

KWNE FCC Reports Q3 2020

07/01/20 [The Ukiah City Council reportedly preparing for cost cutting because of the C](#)

A man from Ukiah has been arrested for stealing a car from a woman who gave him a ride. Police say a woman called to report her car missing after she left the man alone in her car as she went into the Safeway on S. State St. Monday night. She says when she came out, her car was gone. 23 year old Thomas Hanover was arrested early yesterday morning after the car was stopped by cops in the 300 block of East Gobbi Street. They say it was a high risk stop requiring back up officers from the Sheriff's Office and the CHP. Another man with Hanover, Anthony Rojas was also arrested. Cops say Hanover was arrested on suspicion of vehicle theft and violating his probation. Rojas for being involved in the vehicle theft, and for violating his probation because of contraband found in the vehicle that was his. The vehicle was released back to the owner.

The Gov. says he'll have a new statewide order out regarding coronavirus ahead of the Independence Day holiday weekend. Even though he already ordered mask wearing to be mandatory, there will be enforcement to go with it. He says it's mostly up to local law enforcement and adds the state has financial resources to beef up enforcement of the order in counties or cities if local officials decide they won't comply. The state has set aside \$2.5 million in the state budget for health directives at the county level. Newsom says if local law enforcement officers won't enforce and are being dismissive, that money will be used to override them. The order comes as the state Department of Public Health reports positive tests increased from 4.4% two weeks ago to 5.6% over the last 14 days and 5.9% over the last seven days. A restaurant owner in Mendocino has closed shop after another \$10,000 violation of the county's health order. Instead of requiring workers to wear masks, he boarded the Fiddleheads Café up on Saturday. The owner, Chris Castleman has received two formal notices of violation, ordering him to stop operating unless he follows the directives to slow the spread of the virus. He spray painted on the boarded windows, "Closed by order of Mendocino County", and that's a violation of zoning provisions as a Historical Preservation District. He was first cited June 16th and told the Press Democrat he wouldn't be forcing his employees to do anything, adding it was a personal choice. Now he's got a GoFundMe page to raise money for lawyers' fees. The post says it's after "3 months of attacks from a small group of activist/bullies and overreaching politicians" so he's going to fight back.

No new restrictions in Sonoma County after three new deaths since March. The Press Democrat reports the county supervisors have not put out any new directive, nor has the Public Health Officer ahead of the July 4th holiday weekend. The county saw its highest one day total of 282 cases this week, 25% of its total since March when the pandemic first started surfacing. The newspaper reports Supervisor Lynda Hopkins says contact tracing has connected a lot of the new cases to Memorial Day weekend gatherings. She says she believes if residents do the right thing, they can slow the rate of infections. And the chair of the Board of Supervisors says visitors to Sonoma Valley have not been consistently following orders to wear a mask.

A new report says the California board regulating nurses across the state doctored records to make it look like they were following up on allegations against nurses. The state auditor report says some of the allegations were serious complaints including patient harm, which in some cases leads to nurses losing their licenses. In 2016 the auditor found the board took too long assigning and reviewing complaints from medical misconduct to the death of a toddler. The audit directed the board to move faster to get thru a backlog of pending investigations against nurses, but instead they wrote things down in 2018 that were false. The next report against the Board of Registered Nursing is due next month, a review of whether they're properly overseeing nursing schools.

New restrictions expected by the Gov. ahead of the holiday weekend. The Gov. announced he would come out with a new order today as COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations spike. He says if folks are not planning to stay home or wear a mask, they will have to enforce it to slow the spread of the disease. He has not said exactly what, but hinted it could include restrictions on indoor gatherings because family gatherings were one of the "areas of biggest concern".

Four more cases of coronavirus have turned up in Lake County. And Five in Mendocino County. Tests are still pending in both counties. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan spoke yesterday instead of her regular Friday public announcements because of the July 4th holiday weekend. Dr. Doohan says the county will have to slightly roll back the shelter in place order that she'll release today.

The Lake County Public Health Office reported a total of 60 cases now, 20 are active and four are in the hospital, one more than on Monday.

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer says the state is currently experiencing the start of the surge that she says will peak in Sept. She says the new shelter in place order is because of the spikes in the state and in alignment with what's happening elsewhere and in Mendocino County. Five cases were confirmed positive yesterday. The county has had 83 cases. The new health order goes into effect Friday at noon. Leisure as it was is staying, but not opening further. Bars will be closed in county's on the state's watch list. Alcohol can only be sold until 8pm. She also says her earlier order allowing groups, or bubbles of people at work or in childcare will be reduced from 12 to 6.

A group of people planning an unofficial 4th of July "parade" in Willits have called it off. The city council and city manager had announced they were against the idea after learning about it. It was being organized after the cancellation of the traditional celebrations in Willits due to the pandemic. The group reported to the city council they were not trying to promote massive crowds, just a string of decorated cars traveling through downtown. But no matter, the city and county asked them to cancel. And at the last city council meeting organizers tried to explain but council members weren't having it. The number of coronavirus started to spike at the same time of the last council meeting, so one of the organizers posted on Facebook, with that in mind, they were canceling.

The Governor working out a deal with lawmakers so schools wouldn't have permanent cuts of up to \$8 billion dollars. But the state's relying on money from the federal government to help shore up the state budget and will temporarily take money from schools if needed. The Lake County School Superintendent Brock Falkenberg says if the money from the fed doesn't come thru, there will be deferrals to school districts which could mean loans for some schools. The Super of Kelseyville schools says they have scant reserves and if they need to defer money from the state, they will have to get a loan. For the time being the state will divert money from the first stimulus related to coronavirus, the CARES Act, \$1 to \$6 billion for K-12 schools for reopening and learning loss fixes.

Senator Mike McGuire's bill related to public safety power shutoffs has passed the full Senate. The bill will force utility companies to harden, modernize and manage vegetation so the intentional shutoffs have a smaller footprint and don't last as long as the ones last year. McGuire says his legislation will make shutoff events the tool of last resort, and not a default strategy. He blames the utility for not updating the grid and his bill will make the company move faster to make improvements to their system. It forces Investor- Owned Utilities to prioritize public health and safety and to provide reliable electrical service which McGuire says Californians deserve in this day and age.

Helicopters will be flying over areas in Mendocino and Lake counties to check electric distribution lines in the middle of fire season. PG&E announced they'd start the flyovers yesterday and continue all month long to help the utility company gather info to see how long it will take them to fly the same routes in the middle of one of their power shutoff events. But the company says they're not anticipating turning power off in days to come. Watch for choppers as low as 100 feet, Monday through Friday, between 7a.m. and 5 p.m. Power is going to be on during the inspections, it's just to help the utility company start to shorten intentional power downs. If it were an actual public safety power shutoff event, crews would do a similar flyover, but would also drive around in vehicles and have foot patrols to identify and

07/02/20 repair damage before restoring power.

A climate action plan in a group of bills in the US House. According to North Coast Rep. Jared Huffman the package of bills will help bolster sustainable energy production and cut emissions. In a 500 page proposal, it calls for swift action, including coming up with a wildfire defense grant program, something Huffman has been championing since last fall. Huffman joined by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at the announcement Tuesday says they're working to cut emissions and stop producing greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to the overheating of the planet. The bills call for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Recommendations in Lake County from the Public Health officer ahead of the Independence Day holiday weekend. Dr. Gary Pace says the holiday has always featured large gatherings, but since the county has been dealing with a major surge in cases, 19 yesterday, the highest one day total so far. Dr. Pace says they're tracking the spread and they've mostly come from weekend gatherings with multiple families, particularly when there are no masks being worn, and when people are consuming alcoholic beverages. Firework displays around the lake are modified, with some cities bowing out of any celebrations to slow the spread of the disease.

New rules to help whales and sea turtles not get caught up in crab-fishing gear have some crabbing advocates crabby... At a public hearing by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, many spoke out about the new rules to protect humpback whales, blue whales and sea turtles including an early closure of the season. One board supervisor from Humboldt says the new rules are "arbitrary" and don't "reflect the reality on the ground, or in the water." The zones are different, but the rules are the same, but state officials say there should be no ropes, which they say is less expensive. A hearing on Monday was the last of the 45-day public comment period on the proposed new rules.

No fireworks show in Lakeport to discourage group gatherings to slow the spread of coronavirus. But the city's selling safe and sane fireworks. There will be a display at the Konocti Vista Casino in Lakeport Saturday after dark. There will be a show at Austin Park in Clearlake with strict social distancing, you have to stay in your car and masks are required. There will also be handwashing stations and some vendors with restrictions and a reminder for people to return to their cars with no gathering in groups. Something public health officers across the country say causes the virus to spread.

Just like most holidays, the CHP will beef up patrols for the Independence Day weekend. The maximum enforcement period starts tomorrow night at 6 p.m. and lasts until Sunday at midnight. The CHP commissioner says obeying the speed limit, wearing a seatbelt and driving sober and not distracted are more important than ever. Also the California Department of Public Health is reminding not to travel long distances as much as possible, but if you do leave home, wear a face mask, physically distance yourself and frequently wash your hands.

Law enforcement in Mendocino County on the lookout for a man they say committed armed robbery at a market in Ukiah. The Sheriff's Office asking for the public's help identifying a man who pulled a gun at Express Market on N. State St. Monday night. They say he went in, spoke to employees at the checkout area and pulled out a semi-automatic handgun and demanded money. The clerk went to the back of the business and the robber went to the cash register and took a bunch of money and ran off. He's described as a white man, 5'11", 190 to 200 pounds, with blond hair wearing white tennis shoes, gray pants, a black long-sleeved shirt, gloves, a multi-colored face mask and had a gray shirt tied around his head.

A whopping 19 more cases of Covid-19 in Lake County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says there are now 79 cases in the county. In Mendocino County, there were 2 new cases for a total of 85 cases. But in Lake County, Dr. Pace says the significant spike, more than doubling the case count in a week. 39 cases are active, 40 recovered. And four people currently in the hospital. In Mendocino, of the 85, only 9 are active and there are no new hospitalizations. Those in the hospital in Lake have mild symptoms according to Pace. He says about half the recent 37 cases reported since June 25, were from an outbreak in the farmworker community, and the rest from various sources.

A man in Lakeport's been arrested after a random assault on two seniors at Library Park earlier this week. Cops say some people at the park helped take the guy down during a struggle. 37 year old Todd Ousterhout is charged with the attack on a 67 year old man who police say had visible injuries. The victim says it was Ousterhout who punched him in the back of the head then his nose. He's also accused of pushing the man's 92-year-old mother, who was recovering from a recent surgery and has dementia. Police say when Ousterhout saw them he ran so they had to search the area, finding him and demanding he stop, but he resisted their attempts to arrest him. Two random men helped a police officer take Ousterhout down. He's also accused of peeping into a nearby home and taking pictures. He's booked on charges of felony abuse of elder and/or dependent adults, prowling and resisting a police officer.

A homeless shelter in Lake County being used temporarily to house the homeless is being extended another month. The Board of Supervisors approved an amended agreement for Hope Harbor to continue operations. It was supposed to close this week, but the county spoke to the Kelseyville United Methodist Church where the shelter's located, then the board unanimously approved allowing the shelter to stay open thru the end of this month. It was a winter only warming center, then turned COVID-19 shelter using state funding. The shelter has received another \$79,000 to run another month of operations. The money will go to the church, who said just last week it couldn't continue without more funds.

Planning a trip to Sonoma Coast beaches, parking lots will be closed. The Gov. out with new orders across the state ahead of the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Parking lots at Bodega Head, Goat Rock and Salmon Creek and turnouts along Highway 1 are blocked off so there are no mass gatherings starting tomorrow and lasting thru the holiday weekend. Beaches are open, just the state parking lots are closed. The Press Democrat reports county officials say they didn't know the state would be closing parking lots, but other beaches could get overcrowded instead, making social distancing a challenge. It'll be up to park rangers to turn cars away. Camping spots along the coast are open. State beaches on the Mendocino Coast are not part of the order, so be careful this weekend, and be sure to wear a mask and socially distance when you can. Extra Highway Patrol officers will also patrol the coast over the weekend.

A man in Potter Valley's been arrested after a domestic violence call. Deputies reported to the home after finding out a woman there had to go to the hospital a couple days before after a dispute with the father of her child. Police say the pair have been in a relationship for six years, and Austin Neuroth came in while the woman and their 6 year old were sleeping, starting yelling, then climbed on top of her and hit her multiple times in the face and upper chest. She and the child got away, locking themselves in a bathroom. Neuroth was arrested Sunday at a Ukiah motel for domestic violence battery and held on \$25,000.00 bail.

We have a new health order in Mendocino County due to a spike locally in cases and a surge across the state. Dr. Noemi Doohan's new order goes into place tomorrow at noon, maintaining the current stage 3, but rewinding with new restrictions on certain sectors and activities. There is still local and statewide prohibition of all public and private gatherings of any size. The social bubbles Dr. Doohan had allowed in households, childcare and at work of 12 people are lowered to 6 for the next 4 weeks. Because bars across the country have been spreading the virus, here in Mendocino County, bars and restaurants will have to stop selling alcohol at 8pm. Those working in personal care, treating head, face or mouth, have to wear a second facial covering. There's more to that, you can check the county website for more info.

Lake County with a reminder about fire season being upon us. The County reminds it's drier than usual with low humidity. District 5 Supervisor Rob Brown says state, federal and local Land Management and Fire Agencies are outstanding partners and they're working to be prepared in the case of a wildfire. A reminder that 95% of all wildfires in the state are human-caused. Others can happen from equipment malfunctions, neglected heat sources, electrical or heating system issues and accidents of neglect, like improperly discarded cigarettes and metal object, like chains dangling from moving vehicles. Brown says there are limited resources now due to the pandemic due to the early release of inmates.

The Mendocino National Forest is reminding to be firesafe this holiday weekend. To only gather with those in your direct household due to the pandemic. And to keep a minimum of at least six feet of physical distance from other visitors. They say to communicate with others as you pass on trails or step aside and allow them to pass. Pack out your trash and leave with everything you bring in and use. And if you or anyone in your household is feeling sick, please remain at home and plan your trip for another time. They also say to check the forest website and social media platforms or call a ranger district office for information. Fire restrictions are currently in effect for the forest. You can only light a campfire with a permit in open developed campground and within the wilderness. And no fireworks are permitted on any National Forest.

The first COVID-19 related death has hit Lake County and another in Mendocino County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace reports they're still investigating but what they know is the person who died was at home ill, an ambulance was called, and they died in the Emergency Department. They later tested positive for coronavirus. The infections are also on the rise, with another case reported today for a total of 86 cases. In Mendocino County, the death confirmed by Dr. Noemi Doohan, per the news site Red Headed Blackbelt. That person died after contracting the infection after volunteering in the kitchen at the Assembly of God church in Mendocino County. He died at a rehab facility in Marin County, according to our Public Health Officer, Dr. Doohan. There are 4 people in the hospital with the infection in Lake County. Dr. Pace says they're still investigating an outbreak of infections in a farmworker community and says given the outbreak, and now a death, to be extra vigilant this 4th of July holiday weekend,

07/03/20 recommending celebrating at home with immediate household members.

Clear Lake at the top of a new list of the best places to fish for bass. Bassmaster Magazine has Clear Lake at the top of their annual rankings. Lake Co News reports the magazine had six California fisheries in its top 100 list: Clear Lake, the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, Lake Havasu, Berryessa, Shasta and New Melones. The editor in chief tells the news site, they used research and rankings from the past eight years for the rankings because they couldn't use tournaments from this year due to COVID. Clear Lake has never topped their list. The top five this year: 1. Clear Lake, California; 2. Lake Guntersville, Alabama; 3. Lake Erie, New York/Ohio/Pennsylvania/Michigan; 4. Lake St. Clair, Michigan and 5. Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, California

A fire at the Lakeport transfer station didn't move far. On Wednesday firefighters reported to the transfer station around 8 p.m. and brought the fire under control quickly with Kelseyville and Northshore Fire working with Lakeport. There was no major damage to the building, just some siding will need to be replaced. The cause of the fire is blamed on either improperly disposed of rechargeable batteries or barbecue ashes. The company is reminding not to dump hazardous material along with regular garbage, yard waste or recycling and not to take it to the transfer station. It's not the first time the transfer station caught ablaze, in September 2014 and June 2015. Lake County's got the same number of COVID cases as neighboring Mendocino now, 85. No new cases for Mendocino County, but six more in Lake. Of the 85 in Lake, 44 are active and four remain in the hospital. In Mendocino, 9 are active and in isolation. None in the hospital.

Lead has been found in the water at some schools in Humboldt County. CALPIRG, a nonprofit in the state says it could be potentially dangerous levels of lead found at Pacific Coast High in Arcata, which had the highest levels of all in the county, 91 parts per billion, that's more than six times what would have the federal Environmental Protection Agency taking immediate action. Trinidad Elementary was next with 35 parts per billion, twice the amount the EPA considers dangerous. CALPIRG reports however, that both schools are already doing what they can to reverse the levels found in tests last year. The other schools in the area noted, Big Lagoon Elementary, Redway Elementary, Hydesville Elementary, Six Rivers Montessori, Ridgewood Elementary, Loleta Elementary and Union Street Charter. Bars in wineries closing in Humboldt County to slow the spread of infections ahead of the holiday weekend. 19 wineries and bars have been certified to reopen, but some offering food are listed as dine in restaurants. The state is mandating many across the state close their bars this weekend. So some, the news site says are just not reopening right away, because they'll close for a time, then reopen again. Others are staying open for to go orders as they've been up to now. The bar and restaurant owners interviewed for this story said they were also concerned about folks leaving town and potentially bringing the virus back with them after 4th festivities.

Health experts across the state say the state has landed back in the same position it was in three months ago when the coronavirus pandemic first surfaced. Cases and hospitalizations are surging in Calif. And earlier this week the state had it's second highest rate of deaths. An epidemiologist and infectious disease expert at UC San Francisco says more infections are happening than anticipated as the state started reopening businesses. Beaches and beach parking lots are closed across the coast. The Gov. has put strict new – old rules in place, closing some businesses back down ahead of the holiday weekend and a new public service campaign to remind folks to wear a mask to save others. Fourth of July parades, celebrations and fireworks shows were canceled across the state ahead of the latest surge as officials urge residents to use caution, and celebrate at home, with social distancing and masks with non-household members.

The City of Willits in a council meeting made an announcement about COVID in wastewater. The City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra says there was a small amount of the virus in a test June 16th in one test, none in another. The tests were paid for by an anonymous donor. Only trace amounts were found though and no word how this information can inform the public on where or how many cases are in the city. One councilmember says it was a very low concentration and does not appear to show community spread of the virus. The city manager also says the drinking water is safe and clear and goes thru very strict state and federal standards treatment before landing in anyone's home. Still the council reminded the public to stay vigilant with coronavirus guidelines like wearing a mask and socially distancing and hand washing.

Some businesses way up north who've filed insurance claims for business interruption say they were denied claims. The businesses noted in Redding are now being represented by a local law firm, they include doctor's offices, restaurants and retail stores. The law firm says some businesses who have been paying for business interruption coverage are still being denied reimbursement. They're finding many policies don't have an exclusion for viruses or pandemics, but are still saying no to the claims. The lawyers say they're looking at policies for free and advising.

Hundreds of reports of discrimination and harassment against Asian Americans in California after the pandemic exploded. A site where folks can self report hate incidents shows 832 incidents. Of those about 10% included assault and more than 60 incidents with possible civil rights violations. The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council released the report Wednesday. It shows women were two times more likely experience the discrimination and harassment, some things said included, they should go back to China with their dirty diseases, take the disease home, and in one instance a dog was kicked and they were spit at. The organizers of the site have asked the Gov. to put together a Racial Bias Strike Team .

One of the earlier counties in the state to reopen, and without the blessing of the state, is closing, partly. Yolo County getting stricter with indoor businesses, even though the state has not told them to. But there were recently 29 new cases for a total of 555. The county public information officer says they've had an increase the last two weeks of about a third of their total numbers and a 7% positivity rate. So they're closing bowling alleys and in-door dining at restaurants, bars, wine tasting rooms and movie theaters – but gyms can stay open. The new orders for three weeks, maybe longer, if their numbers don't improve.

An inmate at San Quentin State Prison has died and officials are trying to find out if it was from coronavirus. The state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports 75-year-old Joseph Cordova who was on death row for murdering an 8 year old girl, was found dead in his cell without signs of trauma. The coroner will check for COVID-19. It comes the same day as a hearing with the legislature who berated state corrections officials for bungling a coronavirus outbreak. There have been 1,100 confirmed coronavirus cases at San Quentin which is being blamed on an inmate transfer which took place after test results that were outdated.

The state has restricted many activities because of a surge in cases again, but not in church, sort of. You may not sing or chant. That's according to new guidelines issued by the state Department of Public Health which mandates churches and other houses of worship stop singing and chanting. In May the reopening of houses of worship said they SHOULD discontinue chanting and singing or performances, and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says shouting or singing can spread the coronavirus as easily as coughing or sneezing. You may recall back in May when we had some cases pop up from a church in Ukiah, which was a virtual service, but there was singing happening there.

Mendocino College has announced all virtual classes in the Fall. When the new semester starts Aug. 17th, they will be an all remote learning environment the college announced, for the safety of students to slow the spread of coronavirus. The Dir. Of Community Relations and Communication for the school says it's going to be a lot of hard work, but the teachers have been creative converting their classes. There will be minimal in person meetings with faculty for students and any classes requiring in person learning are being structured differently. When they have to meet in person, they will be in large rooms, with plenty of space for social distancing and any hands on work, like in their physical therapy program, they will wear masks and possibly face shields too.

Six new positive cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed at the Leggett Fire Station. The Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan confirmed the cases after twelve firefighters were tested. Two of the positive tests are people living in the county, the other 4 outside the county. All six confirmed in stable condition on home isolation and their close contacts are being quarantined. The public health officer says due to the quick response and coordination between the County of Mendocino and CAL FIRE, they believe the outbreak was fully contained. The Leggett and Laytonville Fire Stations were being deep cleaned and closed for seventy-two hours and CAL FIRE

07/06/20 staff were being tested further.

Reports of a death each in Lake County and Mendocino County due to Covid-19. In Mendocino County, more information from the family of the man who died. They say George Chadwick was a healthy, vital 80 year old veteran, karate teacher who walked several miles a day. He was deeply involved in his church where it's believed he contracted the virus May 10th. A few days later he started showing symptoms, and two days later he tested positive. While he was initially doing well, he ended up in the ICU at Ukiah Valley Medical Center where he stayed almost three weeks. He was then transferred to a rehab facility in Marin County where he died July 1st.

Free online training to bring awareness to mask wearing and assertiveness skills for workers interacting with the public. The College of the Redwoods is offering help for businesses. The trainings are online and free, paid for by the CR Foundation, starting next week continuing through August 1st. The classes to help employees deal with potentially volatile situations with customers who get angry they can't enter without a mask. So College of the Redwoods Foundation came up with funds for the de-escalation and assertiveness training which can accommodate 25 workers per class.

