that killed his 19 year old passenger. Pedro Lopez Santos of Healdsburg was charged this week in Sonoma County Superior Court and is alleged to have been drunk driving recklessly on Sunday morning before crashing into a tree. The passenger, Jesus Paredes died in the accident. After being treated himself Lopez Santos was arrested and booked into jail. He is being held in lieu of a \$100,000 bail and is scheduled to plea October 17th.

Scientists are predicting another wet winter for California. Maven's Notebook reports after a record setting wet and warm August forecasters are predicting El Nino is gaining strength and will likely carry into 2024. The system returned in June and has been growing in strength, with a 95 percent chance it will last through early spring. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration the odds of El Nino becoming strong this round have increased to over 70 percent certainty. NOAA officials say with ocean temperatures at their highest point in human history, an El Nino event of this magnitude creates a different situation and they're predicting a wetter than normal winter

Senator Diane Feinstein has passed away. The leader who spent three decades in the Senate died last night in her DC residence, according to a family member. The Press Democrat reports Feinstein suffered from frail health and memory issues that made it hard to function. Representative Jared Huffman says Feinstein is leaving an enduring legacy from gun safety to human rights. Governor Newsom posted on social media that the senior senator was powerful and trailblazing. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said California and the nation are better for her dogged advocacy.

09/29/2023

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help in the Point Arena murder of Jesus Romero last weekend. As the office issued a release naming a second suspect in the homicide this week, they are actively looking for anyone who may have security camera video along Old Stage Road between Ten Mile Cutoff and Highway 1 in Gualala. They are looking for footage from last Saturday between 11pm and Sunday at 5am. The initial suspect, Antonio Coria Garcia was arrested and is being charged. Authorities are still searching for the second suspect Edgar Arteaga Coria, who they say is armed and dangerous and may have fled Mendocino County.

Sheet1

Clearlake Police are searching for a missing teenage boy. Connor Howells is a white 14-year-old with brown hair and hazel eyes. Lake County News reports Connor is 5 foot 10 inches tall and weighs around 150 pounds. He was last seen yesterday near 31st Avenue in Clearlake in a dark gray shirt, blue jeans and white shoes. If you have any information on Connor please call Clearlake Police.

A Ukiah man is acquitted of the crime of assault. Vincent Brock was found not guilty of an assault on his father this week in court. Late February, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of Brock's 67 year old father. The Mendocino County District Attorney issued a release of the one-day trial on social media with new Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Kieth Faulder presiding.

Willits Police are investigating a fatality and more. Yesterday around noon a resident went to the Willits Police Department saying she went to an associate's home in Willits and found two men unconscious and unresponsive in a home on North Street. First responders arrived and found a 60 year old man lying on the front porch, where they pronounced him dead. There were no apparent injuries or cause of death. Inside the home, they found a 41 year old man found unconscious on a bathroom floor. He was taken to Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital. Officials say there are no signs of foul play but police continue to investigate. Anyone with information is urged to call the Willits Police Department.

The Mendocino National Forest Service plans to conduct a prescribed fire today at the Red Bluff Recreation Area to reduce wildfire risk. The operation is meant to also restore native grasses and other plants in the area. The fire crews will burn around 300 acres that is primarily grass, woody debris, shrubs and downed trees. In the planned burn, firefighters will protect ecological and cultural resources including elderberry plants. Depending on weather conditions, they'll start up the blaze today and mop up and patrol through the weekend. Access to the Red Bluff Recreation Area will be limited and they're asking the public to avoid the area. Smoke may be visible in Red Bluff and along the I-5 corridor.

A heated argument in Willits is being investigated after it resulted in the destruction of a fire hydrant on Bittenbender Lane. Wednesday evening, Willits Police saw a recently vandalized truck in the lot of a market on North Main Street. Witnesses told police a couple were arguing around the truck just before the officer arrived. The two were identified but weren't near the truck. Around 9:45pm people were calling dispatch reporting the woman had been trying to run over the man and instead crashed into the hydrant sending water shooting into the air. Renee Dominga Leggett was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and driving under the influence. Anyone who witnessed the scene is asked to call Willits Police .

Northshore Fire and Cal Fire are investigating a house fire that broke out last night in Nice. Crews were called to a home on Keeling Avenue before 7pm with a report that a room in a home was on fire. Lake County News reports within minutes of the blaze firefighters knocked it down and kept it from spreading to nearby homes. Two people in the home were able to get out with no injuries. Firefighters say about half of the home was damaged.