The California Teachers Association fighting for in classroom learning this fall. The union says school districts don't have the authority to make teachers do live online instruction or even record lessons for later use. Lawyers have reportedly spoken out on behalf of school districts saying lawmakers are encouraging distance learning as part of the new state budget the Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law last week. Now a large group of civil rights and student advocacy groups are arguing that virtual learning has to mirror live in person learning and wants the state to set a minimum of 3 hours of virtual instruction daily. The union says there are privacy issues to first deal with.

The final report from the Lake County Civil Grand Jury has been released and takes on its own reputation with elected and appointed leaders. The report says it's generally known that there's a lack of trust and unfortunate misunderstandings that led to non-cooperation efforts by government officials. So the Grand Jury says it's their goal to reduce, and possibly eliminate any friction between the entities, and get back to a state of cooperation and shared purpose. The report says in years past the Lake County grand jury's reports had been harshly criticized, including its response to the county's response to the 2015 Valley Fire and management of properties such as Holiday Harbor in Nice and the Lucerne Hotel. Some county supervisors and even Congressman Mike Thompson have called some of the jury reports off the mark. The new grand jury says they're changing their approach and putting high value on building trust.

Lakeport looks to be getting a new city manager. The City Council set to offer a contract after the council takes up the matter at their meeting this week. The meeting will take place online, but before the meeting comments can be sent in by email. Before the regular meeting they will discuss the contract with the new city manager, Kevin Ingram, who had been the city's Community Development. He became the assistant city manager earlier this year. Last month, the current city manager announced her retirement for the end of July. The city's been working out a deal for Ingram to take over with a base salary of just under \$141,000/year, and a bonus of up to \$1,500, plus possible cost of living adjustments and a \$400/mo car allowance.

Congressman Mike Thompson is addressing the latest on coronavirus response in a virtual town hall. It's happening Thursday night at 7pm, the 10th in a series of town halls he's been having since the pandemic first surfaced. This time, his special guest will be the former White House Ebola Response coordinator, Ron Klain. They'll talk about health care and what has to happen to slow the spread of coronavirus. The meeting over Zoom is limited to 500 people. Interested participants should email the Congressman for instructions how to join. If they're at capacity, you can head over to Thompson's Facebook page, where they'll also be streaming online.

A smaller earthquake shook parts of Lake County and the North Coast. Yesterday around 9-14 am, the 4.0-magnitude earthquake hit the Cobb area, about 3 miles out and 13 miles from Healdsburg. The USGS reported receiving almost 160 shake reports from around Lake County, Sonoma, Mendocino, Napa, San Francisco and as far away as Valley Springs.

As cases continuing rising in Sonoma County and the county losing the space they'd been renting at Sonoma State University, the county's frantically looking for a replacement site. The university said no to an extension as students come back to campus next month. The Press Democrat reports the county's known since the end of May they may have to look for a new site. And the college sent a letter last week to the county asking them to leave campus by yesterday. But a university spokesperson said the date was "somewhat fluid". The county suffering with the biggest surge in cases yet, 540 new cases in two weeks, and six more deaths in the same period.

Rebates will be made available for businesses, government agencies and apartment buildings in Sonoma and Marin counties for installing electric vehicle charging stations. The state has set aside almost \$7 million with local dollars for the rebate program to put in as many as 550 new chargers the next three years. The program manager at Sonoma Clean Power says they're trying to further their mission and turn the tide on the climate crisis. California has the most electric vehicles in the nation, more than 537,000. The state is putting just over \$5 million into the program, Sonoma Clean Power, is contributing \$1.5 million and the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District is putting up \$150,000. Right now we have about 6,500 charging stations across the state including 148 in Sonoma County, 42 in Mendocino and 1,738 in Los Angeles County.

One of the largest gambling halls in Northern Calif. is mandating COVID-19 testing for employees. Cache Creek Casino Resort management says they found a small amount of workers were positive on Friday. They say they continue working closely, as they've been doing all along thru the pandemic, with the Yolo County Health and Human Services Dept. on contact tracing. Managers also say they've already put safeguards in place to slow the spread of coronavirus, like requiring face masks and temperature checks for guests and all staff members. They also say when they reopened, they changed up the layout of the casino for social distancing and are at half occupancy. The staff members who test positive are told they may not come to work for two weeks.

More Covid-19 cases in both Lake and Mendocino County for identical numbers. While we learned about a death in each county, due to red tape with the state, they are not always confirmed in official numbers per county. Each county has also almost hit 100 cases. 96 each. In Lake County, the Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace has released demographics for the second time and says he'll continue doing that each week. Dr. Pace told Lake County News the county's steadily increasing its case load. Some he says are from contacts with known cases, and others related to an outbreak in a farmworker community. Dr. Pace says most new cases seem connected to other cases, and there's not widespread community transmission. 55 of the current cases are attributed to current cases, 15 are under investigation and 15 have unknown origin and five are thought to be from a work contact, four within a household and two at the Lake County Jail. Pace says the most cases in the Clearlake area, then the Northshore, followed by Lakeport,

07/07/20 Kelseyville Loch Lomond and Cobb.

The state Department of Public Health reports nearly 272,000 cases of Covid-19 and more than 6,330 deaths since March. New data also shows 16,175 confirmed positive cases in health care workers and 94 deaths in that field. The positivity rate, which had been holding steady, has been steadily climbing the last two weeks, along with hospitalization rates. The Gov. announced yesterday the infection rates are similar to what we saw when the pandemic first surfaced, but death rates seem lower. However health experts say hospitalizations, ICU caseloads and deaths have been lagging behind case numbers. The state has tested millions and says its now working with public and private agencies to boost access to testing from 2,000 to 100,000 tests per day.

In the middle of fire season, several inmate fire camps are on lockdown due to coronavirus. The inmates usually work full time alongside firefighters in the summer time as the state is generally hit hard in dry, hot weather. Four prisoners at the California Correctional Center in Susanville had tested positive last month so state corrections officials ordered 12 out of 43 inmate fire camps to be in quarantine. Apparently Susanville is where most male inmates are trained, then placed in fire camps throughout Northern California. There are usually 90 fire crews, but now there are 77 due to sentencing reforms and early release. And only 30 crews were available right now because of quarantine orders.

Some prisoners are being turfed to other prisons or released from San Quentin due to the pandemic. The Governor says he'll "decompress" the population, releasing about 1,000 inmates after more than 1,300 inmates tested positive for the virus. And the pandemic is being blamed on the death of at least five death row inmates. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reportedly moved inmates from a Southern California prison who were infected, to San Quentin. Officials admitted they didn't conduct proper testing of inmates before the move, so San Quentin, which didn't have any cases, became a new hotspot. The Gov. says the inmates should have never been transferred.

Six more counties have to close bars, movie theaters and wineries and other indoor businesses due to higher cases and hospitalizations. The Gov. ordered the closures after more than 11,500 new cases were reported in one day. And the state's daily count hit a new high for the 20th day in a row. There were 7,300 virus hospitalizations Monday too. The state hit record levels of hospitalizations five out of the last six days. The Governor says the death numbers have been relatively stable, which was "encouraging". But Newsom also said it was too early to know if a spike in deaths will come after the new cases and hospitalizations.

The next state budget has quite the budget gap due to coronavirus. The governor signed it into law last week with some major changes after it came out it would cut into schools and health care. State Senator Mike McGuire says the budget does not include "draconian cuts to public schools... and health and human services". McGuire says lawmakers made a commitment to school districts that the state budget agreements will keep them whole. It also depends on another stimulus package as the state is still being ravaged by the virus. The state is still guaranteeing money for schools with deferred help if the stimulus money doesn't come thru. Assemblyman Jim Wood also spoke out about the previously proposed budget to cut into schools and healthcare. The legislature came up with counter-proposals because of a \$54 billion deficit using the state's rainy day fund.

Another death has been reported in Sonoma County due to coronavirus, bringing the county to a total of 12 deaths. The latest was a woman over the age of 65 who died Saturday. The county Department of Health Services did not release any more info on the death which happened two days after two others died last Thursday. The county also reported 114 new cases between Saturday and Monday, for a total infections of nearly 1,500 cases across the county since March 2nd when the first case was confirmed. Right now there are 681 active cases, and 773 people have recovered.

As part of the latest Lake County Grand Jury report, Pacific Gas and Electric was blamed for bad communication during intentional power shut-offs in severe fire weather. The Grand Jury is therefore recommending the county hire a public information officer for the Office of Emergency Services. The report also says the county needed more "detailed planning" from its cities and within the county to coordinate responses to simultaneous emergencies. It came after several public safety power shutoffs last October during red flag warning weather days. PG&E was widely criticized for their handling of the first ones which affected thousands in the county.

You may hear some helicopters in the area as PG&E does flyover inspections of their equipment in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. The pre-inspection flights ahead of "public safety power shut-offs" so the utility company can shorten how long they are. The company says they're flying over lines to check for safety thru August across the North Bay. The company says it expects intentional power downs as they've done for the last two fire seasons, in Lake, Sonoma and Napa counties. The company is blamed for starting 17 major fires in 2017 and the Camp Fire in 2018. Over 100 people died in all of the fires and thousands of homes were destroyed. The company has finally emerged from its bankruptcy brought on by all of the claims against them and pleaded guilty last month to 85 manslaughter counts and another for unlawfully starting the Camp Fire.

Reports of a stolen dog from the Mendocino Auto Auction ends in car chase, but good news for its owner. The man reported his 2 year old albino pitbull, Honey was inside a Ford pickup at the auction June 28th and taken with the truck. The California Highway Patrol reports arresting Daniel Risch who wouldn't stop at a stop sign in Cloverdale, then led cops on a 20 minute chase. He crashed at a winery in Geyserville, then ran. In the meantime Animal Control was called and the CHP posted photos of Honey on its Facebook Page. The owner who works at the Auction saw the pictures and is getting his dog back. The dog was unharmed. Risch is charged with stealing a vehicle, possession of stolen property, evading and DUI.

The California Atty. General along with four counterparts in other states and Washington, D-C, are suing to stop the federal government from sending coronavirus aid for low-income schools to private and religious schools instead. The Secretary of Education issued an interim rule that requires CARES Act funds be "equitably distributed" to religious and private schools.

07/08/20 Attorney General Xavier Becerra says that would shortchange needy public school districts.

:13 “The Trump administration is creating a process that could unlawfully take tens of millions of dollars away from low-income public schools and divert it to private schools – some of these private schools charging tuition as much as a private university.”

Tag: Public school advocates say the fed’s rule would set aside money for private schools according to their population and not their students’ level of need. Congress appropriated 13-billion dollars to help school districts clean their sites and implement distance learning due to the pandemic. One-and-a-half billion was earmarked for California.

Second Cut: Becerra says many private schools are able to “double dip,” by also claiming funds meant to pay furloughed workers’ salaries.

:07 “Some of those schools have already been able to access the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program, unlike California public schools that can’t.”

Tag: The attorneys general have vowed to seek a preliminary injunction to stop the inte

The City Manager of Ukiah says they’re trying to get more information from the County regarding the demographics of COVID-19 cases. The Daily Journal reports there are only a handful of active cases in the county and the majority of the confirmed 98 cases are recovered. On the Public Health Office Facebook page people commenting they wanted more transparency too, some asking why the recent death, that happened outside the county was not on our dashboard. The man, as we reported yesterday was George Chadwick, who got sick after a virtual church service, for which he was in house at the time. Several people got sick after the service. City Manager Sage Sangiacomo told the City Council last week his staff has been asking the county for a count each week of positive tests so they can watch for trends. But he says test results were coming in from 5-7 days later, making contact tracing tricky. The city manager encouraged mask wearing, social distancing and frequent washing of hands at the meeting.

History made at the University of California. For the first time in its 150 year history, the college system has hired a black president, Dr. Michael Drake. Drake is replacing the retiring leader, Janet Napolitano to manage the 280,000-student system. He's a doctor who was chancellor of the University of California, Irvine, and also led Ohio State University, leaving that position last month. His appointment was unanimously approved by the UC Board of Regents. He told the board he was "excited and ready to go". Even in the midst of the pandemic, during the threat of climate change, and "the yawning wounds of social injustice". Napolitano, who spent seven years in that position, says Drake's appointment is another step in the continued effort to make sure the university reflects the rich diversity of the state.

State Senator Mike McGuire's bill for utility companies to make upgrades and curb the amount of public safety power shutoffs has made it to the Assembly. The bill off to the Assembly committee on utilities and energy. He says the bill will provide a framework so the intentional power downs by investor owned utility companies like last fall are the last resort strategy. McGuire says it was PG&E in particular he's calling out for being years behind in grid modernization and hardening of their equipment. He says the bill will ensure they make the desperately needed modernizations and improvements to their system in an expedited manner. Pacific Gas and Electric opposes the bill.

A man from Clearlake has been arrested for DUI after crashing into another car on the 101 near Leggett. The CHP reports Ian Worley was in an older Toyota pickup Monday morning and lost control and went into oncoming traffic, hitting a Hyundai sedan. A man from Mexico driving that car had minor injuries and landed in the hospital. Worley was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence and the highway had to be closed down for the investigation.

Two more people from Sonoma County have died from complications related to coronavirus. 14 people in the county have now died since March. Now the county is on the state's watchlist after a surge in cases, hospitalizations and deaths. The state watchlist means there could be a roll back in reopening and possible closures of bars, indoor dining at breweries, wineries and restaurants, entertainment centers, museums and theaters and other indoor gathering places. The two recent deaths were a man and woman who were both older than 65 and lived in skilled nursing facilities.

Another inmate has died in a California prison due to Covid-19. It happened at the Institution for Men in Chino, the same facility where the virus has continued surging. We had some transfers to Mendocino and Lake counties who were infected and isolated at a home after landing here. There's no information on the prisoner, but officials say there are 100 inmates currently infected. And to slow the spread, they transferred 121 to San Quentin State Prison without properly testing them. There had been no cases at the maximum security facility, but since the transfer more than a third of the inmates have been infected and several death row inmates died.

It's official the Lakeport City Council gave a thumbs up to a contract with the new city manager Kevin Ingram. He had been the assistant city manager after serving as the Community Development director. Then the current City Manager Margaret Silveira announced she would leave and Ingram was next in line for the job. Ingram's contract is for almost 3 years, from Aug. 1st to March of 2023 and auto renews annually. He gets just under \$141,000 a year and a yearly bonus and \$5,000 a year car allowance.

2 small fires have been corralled in Lake County. Lake County News reports the fires were just about an hour apart on different sides of the county. The Sleeper Fire was by Upper Lake and the Mart Fire in Clearlake. The Mart Fire called for some evacuations last night, but they were lifted soon after. The Sleeper fire burned about 4 acres and was surrounded by firefighters about a half hour after they arrived. The Mart Fire by the Walmart in Clearlake burned about 2 and a half acres. But there were some spot fires and downed power lines to contend with too. Evacuations were ordered and lifted under two hours later. One home was partially burned and two other structures destroyed. A fire on the Grindstone Ranger District charred about 25 acres. The Nail Fire burning 30 miles west of Willows.

A man driving with meth on him has been arrested. Police in Fort Bragg stopped the man early this morning after noticing various code violations. Ernest Salo of Fort Bragg had no drivers license on him and admitted to police he had recently done drugs. So they searched and found about an ounce of suspected methamphetamine. Salo was arrested and charged with possession for sale of Methamphetamine, transportation of methamphetamine for sale, possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving on a suspended license. He was taken to the Mendocino County Jail.

Money for businesses in Mendocino County available from the local Economic Development & Financing Corporation. The nonprofit provides alternatives to regular bank loans, thru the federal government. Their lending manager is reportedly helping businesses get help during the pandemic. The Willits News reports the Arena Cove building which has 3 restaurants inside was about to be condemned; but the EDFC got them a loan so they could reconstruct the building. A loan for Sheet Metal Works too who after 25 years in business was impacted by the pandemic and got a loan. Businesses who were having trouble paying back loans during the pandemic have also been given 6 month extensions.

Almost 2 million claims for unemployment are still waiting to be paid. The claims from when the shelter in place orders first went into effect. The backlog has Calif. residents up in arms about nobody answering the phone and old technology. First time claims are still unpaid after Gov. Gavin Newsom promised reform and that he would add more staff. Some say they call daily and sit on hold and never get a live person to respond. If you're in the same boat, there's a Facebook group called Albert's List, set up by a San Francisco resident who says he tries to help people find solutions. Over the three months of issues, March, April, and May, 5 million California workers filed initial claims and only 3 million of them have been paid.

More cases of Covid-19 in Mendocino County. 9 more cases reported yesterday. The Mendocino County Health Office reports 107 total cases with 85 recovered and 22 on home isolation. There are also 78 people who were close contacts in quarantine. The active cases as follows North Coast: 2, South Coast: 1, South County: 2, Ukiah Valley: 10, North County: 7. The Public Health Officer reports 16 cases in 5 days including an employee at a skilled nursing facility and another employee of facility which provides homeless services. They got infected from a close contact outside of the workplace so now the county is testing the two facilities so there aren't any outbreaks. The Public Health Officer also reported on the 14th case which was a man who attended service at the Redwood Valley Assembly of God church and died at a rehab facility in Marin County. The death is not counted

07/09/20 here yet as they've not received a death certificate from Marin County.

The Mendocino County Public Health Office says they've been getting questions about what it means to be "recovered" from the County's COVID-19 statistics and dashboard. They say it's when someone is released from isolation, which is after they've had no symptoms for ten days; or an asymptomatic person who isolates for ten days after their positive test; or someone with symptoms who goes three days with no fever and improvement of cough, shortness of breath and other symptoms; AND at least 10 days have passed since the date of test sample collection; AND they've been cleared by their health care provider and/or Public Health.

An addition to the Public Health Order in Mendocino County from the state, churches or other places of worship may not engage in singing or chanting, limit indoor attendance to 25% building capacity or at the most 100 attendees, whichever is lower, and all must wear a mask. There is free testing in partnership with Consolidated Tribal Health Project and the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Mendocino County in Hopland and Willits. Tomorrow in Hopland: from 8am to 11am at the corner of Hwy 101 and 175; and Saturday in Willits, also from 8am to 11am at the Sherwood Valley Tribal Office.

The California State Treasurer has announced the office is helping more than a dozen counties impacted by wildfires to build new housing. Fiona Ma's office reports applications for credits have soared after new changes by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee. Congressman Mike Thompson has also secured 100 million in yearly federal tax credits, also known as recovery tax credits. Ma reports the credits will pay for the construction or reconstruction of multifamily housing projects in counties hit by the devastating fires of 2017 and 2018. 88 applications have been received for more than 6,900 multi-family housing units.

A man has been arrested in Redwood Valley after a harassment report to the Sheriff's Dept. Mendocino deputies reported to a home Monday after a woman called to say a family member had been sending her threatening messages. The woman reported she believed the man was homeless in the Vancouver, Washington area. She also said she had a restraining order against him, and so did another family member, a woman in the Fortuna area, along with her toddler. But no matter, they say, Casey Woida was texting and phoning threats to them and their employers, starting June 24th. Then they say he told them he was headed to Calif and was going to kill them. They tracked the man thru cell phones and found he was traveling in Oregon. A warrant was put out for his arrest for stalking, making terrorist threats, and violation of a domestic violence protective order. Mendocino and Humboldt deputies along with Fortuna police pursued the man after finding out he might be at Bayshore Mall, the guy took off after a deputy arrived, and he called 911 and threatened to kill people too. He surrendered after a 20 mile chase and was arrested and held on \$100,000 bail.

A man in Laytonville's been arrested for threats, domestic violence and holding someone against their will. Mendocino Deputies got a call from a woman who says Aaron Gomez, her boyfriend, had attacked her. When they arrived they say she had visible injuries, including bleeding, all consistent with her story. She says they were arguing early July 4th and he got mad when she tried to leave, grabbing her. He then followed her when she got in her car, reached in the car, pulled her hair and hit her. She drove to get medical help. This apparently isn't the first fight they had, including another time when he hit her with a shovel. The man was found July 5th and arrested and held on \$30,000.00 bail.

A man in Willits arrested for illegally growing marijuana and trespassing. Deputies got a call last month about someone illegally trespassing in Willits. They found a man in a travel trailer, Jason Bacchi who told them he owned the property, but they say he couldn't prove it. They say after weeks of investigating, it turns out he was trespassing there and, on another property, where he started some marijuana gardens. They say he had been asked to leave previously by the actual property owners but he wouldn't. While investigating, deputies found two cultivation sites on Shamrock Ranch and Coastal Forest Lands property. Deputies say when talking to the man, he became confrontational. He was ultimately arrested for marijuana cultivation and criminal trespassing.

More cases of coronavirus in Lake County, 100 cases. The Lake County Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace at this week's Board of Supervisors meeting saying he was worried about essential businesses where workers tested positive. One person recently died, but we don't have anything more on the case. 3 people are in the hospital and one in another hospital outside the county. Dr. Pace says there were healthcare workers who tested positive or others at businesses with contact with the public. He says they're encouraging mask wearing and social distancing, but it's not always possible for people who are essential workers. He says they're trying to limit indoor gatherings, identify cases and quickly do contact tracing then isolate people to slow the spread. He also told supervisors he was concerned about testing sites once again getting inundated with backlogs of results.

Senator Mike McGuire had another in a series of townhalls. This one on fire preparedness. The teleconference last night focused on the rural northern part of the state including Lake County. He says it's more complicated this year because of the virus and, but infections aren't as high there as in other counties across the state. Sheriff Brian Martin also on the call reminding wildfires can take off in an instant and residents have to be prepared, and households with a plan in place. The sheriff reminds to clear around your property, make sure leaves and gutters are cleaned and deal with yard work in the cool morning hours.

If you want to get involved in city affairs, you can run for City Council in Lakeport... if you're a resident. Those interested can fill out nomination papers starting Monday. There will be three vacant seats, for four years. To qualify you must be registered to vote and live in the city limits. The deadline to apply to run is August 6th. You have to call the city clerk's office first due to COVID-19 restrictions and make an appointment during the nomination period. The clerk's office can take appointments with 24 hours notice a few years ago in Clearlake. Alan Leroy Ashmore worked out a plea agreement with the DA's office before a trial which was supposed to start as the pandemic surfaced in March. He pleaded no contest to first-degree murder for the death of 85-year-old Douglas Ashmore, and his friend, Richard Braden. Plus he was charged with the attempted first-degree murder of CHP Officer Steven Patrick and he had to admit he was in possession of a firearm and discharged it resulting in death and great bodily injury. For the admissions, the DA dismissed more than a dozen other crimes against him. He might one day be considered for parole under the Elderly Parole Program after 25 years of prison time, but he would be 89 years old. He will remain in jail until a prison can be found that doesn't have a COVID-19 outbreak.

The surge in cases in Lake County continues, with 100 cases total now. There are 18 active cases and 81 others have recovered. Last week the Public Health Office announced one death. The same day Mendocino County announced its first death. In Lake County two people are in the hospital and a total of nine have been hospitalized since the pandemic surfaced in the county. State officials say as they continue testing, more cases are confirmed, which has been expected. More than 16,000 healthcare workers have also been infected in Calif. and 95 have died.

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors have voted unanimously for penalties to individuals who refuse to comply with facial coverings guidelines. The fines include "one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first violation; two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the second violation; and five hundred dollars (500.00) for a third or subsequent violations if the subsequent violations occur within one year of the first violation." (courtesy Red Headed Blackbelt).

Sonoma County has landed on the state's coronavirus watchlist. The Press Democrat reports starting today the state and the county will try to find a way to slow the spread after a surge in new cases in recent weeks. There will be three days of talks, but no word to the public so far about what may come of that, like potential rollbacks of the reopening of the county like indoor dining at restaurants, bars and tasting rooms for at least three weeks. The Board of Supervisors also voted unanimously to look at stricter enforcement of the local health orders, on mask wearing. The Mendocino County Board unanimously approved fines for those caught without a mask of up to \$500 for a third offense. But no word from the board about how or who will enforce

07/10/20 it.

The Gov. focusing on wildfire season announcing sheltering for wildfire evacuees in hotels will require temperature checks and other changes during the pandemic. The Press Democrat reports there's a potential for the virus to spread at fire camps and shelters so the Governor's administration is reimagining sheltering firefighters and evacuees. The news as the state hits almost 300,000 cases. The new evacuation protocols include health screenings when you enter a shelter, more cleaning staff, prepackaged meals, separating sick evacuees from healthy evacuees and medical and mental health professionals on site. Firefighters will also have to physically distance, have remote briefings and alternate shifts to slow the spread of COVID-19 during wildfire season.

The home and workshop of a local artist has burned. Larry Fuentes creative workshop of more than 5 decades was gutted. The fire July 3rd in a van, where someone was inside and burned. They were treated for serious injuries and flown after to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. The artistic work stored there was lost in the fire. Fuente was not injured in the fire that was believed to have spread from the van to his metal warehouse, which pretty much melted. CAL Fire brought out a helicopter as ground crews surrounded the fire so it didn't spread to surrounding grass and vegetation. Fuente's last exhibit "New World Hoarder" was held at the Mendocino Art Center Gallery from August to September last year. He's best known for his 1960 era "Mad Cad" Cadillac which was saved from the fire. The Willits Shake Park has a new shelter.

A local couple Alan Grossman and Deborah Frank paid for a new metal shade canopy. The two are frequent visitors of the park. Grossman says his grandkids go there and he realized then it was too hot not to have shade. He says they were grateful to contribute. On Monday the public works department put the shade structure up. The city donated the labor to erect the structure. Grossman says he'll continue working with the city to bring other improvements to the park and he's hopeful the city will plant some trees for further shade.

12 scholarships for students of color at Willits High have been handed out. A GoFundMe campaign was started in June to raise \$2,000 for two scholarships, but it turned into \$12,000. Holli and Noel Woodhouse of Willits started the GoFundMe. And to raise awareness, Noel biked from Willits High UC Davis, both his alma mater's. They say several dozen students were nominated by their classmates, teachers, and by community members.

The Lake County Public Health Officer out with an update on the surge of infections. Dr. Gary Pace says there are currently 101 cases of COVID-19 which have been continuing to rise since the end of June. Dr. Pace says the local cases doubled in less than two weeks. There are currently 19 active cases, one in the hospital and another outside the county, also hospitalized. He says there is good news though as the active count was 44 a week ago and its dropped by more than half. He says the local healthcare system could respond and contact tracing was challenging, but Public Health Nurses rose to the occasion. He says the local situation has stayed manageable as opposed to 26 counties on the State's watchlist. He reminds to wear a mask, avoid large gatherings, socially distance.

Three COVID positive inmates heading back to Lake County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace confirmed the release from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. And the Sheriff confirmed the same to Lake County News, but says they're not in jail, they're in the community after an outbreak in the state prison system. The releases are part of a new program that started July 1st. Inmates with less than 180 days on their sentences can be freed. Those who test positive for the virus before they leave get five masks for protection during transfer. And the dept. of corrections says they work with state and local public health and law enforcement so the now former inmates are isolated and then monitored.

The Lake County Public Health Officer says they're still monitoring cases that came from an outbreak in a farmworker community. About 35 cases arose from workers or their close contacts. Dr. Pace says most of those are now off isolation and no longer considered contagious, and any remaining cases in the cluster are diminishing. He says they quickly identified the outbreak, and tested 300 people who were at high risk for exposure. Dr. Pace says the employers, workers and their contacts did a good job of implementing precautions recommended by Public Health staff which he says seems to have slowed any potential growth. Dr. Pace also says July 4th get togethers may have led to exposure and is encouraging folks get tested. There's one confirmed case Pace says from a large, private 4th celebration on Tribal lands, where multiple people may have been exposed. This person was not at this celebration, but several of their close contacts were.

The Lake County Public Health Office is warning of a phone scam. Someone calling saying they're Mr. Smith from the Health Dept. and it's about mask wearing. A local business owner says they received one such call, the person claiming they would fine the business and close them down if they didn't make everyone entering the store wear a facial covering. The public health office says they make no such calls and may call a business to remind about safety procedures like masking or social distancing if they receive a complaint about the business. But he says their goal is education and encouraging compliance. There are no fines or other enforcement measures at this time for businesses.

The Mendocino County Board has passed an urgency ordinance. So you can get a ticket for not wearing a mask. CEO Carmel Angelo says they want to first educate as to why it's important to wear a mask, but they're also prepared to hand an incident over to the enforcement team.

There's a new public health officer candidate in Mendocino County. The CEO says they'll interview the candidate behind closed doors on the 21st. CEO Angelo says for now Dr. Doohan is still the health officer and they had brought in a second Dr. as a deputy to help her, but that was on a temporary basis.

There have been 108 cases of COVID in Mendocino County, 2 are active and there are 2 hospitalizations. Dr. Doohan says she would like schools to open with spacing of 3-6 feet between children.

There was an inmate released to the County and they will be isolated in a hotel alone for 14 days. Any other inmates released will also be put up in a hotel unless they were isolated for two weeks before returning to the county. The Dept. of Corrections started to release inmates with less than 6 months on their sentences July 1st after a surge of cases at the Mens Prison in Chino and subsequently at San Quentin.

Clearlake City leaders say the latest Grand Jury report critical of the tax collectors office is not an accurate depiction of incidents. The Grand Jury report out last week with an area for "Tax Default Auctions" showing what it calls a "sizable 'backlog' of property tax default parcels for several years. The jury recommended county administration review and enact "enhanced controls over data dissemination" between departments and to add a couple more trained positions in the Treasurer/Tax Collector's office for the sole purpose of tax default auctions. The report says there are 5,448 tax defaulted properties. The city council says they'll release a full, detailed response, but it's deficient in its finding. Per state law the city must respond within 3 months to a Grand Jury's findings.

Guidelines about how children will head back to school in the fall in Lake County have been released. The "Back to School Protocols" include mask wearing, temperature taking and physical distancing. The school district Superintendent says they're looking at other county plans but it may not apply here. They're taking medical exceptions into account and are reassessing whether the youngest children will need to wear masks. Lakeport has put together an ad hoc committee for the planned reopening of schools.

A jury in Mendocino County has convicted a woman from Crescent City for violating an assault with a deadly weapon charge against her. Vickie Bell's verdict however was downgraded by the judge to a misdemeanor over the prosecutors objection. So Bell got informal probation and credit for two days of jail time previously served. The case stems from a 911 domestic violence call last November where police found a man down with a chest wound. Police said Bell plunged scissors or a knife into the man for playing video games after she asked him to refrain.

A phone scam reported in Lakeport. Police say the scammer in the form of a robo call advising the person who answers they're late on their utility bills. They direct the resident to call an 800 number or pay online. Cops say this doesn't actually happen and the city doesn't use a third party online payment collector.

A former inmate in Ukiah's been arrested again after being released at the end of his term. Richard Lovato was caught leaving his hotel room to buy booze. The Chief Probation Officer and Sheriff worked to put the man in the motel and told him he had to shelter in place and listen to all orders from the Mendocino County Public Health Officer. They also put an ankle monitor on him. Then when officers returned with another early release prisoner, they found Lovato had left and went and bought alcohol at a local convenience store. He has a no-alcohol clause as a term of his release. So he was arrested at the motel and booked on a flash incarceration and was being held without bail. The Sheriff says he had very little warning of the prisoner's release. 11 former prisoners are due in Mendocino County in coming days. Their early release due to the coronavirus outbreak that hit prisons across Calif. They do not have active cases but will be quarantined and will be tested by the Public Health Office. Sheriff Matt Kendall says three of the 11

07/13/20 are from San Quentin where there was a recent major outbreak of the virus.

19 new cases of coronavirus have been reported in Mendocino County. The Public Health Officer also reported the first case at a nursing facility. Dr. Noemi Doohan says they worked over the weekend on contact tracing. There's been a surge in cases over the last two weeks. Public Health says they're concerned about more cases spiking after the July 4th holiday weekend. The 19 new cases include 3 from Sherwood Oaks Skilled Nursing in Fort Bragg. Apparently an employee tested positive, and tests started at the facility, turning up 2 more cases. All 3 were asymptomatic. There was also a recent death at the facility, but they had tested negative for the virus. Optum Serve will do surveillance testing for the facility's staff and residents. It's fire season and Calif. has had another drought like year. Scientists warn that no rain in February and March and hot weather in June is a perfect mix for fire. After the state recovered from the historic 5 year drought from 2012 to 2016 we had a lot of rain this winter, but that was in Southern Calif. The Bay Area on the other hand only got 1/2 what it does in a normal year. So scientists studying fire behavior say we're at a much higher risk the next four or five months, in Northern Calif. The Cal Fire Chief says we're in peak fire season, when fires get bigger and more difficult to control.

The crabbing season has been interrupted after survey ships looking to lay some fiber optic cable powered thru. The cable is going to be between Singapore and California in the ocean. Crab fishermen tried getting the survey ships to stop during the season saying it could destroy their Dungeness crab gear, or cause it to move in such a way it could entangle whales. But the contractor who's managing the survey for the cable says they're operating in good faith and some just want to fight against the project.

Rewards for mask wearing in Lake County. A group says they're promoting wearing masks and have even created a Facebook group to go with it. Jenny Curtiss and Dan Tyrrell's group has more than 400 fans now. Masking for a Friend's goal is for mask wearing in public to be mandatory. They're supporting local businesses who are mandating mask wearing by raising money for businesses with a PayPal Go Fund Me, donating a portion weekly to a business supporting mask wearing. They're calling it a "Money Bomb", giving a business \$250 and a thank you letter. They've already donated to Buddha Thai Kitchen in Middletown, Juicy's Pizza in Lakeport and Middletown Creamery. And Juicy's Pizza gave their earnings to the Lakeport Senior Center.

Sonoma County on the state's watchlist has been ordered to rollback its reopening, closing restaurants to take out only, bars without food, and more. The Dept. of Public Health orders go into effect today. They also include, re-closing down museums, entertainment centers, like movie theaters or miniature golf, and more. The county joins more than 2 dozen others who are dealing with reinstated restrictions because of a surge in Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations. There have been over 1,800 cases in the county. The number steadily climbing since Memorial Day. The new restrictions remain in place for 3 weeks. The restrictions do allow for patio or outdoor dining, outdoor wine tasting and other outside business activities as the county deals with a rate increasing by six times what it was about a month and a half ago. And two more residents have been added to the list of deaths in the county, now at 16.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is once again looking at closed meetings because of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. They'll discuss the matter tomorrow, which can be seen on Zoom, the county's Facebook page or local cable. They're accepting written comments ahead of time. The Board Chair is expected to ask fellow supervisors to consider closing board chambers because of the surge in cases the last two weeks. The chambers just reopened less than 2 weeks ago, but cases have more than doubled since then. Chair Moke Simon says he thinks they were premature in the reopening, and they should continue hybrid meetings, where there are some folks in person, and the rest on video. The board is also expected to get its weekly coronavirus update from the county's Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace.

[To participate in real-time, please join the Zoom meeting by clicking this link a](#)

A fire put out on a Lake County supervisor's property. Lake Co News reports the fire broke out Saturday just before noon on Supervisor Rob Brown's property, land he has been leasing from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. to process trees and vegetation the company has been removing after the 2015 Valley fire. A log pile about 100 feet long and 12 feet high caught fire and started several spot fires. The fire was quickly surrounded, and a helicopter was brought in to help the fight. The fire ended up burning about 1.3 acres. Brown confirmed that PG&E had taken precautions on the land so there wouldn't be a wildfire, having cleared 1,000 feet of defensible and a water truck on scene at all times.

More coronavirus cases reported in Lake County. The Public Health Dept. reported another uptick in cases last Friday for a total now of 108 cases. 22 cases were reported last week. Three state prison inmates tested positive but were released to the county. The latest stats show most of the cases in Clearlake or parts east. The Public Health Office reports 25 active cases and 82 regarded as recovered. There are 3 people hospitalized, joining 7 others who had been in the hospital at some point too. One person has died from the virus in the county.

A couple of Northern Calif. counties say they're going to be stricter on people not following Covid-19 safety measures. They're threatening to suspend business permits in Yolo and El Dorado county. Officials say they'd prefer being strict to slow the spread of the virus instead of landing on the state's watchlist and face closures. The chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors says they felt like they had to get more rigid, so they'll fine businesses between \$500-10,000 who don't comply. At the same time Sacramento County is considering similar enforcement. And the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is pressing businesses to be tougher for fear they could suspend their alcohol licenses, or revoke it entirely.

A bicyclist has been arrested in Fort Bragg. Police say they saw the guy had several code violations on his bike but when they tried stopping him, he dropped the bicycle and tried to run away even as officers commanding he stop. The rider was caught a short distance later and detained. Ernest Salo held for resisting, delay, or obstructing officers. Then upon further investigation, officers found he had nearly 23 grams of suspected meth and large amount of cash. He was then arrested and charged with possession for sale of Methamphetamine and resisting, delaying, or obstructing an officer.

Calif. is shutting down again. All bars, indoor dining, gyms, churches and hair salons and most enclosed places of business as coronavirus is nowhere near slowing in the state. Gov. Newsom had previously ordered 19 counties with spikes in cases to close their bars and indoor operations at restaurants, wineries, zoos and family entertainment centers. But then today, it was extended to the entire state. Plus there are even tighter restrictions on 30 counties that had rising numbers, including Los Angeles and San Diego. Newsom says not everybody is "practicing common sense". The order did not include schools which are supposed to start again in just weeks. San Diego and Los Angeles said they'd go online for the start of the school year. LA Unified is the second-largest public school district in the country.

A man from Fort Bragg who was facing a trial has agreed to a plea deal instead for abusing his underage girlfriend. The Mendocino County DA's office reports 19 year old Francisco Javier Martinez Rodriguez was arrested for furnishing methamphetamine to a minor and threatening her if she told police. Several other crimes including assault with a knife, child abuse, and child abuse under circumstances likely to produce great bodily harm. The charges had multiple counts for several occasions. He agreed to spend 18 years in prison. He was on probation at the time so also admitted to violating the terms of his probation. So 8 more months were tacked on to his sentence. Since voters approved non violent felons not getting enhanced sentences for good behavior, he may only spend half his sentence behind bars and with good and work time, less than 4 ½ years.

The Gov along with his Department of Public Health have announced a new State Order for the entire state. So all indoor dining at bars, restaurants and other indoor business operations will cease as the spread of coronavirus continues. It comes after a surge in hospitalizations and ICU cases and a major spike in the percentage of positive cases. So all counties are closing restaurants, except for outdoor dining and take out, wineries/tasting rooms can operate outside, not indoors, movie Theaters, Family Entertainment Centers (e.g., miniature golf, batting cages and arcades), zoo and Museums and Cardrooms. The Mendocino County Health Officer has revised her health order to coincide with the state. That went into effect last night just before midnight. It stays as is until noon on August 3, 2020. Several counties remain on a watch list, Lake and Mendocino counties are not. But those counties have to also close fitness centers, worship services, non-essential business, personal care services, like nail salons, body waxing and tattoo parlors, hair salons and barbershops and malls.

07/14/20

As part of the new restrictions under the governor's orders, your landlord cannot evict you. That was in place and ended June 30th, but now the Gov. issued an executive order so it extends to September 30th. The last order passed March 16th. By allowing people who can't pay rent to get a break with these new protections by becoming homeless, then spreading the virus if they get infected. And local governments passing their own orders can override the Governor's but there are still another layer of state protections to potentially protect you. Additionally the California Judicial Council, also put a measure in place back in April to suspend evictions for 90 days after the governor lifts the state of emergency. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors considered this in March, then Fort Bragg enacted a local ordinance, but Ukiah, Willits, and Point Arena are staying with state and judicial orders.

Another major spike in cases in Mendocino County, 14 more cases... the total count as of yesterday, hit 146. There were 19 cases the day before that for a total of 33 cases in 3 days. Also the public health office announced that after residents spoke out about our one death in the county being noted on the dashboard as recovered because he was being treated out of county, they changed the noted "recovered" to "removed from isolation."

An update on the Streetscape Project in Ukiah. The work to replace the water lines between Church and Henry Streets has begun and should continue for the next month or so. Then the work will move to the south end between Mill and Church streets. The Daily Journal has posted pictures of the work in progress. The newspaper reports access is available to all businesses in the area, but construction crews keep warning about "messy work". Construction work is during the day, Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. Traffic is still moving on State St. but down to two lanes and parking is sketchy on South State Street between Church and Henry streets. Also, keep in mind until Friday, Standley and Smith Streets will be temporarily closed. For more info, visit ukiahstreetscape.com, or UkiahStreetscape on Facebook.

We're back in a drought. According to the Mendocino City Community Services District who declared a Stage 4 drought. That means that residents will get their water allotment slashed by 40 percent. It comes after rainfall totals for this year fell to 50% of normal as of June 23rd. Only about 20.5 inches as opposed to the normal 40 inches in a good year. So it puts the district in borderline Stage 4. So customers of the district can expect a necessary reduction in water usage, prohibition of water waste, some businesses have to display their conservation efforts, no washing cars with a hose, no refilling of decorative fountains, ponds, hot tubs or swimming pools. And restaurants are recommended to use paper plates to avoid dishwashing. Check with the district for even more detailed restrictions.

Sonoma County has almost 40% of its total cases in the last two weeks. The Press Democrat reports 11 of the total 16 local deaths happened in that period of time too. 116 new case confirmed on Sunday, the highest day to date since March. And yesterday Sonoma saw 67 more cases for a total that's getting ever so close to 2,000 – 1,886. The Gov. shuttering a lot of indoor business again and getting even stricter with counties on the state's watchlist, for which Sonoma is one. It means businesses that have just reopened with new, expensive restrictions to close. And the new restrictions will stay in place at least 3 weeks. The County Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase says the new cases are due to social gatherings, skilled nursing centers and other residential care facilities outbreaks and large households and workplace bubbles where folks infect each other.

Part of the old airport property in Clearlake could be divvied up and sold. The Clearlake City Council to consider a proposal by a developer to buy some of the land. A proposed letter of intent will be discussed between the city and King Management for a four acre piece of the 27-acre property, just off Highway 53. Lake County News reports the City Manager says there are two parcels the company wants to buy to potentially build a hotel. The city's working with the developer on ideas. The city manager says the company wants to move fast and erect a national hotel brand at the site. It would either be an outright purchase of the land or maybe a long-term lease agreement. The matter to be visited Thursday after the council has a closed door session on potential lawsuits against Pacific Gas and Electric Co. The meeting will be on the county's YouTube Channel or local cable.

City council seats up for grabs in Clearlake. Any resident seeking to get involved in city politics can file to run for the November 3rd election. There are three four year term seats open. They're held now by Phil Harris, Joyce Overton and Russell Perdock. The filing deadline is August 7th unless one or more of those incumbents decides not to file, then they extend the filing period, 5 days to August 12, for nonincumbents. You can grab your candidate packet at the Administrative Services/City Clerk's Office, but call first to schedule an appointment.

More coronavirus cases in Lake County. The Public Health Officer reports 13 more, for a total of 121 cases. Lake County News reports late last night the state had reported more than 332,000 cases and almost 7,060 deaths. In Lake County, 30 cases are active and 90 recovered. There has also been one death. Four people are in the hospital currently. 6 others had been hospitalized since the pandemic first arose in March. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace says the new cases are following a trend with active cases tracing back to a previously known case, or to a family or social gathering.

CalFire and the Army Corps of Engineers are planning a prescribed burn this evening at the Coyote Valley Dam on Lake Mendocino. The burn will start at 6:00 and be out by 9:00, and smoke will be visible throughout the entire Ukiah and Redwood Valley areas. Because of the burn, access to that area is restricted for safety. CalFire says the purpose of the fire is to clear vegetation and to allow access and visibility for a required inspection

California is refining its coronavirus testing plan to reach more groups that are particularly at risk. The state is doing about 100,000 tests a day but Health and Human Service secretary Mark Ghaly says there should be more. He says testing is an important part of the state's strategy, especially as schools finalize their reopening plans. Ghaly wants testing to focus more on people who show symptoms while still making general screening more available. He is hoping that hospitals, labs, and other providers expand their outreach efforts too. Some testing sites report they have been overwhelmed as cases skyrocket and more people come in to get tested.

The Ukiah Unified School District is planning two options for reopening its schools. Under a plan approved by the school board Monday night, families can choose either a hybrid of distance learning and in-person classes or a full distance learning option. The district will also offer an independent study curriculum in some limited cases. Board president Anne Molgaard says the goal is to strike a balance between safety and maximizing instruction time. Students in the District who choose the hybrid model will be equally split into two groups, one called Group A and the other Group B. They'll attend their usual school in person two days each week and will learn virtually three days each week. Students and staff will be required to wear a mask when attending school in person except when eating or outside at a physical distance. Those under the full distance learning model will have to engage online every day of the school week, through Zoom, Google, or other online methods. You can take a look at the plan on the website, UUSD.net.

A 19-year-old from Fort Bragg will spend the next 18 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to several charges filed after a violent incident last December. A release from the Fort Bragg PD says Francisco Martinez-Rodriguez will do that time for giving meth to a minor, making threats, assault, and child abuse. He was arrested last December 3rd after cops got a call about a disturbance in front of the Purity Market, where officers found the 17-year-old victim who had suffered serious injuries to her face when Martinez-Rodriguez hit her. Martinez-Rodriguez was already on probation at the time. That violation adds another 8 months to his sentence.

The DMV says many older drivers will get an extension on their license renewal for another year. The department says due to the pandemic those drivers over 70 with a non-commercial license that expires between March 31st and December 31st of this year will get that extra time to renew. Normally people in that age group have to visit a DMV office in person to get a new license, but with those people are at a higher risk and with long lines and wait times at offices, officials thought it best to allow that leeway to those senior drivers

9 more cases of coronavirus added in Mendocino County. The Public Health Office dashboard has to total up to 155, with no hospitalizations and 57 people in isolation. There's no longer a recovered tab on the county's Covid-19 dashboard, now it says there have been 98 people released from isolation. The most cases 19-34 age range, then 35-49 year olds. The Hispanic community has been hit the hardest with 89 of our total cases.

07/15/20 Most of the cases in the Ukiah Valley, 111 or them.