Sheet1

US Forest Service Hotshots are getting caught in a Washington, D.C. quagmire. In a study by the University of Montana and an article in Lake County News, after the extreme fire seasons of 2020 and 2021, Congress funded a temporary bonus for wildland firefighters by 50 percent. The increase expires after tomorrow, decreasing many federal firefighters back to earning the minimum of \$15 per hour. A permanent raise is in line with Congress, as they are tangled in the pending government shutdown. Not only would that remain stalled, but a shutdown would halt all their pay as they continue to battle the worst fires in the nation. A large number of firefighters could quit, according to the National Federation of Federal Employees. Forest Service officials and others are worried the shutdown and lack of a significant pay bump will worsen crew retention in a workforce that is extremely demanding, and is down on personnel.

Mendocino County Health Centers have received a donation from the Frank R. Howard Foundation with the old hospital property at 1 Madrone Street. In a release issued today, the Foundation Executive Director says when the hospital moved from Madrone Street to its new facility at 1 Marcela Drive in 2015 they hoped to repurpose the building for a healthcare related facility, but a retrofit was too big. Instead, the Foundation talked with MCHC and the board enthusiastically supported the donation. Foundation officials say MCHC has been committed to the community in Willits and continues to grow to meet the needs of the area. Within the next year, MCHC has plans to hold visioning session with Willits residents to hear ideas on the most urgent healthcare needs.

There are a couple of new judges for two-year terms in the Mendocino Superior Court. Judge Keith Faulder is the new Presiding Judge, and Judge Carly Dolan will be the Assistant Presiding Judge beginning on January 1st. Judge Faulder was elected to the bench in 2016 serving in the district attorney's and public defender's offices and worked in private practice with criminal, civil and family law. Judge Dolan was appointed to the bench by Governor Brown in 2017 and has presided over criminal and family law. In a press release yesterday, current Presiding Judge Jeanine Nadel who has served for the past two years says she knows the court will be in good hands. Nadel notes the new judges will help lead efforts to design and build a new courthouse in Ukiah.

The Ukiah City Council is considering the latest draft for a proposed Redwood Credit Union branch downtown. At a special meeting today, the Council will go over the 7th design with planning staff saying the applicant is including modifications recommended by the city council at a meeting in July. In previous hearings the bank branch proposed for Main Street at the former business called the Dragon's Lair, the public expressed opposition to the plan that did not conform with what they called fundamental elements of Ukiah's Downtown Zoning Code. Ukiah officials worked with Redwood Credit Union in helping suggest modifications that would muster support. Last week, the bank submitted the 7th revision meeting requirements for zoning and more. Today the council will hold a public hearing, decide on the demolition permit request and may overturn the Planning Commission's past denial of the project. The meeting is scheduled at 3:30pm in the Civic Center.

Sheet 1

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors are considering the authorization of over 3,000 acres into an agricultural preserve with The Wildlands Conservancy in the Round Valley Area. In their meeting this week, the board denied making the Willits area Cannabis Prohibition Zone, and heard enforcement measures in the Redwood Valley area. In closed session, the board appointed an Agricultural Commissioner and Acting County Librarian. . They approved over \$10,000 in funds for the Open Records Request Software Platform. The board discussed hiring Doris Rentschler for the Position of Executive Director for the Mendocino County Employees Retirement Association through 2026.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is considering a purge of carp in Clearlake to help the local hitch. Carp are considered invasive in many areas across the country. The Record Bee reports the bottom feeders can be aggressive and kick up sediment in lakebeds stirring up phosphorous that harms the ecosystem with harmful bacteria. The Lake County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee have tagged about 30 carp last year to study their behavior and whereabouts within the lake. The county is considering getting rid of the fish, that was first introduced in the area in the late 1880s. The board noted the abundant rainfall that is helping the lake ecosystem, but plans to keep an eye on the carp for future mitigation.

The Pear Capitol of the World is prepping for the largest free event in Lake County this week. The 29th Annual Kelseyville Pear Festival is slated to start on Saturday and may draw up to 12,000 people. Lake County News reports the event will host 150 vendors with a parade and live music and events. New this year is the Kid's Town with activities for children at a new location at the old Pioneer Park behind Studebakers. Local farmers will feature Bartletts, Bosc, Rosie Red and more pears in a tasting booth. There will be a Farm to Fork Dinner that will officially begin the Pear Festival Friday night with 500 people seated family-style on Main Street.