Ukiah high will be distributing food once again for kids 18 and younger. This morning until 1 pm, at the high school. Children don't have to be with their parents to get the meals. They're giving out plums, cantaloupes, and potatoes as part of the distribution this morning. You can also get farmers boxes, a Farmers to Families Food Box with 20 pounds of pork and 20 pounds of cheese. They remind to please wear a mask and practice social distancing when you pick up food.

North Coast legislators working to protect the press. Senator Mike McGuire has put up a bill to protect Freedom of the press which he says has been under attack especially as of late during protests. Reporters being hit by rubber bullets, hit with batons, sprayed with tear gas, and even arrested. SB 629 looks to protect reporters who McGuire says risk their lives at protests and rallies to get the public needed information. The Press Freedom Act is to allow journalists to perform their duties and be protected from law enforcement who intentionally assault, obstruct or interfere with their duties to gather news. The bill moves to the Assembly Public Safety Committee in the coming weeks.

Another lawsuit against Pacific Gas & Electric as the company just emerges from its Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. The company already sued, and has to fork over billions for the October 2017 Northern Calif. wildfires and 2018 Camp Fire. Now those who were impacted by the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County last year are suing. The fire, the largest in the county, ever. The Press Democrat reports the Mayacama Golf Club, three wineries and four hotels are part of a lawsuit with more than 20 businesses and several individuals going after damages from PG&E after the 78,000-acre wildfire. It has not been pinned on the utility company as the fire's still being investigated by Cal Fire. The fire last October sparked in windy weather in a rugged area of the Mayacamas Mountains. The Press Democrat reports the ignition point near high-voltage power lines that carry electricity generated by The Geysers geothermal field.

The latest Lake County Grand Jury report says there was a dramatic under counting of the homeless. The report says there's also a large void in affordable housing which is making it worse for that population. This part of the larger jury report, "Assessing the Homelessness in Lake County" says there are not enough warming centers and beds for the homeless in the winter, that the Point in Time Count and self reported homeless were off, and there are multiple problems that nonprofits are dealing with, instead of the county, including for mental health, substance abuse, food and nutrition and reproductive health.

There are still several hundred thousand unemployment claims unpaid in Calif. Since the onset of the pandemic, a backlog of unemployment claims has plagued the jobless. The Employment Development Department is getting hammered by complaints with first time claims still unpaid for many. Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblyman Jim Wood say they're also getting inundated with calls for help. Wood says his 3 district offices in Eureka, Ukiah and Santa Rosa are getting daily calls with fear and frustration. McGuire says they're getting hundreds and hundreds of calls, emails and Facebook messages from people desperate for help.

[Kids in Ukiah have a choice, in person or 100 percent online learning.](#) The wc Relay For Life in Mendocino County is on. For now, the night of Aug. 29th luminaria will be lit and a circle will be formed at Todd Grove Park in Ukiah in honor of those fighting or who have had cancer. Relay for Life has the events across the country, this year, the park luminaria will be lit from afar so everyone can view from their cars. You can make a donation for your own luminaria or in honor of a loved one to The American Cancer Society. There will be an online program August 30th too. To help someone on a team or to form one of your own, go to: <http://www.relayforlife.org> and enter our zip code.

With the surge in new Covid-19 cases across the state, the California Health and Human Services Secretary says they've got new plans for testing. Dr. Mark Ghaly says not only will there soon be updated testing guidance, but new requirements for health plans to cover testing, and new co-chairs for the Testing Task Force. He says testing is a critical tool to help diagnose and treat those infected. It also shows how it's moving in communities. There will be testing of people in the hospital who have signs or symptoms and those not in the hospital, but that are in high-risk categories, including employees or residents in nursing homes, homeless shelters and prisons and healthcare workers. The Testing Task Force led by the founding chief of the California Department of Public Health's Center for Infectious Diseases, and the senior vice president and chief health officer for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc.

As cases continue to rise in Lake County, the Board of Supervisors has voted to stay with a hybrid meeting approach. There will be limited in-person participation by the public and online. Clearlake and Lakeport City Council meetings will be all online. The Lake County Board had all virtual meetings for three months, then during the height of the lockdown, they reconfigured board chambers for the "hybrid" version of meetings. There are plexiglass partitions up to separate the supervisors from each other and staff. There's audience seating for only 25 so social distancing can be maintained. There's also a new online comment platform for the public to weigh in. Clearlake also has a new town hall page for community input and Lakeport is using GoToMeeting and allowing for live public comments and questions.

Foster care children applying for aid thru the federal government in California more than others. The info from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. It shows 64.5% of high school seniors in foster care submitted their FAFSA, compared to 56.6% of all high school seniors. The nonprofit, John Burton Advocates for Youth says they think it's because of a FAFSA Challenge created three years ago and ended in March. It encouraged education offices to work with high school counselors, probation officers, social workers and the California Student Aid Commission so foster kids would apply for federal and state student aid.

In just a couple of weeks the Willits Center for the Arts will reopen . On Friday, July 31st the Center says they'll be certified to open from the county. They say they'll have safety measures in place such as mandatory mask wearing, hand sanitizer put out, only six people at a time in galleries. The first show they will have is a Ceramics show with Ileya Stewart, paintings by Peter Onsted and a Willits Photography Club showing. They will be open on the weekends only.

After almost thirty years, Roundman's Smoke House and Butcher Shop is closing up shop. The owner says he's ready to retire and sell to a new generation. Steve Rasmussen and Steve Scudder have owned the business for a quarter century. They've put the business up for sale, so they're not out of the shop quite yet. The shop is USDA approved, and has about 20 people working there. They also sell their products in grocery stores across the state. Scudder tells the Advocate newspaper they were planning to retire before the Coronavirus pandemic closed businesses. But they say they've been doing quite well.

Cases of coronavirus continue to rise in Mendocino County. With this news the Mendocino County Public Health Office has officially announced the first death. Dr. Noemi Doohan has put out a statement that the first COVID-19 related death was George Chadwick, the 14th Covid-19 case. The death actually happened at a rehab facility in Marin County, after he was in Adventist Health Ukiah Valley with COVID-19. Because he died in another county, the family first received the death certificate and informed Mendocino County that COVID-19 was listed as a cause of death. The death is now listed on Mendocino County's COVID dashboard. The county will request the death certificate from Marin County today. The county has 165

07/16/20 positive cases, 66 are in active isolation and 6 people are in the hospital. The public health officer has announced there are 6 people in the hospital with COVID-19 in 3 Adventist Hospitals. Dr. Doohan says the outbreak at Sherwood Oaks Skilled Nursing home in Fort Bragg has expanded to 5 residents and 2 employees.) and the total number of cases countywide reached 165 with 66 in active isolation and 123 in active quarantine. The CEO of the local Adventist Health hospitals says they've been trained for this for months and are ready. Of the 6 people in their 3 hospitals, 2 are at the Adventist Health Mendocino Coast, 3 at Howard Memorial and 1 at Adventist Health Ukiah. The county has also revised its shelter in place health order to match with the state. Dr. Doohan says she believes the recent surge in cases and hospitalizations will put the county on the state's watch list, so a revised order will go into effect tomorrow, businesses will have to close unless they can do outside, curb pickup. So we will see closure again of non-essential sectors; personal care services, gyms and malls.

The Public Health Officer in Mendocino County says she doesn't think it's safe for schools to operate in person classes and should stick to distance learning in the Fall. She says schools could also pursue a hybrid model with State guidance on school reopening. But the County CEO also says she believes the recent surge in positive coronavirus vases and hospitalizations should lead to virtual schooling in the fall for "the safety of our children, teachers and staff." The CEO and health officer remind it's vital and mandatory for every resident to wear a mask when they leave their home, not to engage in social gatherings, practice good hygiene, stay home when sick and maintain 6 feet between yourself and others when you're outside of your home. They also say many of the recent cases were due to informal gatherings around the 4th of July holiday.

The county CEO and public health officer say we should have long distance learning. But just Monday the Ukiah Unified school board voted for kids to be in person. It came after a five hour long with the board on zoom. The Mendocino Voice newspaper reports the meeting featured frustrated staff and parents about the plan for in person four days a week. Kids would be in two groups, and would attend two days a week, the rest would be online. The teacher's union put out a statement saying they were extremely disappointed in the school board. The union does not want its members to return to in person classes until the coronavirus pandemic calms down. But the school board said they had the public health officer's blessing on their plan. If the plan goes thru, the trustees voted to spend money on custodial, facility and technology upgrades to support in person and online learning. But no word if it'll change now that Dr. Doohan anticipates the county landing on the state's watchlist by weeks end.

** Update from UUSD

As expected, the COVID situation is changing rapidly in Mendocino County. The board is considering the new data and is talking with health and education experts. We will notify parents and the community as soon as any adjustments are made to our back-to-school plans. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Congressman Jared Huffman is hosting another virtual town hall for Mendocino County. The meeting online tomorrow afternoon at 5:00 p.m. to discuss coronavirus with his constituents. And with him will be State Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblyman Jim Wood, Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan, and President of Adventist Health in Mendocino Jason Wells. They will all take questions from those on the call which will be streamed live on Huffman's Facebook page. You can also participate on the county's YouTube page.

An overnight fire in Albion claims one life. Cal Fire got a call Monday night to a home on fire. Albion-Little River Fire Department asked for help and received it from Mendocino, Fort Bragg Fire, and Cal Fire. The home was totally involved when they all arrived, and it took them most of the night to get the fire and hot spots out. They say there was one person unaccounted for and concern the fire may have been arson. A fire investigator from Ukiah Valley Fire came to the scene. But it was too hot to examine right away. Wednesday morning fire officials and investigators picked thru the debris to make sure, nobody had been in the house and they did find a body. They are unsure if it was a man or woman so an autopsy will be done by the Coroner's Office.

A case of coronavirus has closed the Ukiah Co-op. Management posted on Facebook that they apologize but an employee had contracted the virus and they would close and cleanup. The employee was said to be isolating at home. The Co-op posted they were hiring a local commercial restoration company to thoroughly sanitize the store yesterday. They anticipated the store would be cleaned by the end of the day and they were coordinating with the health department and following an extensive protocol so they could reopen soon.

The Mendocino County Counsel has informed the Board of Supervisors that it's legal for businesses to bar entry to residents not wearing a mask. This at the board's latest meeting and a week after they passed an ordinance to enforce facial coverings with possible fines for those who do not abide. In their latest online meeting, the County Counsel Christian Curtis says businesses can even deny someone coming in even if they say they cannot wear a mask due to a health condition. Curtis says what they've been seeing from state, federal and academic guidance is that a business doesn't have to allow someone in without a facial covering, calling it a legitimate safety restriction. He also says a business can also offer customers who can't wear a mask another way to get something, like curbside pickup.

Accolades for Redwood Credit Union, which has been named a Top 10 Credit Union in the state. The bank also wins the highest-ranked credit union in northern California. The listings by Forbes magazine of America's Best Credit Unions. Out of 5,200 credit unions in the US, RCU is one of just over 180 nationwide that are included on the list. Forbes asked more than 25,000 people about their banks across the country in a 25 question survey. They were asked how satisfied they were overall with their bank and also their thoughts on trust, digital services, financial advice, branch services, and transparency of terms and conditions. The president and CEO of the credit union says they're extremely honored.

Sonoma County about to have a dubious honor, 2,000 COVID-19 cases. And that's double what the county had less than a month ago. It took the county almost four months to get to 1,000. The county's Public Health Officer, Dr. Sundari Mase says even though they've rolled back health orders locally and across the state, it may take a month to notice any change. 38 new cases were reported yesterday, but no new deaths. The new health order closes indoor dining and restaurants, wineries and bars with food. Bars otherwise must close. No entertainment centers, movie theaters, museums and more because the county's on the state's watch list. Gyms, hair and nail salons, places of worship and shopping malls too. Mase blames large social gatherings of more than 12 people, no mask wearing or social distancing as contributing factors in the growing case numbers.

More quarantining space in Sonoma County after Sonoma State said it needed its dorms back. The alternate care site for overflow of people with mild to moderate symptoms of Covid-19. They've not said publicly where the site is. The Board of Supervisors has not even apparently been briefed on the site, but three supervisors apparently went to check it out yesterday. The site scouting after Sonoma State decided to bring students back to campus this fall, in person. The alternate site comes as hospital executives tell supervisors they're concerned about capacity. The beds at some Sonoma State dorm rooms were used for homeless residents or others who needed to be isolated as they awaited test results.

COVID cases continue rising in Lake County. 11 more cases for a total of 133. 35 of the cases are active and 97 people recovered, or no longer isolated. 2 people are in the hospital. There's been one death, but no other information on that has been released for privacy reasons. In Mendocino County, one death was confirmed by the county and finally placed on the county dashboard after the family showed the public health officer the death certificate. Six people are in the hospital in Mendocino County. And the public health office will be adjusting the public health order in anticipation the county could be put on the state's watchlist due to the rise in cases and hospitalizations. The state has seen more than 346,000 cases.

The Kelseyville School District is looking for a few good men... or women. There are vacancies on the school board. They say they want folks who are passionate about education and will commit to volunteer for a four year term. If you're registered to vote in the district, you may be eligible to apply. The school board sets the direction for the district, watches over money expenditures, helps support the schools, ensures accountability and provides community leadership as advocates for children, the school district, and public schools. These are the pillars set out by the Calif. School Board Association. To get your name on the ballot you have to visit the Lake County Registrar of Voters office up until August 7th. You'll have to call to set an appointment at the school district office ahead of that.

The city of Clearlake says they'll write an appeal to the Civil Grand Jury. The city manager put a memo together for the city council regarding the report as the city has 90 days to respond. Lake County News reports the city manager says both the mayor and vice mayor are working with city staff on a response. The grand jury brought up needing more frequent tax sales on the tax-defaulted properties and millions of dollars of uncollected taxes. It comes after the city had tried working with the county on the manner. The grand jury also says the city targeted the Tax Collector and that was inappropriate. The city manager says the info the grand jury relied on was sourced from the county, but it was not a broad collection of tax defaulted properties.

Like Mendocino County before it, Napa County will start enforcing mask wearing and fine people caught not abiding. They will further charge businesses, something Mendocino County has not said it would do. But the Napa County Board of Supervisors has given the green light to hand out tickets with fines of up to \$500 for individuals and up to ten times that much, \$5,000 for businesses who get repeated complaints for violating the state and local health orders. But as with most counties in Calif. and across the country, officials are more interested in education over enforcement. Napa's Code Compliance Division will be the lead on enforcement efforts.

After a group of business and individuals announced they're suing PG&E for the Kincade Fire, now CalFire reports PG&E was indeed responsible for the massive fire. The Kincade Fire was the largest ever in Sonoma County. It burned nearly 78,000 acres last October and burned down 374 structures. Investigators with CalFire say after a meticulous and thorough investigation, they found PG&E electrical transmission lines northeast of Geyserville were to blame. That and tinder dry vegetation and strong winds with low humidity and warm temperatures contributed to extreme rates of fire spread. The report has been forwarded to the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office.

The Lake County Public Health Office giving an update on Covid-19 cases. There are now 137 total cases, with 36 active and 3 in the hospital. As we get further into the pandemic, the health office notes some features of our local spread. Several cases in people who contracted it at a social gathering with family and friends, where multiple households are present for a sustained period of time, calling this very risky. Second someone who has close contact with someone with the virus without a mask on, within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more. And third, people working in high public contact environments. The health office says they can't confirm they contracted the infection at work, but they say frequent social interaction and employment in front-line service industries appear to be strong risk factors.

3 people in Sonoma County have died due to coronavirus. The County Public Health Office reports 19 people have died, 10 from skilled nursing centers. It's also on the heels of the announcement that the county has now had more than 2,000 cases since early March. A man died Monday, a woman Tuesday and a third person Wednesday. The Press Democrat reports all were over 65 years old. The total cases as of last night including 45 newly confirmed cases was 2,027. The public health office also reports some people who had recently tested positive had traveled out of the county or state and others were at large gatherings which are prohibited. The public health order allows only groups of up to 12 people outside a household for outdoor activities.

As noted earlier this week, as of today a new public health order will be in place. The Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan says the same restrictions as Sonoma County which is on the state's watch list will be instituted by noon today. That means no indoor dining, no bars, gyms, personal care salons or church. As far as we know the state has not yet placed the county on the watchlist, but with one death and 7 hospitalized in our 3 county hospitals, Doohan says it's a matter of time. Dr. Doohan says she's pre-emptively making the move so she can retain local control. There are now 177 cases of coronavirus reported in the county.

12 new cases of Covid-19 in Mendocino County for a total of 177. There are now 4 people in an ICU. Over the last week, our case load has grown with 64 new cases and one confirmed death. Seven of the new cases in the Hispanic community which has been hit hard across the state. We've had three cases in kids between 6 and 12 years old and three in the over 65 range. The Public Health Office attributes one of the new cases to "community spread", the rest are being investigated. Half the new cases in the Ukiah Valley. 11 cases in the new group are isolating and seven are in the hospital.

California seeing a surge in unemployment cases along with a surge in the pandemic. Almost 300,000 new claims for unemployment for the week ending July 11th. That's nearly 23,000 more initial claims than a week before. Unemployment in the country at 1.3 million, the lowest in the last four months. But in Calif. we've had more than 6 and a half initial claims since the pandemic arose in March.

There are several states the White House is watching that are considered hotspots, Calif. is in a so-called "red-zone". The Center for Public Integrity reports 18 states are in the "red zone" with more than 100 new cases per 100,000 population. 11 states in the zone for positive tests, 10% of their tests came back with positive results. The coordinator of the coronavirus task force at the White House Dr. Deborah Birx says she is regularly updated by governors. She says Arizona, California, Florida and Texas were being monitored closely along with other states which should all limit gatherings.

Updated guidance on the reopening of schools is expected from the Governor. The state is dealing with a major resurgence of the virus just weeks ahead of when schools would normally be opening. Gov. Newsom's office is not giving any hints as to what his plan is for schools this fall, but many school districts have already said they'd be online only in the fall. Some teacher's unions say they want teachers to get back to the classroom, virtually, at least for the first quarter or semester. The California Teachers Association has sent the Governor, the state Superintendent and legislative leaders word that there doesn't appear to be a way to get back in person safely right now, so from a public health perspective, quality long distance learning was the way to go until the virus is tamed.

After the deadly Ghost Ship Fire 36 people died and two people were charged with their deaths. One of them got off, the other still dealing with the possibility of prison time. Now the city of Oakland has agreed to a nearly 37 million dollar settlement after the massive 2016 fire that broke out at the converted warehouse. The settlement for families of 32 of the victims and more than \$9 million alone for Sam Maxwell, who survived but will have to live with severe injuries and massive doctor's bills. As part of the settlement the city does not acknowledge any liability.

A couple of churches in Mendocino County and another in Oroville are suing the Governor for not allowing singing and chanting. The pastor of Calvary Chapel in Fort Bragg says it's a "biblical mandate" to sing in church. The federal lawsuit after being closed down in March, then getting to reopen with lowered capacity, and as of late, without singing and chanting. Singing and chanting are risky acts in the age of COVID, spreading droplets if the singing is too loud. The virus has since expanded its footprint so the discouraging of singing and chanting is now a mandate. The suit was filed in Redding and also focusing on Black Lives Matter protests. Along with Calvary Chapel is Greens Church and Life Church in Oroville. They claim the governor protected protesters, but is not doing the same for churchgoers. One of the plaintiff's dad's is one of President Trump's lawyers.

A man from Covelo's been arrested after a fire breaks out on tribal land. Carmelo Delgado told deputies he set the fire to get attention. Witnesses say he was arguing with another person, then Delgado started the fire. He apologized and tried helping someone else douse the flames. They say he was also very drunk during the incident. Round Valley Fire and Cal Fire on the scene, surrounding the fire which they say burned about 4 acres. Deputies also say the field where the fire was had recently been used to harvest haybales, at \$12 ea. 90 of them were destroyed in the fire. He's charged with intentionally starting a fire causing property damage, destruction of property and being intoxicated in public and held on \$25,000 bail.

The Gov. has outlined his plans for schools to reopen in the fall with any that are in a county on the state watchlist relegated to long distance learning. The rules also say children above 2nd grade and all staff wear a facial covering. It also requires public schools that cannot reopen because they're on the state's watch list to follow strict rules for when they do reopen. Many schools are still working on their reopening plans as schools are about a month away from starting again. The state has reported the highest one day totals in infections and deaths this week. Los Angeles and San Diego schools had already decided to be online only. And San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Long Beach, Santa Ana and San Bernardino are also not returning in the fall.

As expected the Mendocino County Public Health Office in accordance with the state and the expectation that we will soon be on the state's watchlist, will close many businesses again. In alignment with the state's 58 counties, many indoor sectors are closed. And outdoor dining is still allowed. But indoor operations in Mendocino County are no longer allowed, restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, wineries and tasting rooms, movie theaters, family entertainment centers, zoos and museums and cardrooms. Since the governor has released the new guidance on schools, in Ukiah, we just received word, that we will be on Distance Learning. There had been a plan earlier in the week for kids to go in two groups, two days each. Now the Board of Trustees, along with district community members, including District and school-site administrators, department leads, Ukiah Teachers Association (UTA) members, California School Employees Association (CSEA) members, and parents have all chimed in on the decision. It comes in response to the rising cases and local hospitalizations. Improvements to distance learning are being made.

More cases of COVID-19 to report in Mendocino County. 199 cases, 7 people are in the hospital and one in ICU. The most serious case transferred to Napa County for a higher level of care. The Public Health Office reporting another death of someone who'd been living at Sherwood Oaks Health Center in Fort Bragg. 7 residents have now tested positive and 2 are in the hospital. 5 employees have also tested positive. Yesterday public health had a testing site set up in Fort Bragg. Another employee at the Ukiah Co Op has tested positive. After one report last week and a closure for cleaning, we learned over the weekend of another positive case. But apparently, they were not working or in the store when the test was confirmed. Also, a positive case of an employee at The Fort Bragg Center for Laser & Cosmetic Dentistry. Testing is being done for free for any patients who might have been exposed there between June 22nd and July 13th. And at Ardzrooni Vineyard in Anderson Valley, 4 employees tested positive and outbreak testing will be offered this week. The Public Health Office reports this is all an indication of uncontrolled community spread and

07/20/20 will probably get worse until Labor Day.

The Governor ordered the state to rollback its reopening and certain counties on the state's watchlist had to roll back further. The Mendocino County Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan reported she anticipated the state would put the county on the watchlist, so in anticipation of that, and to maintain local control, she rolled back some business sectors ahead of the state doing it. On Friday the shelter in place order charged to require all bars, pubs, brewpubs and breweries to close unless they can operate outside with meals. Same for restaurants and wineries. Movie theaters and other family entertainment centers have to close along with zoos and museum and cardrooms. Gyms and fitness centers, churches and non-essential businesses are ordered closed unless they can operate outside too. Same for personal care services, like nail and hair salons, body waxing and tattoo parlors. Indoor shopping malls also have to close.

The Ukiah Unified School District has reversed course and will hold all classes online. Last week there was a method announced whereby it would be a hybrid learning environment, with 2 groups of students attending in person 2 days, and online the other 2. But the public health office was advising all online due to the recent upsurge in cases and several local outbreaks. Late Friday we got word from the School District, that they decided against that learning model and with community input they decided to go all online. The School District also says there will be many changes and improvements made to the Distance Learning program. Administrators say they've heard from parents, teachers, students, and families on needed changes to improve the curriculum and look forward to sharing details once everything is ready to go.

Another death has been reported due to coronavirus in Mendocino County. A 63 year old resident at the Sherwood Oaks Skilled Nursing Facility in Fort Bragg died last Thursday just about a week after testing positive for the virus. The public health office reports the patient had underlying health conditions which increased the likelihood they would have complications due from the disease. There have been 13 cases at Sherwood and the public health office says they've done an exemplary job responding to the situation and they'll continue to work closely with them.

Another employee of Ukiah Natural Foods has contracted coronavirus. The co-op closed for a day last week and posted on their Facebook page that one employee had the virus and was isolating at home. They said they were hiring a cleaning company for a thorough cleaning. But then a sign was posted on the door outside Saturday saying a second staffer, who was already isolating because of contact tracing for the first case. The business closure was mandated by the Public Health Office. It will stay closed for further contact tracing.

CalFire reports their Aviation Management Program is ready to go for the fire season. The agency conducts wildland pre-fire engineering, vegetation management, fire planning, education and law enforcement. The Battalion Aviation Chief for Mendocino County has a giant helicopter, a UH-1H Super Huey and over at the Ukiah Municipal Airport there are a couple of air tankers and an airplane.

A fire in Covelo over the weekend may have been intentionally set. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Ukiah Valley Fire Authority and Cal Fire went out to the fire Saturday after a local restaurant was destroyed. Firefighters on the scene quite early finding the Covelo Western Auto Store burning. The store along with the North Fork Café have been destroyed. The fire took less than 4 hours to put out. The sheriff's department says the fire was devastating to the community of about 1,200. Investigators are talking to community members to figure out the cause of the fire and asking for possible surveillance camera footage. They're treating it as suspected arson though. No injuries were reported and there was no spread to vegetation.

The surge of coronavirus cases in Sonoma County are not lessening. The Press Democrat reports the Board of Supervisors are set to discuss how to enforce the public health order of mandatory mask wearing. So far law enforcement are supposed to give warnings and possible criminal misdemeanor citations. But the board could weigh other options like code enforcement officers and environmental health staff for civil violations. The number of cases have ramped up in the county and 20 people have died. Napa has the strictest rules nearby with fines of up to \$5,000 for businesses. And Mendocino County has also put fines in place for those who don't listen to restrictions. The Sonoma County Public Health Officer blames most of the recent surge to holiday gatherings, religious ceremonies and at least one funeral.

More cases reported in Lake County. 140 cases, the county's COVID dashboard not updated though since Friday. The dashboard shows 103 people have recovered and one person has died. 3 people were in the hospital as of this weekend. The county is looking good for hospital capacity, which with a surge in cases and deaths is generally what puts a county on the state's watch list. Lake Co News reports as of Friday the two hospitals in the county each had more than a 2 week supply of personal protective gear on hand. Hospital bed availability about 50% and ICU beds at about 25 percent.

West Nile Virus has been confirmed in a sample of mosquitos in Lake County. Vector Control reports the samples were collected last week near Middletown. They say it's typical in July, but since many are home more due to the pandemic, to remember there's a possibility of contracting West Nile Virus too. The vector district can help if you feel mosquitoes are hard to control. They provide free mosquito-eating fish for swimming pools or spas not being maintained, and backyard ponds, water features and animal watering troughs. A reminder to dump or drain standing water, use repellents, and avoid outdoors when the insects are around, usually that's during dawn and dusk hours.

A man in Covelo's been arrested after a car fire. Someone called the fire department who reported the person who started the fire might be nearby. Deputies and Investigators found Sammy Tanguileg and found he was near the 2000 Chevy sedan right before it caught fire. Arson investigators and the Ukiah Valley Fire Department and Laytonville Volunteer Fire Department on the scene with detectives and arrested Tanguileg for Arson and Committing an Arson during a State of Emergency and held on \$100,000.00 bail.

Investigators are also asking anyone who may have seen something to call. A woman has been arrested on multiple charges after reporting a domestic assault. A week ago Saturday deputies found a woman had been physically and sexually assaulted. She says it was her live-in boyfriend and deputies verified she had been abused. They also found a seven year old girl who had been abused so she and the adult female were taken to a hospital. Soon after Antonio Becerra Jr was arrested on Assault with a Deadly Weapon; Inflicting Corporal Injury on a Spouse or Cohabitant; Sexual Penetration with a Foreign Object with Force or Fear; and Inflicting Corporal Injury upon a Child. He was held in jail on \$450,000 bail. Investigators are asking anyone who lives nearby to report any further information on the man saying they believe the assaults were probably ongoing for several hours.

11 more people in Lake County have contracted COVID-19. The Public Health Dept. reports 31 active cases and two people in the hospital. Here in Mendocino County we have 207 cases, 8 more than yesterday with 8 people in the hospital and one in the ICU. The Public Health Dept. page reports 3 people have died, but we have no other information on the 3rd. Neighboring counties reported the following totals yesterday, Glenn, 219; Napa, 632;

07/21/20 Sonoma, 2,212; and Yolo, 1,196.

Another virtual town hall has been announced by Congressman Mike Thompson's office regarding coronavirus. The next is this Thursday at 7. And it will be streamed on the Congressman's Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to watch. His special guest this time is the chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, Rep. Bobby Scott. The two will talk education and how schools can safely reopen during the pandemic. If you want to be on the Zoom call, you can email the Congressman's office.

The fire danger level on the Mendocino National Forest has been elevated to "very high." That means a fire can start easily, spread fast and become intense quickly. Forest officials are working to get firefighters in certain places ahead of severe fire weather. A chance of thunderstorms is forecasted for the week, which could ignite fires. So more engines and crews are being pre-positioned. The Fire Management officer for the forest says they're plan for 2020 is an aggressive initial attack and quick containment to minimize the amount of big fires. Fire restrictions are in place across the forest.

A nurse who traveled to Santa Rosa to help with the fight against coronavirus ending up getting it, got fired and is now suing. Courtney Jackson of St. Louis, MO suing Kaiser Permanente Santa Rosa saying she was terminated after getting sick. She's going after \$1 million or more after getting fired March 28th, two days after she got out of the hospital herself because of COVID-19. She had been a traveling nurse and surgical technician for Alliant Staffing. She's accusing them and Kaiser of discrimination, retaliation and termination. Her court documents say when she couldn't breathe anymore and thought she would die was when she was tested and cared for. Kaiser says her suit is groundless.

The Gov. has announced a little bit of a turnaround in metrics across the state. The rate of positive cases is flattening and the seven day average is slightly down. He says the state's positivity rate is still at 7.4% the last two weeks and the one-week average for positives was down from 7.7% to 7.2%. But the hospitalization rate is not great, 16% the last 2 weeks. Gov. Newsom says it's not across the whole state though, as several counties are still seeing a surge in infections. Los Angeles as an example may have to close back down. The mayor blames people being less vigilant with restrictions and the economy reopening too soon.

The governor allowing some business that wouldn't normally operate outdoors to do so, so they don't have to close again. Newsom waiving state laws to allow salons and barbershops to reopen outdoors. This is for the county's on the state's watchlist. Last week he announced they would have to close but there was public outcry from thousands of salon owners who just reopened, spending big money to reconfigure their businesses to follow safety protocols.

PG&E says it's working on its equipment so it doesn't spark wildfires this summer and fall. The company's most recently been blamed for starting the massive Kincade Fire in Sonoma County. Before that it was the 2018 Camp Fire and the Oct. 2017 wildfire storm in Northern Calif. The Record Bee newspaper reports interviewing the utility company's spokesperson who says they're working to remove dry vegetation, make sure there are no trees or other brush overgrown near their powerlines; and they're flying choppers and drones above powerlines to "pre-inspect" the fire risk.

A man from Clearlake has waived his right to a preliminary hearing for death of a man hit by a car. Thomas Magee arrested last Sept and will be tried next January for vehicular manslaughter, murder, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, attempted murder and hit and run. The Sheriff's office reported getting a call to Highway 20 and 7th Avenue in Lucerne and found a man down with critical injuries. That man, Joseph Symond Jackson was flown to a hospital in Lakeport where he died. Witnesses said at the time that Magee hit him on purpose, then took off. The whole thing due to a dispute over property. He was held on a \$1 million bail. The preliminary hearing in the case was set for April, but due to the pandemic it was rescheduled.

An agreement between the teachers union and the Konocti Unified School District (KUSD) is falling apart. Teachers have filed for arbitration saying the school district isn't honoring a proposal of their own. The Konocti Educators Association president says they want to be supported by their employer and that the school district has stalled, ignored agreements, broken their word and now won't honor their own proposal. Negotiations fell apart early last month so teachers say they don't have any other choice but arbitration due to a salary increase formula in their contract, something worked on for years. They go on to say, they'd previously had a good working relationship with the district and had even agreed on a settlement that was way below what their contract required due to the recession.

Testing for Mendocino Coast Clinics beefed up after more cases popped up at a local nursing facility in Fort Bragg. Nearly 200 people were tested Sunday. They were going to test 150 people at a local church but changed things up after four businesses reported employees had tested positive for coronavirus. Those performing the tests say many of those who showed up had been in contact with the positive cases at these businesses, the Ukiah Co-Op, the Sherwood Oaks Health Center in Fort Bragg, Fort Bragg Center for Laser & Cosmetic Dentistry and Ardzrooni Vineyard in Anderson Valley. The tests were sent to Richmond for processing and results were expected within 72 hours. Those who test positive will get a call from the Public Health Dept. and Mendocino Coast Clinics will call those who test negative.

The largest number of cases of Covid-19 reported in California as it just trails New York in the most cases across the country. On Monday, the state reported 11,554 cases recorded. Deaths have also been rising, the seven day average has been at between 90-100 a day since July 10th which is the highest rate since March. But the governor says there are some brighter spots in all the dark news. Gov. Newsom says the positivity rate is 7.2% as opposed to a week ago when it was 7.7%. The state's Health and Human Services Agency reports they're seeing encouraging news in the positivity rate. But at the end of May it was about half what it was a week ago, around 4%.

Another death of a death row inmate at San Quentin State Prison. 58 year old Troy Ashmus died Monday. There's an investigation into the death, but the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation says they believe it's related to COVID-19. He's the seventh death row prisoner and the 12th prisoner at San Quentin who have died due to confirmed or suspected virus infections. He was serving time and landed on death row for the rape and brutal murder of a 7 year old in 1984.

A little reported fact about reopening schools, elementary schools can apply for a waiver so they can stay open. The Press Democrat reports the Governor didn't mention this at his press conference Friday on in school instruction. The newspaper reports the Santa Clara County superintendent of public schools and their director of public health inviting public and private schools to apply for the waiver. Counties on the state's watchlist can also apply for the waiver. There's apparently no guidance on what conditions a county has to follow to allow elementary school kids to go to school in person.

The body of a man from Stockton has been found in Clearlake. The Sheriff's office says 48 year old Anthony Jenkins was found yesterday morning. He was reporting missing from a boat this past weekend in the area of Shag Rock. On Saturday Marine Patrol went to the area after a report of a possible drowning. Others on the boat say the man fell off and never came back up. A dive team went out Saturday but couldn't find the man, Sunday and Monday too. Then yesterday morning they found a man. But still a positive identification and autopsy will be done this week to make sure it was

Another ten cases of Covid-19 in Mendocino County. 217 cases we've doubled the amount of cases and more, since the start of the month, and we're only 3 weeks in. There were 85 cases early in July, a week later 107. The Public Health Officer had warned of the surge after Memorial Day heading to Labor Day. But thankfully hospital bed capacity is not a problem at the moment. The Daily Journal reports speaking to Adventist Health who reported 100 beds in their three hospitals were still available, including 16 ICU beds. 8 people are in the hospital in those three hospitals, one in an ICU.

A grant has been successfully obtained to fix the boardwalk on the Cache Creek Nature Trail at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. The Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association says they got a \$5000 "Keeping Parks Whole" grant from the California State Parks Foundation. The boardwalk is wooden and goes thru Cache Creek habitat at the Park. Tours there are currently suspended due to the pandemic.

The Mendocino County Public Health Office recently announced COVID outbreaks at 4 local businesses. Now the county Emergency Operations Center has visited Ukiah Natural Foods where two employees became infected. The business closed last week, then again Saturday after the second infection. Emergency Operations says the business has implemented new practices to make sure there's social distancing. The agency also working with staff at Sherwood Oaks Health Center in Fort Bragg which has had something of an outbreak, and at the Fort Bragg Center for Laser & Cosmetic Dentistry where one employee tested positive. The county is working closely with Ardzrooni Vineyard in Anderson Valley after 4 staff members tested positive during surveillance testing. The Anderson Valley Health Clinic will provide outbreak testing. The county looking for places to do surveillance testing as the OptumServe site at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds hit full capacity.

4-H in Mendocino County will be able to show their animals online. The Redwood Empire Fair was canceled because of the pandemic. So instead 4-H will have a virtual online auction. They had been planning since the pandemic first cropped up in March. The animals all sold at different stages and some of the kids have sold them privately during the outbreak.

Humboldt County Sheriff answering questions about the pandemic. He says many local businesses are concerned the county could end up on the state's watchlist. Like the Mendocino County Public Health Officer who was also concerned so rolled back our health order. The county has not landed on the watchlist, and neither has Humboldt. Sheriff Honsal in says they're conducting regular testing of his department's employees who interact with the public the most and are encouraging employees to continue to get tested. He says they have two correctional deputies who tested positive and are currently isolating. He says they're mostly wearing masks, but sometimes they cannot, they're sanitizing and cleaning and doing their best to prevent spread in the jail.

A fire that destroyed four buildings in Covelo was indeed arson and there's been an arrest. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports the Saturday morning fire downtown that gutted four buildings was arson and were investigating several people reported to be in the area at the time. Deputies say surveillance footage downtown turned up multiple suspects and a couple of them were person's of interest. A day after the fire, Sammy Tanguileg Jr was arrested after a car was set ablaze. But the sheriff said he didn't think he was linked to the business fires. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Battalion Chief though says the man starting that fire was suspicious.

2 more people in Sonoma County have died due to coronavirus. That means there have been 22 deaths related to the pandemic, with most of them in the last 3 weeks or so. The Public Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase says it's been a challenge to slow the spread because of the massive demand for tests and ensuing delays with results. She says it's like this with commercial labs such as Quest and LabCorp so more tests are being sent to the county public health lab, so they've also had longer waits for test results. She says the turnaround time is taking too long. There's also a shortage of test kits across the state and country. Quest is taking up to four days to return results and the county's is about the same.

The state removing names of skilled nursing facilities where Covid-19 patients have died from the dashboard. There was no formal announcement from the California Department of Social Services. Then after the Sacramento Bee asked why the agency said it made a mistake and they're working to improve their data reporting. They told the paper they'd be including the info in their daily reports again "very soon". Critics say the numbers being scrubbed was because the industry's been hit hard, and it wasn't a good look.

Lake Transit Authority will get a piece of land after the Board of Supervisors approves the sale. The board had previously voted unanimously to sell the land so the transit company could get a grant it was applying for. In April the \$13 million dollar grant was approved so Lake Transit could build a new regional transit hub at the property at 7175 South Center Drive. The value for direct public benefit was determined to be south of \$700,000 dollars. The first allocation of the grant will probably come next year. The land is about 3 acres. The board has given the County Administrative Officer the green light to sell the land and draw up a land purchase agreement with Lake Transit.

A new invasive pest found in Lake County. The Farm Bureau reports in early May two brown marmorated stink bugs, or BMSB's were found in orchard traps at two different locations, one in Upper Lake and one in Big Valley. The exotic pest indigenous to China can destroy crops and gardens and pester homes and buildings. It mostly damages fruit and vegetables with Lake County's main agricultural crops vulnerable. They send off an odor if they're disturbed or crushed. It looks like other stink bugs, but has two white bands on its antennae, a faint white band on the legs, smooth round shoulders and a blunt head.

Statewide campfire restrictions are in place. They were actually put in place in May until further notice to protect the health and safety of communities and firefighters. So igniting, building, maintaining, or using a campfire on a National Forest is prohibited, except in a developed campground or other permitted facility. The Forest Service says they're doing this so that firefighters are available to respond and manage wildfires, of which 95% are human caused. Many, they say, are the result of unattended campfires. And this year an above-average fire season is projected across the state. Forest visitors can still use pressurized liquid or gas devices like stoves, grills or lanterns that have shut-off valves outside of developed campgrounds if they have a valid California Campfire Permit.

A man in Gualala has been arrested after several reports of a drunk guy wandering on highway 1. A deputy reports once arriving and speaking to multiple witnesses, they identified Nathan Marrufo was the person causing the disturbance. They say he was acting suspicious and was hitting business windows. He's also accused of entering a local supermarket and stealing some items. He was found in the parking lot of another grocer and resisted the deputy. The deputy says Marrufo assumed a fighting stance so the deputy told him he was going to let his police dog partner "Takoda" out and the guy slugged the cop. So the dog was deployed and took Marrufo down. He was arrested on multiple charges including resisting, disorderly conduct, intoxicated in public and shoplifting. He was being held on \$15,000 bail.

Mendocino County is adding staff to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. After four businesses had employees test positive, the Board of Supervisors were advised the county is stepping up enforcement for those not abiding by the public health order. County CEO Carmel Angelo reported to the board that the Environmental Health Dept. was working with businesses to help with safety precautions and education. The four businesses are Ukiah Natural Foods, Ardzrooni Vineyard in Anderson Valley, Sherwood Oaks Health Center in Fort Bragg where 12 people got infected and Fort Bragg Center for Laser & Cosmetic Dentistry. The county adopted an ordinance whereby folks can be fined if they're caught without a mask on. Angelo says the Environmental Health Department is also going to help enforce the ordinance. But the priority is reopening businesses. The Sheriff told the board they're continually reminding people to wear a mask and they're

07/23/20 receiving calls from people about violators.

Since reports have been circulating on the effectiveness of mask wearing the local economic development and financing corporation got nearly 300,000 surgical masks. They also got 2,000 gallons of hand sanitizer for local businesses throughout Mendocino County. There's a new campaign, #MaskUpMendocino that looks to educate locals to help slow the spread of the virus. The Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance has a giant sign up to help bring awareness to wearing a mask. The Ukiah Conference Center will be stacked with masks and sanitizer for anyone who wants it. And the Mendocino Business and Government Leaders group is working with the Tourism Alliance, the county Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center for an Ambassador Program to hand out materials to local businesses along with MaskUpMendocino signs, rack cards and posters.

We have a new – old doctor in town. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has appointed a new Public Health Officer. Dr. Andy Coren, a retired, local doctor, well known to the community of Ukiah has been hired. The current Public Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan says Coren is a "local hero" and he'll serve the community more fully, because he also speaks Spanish. There are now 227 cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County. There are less people in the hospital though than yesterday. 7 people, including one in an ICU.

Money for enforcing alcohol in public. The Lakeport City council gives a greenlight to use grant money from the Alcohol Beverage Control and Alcoholic Policing Partnership Program Grant. The \$25,000 will be used to conduct enforcement and training regarding booze in public. It'll pay for police overtime on programs in Clearlake and Lakeport. The Lakeport Police Chief says they're working with their neighboring city which will be responsible for the fiscal management of the grant. The operation to help prevent non-compliance and help teach local businesses and their employees for decoy operations.

Sonoma County looking to get tough on violators of their public health order. The Press Democrat reports the board of supervisors is considering fines on businesses and individuals who ignore restrictions to slow the spread of coronavirus. The meeting today to consider a plan by county staff to establish a central hotline where people can call in to report others not following the rules. Those who violate, could be fined up to \$100 for individuals and \$1,000 for businesses. They're also looking at a bilingual public information campaign so locals are educated on safety and health measures like mask wearing. The county is on the state's watchlist and is dealing with a major resurgence of the virus, more deaths and hospitalizations.

Sonoma County reports the two latest deaths were also residents of senior care facilities. The Press Democrat reports the two were both over 65 years old with other health issues. They died on Tuesday. One lived at a skilled nursing home and the other at a residential care facility for the elderly. This means now that 22 people have died from coronavirus in the county. And most at a skilled nursing or assisted living type situation. 16 out of the 22. Add one more to make 17, they all died within the last month. California is also now ahead of New York, who in the early days, struggled to contain the virus. The total there 413,500 and here, 422,000.

A unanimous vote by the Marin County Board of Supervisors to get tough on those not wearing masks. They overwhelmingly approved an urgency ordinance, which goes into effect immediately to fine those not wearing masks. It allows town, city and county staffers along with police officers to deal with violators of health and safety codes to help slow the spread of the virus. A task force will go out to tips by the public too of businesses that are breaking the rules. Fines for businesses from \$250 to \$10,000, and for individuals, from \$25 to \$500 if they're not wearing a facial covering in public.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. still searching for whoever may have ignited businesses and destroyed them by arson in Covelo. Round Valley Art Center, North Fork Café and Western Auto Inc all gutted by the fire last Saturday morning in the 76000 block of Highway 162. Deputies and firefighters on the scene investigating, determining the fire was intentionally set. They say it started on the outside of Western Auto behind the property. But they have no suspects at this time. They say they continue to pore thru the wreckage and look at surveillance footage from the area for clues. They have identified multiple persons of interest and continue to ask anyone who may have seen anyone to call. You can remain anonymous. They're also asking nearby businesses or individuals who may have recording or surveillance equipment to also be in touch.

Another inmate at San Quentin's death row has died from coronavirus. Calif. corrections officials have confirmed 67 year old John Beames died Tuesday outside the prison, at a hospital. He had been sentenced for a 1995 brutal torture and murder of a 15 month old child in Tulare County. The state Supreme Court upheld the man's conviction and sentence in 1997. So far there have been 14 virus-related deaths at the prison where there are more than 700 prisoners on death row. The prison itself has 860 active Covid-19 cases and almost 1,200 have recovered. Across the state prison system there are more than 1,900 active virus cases. With that a judge has ordered prison officials to empty or hold up to 100 beds at each one of the 35 prisons in the state for isolating and quarantining.

The Clearlake City Council is sending a long response to the Grand Jury regarding its report about the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office and tax-defaulted property sales. The grand jury was not kind to the city, saying it used the wrong information for its complaint about thousands of properties worth millions in unpaid taxes. The jury also saying the city acted in an inappropriate manner by criticizing the Treasurer-Tax Collector's job performance. The city manager says the info the city got regarding the tax defaulted properties was from the county and the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office, so they had no reason to doubt the information. The response letter is posted on Lake Co News.

Schools in Willits starting up online. Ahead of a special school board meeting, the board was not planning on any action for the new school year, but then did, deciding on a Monday, Aug. 31st start with distance learning. The school superintendent says their aim is to provide an improved educational experience for students. They're reportedly considering various models of coronavirus adapted schooling since the state's been experiencing a surge in cases, passing NY for the most of any state in the nation.

The highest amount of unemployment claims in three months hit the state. The uptick in filings continues to overwhelm call centers. Two state senators calling on the Governor to hire more staff to help 24-7 to fix the issue of backlogged claims. The amount of first time claims is at about 7 million over four months since the pandemic began. Senators Scott Wilk and Melissa Hurtado penning a letter to the governor saying it was a monumental failure when residents most needed help. There were nearly 293,000 new claims filed last week, up from about 285,000 a week before.

07/24/20 RCMS is supporting drive through testing in Point Arena:

Sunday July 26th

Point Arena Veteran's Hall

451 School St

First come first serve: 200 tests available!

Over the last week, Lake County has reported 29 new cases of COVID-19. But the Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace says activity remains manageable. Since the pandemic first arose, the county had confirmed 166 cases. There has been one death. Right now there are 25 active cases and one person is in the hospital in an out of county facility. 140 have recovered. Pace says keeping the cases manageable depends on residents taking action to avoid inadvertent transmission of the virus, continued availability of medical care staff, contact tracers and case management services. Dr. Pace says local school districts are still deciding what to do, but he suggests no in person learning. He reminds to wear a mask, even for someone with underlying chronic lung disease, he says it can help.

The state legislature is moving forward with an unprecedented measure, allowing lawmakers who cannot be in person at the Capitol, to vote. Legislative leaders agreed after at least seven staffers at the Capitol contracted coronavirus, including one assemblyman who ended up in the hospital. Four legislative leaders will vote on behalf of absent members in the Assembly, and in the Senate, lawmakers can vote for themselves, remotely, but only in committee hearings. Senators have to be in person for final votes on bills.

More and more counties are looking at ways to strictly enforce public health orders as the cases in the state remain out of control. San Francisco, Marin and Napa officials have approved fining people and businesses who violate public health orders. They will fine individuals anywhere from \$25 to \$500 for violations including to wearing a facial covering. And businesses will face fines up to \$10,000. Sonoma County was looking at a similar order yesterday. In San Diego, they have a compliance team in place to go after people or businesses who may have complaints lodged against them.

Another death in Mendocino County from Covid-19. The death reportedly happened here in the county, at Howard Memorial. This is the first death at one of our three hospitals. Two others reportedly died at Sherwood Oaks nursing home, where there has been an outbreak. And another, our first, at a rehab center in Marin County. There were seven more cases reported yesterday for a total positive count of 234. Five people remain hospitalized and one is still in an ICU. There are 105 people in isolation.

The Fort Bragg Mayor and Vice Mayor say they're running for office again. The Advocate reports Mayor Will Lee and Vice Mayor Bernie Norvell have declared their re-election campaigns. They're the only open seats on the council on the November ballot. They made their announcement on social media. The mayor on Facebook with a short note and the vice mayor with a picture, also on Facebook with his confirmation papers. They also both noted how the pandemic has hurt the city, but that there had been a balanced budget for two years in a row before that.

A GoFundMe has been set up for local Mendocino artist Larry Fuente. They're trying to raise \$50,000 after a fire gutted his studio and home July 3rd. Around 50 years of his art works and other personal items were destroyed in the fire, but thankfully he was not hurt. There was someone else there at the time who apparently had was in a car that caught fire, which spread. They were treated at UC Davis Medical Center. Fuente just recently had a showing of new works at the Mendocino Art Center and has a piece of art at the Smithsonian Institute. He may be best known for exhibiting his 1960 Cadillac with all sorts of art attached called, "Mad Cad".

The Gov. says there's more masks coming into the state even as complaints pile up that healthcare workers don't have enough. Gov. Newsom blames hospitals saying they're not distributing them adequately and says the state will start to aggressively track deliveries. He says some workers are only getting 2-3 masks a week and it's unacceptable. The governor held a press event standing by pallets filled with masks. The press briefing as the state recorded another historic single day of cases, nearly 13,000. And a day after the state passed New York for the most cases.

Clearlake still dealing with its response to the Grand Jury report on tax defaulted properties as the report surfaces on the Lake County Jail, Clearlake City Jail, the holding cells at the court in Lakeport, the Tehama County Juvenile Hall and the Konocti Conservation Camp in Lower Lake. The report says the Sheriff's and Probation Departments are challenged in recruiting and retaining employees because of low wages and expensive benefits. They said the Probation Department doesn't have enough children's programs as promised. That the jail was lacking certain facilities, there had been inmate complaints about overcrowding, and needed more officers in the jail.

Congressman Mike Thompson announced the House passed the Great American Outdoors Act which he co-authored. He says the bipartisan bill invests heavily in the conservation of public lands, including fully and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He says it will help support local economies. The bill will help Napa and Sonoma Counties and other projects in the 5th Congressional District. It now heads to the president to be signed into law.

Another protest planned by a local Black Lives Matter group in Fort Bragg. It's to mark the two month anniversary of the murder of George Floyd. The group says there still hasn't been enough done to improve the situation for Black people in the country. The protest is tomorrow by Town Hall from 3 to 5 p.m. They're promoting social distancing and ask everyone to wear masks as they've been doing the past 2 months.

DUI arrests in Ukiah are down this year. The latest statistics taken from five years shows 2020 high blood alcohol DUI arrest numbers were way down since January 1st to only 118 arrests to date. There was nearly one arrest per day last year or 28 per month. The statistics for this year so far calculated that to be 16.8/month, down 41 percent, which may be due to the pandemic.

Another town on the state's watch list, this one due to tourism. Mono County had a surge in Mammoth Lakes. The LA Times reports it's mostly due to restaurants in town. There are only about 14,000 people living in the area and has a lot lower cases than most, but like Lake and Mendocino County, there's been a surge. In Mammoth Lakes, they had 40 cases in 2 weeks, with an infection rate of 8% and a seven-day average from July 12 to July 19th of 11%. There have been 79 cases in all in Mammoth Lakes, so it doubled in two weeks. There's also been one death. The county reports restaurants in Mammoth, a tourism hotspot, were connected to 65% of the new confirmed cases. The town is now requiring restaurant workers to wear surgical or N95 masks, instead of a cloth one.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has approved a massive land use project. Lake Co News reports it may be one of the biggest in the county's history and could bring as many as 1,400 new homes, new hotels and almost 1,000 resort and hotel rooms too. The Guenoc Valley Mixed Use Planned Development Project or Maha Guenoc Valley may be in for a fight though, as an environmental group is threatening a lawsuit. The proposal for the 16,000-acre Guenoc Ranch along Butts Canyon Road. The state Department of Justice has also commented on the project with concern about wild fire threat. Another wild fire threat in Mendocino County from COVID-19. The Mendocino County Public Health office has confirmed the death of a third patient at Sherwood Oaks Skilled Nursing Facility. Another death at Howard Memorial in Fort Bragg earlier this week. The fifth confirmed last week, which happened at a rehab facility in Marin County. 105 new cases identified in the last ten days.

Dr. Noemi Doohan says there's been about a ten day to two week lag in testing. Dr. Doohan says some people who have been sick have gone to work or to large gatherings. 60% are from the LatinX community. One person who died was from the LatinX community. Dr. Doohan says they're doing more now to try to respond better to the LatinX community. She also says that she's been contacted by the state and the county will imminently appear on the state's watchlist.

An employee at a store in the Lake Sonoma Marina is infected with COVID-19, so the local Marina Store is closed. The Press Democrat reports marina officials confirmed an indefinite closure of the Marina Store Friday after the confirmation of an infection. The Marina Store working with the public health department, did a deep cleaning, but then closed down. Visitors can purchase deli items, alcoholic beverages, fishing and camping gear. Five people work there, and all of them were apparently in contact with the infected worker. They will stay closed until backup workers can be brought in, other virus test results come back negative or all employees are

07/27/20 quarantined two weeks. The positive employee was asymptomatic.

15 firefighters in Sonoma County are in isolation after one tested positive. The Petaluma Fire Department was forced to close Saturday after the positive test on July 19th, nearly a week earlier. This means 58 people could not work, so nearby fire agencies had to chip in to help.

Caltrans has a new plan to move goods. The Calif. Freight Mobility Plan 2020 shows which goods can move by truck, train, ship, airplane, car, bike, foot or robot. The state agency says it'll strengthen California's infrastructure and improve upon what we already have, making it more innovative, economically competitive and still protect communities and the environment. This comes amidst the pandemic which the director of Caltrans says has shown just how important the freight industry is to health and economic well-being.

A woman in court Friday admitted she tried to kill a former girlfriend using a knife. Court papers say 48 year old Nichole Birdsall waived her right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded guilty Friday to the surprise February knife attack. Apparently another woman sleeping at the time called 911. The victim had a restraining order against Birdsall who agreed to a stipulation that she will face ten years behind bars. And since it's a violent crime, there will be limited good time or work time early release. Any credits for parole she gets will be limited to 15 percent. She faces sentencing in September. And is currently held on one million dollars bail in Mendocino County Jail.

A nonprofit in Lake County looking to run a temporary shelter for the homeless amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The Elijah House looking to get the contract with the county approved, for which the county would have to put up nearly a quarter million dollars. The Hope Harbor homeless shelter is closing, so the county had put out a request for bids for an organization to take over operations. The Elijah House bid is \$234,550. The organization is actually based in Oroville, but would operate a center here after Hope Harbor closes at the end of the month. The new shelter would continue only until Sept. 30th.

A couple of passersby help a Ukiah police officer who was trying to arrest someone in Talmage. Apparently the suspect grabbed the cop's baton July 16th. A report came in that someone saw the guy actively injecting himself with drugs, and cars were swerving to avoid him as he walked in the street. He's since been identified as 30 year old Michael Langley. He was lured to a safer location where the officer tried to talk to him on the sidewalk. The officer saw a needle sticking out of his pocket, but he wouldn't allow the officer to take it away and a struggle started. That's when the two citizens came over to help. The police department said they were grateful for the help. Langley's charged with threatening an officer, possession of a controlled substance, violating his probation and for two warrants, and was booked into Mendocino County Jail under \$15,000 bail.

Another death and 8 more cases of coronavirus. The death reported Sunday along with the new cases. There are have now been 265 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Mendocino County. The 6th death was from the outbreak at the Sherwood Oaks skilled nursing facility in Fort Bragg where two others also died. There are 4 people in the hospital, and one in an ICU. It also comes as the county was placed on the state's watch list. That means several businesses have to close unless they can operate outside. That includes public worship, barbers, hair and nail salons, and gyms. Plus there were already requirements on indoor dining and on wineries and breweries. Also there can be no gatherings for weddings and funerals; offices for non-essential workers have to close again and indoor shopping malls.

The Lakeport Senior Center has new management. Lake Family Resource Center will start to oversee operations. The Executive Director says the county's population is made up of nearly 25% seniors and while expanding services in the middle of a pandemic is challenging, still, they're excited to help serve the community, especially during these challenging times. They're offering the Meals on Wheels program to the Northshore and say they're expanding for others who had joined for onsite dining. They also have offerings on Zoom, like wellness classes. Their Thrift Store in Lakeport is currently open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mendocino Land Trust working in partnership with the Conservation Fund and others had opened the Old Smith Ranch Trail. Working also with the Nature Conservancy and the Smith/Perry family the two mile trail along the South Bank of the Ten Mile River took ten years to come to fruition. There's a picnic and parking area for those to enjoy the path along the river, north of Fort Bragg. The 49-acre property is part of a larger project to permanently protect the 1,309-acre Smith Ranch, east of Highway One and the Ten Mile Dunes.

Congressman Jared Huffman is asking for participation in a survey for Coronavirus Relief and Recovery. The online survey so his constituents can answer questions about how they've been affected by the pandemic and what the federal government can do to help support his district's health and economy. The questionnaire is on the congressman's website. It comes as the CARES Act pretty much ends. This Friday ends the extra \$600 a week for those on unemployment. But Huffman says we're still dealing with historic levels of unemployment with more than one in every 10 people in the country without a job.

The governor had some visitors to his home. Demonstrators chaining themselves to a fence outside his house earlier today because they want inmates released from San Quentin where there's been a massive coronavirus outbreak. The demonstrators also want an end to immigration transfers. The California Highway Patrol cut the chains off those at the governor's home in Sacramento. They were there a couple hours before being cut free. The protest organized by the California Liberation Collective had just over a dozen people there, but many others, not chained to each other were also there. So far 19 inmates at San Quentin have died, including another just over the weekend, who had been on death row. The protestors asking the governor to grant mass clemency.

It's happening more and more, tourist spots having positive testing visitors. A resident from the area tested positive, the first known case at Yosemite National Park. In an email to employees, and on a conference call park managers said the resident works in the town and was in close contact with visitors to the park and others before they got sick. Administrators were not releasing info to the public, someone released it to the Sacramento Bee newspaper anonymously. Sewage tests recently confirmed coronavirus had infected people, but the Mariposa County Department of Public Health didn't say if anyone inside the park tested positive. The positive test was July 17th. The health dept. says they followed all isolation and reporting protocols appropriately.

The Gov. has announced more than \$50 million is going to eight central California counties as cases of coronavirus continue surging out of control. The governor had a press conference earlier today stressing the importance of protecting essential workers as the state depends disproportionately on these workers. He also says certain regions and sectors of business in the state has also been hit hard, such as the Central Valley counties where money will be used for isolation, testing and enhancing healthcare with a nearly \$500 million CDC grant the state received.

Another nine cases of COVID have been reported in Mendocino County. That brings the total case load in the county to 274. There are also five people in the hospital, and one is still in an ICU. So far the county has had 6 deaths. One at a rehab facility in Marin County, one at Howard Hospital and 07/28/20 4 others after an outbreak at a nursing home in Fort Bragg.

The Governor announcing a couple of weeks ago he prefers for schools on the state's watchlist to operate only online. That led to a quick turnaround in Ukiah from in person learning in two groups of kids 2 days a week each, to straight up virtual learning after it was announced by the Public Health Officer we would soon be on the state's watchlist. That happened Friday. Mendocino Voice News has reached out to various school districts in the county for a report. Anderson Valley says they're starting online August 25th. In Fort Bragg, schools are starting about a week sooner, August 19th, also with virtual learning for at least a month. In Laytonville, the same, but August 24th. Leggett is online, but we don't have an official start. Mendocino starts August 21 online for 2 months at least. In Point Arena they start online August 19th. Same for Willits, but they're still deciding on a start date. Potter Valley has no decision, and Round Valley may go in person, considering opening Sept. 8th.

A resident in Calpella is asking for the Mendocino Forest Products wood pellet plant to close during the pandemic. A group of residents gathering now to get the plant near the Coyote Valley Reservation to close while COVID-19 surges uncontrolled. They say it's because of health concerns, being that the virus attacks the lungs, and the plant puts smoke in the air. Mendocino Voice news reports the plant does meet the official air quality requirements, but the local activists and some state organizations are sending a letter on the matter to the Air District, Board of Supervisors, and several state agencies with their request to stop the emissions.

A man and woman in Ukiah have been arrested after someone saw them toss a rock into a local business. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports Saturday getting a call from the business owner who had surveillance footage of two people ripping off about \$1,700.00 worth of wigs. They identified one person as a local transient, Oscar Cabezas-Tafoya. Cops on the lookout for the man, finding him with Luna Magdaleno, who was also seen on the footage. She was also on probation at the time. The two arrested on various charges and booked into Mendocino County Jail.

A Climate Emergency Resolution has been voted on by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The Climate Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC) which the board appointed presented the plan. The committee chair said it was an important first step since the board saw how important climate change and climate adaptation are for the community. The plan includes scientific evidence of climate change and the the state's target of 2045 for carbon neutrality and clean electricity. The plan with a declaration by supervisors of a "climate emergency" that they agree "threatens humanity and the natural and built environments" and joins "a worldwide call for a just transition away from fossil fuels."

As cases of Covid-19 surge out of control in Sonoma County, the county says hospital capacity is at a new high. The Press Democrat reports the county health officer, Dr. Sundari Mase says the surge in hospitalizations is due to large outbreaks at more than a dozen skilled nursing facilities. There were also patients in the county who came from San Quentin State Prison where there was also a large outbreak. The county joined many others a couple of weeks ago to get onto the state's watchlist so there had to be rollbacks in public health restrictions for several business sectors. Dr. Mase says local hospitals are also having a problem sending patients back to skilled nursing centers, so they stay even longer in the hospital, even if they don't need to be cared for any more.

You're not welcome in Tahoe or Truckee from out of town to slow the spread of virus. Placer County and the town of Truckee say tourists should stay away for another 2-3 weeks. They report high visitor numbers even in the midst of the pandemic. The county put out a statement last week saying they've had "an exceptionally busy influx of weekend visitors" so it's made it hard to "practice safe physical distancing." They say it's for those coming for a day without reservations to stay. They say they want people to plan ahead and have a reservation. The county joins others on the state's watchlist with a 57% increase in hospitalizations and nearly 130% rise in ICU numbers.

Democratic lawmakers are proposing a \$100 billion economic stimulus against "future tax vouchers" and other ways for more spending to boost the economy during the pandemic. Democratic lawmakers are the majority. Their plan allows the state treasurer to send out tax vouchers to residents to raise billions. It would allow taxpayers to pay taxes ahead of schedule at a discount. They've not homed in on the exact discount yet. The treasurer's office says it's a work in progress and praised lawmakers for their "out of the box" thinking. No new taxes are in the plan.

More coronavirus cases in Lake County. The Public Health Dept. posted 7 more cases yesterday, but the last update was Friday. There have now been 175 cases in the county. 12 are active, 162 are recovered and no longer considered contagious. And the county has had one death. The state's cases continue to surge, inching up to the 500,000 mark with daily highs posted day after day. As of last night there were more than 460,000 COVID-19 cases statewide and over 8,530 deaths. Mendocino has 274 cases, Glenn has 280, Sonoma 2,617, far more than any other neighboring county and Yolo has about half as many cases, 1,424 cases and 37 deaths, more than Sonoma whose had 24 deaths.

No new cases in the nursing facility in Fort Bragg where there's been a Covid-19 outbreak. Mendo Fever news site reports no new cases since Friday, but 4 residents are still in isolation in the facility. One has recovered and was moving from isolation today, one patient was stable, but two were reportedly on the decline. Three of the facility's residents are at Adventist Hospital Mendocino Coast in stable position, but reportedly guarded. The news site reports there have been 13 residents infected and four have died. 8 staff members also got infected and 2 are considered recovered or out of isolation.

The Rohnert Park Police Dept. has arrested one of their own. Officer David Sittig-Wattson has turned himself in after being accused of embezzling money from the department. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office's is investigating the accusations against Sittig-Watson. The sheriff's office says property crimes detectives investigated the officer and sent their work to the DA's office who charged the officer, who was the former treasurer of the Rohnert Park Public Safety Officers Association. They had requested the investigation after accusations of four years of embezzling.

The Lake County Public Health Officer has been informing the public on demographics of cases after the county had 50 cases. Well beyond that now at 175 positive cases with 24 new cases since the last demographics update one week ago. The office reports there are more females who've been infected than males. There were more cases in those 25 to 34 years old, then, in those 35 to 44 in this last demographic update. The most cases traced to another known case, then the next largest batch of cases is still being investigated. Lower case numbers from on the job contacts and in home, or congregate living, including in the Lake County Jail, where there have been two cases. Clear Lake, Upper Lake, Lower Lake and Hidden Valley Lake have had the bulk of the cases.

Information from COVID-19 tests are to be reported to the state, but the government is asking for the patients' race, ethnicity and sexual orientation. The secretary of the state's Health and Human Services Agency says it's so they can find a way to slow the spread of the virus. Dr. Mark Ghaly says the information will help them see if interventions are working and what the disparities are. Right now the state is not getting race and ethnicity data, but as we've been hearing locally, there's been a disproportionate increase in positive cases in the local LatinX community. In the state, more than half the

07/29/20 cases are in the same community.

Seven more deaths of Covid-19 complications in Sonoma County. The public health office says they were four women and three men at various skilled nursing facilities. The Press Democrat reports Broadway Villa Post Acute in Sonoma, Empress Post Acute in Petaluma and Petaluma Post Acute have all reported deaths. The facilities are mandated to report deaths from the virus within 24 hours. Health officials say there were four facilities that had deaths but did not say which ones. Dr. Sundari Mase says they've been trying to find a solution, but the county has no jurisdiction over the facilities and urges nursing home administrators to come up with a solution. A new way to bring money into the state, tax the wealthy. Democratic lawmakers have a new plan to raise tax rates on taxable income of \$1 million and higher. They say this could bring in billions more revenue to help improve K-12 schools and pay for many other government services as the state tries to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. 15 democrats in the Senate introduced the bill to help find ways to close a massive budget gap before the end of August. The bill would put a 1% tax on adjusted gross income starting at one million, increase it to 3% for those who earn more than \$2 million and to 3.5% for taxpayers with income above \$5 million. The projected operating deficit for next year is currently projected at \$8.7 billion. A man from Nevada has been killed while riding his jet ski in Sierra County, he was hit by lightning. The man and his son on skis on the Stampede Reservoir. His son was knocked unconscious and "severely burned". His dad identified as Eugene Arao. A woman on a nearby boat saw it and posted on Facebook there were several other people also injured by the lightning strike, calling it a "horrific tragedy." Thunderstorms had been reported throughout Truckee and Tahoe over the weekend.

A couple of cities defying the Governor's stay home health orders aren't getting state money. The Governor has blocked almost \$65,000 from Atwater in Merced County and more than \$35,000 from Coalinga in Fresno County. The two cities receiving letters from the state saying they'll lose more money if they don't roll back restrictions per the state's orders, but each city council was staying where they were at. Atwater's mayor said the Governor was abandoning them. They've declared themselves a Sanctuary City. Merced County just reported its highest-ever hospitalizations. In Fresno County they're teetering just below their highest level.

It's Wednesday, the there's food for kids 18 and younger at Ukiah High. It's part of the summer program for kids to get meals for the week from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The child does not need to be with their parents who can pick up the food including, chicken, or pork, chili beans, yams, and peaches, plums, or watermelons. They remind to wear a mask and practice social distancing when arriving to get the food.

Assemblyman Jim Wood has a new bill to help protect residents and staffmembers of skilled nursing facilities. Assemblyman Wood says 95% of the facilities report nearly 3,000 residents and over 100 healthcare workers at the facilities have died because of coronavirus. He says his bill which will be heard in the Senate's Health Committee this weekend requires the facilities to report each disease-related death to the state Department of Public Health (DPH) within 24 hours. And it would in turn require the Department of Public Health to release that information on an internet website each week. He says it would be in a way to shield privacy to help the state get more timely data to respond quicker to the spread of the virus. And they would have to have staff dedicated 24/7 to disease prevention.

A protest of Ukiah teachers ahead of the new school year. Some had signs as they picketed Monday saying "teachers are not expendable." There had been a plan for partly in person classes for kids in Ukiah, then at the end of last week, it abruptly changed. The school board announced a couple weeks ago a plan for hybrid learning. But the Ukiah Teachers Association is against the plan. The board was almost unanimous in approving the plan to return to in person classes, then four days later announced all distance learning with improvements. And now district officials say they're still hoping students can get back to in person class sometime this school year, depending. Ukiah education leaders will be on a call with State Senator Mike McGuire this Friday to address the issue. To listen to the discussion live, "dial 844-767-5679, enter code 2463180 and follow the prompts."

[There's a new coronavirus relief program being set up by the Community Fou](#)

After an outbreak at the Sherwood Oaks Health Center, there's a shortage of staff. The facility in Fort Bragg has had four deaths and several infections, including in staff members. Since then they've lost other staffers too and need to hire RNs, LVNs, CNAs, and reception workers. They are providing proper personal protective gear including goggles and N95 masks. The facility's website lists full and part time open positions for the day and evening shift.

If you are interested please contact Terrie Masterson at 707-964-6333 or e-mail terriem@sohcftb.com Lodging may be provided for anyone needing to travel. Visit Sherwood Oaks Health Center website and job postings at <https://sherwoodoakshealthcenter.com>.

An agreement has been reached for a group out of Oroville to run the homeless shelter in Lakeport when Hope Harbor closes at the end of July. So Elijah House will take over until September 30th at a fee of, at the most, \$234,550. Hope Harbor was running the homeless shelter since April and the county asked for more bids from others. Apparently Elijah House was the only taker. They help those with substance use and mental health issues, and they operate a sober living facility in Butte County. The Hope Center will open in September or October, a transitional housing facility in Clearlake where some of those at Elijah House can then transfer when they close.

Something to help the environment, a Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. Caltrans announced more than 140 million in funding for 166 local public transportation projects. They are meant to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mostly in disadvantaged communities impacted the most by climate change. The Caltrans director says it'll improve transit service for those who need it the most. The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program was created 6 years ago. Three projects to give free or reduced fare rides in Lake County, Humboldt and the city of Arcata.

A couple of coronavirus testing sites are open in Mendocino County this weekend. One will be in Laytonville, the other in Redwood Valley. The Laytonville test site is Friday morning from 9-11 in the parking lot of the Long Valley Health Center. It's drive thru service, first-come, first-serve. They will be there again August 14th and August 28th. This Saturday morning, from 8-11 am, a testing site will be at the Consolidated Tribal Health Project and the Coyote Valley Tribe in collaboration with Mendocino County Public Health in the Reservation's gymnasium in Redwood Valley, walk up testing or you can drive thru too, with no reservations required.

The Lake County Public Health Officer updating the Board of Supervisors on COVID cases, says not much has changed. On the county's dashboard are 181 positive cases and 13 currently active. Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace says the county has not had a major outbreak, but it's been close here and there. Dr. Pace says family gatherings are the place where cases are spreading the most, or from other family members who don't live in the county, but visit. Pace told the board that family gatherings with more than one family group are the riskiest. He also says frontline workers are at the most risk as the state has had a major surge in cases. He's encouraging

07/30/20 mask wearing, social distance and hand hygiene.

More information has been released about seven people who died in Sonoma County at skilled nursing facilities. The Press Democrat reports the first of the seven died July 23rd, and the last of them this past Monday. All of the patients were over 65 with other health conditions that put them at higher risk. The Public Health Office has not released a lot more information. The newspaper reports many of the deaths were reported late to the public health office because the facilities were overwhelmed. There are 20 skilled nursing facilities that have had outbreaks. In the last week 65 staffers and residents contracted the virus and a little more than that a week before. Assemblyman Jim Wood has also introduced a bill so the nursing facilities are mandated to report sooner. Wood says more than 40% of the people who died in California were from skilled nursing facilities.

Another record for daily deaths has been set in the state. Ten people in six counties, but 51 in LA alone. On Tuesday, the state recorded 164 deaths. And there's been almost 120 deaths a day for the last week. There's also been more than 9,000 cases a day, but 10,000 on Tuesday. The daily record for deaths was one week ago, that was 155, then the next day, last Thursday we were higher, 156 fatalities. California has now had the third highest rate of deaths in the U.S.

One of a few rural counties who earlier defied the Governor's stay home order, now has its first case of coronavirus. Modoc County in northeastern California actually confirmed two cases, both in the same household. And now the contact tracing has begun to find who may have been near the two, who are isolating at home. The county Public Health Department is telling anyone who may have been at one local bar to call them. The county's director of health services says they've been lucky so far and warned residents to "respect and follow" the guidelines set out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In May the county went against state orders and reopened restaurants and nonessential businesses after six weeks of closure. Yuba and Sutter Counties also reopened early, the two are both on the state's watchlist.

The Governor is being sued along with others by some charter schools who say funding during the pandemic denies payments for more students. The four charter school organizations suing Gov. Gavin Newsom, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and the California Department of Education saying they're being underfunded and the students who attend are having their constitutional rights violated. The schools and parents of new students asking courts to force Calif. to reimburse the schools for new students and say lawmakers need to fix it quick. The Gov. had promised reimbursement for pre-pandemic attendance. The schools say they had lotteries, adding more students, and now will not be able to pay for them.

13 more cases of coronavirus have been reported in Mendocino County. We've now had almost 300 positive cases. The county's dashboard has our total at 293 with five people in the hospital, that's one more than the latest update, but there are zero in the ICU currently. We have had a total of 6 deaths in the county due to complications from the virus. The most cases, over 200 in the Ukiah Valley, the North County and North Coast each has had more than 35 cases, the South Coast, only four cases and South County, 12. There are currently 64 active cases.

Landlords are allowed to toss people from their homes again in Imperial County. The Gov. disallowed the practice during the pandemic and courts have ruled against allowing evictions. But the Imperial County Superior Court is issuing eviction notices anyway to renters and has moved some eviction proceedings further along, violating pandemic judicial protocols. The state Judicial Council had issued an emergency rule barring local courts from most evictions except if there's a threat to public health and safety. But Imperial County's evicted at least three people who sued and had their cases rescinded. Courts may be able to pick back up on evictions in 2 weeks unless lawmakers step in.

Remote proceedings continue in Lake County Superior Court along with in person safety measures during the pandemic. Trials were allowed to restart in June, and in the Lake County Superior Court, jury trials were supposed to start up again July 8th. Apparently that didn't happen because the cases were all resolved or rescheduled. If there are any other jury trials for next week, we've not gotten a schedule of those yet. Lake Co News reports that should be determined by the end of the week. The court in the meantime is providing essential services right now with a limited amount of cases, social distancing, mask wearing and remote business as much as possible.

There had been a planned increase in the state's minimum wage and the Governor says it'll move forward in spite of the pandemic. The Gov. announced he could have suspended the raise in the wage but decided against it. So on January 1st, the minimum wage goes up to \$13.00 an hour for businesses with 25 or fewer employees, and to \$14 per hour for businesses with more than 25 employees. There's also been an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit which the governor reported put one billion dollars back into the pocket of Californians. Those with kids under 6 are also eligible for another \$1,000 tax credit.

Three more nursing homes besides Sherwood Oaks in Fort Bragg have reported a positive coronavirus test. Four patients at Sherwood Oaks have died since their outbreak and several others contracted the virus. The Mendocino Voice news site reports the cases were at Ukiah Post Acute Care Center, Mountain View Assisted Living and Memory Care, and Redwood Creek Care Center in Willits. The news site reports Ukiah Post Acute and Mountain View Assisted Living each had an employee test positive. More information was expected today from the Mendocino Public Health office.

Fort Bragg City Council is taking the whole mask wearing thing seriously, citing someone for being in public without. The City Council has decided to enforce mask wearing in the city and an executive order was passed for no warning period. So if you're caught without a mask on, or not socially distanced from those not in your immediate family, you could be cited. The city also extended the evictions moratorium, in alignment with the state. But that could end in a couple of weeks. The mask enforcement goes like this, \$100 for the first violation, \$250 for the next and \$500 for the third infraction. Police could just educate though and choose not to enforce. The County has had the first \$100 citation. It happened Saturday in the village of Mendocino. The person first educated, but seen a couple hours later without a mask, and was cited.

A man in Fort Bragg's been arrested after reports of illegal dumping near the Pudding Creek Bridge. Fort Bragg Police got a call to the area and found Shawn Spiller of Fort Bragg who they saw was in a car registered to another person who happened to be in jail in Mendocino County. Police say they believed he did not have permission to drive the car, so they called jail staff. While searching the car, they found drug paraphernalia and suspected methamphetamine and since the man was on probation, they held him. They say they also found a bunch of cordless power tools like some taken from another car a few weeks ago in the city. Jail staff informed police the car was stolen. So Spiller's been charged with various crimes, including possession of stolen property, possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia, and violation of probation.

Reports of a car burglary in Ukiah leads police to a couple of minors inside that car stealing stuff. They say the victim confronted the kids and they ran from the scene. Cops found a 12 year old boy matching the description on Nokomis Elementary School grounds. They found several items on him that matched reports of what was stolen so the boy was held and later positively id'd by the victim. Reports later of various other cars being broken into, so property was returned to those owners. Police say the second kid, a 14 year old was found a today trying to break into a car. The 12 year old was charged with theft, vehicle tampering and prowling and released to his parents and the 14 year old reportedly has charges pending.

A man in Fort Bragg's been arrested for pepper spraying another person. Police got a call Monday to an altercation and found one person had been pepper sprayed behind a business. Deputies say Jeffrey Thomas Wright was accused of causing a disturbance at the business and pepper sprayed someone as he was moving trucks saying Wright wouldn't leave him alone, screamed at him, then sprayed him and his truck. He got the spray cannister away from Wright and sprayed him back. Wright was arrested for unlawful use of Tear Gas Weapon and booked into the Mendocino County Jail. He was released due to the pandemic.

A man in Fort Bragg had to be given NARCAN after an overdose. Police say they got a call Tuesday night finding a man in a coma with shallow and sporadic breathing so they gave him two doses of NARCAN. They say about 5 minutes later he woke up. He was taken to the hospital for further treatment.

The name of the victim of a fire at a home in Albion has been released. The Albion Fire Department on the scene July 11th after Sylvia Stanley's home burned. Her son Mike was apparently at home asleep. A body found in the fire, but a positive i.d. could not be made right away due to the extreme conditions. But now the Mendocino County Sheriff confirmed the body was 39-year-old, Mike Stanley. The Daily Journal reports Sylvia has been ill with

07/31/20 cancer too.

Another death due to COVID-19 has been reported in Mendocino County. The Mendocino County Public Health Dept. posted another death from one of the patients at the Sherwood Oaks skilled nursing facility. That makes 3. It's not included on the county's coronavirus dashboard yet, but the county's now had 9 people died due to the pandemic. The dashboard continues to show the most cases in the LatinX community, nearly 180 out of the total 299 cases. 7 people are currently in the hospital, but none in the ICU. There are 66 active cases. There's testing this weekend in Laytonville and Redwood Valley.

Unemployment looking up in Calif. The Employment Development Department reports 7 million people have filed initial claims since March. There's also been a backlog in processing those, but the Governor says they'll hire a lot more people to deal with that. This past week saw nearly a quarter million more people file first time claims, but it was down more than 40,000 from a week before when 289,600 workers filed claims. Across the country there were more than 1.4 million claims, up 200,000 or so from a week before. Lawmakers of both parties have been complaining to the governor that there needs to be a better way to get thru the massive pile of claims that have been filed since March.

State experts being called to Sonoma County as outbreaks of Covid-19 continue unabated at skilled nursing facilities. The Press Democrat reports the Public Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase told reporters the state would be helping after 25 residents at the facilities died. So far 32 people have died in the county due to complications from the virus. The county had reportedly asked for help from the state early this week. Dr. Mase says it's to try to slow the spread of the virus at the facilities and help them "get out of the outbreak mode and move toward recovery. The state is the regulatory authority for such facilities. And the newspaper reports the county's on the lookout for an alternate care site as some of the facilities are quite cramped.

Several hundred goats are being deployed along the 101 between Healdsburg and Geyserville to eat brush. A firebreak project is bringing in 400 goats to much away the dry vegetation thru next week. They were brought in to clear about an acre and a half and will stay there until it's gone along with a guard dog and goat herder. There's also temporary fencing in the area to help keep control the animals. It's not the first time the agency has used goats. In May, they were also brought in, that on hills near the entrance of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

A section of a Northern Calif. highway's being resurfaced using recycled plastic. Caltrans says they're experimenting with sustainable highway construction, which involves grinding the top 3 inches of the highway, topping it off with the plastic mix and other ingredients and packing it down. It's reported to be the first time it's been done on a highway in California. The State Department of Transportation says if it's a success and shows its durable, they'll do more of it. Right now it's just a 1,000-yard section in Butte County of Highway 162 near the Oroville Airport near the town of Oroville. The state Supreme Court says public employees cannot add on to their pensions by working extra hours, then cashing out unused vacation or sick leave time ahead of retiring. The court relied on a previous law from 2013 that says pension spiking is not allowed. The law set up to close loopholes and to prevent abuse in the system. When employees work a bunch of overtime and stockpile vacation and sick leave time, but cash out later, it's thought to inflate annual salaries so their pensions were at about what they were making while working or in some cases, even more.

The Governor has announced hiring a strike team to tackle the pile of unemployment claims that have been filed amidst the coronavirus pandemic. The legislature is also set to discuss the issue today after complaints that computer systems aren't working properly and claimants cannot get through on the phone preventing claims from being filed. Yesterday the Governor spoke on the matter saying there should be no barriers between Californians and the benefits they have earned. The strike team will draft a plan within 45 days for improvements for the state Employment Development Department. The filing period to get onto the November ballot in Mendocino County has begun. Actually it started nearly three weeks ago, and ends next Friday. The Assessor-County Clerk Recorder Katrina Bartolomie sent out a reminder to the press yesterday. It says if an incumbent doesn't file for their seat, the filing deadline is then extended through August 12th. They're trying to do a lot of the filings over email and snail mail due to the pandemic to limit in-person office visits. You can make an appointment over the phone. And as a reminder, if you want to serve on a local board, to call the office and they'll email an application.

The US Census is happening now. We have a few more months to gather information and Census officials are trying to get more people to provide their data. Lake Co News reports the response rate in Lake County has been at about 45% compared to the state at 64% and the national rate at 63%. The US Census happens every decade to find how many congressional seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as how legislative districts are drawn. The deadline was supposed to be happening sooner, but now because of COVID, it's been extended until October 31st. Counties in Calif. with low response rates were Mono, Alpine, Trinity, Plumas and Sierra.

Those participating in the marine fishery in Calif. but have lost money due to the Covid-19 pandemic can get relief from the CARES Act. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is distributing money from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The fisheries got about \$18 million in CARES Act funding. The state agency says they may have more than 11,500 applicants who are eligible to get some of the money. That also includes individuals who work in the offshore, shoreside, aquaculture, commercial passenger fishing vessel and guide sectors. Those eligible have to have lost at least 35% of their fishing related income due to COVID-19 between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2020.

The medical director at a nursing facility in Fort Bragg says the coronavirus outbreak is not yet under control. He said two more residents died, then late last night we got word of a third, for a total of seven who've died of the virus.

Two more were also newly diagnosed yesterday. 18 residents and eight staff members have contracted the virus since it started to circulate there July 6th. There are still two residents at Adventist Health Mendocino Coast (Hospital); and another has returned to Sherwood Oaks but is in isolation. The medical director says rumors they had been closed by the State Department of Health are untrue. As we've been reporting they're still in need of more nurses and nurse aids. A state health inspector came out Wednesday and has approved of the policies in place.

Reports of a fire on the railroad tracks in Ukiah looks to have been an arson fire. Firefighters got a call Wednesday to the tracks near Norgard Lane about a mile south of Talmage Road. Fire officials say when they arrived the fire was threatening a home, but the residents didn't seem to know, so they knocked on their door to get them to leave. Firefighters kept flames away from the house, but some fencing was damaged. The fire ended up charring about three acres and got close to a vineyard before it was put down. Firefighters say there were encampments nearby but nobody was there while they were on the scene. They have no suspects but say they're pretty sure it was intentionally set.

Confirmation we are in a drought again. The Mendocino City Community Services District has confirmed an existing Stage 4 drought. At their latest meeting they chose people to sit on the Groundwater Management Committee. Water allotments to residents have been cut by 40 percent. As of last week rainfall was at about 50 percent of normal. The District Superintendent was happy with how the community cooperated. Customers only allowed to use 50 gallons a day.

The outbreak at the Sherwood Oaks facility in Fort Bragg continues as 7 more residents have been sent to the hospital. The Mendocino County Public Health Dept. says they're working closely with Sherwood Oaks staff the state and Adventist Health on the matter. There have been 20 Residents and 8 employees and 1 community member who have contracted the disease. 7 residents have also died, 6 on the premises and one at a hospital. There have been 6 residents and 5 staff members hospitalized. The administrator of Sherwood Oaks says it's been a difficult time for everybody in their community and they appreciate the help and collaboration

08/03/20 they're receiving from the hospital and public health.

A revised health order is coming from the Mendocino County Public Health dept. The order will focus on outdoor gatherings in cars or in bubbles of people. Public health says it's crucial for all residents to continue to follow current health orders to protect the health of the county.

A man from Oregon has been arrested after an attack on US Postal Service workers in Ukiah. Police say they got a call Friday morning to the Post Office on South Orchard Avenue to a man attacking postal workers. They say when they got there, there were 4 employees holding down a man who cops quickly handcuffed. They found a .40 caliber Glock pistol on him. Employees say Timothy Raybould parked in the employee parking lot and was looking into cars and acting suspicious so somebody approached. They told him to leave and say he attacked them. Others came outside to help, and say he attacked them too. One of them ended up with their hips fractured and went to a hospital. Raybould was arrested on several charges including suspicion of illegal weapons possession, possession of a controlled substance and battery causing great bodily injury.

Two seats remain open on the Willits Unified School District Board. They're open to campaign for any resident 18 or older who's registered to vote. The application deadline is this Friday for the four year position. The president and clerk position are open. If either of the trustees whose terms are expiring decide they will run again, then the deadline for applications is extended to Aug. 12th, a week from Wednesday.

A lawsuit regarding logging on the Gualala River in Sonoma County could be moved to federal court if a local nonprofit has their way. Friends of Gualala River have been fighting five years to move their suit forward. Now they're working with the Center for Biological Diversity to get the Gualala Redwood Timber's Dogwood Timber Harvest Plan stopped. The two entities filing together to sue Gualala Redwood Timber and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection claiming violations of the Endangered Species Act. They say the logging operations seriously harm the watershed and five federally listed endangered species.

A man with a criminal history taken down after dousing himself in gasoline and threatening to kill himself. Mendocino County deputies in a standoff with the man who was holding a lighter in his vehicle. The sheriff says that stopped them from being able to use tear gas or other gas agents on him, that are typically utilized in this sort of situation. A volunteer firefighter sprayed him and his vehicle until he finally emerged from the car and was taken down by a police dog. They also had a drone overhead and saw a long gun on the man who had broken out the window of his truck. That turned out to be a pellet gun. Mendocino Supervisor Ted Williams is also a volunteer with the Albion Fire Department and was on scene along with the California Highway Patrol, California Parks Service, Fish and Wildlife, Ukiah Police Department, Albion Fire Department, and a local ambulance company.

Another urgency ordinance will be considered by the Lake County Board of Supervisors regarding the coronavirus pandemic. This one looking to further enforce the health officer's orders and the state's on mask wearing and other restrictions. The meeting in hybrid format due to the pandemic, partly online, partly in board chambers. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace is giving his weekly update on the pandemic. After that the supervisors will consider an ordinance to fine folks who refuse to follow the guidance in county health orders. It says in the urgency ordinance that studies show facial covering can reduce respiratory virus infections and slow community spread of COVID-19. The proposed ordinance gives the Public Health Officer authority for appropriate action including fines or citations to businesses and individuals.

A fire is burning Colusa County, straddling the line with Lake County. The Sites fire was reported yesterday afternoon and by last night has burned 540 acres with 20% containment. There are some evacuations on Sites Lodoga Road and Squaw Creek Road in Colusa County. Yesterday afternoon about a dozen structures were threatened. It was windy too and Cal Fire said there was a dangerous rate of spread. There were also some road closures reported on the evacuated streets and for the community of Sites, a few others.

Somehow thieves have stolen a massive water tank from the Leggett Fire Station. The fire department says a 5,000 gallon tank was swiped over the weekend. The fire station power shuts the water pump, radio and garage doors was also disabled as the thieves made off with the tank. The fire department is asking anyone who may know something to call, they're offering a \$1000 reward for any information that leads to the recovery of the tank. The department says besides a financial loss to them, it's a danger to the area when they lose power, if someone needed them, they couldn't protect the community. On their Facebook page, they posted, "all volunteer members of Leggett Fire are disappointed that anybody would steal anything from a Fire Department. Karma comes back around."

A man accused of murdering his daughter a few years ago in Hidden Valley Lake has had a court appearance regarding a doctor's report. Steven Miller accused of shooting his daughter, Hannah Welch to death in May of 2017. At his preliminary hearing nearly a year later, the court found enough evidence to try him for murder, and for exhibiting a weapon. The court appearance over video with his lawyer and the prosecution to hear the mental health evaluation to see if he's competent to stand trial after he pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. This is a continuation after a May 2018 mental health evaluation from three doctors all finding him incompetent to stand trial. Now a follow up report shows he's competent to understand the proceedings against him. So another court appearance is set for December and a possible jury trial for next January.

The coronavirus pandemic is continuing to surge in Sonoma County, with the county passing 3,000 positive cases. And 2 more deaths at nursing facilities in the county. 32 people or 82% of the deaths in the county have been residents at skilled nursing homes and residential care facilities. The Press Democrat reports more than 250 nursing home residents and workers had become infected by the middle of last week, and of those 144 were residents. The newspaper reports most of the cases and deaths were at three facilities: Broadway Villa Post Acute in Sonoma and Petaluma Post Acute and EmPres Post Acute Health and Rehabilitation in Petaluma.

Six families have lost their home after a fire burns an apartment complex in Ukiah. The fire Friday morning at the corner of Observatory Avenue and South State Street. Ukiah Police and deputies from the Sheriff's Office on the scene with Ukiah Valley Fire Authority helping to get everyone out of the building safely. There were no reported injuries and firefighters say they weren't aware of any animals either injured or killed either. The apartment building had five units. Firefighters on the scene around 7 am and had to wait to enter to inspect because it was very hot inside for some time. They say it looks to have been accidental, where too many electrical appliances were plugged into a power strip, but since everything was too damaged, they couldn't say what first caught fire.

New school reopening guidelines have been released from the state. The rules for elementary schools planning in-person learning even though most schools will restart with online classes. The Gov. announced schools on the state's watch list within the last two weeks can only do online learning. But elementary schools can apply for a waiver. A school superintendent, private school principal, or executive director of a charter school can apply. Schools have to show they've spoken with parents and teachers' unions about their reopening plans, and that they've published them on the school's website. That has to include cleaning and disinfection plans, mask wearing, protective gear, health screenings, contact tracing, physical distancing and

08/04/20 so much more.

The Sites Fire still burning in Colusa County and inching pretty close to Clearlake. It presents a set of challenges for firefighters due to the pandemic. The firefighters have to be separated and their equipment disinfected more often than in regular times. Colusa County also has the third highest infection rate in the state. The Red Cross is also handling evacuees differently, people can't just crowd into a huge school gymnasium, instead, they're putting folks up in hotels and if not, in a gym, with strict social distancing. So far the fire has burned 560 acres and is 58% contained.

The state watching Sonoma County's COVID numbers, as the county continues dealing with an out of control surge of cases. The Public Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase says the county's been on the state watchlist three weeks because of high rates of virus transmission well above benchmarks the state has set for reopening plans. The county is averaging about twice as many cases per 100,000 residents than allowed. Nearly 1,000 cases in two weeks, Dr. Mase says, shows the infection transmission is too high. They need to hit 100 per 100,000 people, but average about 188.

People told to leave their homes near Clearlake have been able to return as the Sites Fire reached 55% containment last night. The fire in Colusa County has charred 560 acres after breaking out Sunday afternoon. The fire's the biggest this year so far and led to evacuations and road closures, but both eased yesterday as crews contained surrounding the fire yesterday. There's been no structures destroyed but 12 were still threatened last night.

Willits owns a piece of its own. The city has ownership of Main Street after Caltrans gave it up. The street goes from the intersection at Highway 20 just past Willits High. The city manager and deputy city manager say they're hoping to have a city party and ribbon cutting ceremony at some point on Main St. but can't right now due to the pandemic. The road ownership means the city will maintain it plus a couple of traffic signals, something the state agency could cost up to \$140,000 a year. The city says it has a plan but they want a sales tax increase too due to the pandemic. But it's been struggling with less revenue over the last few years. They've cut staff and services and brought in more money with marijuana taxes. Plus the city's dipped into reserves.

More coronavirus cases in Mendocino County. Another high day, 9 new cases for a total of 331. 66 are in isolation and ten people remain hospitalized. The 9 new cases in the Ukiah Valley.

A couple more inmates have died from Covid-19 at San Quentin State Prison. Corrections officials say one of them was on death row. The two both died outside the prison at a hospital. They were 48 year old Orlando Romero, who was sent to death row in 1996 for first-degree murder and second-degree robbery while armed with a firearm. He and his brother arrested for randomly robbing people. No word on the other inmate. They were the latest of nearly 2 dozen now who've died from the pandemic. 9 were on death row. It's the hardest hit prison in the state with about 70% of the inmates contracting the virus. 49 inmates across Calif. have died of complications from the virus.

Surge of Covid-19 cases in Lake County. The Public Health Office reports 13 new cases as of Friday. There have been 208 positive cases. Right now, there are 25 active cases, 182 recovered and one person has died. No cases are in the hospital, but in the past there have been 17. The state is nearing 519,000 cases and 9,500 deaths. Lake Co News reports 24,420 healthcare workers have also contracted the virus and 128 have died. Nearby county counts, Colusa County has had 331 cases and four deaths; Glenn, 332 cases, one death; Mendocino, 331 cases, nine deaths; Napa with 963 cases and nine deaths; and Sonoma, with more than 3,100 cases and 39 deaths; Yolo with half the population of Sonoma, has had about half the case load, almost 1,600 cases, but more deaths, 42.

Lake County has released their weekly demographics showing nearly 7,200 Covid-19 tests conducted. The info shows most of the cases have been contracted from close contacts. 33 more cases from one week to the next. Of the 208 cases in the county, more than half were from a close contact. 51 cases are noted as being investigated, 23 from out of county contact, 17 unknown source – but thought to be from community spread, six from work contact. Most of the cases were in women, 113 cases. And the highest amount of cases in 25 to 34 year olds, then in 13 to 24 year olds.

A man accused of murder in court in Lake County. His trial was set for June, after a couple of other court dates during the pandemic. The latest hearing ended with the matter headed to a settlement or trial date setting conference in a few weeks. 21 year old Mavrick Fisher accused of the murder of Grant David Whitaker of Mackinaw, Illinois in August of last year. The two traveling together to a campground where the victim was allegedly killed. The two reportedly planned on starting a deaf camp together, per Whitaker's family members. Fisher pleaded not guilty last fall and his trial was set for January, then pushed to March and continued again. The Sheriff's Dept. reports Fisher admitted to the killing and gave instructions where his body could be found. Bail has been denied.

A man from Fort Bragg's been arrested after a call to Westport for a domestic disturbance. Mendocino deputies called Friday to the incident and found Dennis Day and a woman he was in a romantic relationship with, which included children in common. They say there had been a verbal argument that led to a physical confrontation, where the man pushed the woman down to the ground. Deputies say she had minor visible injuries consistent with the reported assault. So Day was arrested for domestic violence battery and booked into Mendocino County Jail and held on \$25,000.00 bail

Possible COVID-19 exposure at the Mendocino County Assessor-Clerk Recorder's offices means a temporary closure of the office. There's no re-opening date yet, just sometime later in the month. They ask that you watch their website for more information. There will however be a small number of Elections staff in the office to complete the extended candidate filing deadline which is this Wednesday. They're also preparing the ballot and sample ballots to be mailed out. They're following the Public Health Orders including social distancing and wearing face masks while they're working in the office. If you have an appointment, they'll call to cancel or reschedule.

08/10/20

A man from Willits has been arrested after reports of a domestic violence incident. The Sheriff's Dept. reports getting a call last Friday finding Victor Lopez outside the home. His wife looking through the man's phone and found he had texted another woman so Lopez says she pulled his hair as he tried leaving the house. But deputies say he forgot his phone so he went back for it and the couple argued some more. The woman says as Lopez left her finger was caught in his hair and he punched her in the face and threw her to the ground. He was arrested and held without bail due to a parole violation.

A call from a family in Willits about a family member threatening them ends in that man's arrest. Last Tuesday morning deputies found Jacob McKey at the residence where family members say he was threatening one of them with death. McKey demanded deputies leave. They removed another family member and left McKey alone, but he left the house and shined a flashlight at deputies which turned into a laser, then deputies heard several gunshots. Deputies left the scene and called for backup. Deputies finally talked the guy down, he came out of the home unarmed and was arrested for having several firearms and criminal threats. He's held on \$500,000.00 bail.

The end of a long criminal case after two bodies are found in a parked van along Highway 20 in Fort Bragg. The Sheriff's office says they got a report in October of 2013 to the bodies in the 31000 block of Highway 20, the area of Bark Dumps. Deputies found Jim Tat Kong and Cindy Bao Feng Chen dead in the van. They said at the time they had been shot in the back of their heads. Several law enforcement agencies worked on the incident and came up with a suspect, Wing Wo Ma. He was arrested 5 years ago in Oakland by the FBI on drug charges. He was held until 2017 without bail and was indicted on several charges including murder with a firearm, corruption, bribery of officials and conspiracy. Last November he was convicted and last week sent to prison for life.

A small airplane has crashed in Williams on its way to Mendocino County. Friday night the Lake County Sheriff's Office got a report from the Williams Soaring Center about the overdue aircraft, a MINI Glider. It left Lampson Airfield that afternoon. The aircraft was found in Lakeport and deputies found the pilot, the only one in the aircraft, dead. The FAA was called and along with the NTSB will investigate the crash. The pilot has been identified as 89 year old Matthew Herron of San Rafael.

There's a new homeless shelter in Lakeport. Hope Harbor's Covid-19 Center is at the old Juvenile Hall, the third location for the shelter. It's actually the Elijah House Lake County Shelter as Hope Harbor's contract has ended. Elijah House reports all juveniles who were in the location were moved to Red Bluff. Elijah House Foundation hails from Oroville and has three other locations in Butte, Tehama and Contra Costa Counties. They were the only agency to bid to take over the shelter when Hope Harbor's contract ended. Their contract runs thru October.

A man on parole from prison has been found by CHP and Caltrans workers near the Highway 101 onramp to Talmage in Ukiah. Officers say the man died even though they tried to save him. His probation officer says he was released from prison early because of the safety restrictions at Calif. prisons due to COVID-19. The man's probation officer says the state should do more to protect released inmates, like this man, who ended up on the street without support. The man was incarcerated at Soledad State Prison and due to be released in November. He got a bus ride to the Ukiah area and apparently had no transitional housing. It appears to be a drug overdose.

Major surge of coronavirus cases in Mendocino County over the weekend, with 70 confirmed positives. The Mendocino County Public Health Office reported 19 cases yesterday and 51 Saturday. They say Saturday's massive caseload was due to test results and a new lab being used. 34 of the results were from July 31st to August 8th, this past Saturday. There are now 450 total cases of COVID-19 in the County. Also the Board of Supervisors is getting tough on enforcement, approving a contract with a security guard company to monitor folks in quarantine, focusing on those who are refusing to stay inside. 13 people are in the hospital and one in the ICU. 10 people have died from coronavirus in Mendocino County.

The Ukiah School Superintendent sending out a letter to parents as summer vacation winds down and Distance Learning for the fall semester kicks off soon. The school district looking at different models for online learning. They're asking for flexibility from parents at this uncertain time. The superintendent says they heard mixed results from parents and say some had a good experience, while others didn't. She says there will be a dramatically different experience with more time for online live learning from a credentialed teacher, with common structures across each school and classroom, staff professional development specifically for distance learning, and software enhancements. They're also continuing with food distribution of free breakfast and lunch this year.

At least three businesses in Mendocino County continue to struggle with COVID-19 outbreaks including Sherwood Oaks Skilled Nursing. Dr. Noemi Doohan says it's being contained with the help of the County, Adventist Health, the State, and employees at Sherwood Oaks. There were no new deaths within the last week. Ukiah Post Acute Care has had 5 employees test positive, but no residents. At Walmart, it's not considered an outbreak because there have to be 3 employees sick who were connected by close contact, which is being investigated. Environmental Health was there cleaning over the weekend. There is no new information from this morning on any of the outbreaks.

There will be a lot more public access in the South Cow Mountain Off Highway Motorvehicle Management area. That's due to the just finished acquisition of a ranch near Lakeport. The Bureau of Land Management Ukiah Field Office reports the acquisition was the almost 1,400-acre Blue Oak Ranch which is right beside Highway 175 near the town of Lakeport. The ranch was paid for with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the California State Park Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Grants Program.

It's getting to be that time of year, when bears have foraged and start to end up in neighborhoods. With that a warning for parts of the state including in Lake County. In Clear Lake a cub was hit by a car on Highway 20 near Paradise Cove. That was at the beginning of June, then a few weeks later, 2 cars hit a bear on Highway 29 near Lower Lake. Four bears hit by cars in Yosemite and another one walked onto a golf course in Truckee during a PGA event in the last several weeks. There have been a bunch of reports of bears seen in and around Lassen National Park. And a black bear was seen at the end of June wandering on the beach in Glenhaven.

The Lake County Public Health Office releasing more info on COVID-19 which seems to be holding steady, but reports with testing difficulties could change that. Dr. Gary Pace reports the county at 220 cases, that's 25 more cases, but over a one week period. Dr. Pace reported Friday there were 24 active cases and 194 recovered. There was however a second death in the county last Wednesday. The first was reported on July 3. Nobody is in the hospital currently. The test positivity rate sits at 4.6 percent, something Dr. Pace says is manageable. He did report on long waits for tests with some saying it's taken them seven to 10 days or longer for their test results. He says that led to Quest modifying their procedures and outsourcing more work.

The driver of a pickup truck that rolled over the weekend died, but the CHP says it's because he bailed from the truck and jumped off a bridge. The California Highway Patrol says the driver rolled the pickup on the East Fork Russian River bridge Saturday. The Ukiah office for the patrol says around dinner time Saturday they got a bunch of 911 calls about a crash on Highway 20 just west of the Bushay campground entrance, then people called to say the driver jumped off the bridge. Deputies found the pickup truck on its side, blocking the highway on the bridge. The incident is being investigated.

The top public health official in the state has resigned a couple of days after the state says it fixed the issue of test results taking too long. The Press Democrat reports Dr. Sonia Angell resigned Sunday, but no reason was given in her resignation letter to her staff. And the California Health and Human Services Agency has not expanded on why she left either. The Gov. thanked her for her service. Now the position will be filled on an interim basis by the VP of external engagement for California Health Care Foundation.

PG&E has been ordered to do a better job inspecting their high-voltage power lines, to hire more tree-trimming supervisors and upgrade its record keeping on how old its electrical equipment is. It's all part of their criminal case and bankruptcy after multiple disastrous and fatal wildfires dating back several years. The work all part of the criminal case after the San Bruno explosion, for which the utility was on probation. The conditions to prevent any more wildfires following the Camp fire in Butte County 2 years ago.

The first case of an inmate contracting coronavirus has been reported in the Mendocino County Jail. Apparently it was a man who had been extradited from out of state on a Mendocino County warrant. They're supposed to be quarantined for 14 days before coming into the prison and a test to make sure there's no infection upon arrival showed a positive. So the inmate is now isolated in the facility. They're being monitored there with the help of Mendocino County Public Health.

Workshops for local businesses and at home workers regarding managing workers in the time of COVID-19 and more. The West Business Development Center is hosting the workshops this month – tomorrow will be for entrepreneurs, then another next week about how to sell on Etsy. And another after that on email marketing. The Center says as schools continue remote learning, small business owners and parents who are managing work from home and helping their kids, probably feel overwhelmed. So, they'll also feature a business coach, specialized in work from home and optimizing your business. There will also be a financial manager at a later date. For more info, the recordbee.com has all of the dates and registration

08/11/20 info.

Chromebook distribution has been put on hold for the Ukiah Unified School District after a school employee has tested positive for coronavirus. No other information has been released about who the employee is for privacy reasons. The spokesperson for the school district says some children who already received their Chromebooks yesterday should disinfect the devices. But he also adds that that should be standard practice whenever getting items such as this.

Another 22 cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Mendocino County, bringing the total to 472. Mendo Fever is reporting that means the last month has seen a spike of 341%. Contact tracing is being done for nearly half of the positive Mendocino County cases. Females are getting the infection at a higher rate than males. And we're still seeing a disproportionate number of positive cases in the LatinX community. And two new cases are in children 6-12 years old and 3 in those 13-18. 11 more cases have been identified in ages 19-34. 12 people are in the hospital and 3 are in an ICU.

The Mina Fire in the Round Valley area has charred several acres, but evacuations have been lifted. The fire near Hopper Lane and Crawford Road in Covelo was burning last night near structures and charred timber and oak. Mendocino Sheriff Matt Kendall said last night the evacuations were lifted because the fire wasn't a threat anymore. The fire was in mop up stage near the evacuations last night and roads were re-opened. The Sheriff warning though that there was still a lot of equipment and big fire trucks on the scene. Two outbuildings and some cars were damaged. The fire has burned 171 acres and is 30% contained.

An employee at the Coyote Valley C-Store has tested positive for coronavirus. The test showed positive because there's mandatory testing for all enterprise and tribal employees. So the fuel pumps will be open, but no cash transactions will be done and propane is unavailable right now. The store itself is closed for cleaning and to make way for contact tracing with Mendocino Public Health.

Several injuries after a solo car crash in Garberville. The CHP, Covelo Volunteer firefighters and several other law enforcement agencies and medical helicopters on the scene early Saturday morning. Nearby residents helped people out of the Mazda CX5 after the car went off the road into a tree and the car burst into flames. Those in the car had moderate to major injuries and ended up in various Northern California hospitals. And the driver, identified as Milton Hoaglen has been arrested on suspicion of DUI.

Two more residents at Sherwood Oaks Skilled Nursing in Fort Bragg have tested positive for COVID-19. About 3-4 days after testing was conducted last week the positives turned up, but the head of the facility says the two were barely symptomatic. They were admitted anyway to Adventist Health Mendocino Coast as a precaution. Two others who were in the hospital have recovered and were taken back to the facility. So far there have been 9 residents and 5 staff who have recovered, but 7 have died. Another seven still in the hospital are expected to recover and return to Sherwood Oaks this week.

Hospitalizations in Calif. are down, mostly because of a couple of regions where case numbers are falling. The Press Democrat reports more than 5,600 current hospitalizations across the state, 670 yesterday in the Bay Area and Alameda County, the lowest since mid-July. Nearly 27% less hospitalizations in San Francisco since a week before and almost 18% lower in Alameda County. Statewide the numbers were down 11.5% overall, in the past week. And since the major peak of July 21st, the number is down 21%. Clearlake City Council members looking at a possible salary increase as they conducted their meeting online. Due to the pandemic most of the local or government agencies were meeting over the phone or online. Council members make \$300/month, last approved in 1989. The money is based on population, which is 15,000 right now. Each year they're allowed a salary bump of 5% since their last adjustment. Phill Harris, who is not seeking re-election and whose seat will be open soon broached the subject. The proposal would take their salary up another \$465 to a total of \$765 per month.

A man accused of molesting two children may be waiting longer for his trial. 70 year old Bert Tino Besio of Clearlake was in court for a Settlement/Trial Setting Conference, but the other side asked for the continuance and it was approved until Friday. He's pleaded not guilty in the case after his trial date was set for January. Last October the court found enough evidence for a jury trial. But he went into the hospital since then for a mild stroke. The case after the man was accused of two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a minor, five counts of forcible lewd acts upon a child and three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child on two children under 13.

A town hall is being hosted with Congressman John Garamendi by the Lake County Democratic Party. The event next Wednesday, August 19th at 6 pm. He represents a large area of Lake County and serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He's also previously served on the Science, Space, and Technology, Natural Resources, and Agriculture committees. The Zoom Town Hall is hosted by the Programs & Recruitment Committee of the Lake County Democratic Party.

20 new cases of coronavirus have been identified in Lake County. The Public Health Office reported a total of 240 cases now in the county with 25 active. Yesterday we reported 220 cases, but the 20 additional cases were confirmed just yesterday, up 20 from Friday. 213 people are considered recovered in Lake County, and no longer contagious. 2 people have died and there are no reports of any residents hospitalized. Nearby counties, here in Mendocino 472 confirmed cases and 10 deaths, in Glenn, 360 cases and 3 deaths, Napa has had more than 1,070 cases and 11 deaths, the most for any neighboring county is Sonoma, they've had 3,750 cases and 50 deaths now. Yolo County, much smaller with nearly the same 44 deaths, but half the cases as Sonoma, with 1,834 cases.

3 more COVID-19 deaths in Sonoma County bring the total to 50 people who have died from the virus. Health officials say the 3 who recently died were all over 65, were living in skilled nursing centers and had underlying medical conditions. Over the weekend the county confirmed 239 new infections, then another 83 yesterday for 3,750 countywide. And in Cloverdale, another nursing or elder care facility is the 5th now to have a death of at least one resident. Of the 50 who have died as a result of complications due to the virus, 40 lived in these facilities.

The Lake County Public Health Office has released new demographics, as they do every week, on COVID-19 cases. There have been 240 cases in the county, 32 more than one week ago. The data shows close contacts were the main way the infection is spreading, 116 of the total cases. 54 other cases were still being investigated, and 33 were listed as other or unknown. Mostly females, like in Mendocino County, were contracted the disease in Lake County. As far as ages, 54 cases in those 25 to 34, 40 more cases in 13-24 year olds and in the 35-44 age range too. The most cases in Clearlake, followed by Lakeport and Kelseyville then Clearlake Oaks.

Classes begin again in most Lake County schools this week. After jostling back and forth between in person or online, most schools are online. Schools abruptly closed mid-March as the pandemic first surfaced and only days before the stay home orders went into full effect across the state. The Lake County Office of Education reports school has already started for the Clearlake Creativity School. Tomorrow Lakeport Unified, Lucerne Elementary and Upper Lake. There were other schools that were supposed to start Monday, but they were pushed until next week and more start the third week of the month too. There is Distance Learning, a mix of in person and Distance, and fully in person with strict safety restrictions in place for staff and students. And Lake Co News reports some schools are opening with no restrictions.

A construction company in the Central Valley whose owners ended up in prison for defrauding homeowners in Sonoma County after the Tubbs fire get to stay out of jail on bail. The ruling yesterday allow the co-defendants and spouses Salvador and Pamela Chiaramonte to be out of jail on bail bond as the proceedings continue. The pair charged with nearly 60 counts of diversion of construction funds to grand theft of personal property and much more. Their \$250,000 bails though had to be proven the money was legitimately earned and also not fraudulent. They're accused with family

08/12/20 members of defrauding fire victims. Their cases continue in October.

No decisions yet about what to do with all of the money from PG&E Sonoma County is getting as part of their bankruptcy case settlement. The Board of Supervisors is tabling how to spend almost \$150 million in wildfire settlement money and will get public comment before coming back with their decision this fall. The meeting yesterday was the first time the settlement spending was broached amongst the public. \$149.3 million was paid to the county by the utility company in June for the October 2017 firestorm that killed 24 people and burned 5,300 homes. It also comes at a time that 50 people have died from the COVID-19 pandemic and tens of thousands have no jobs.

A new report says thanks to personal relationships the Public Utilities Commission made high-level hiring decisions. The State Personnel Board report showed the PUC Executive Director Alice Stebbins used her position to advance former associates at previous jobs for positions at two California state environmental departments. Now Stebbins is on administrative leave as the commission does an internal review after the personnel board wrote some of those hirings had, "highly questionable legitimacy." She's been the head of the commission since 2018 when the commission was facing pressure to be tougher on the oversight of PG&E after the deadly fires in Northern California in 2017 and 2018.

Rumors, just that, of an Immigration & Customs Enforcement Helicopter hovering over the county for immigration raids. The Mendocino Sheriff Matt Kendall says an ICE helicopter spotted at the airport was to help find illegal marijuana farms. He says there is so much land in the county under federal jurisdiction that the county taps federal resources to find illegal marijuana farms. He says that ultimately saves the county money and is a way to pass that savings on to the county.

The city manager in Lakeport is leaving a new manager named. Margaret Silveira retired at the end of last month. During an online meeting, there was a going away celebration for Silveira with a video tribute. Her deputy, Kevin Ingram, is the new manager after being the Community Development Director and City Manager Assistant. At the meeting Ingram spoke about the pandemic and how it's impacting city workers, but said he was hopeful for the future. He says he wants to repair and update city infrastructure and get a new park erected at an unused school.

The Chief of Staff at Adventist Health has put out a statement regarding the pandemic. Dr. William Miller says he agrees that shutting down the economy was successful to avoid a disastrous surge in coronavirus cases, and as things have loosened cases have predictably spiked. Dr. Miller says that's why we need more testing, but that's not been happening along with aggressive contact tracing and quarantine measures. Again there's a shortage of testing supplies and overwhelmed labs. He says public health departments across the state can't keep up. He says the problem with it all lays in the hands of the federal government's inadequate response.

More than a dozen new cases of COVID-19 have turned up in Lake County, with the county hitting 253 cases. Yesterday we reported a surge of 20 cases, to hit 240, now 13 more cases in one day. It comes with 259 more tests results coming in. The Public Health Office reports 30 active cases and 221 recovered. At the same time the Board of Supervisors is still considering ways to enforce mask wearing and social distancing measures. Mendocino County had 6 more cases for a total of 478 cases.

[A new partnership with Google has been announced for earthquake warnings](#)

The bill State Senator Mike McGuire has drafted to protect journalists from physical attacks or being detained has made it through the first Assembly committee. The legislation to protect media members at demonstrations passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee unanimously. McGuire says the press risks their personal health and safety when they're out at protests or rallies to get the public needed information. He goes on to say California should be the leader, making sure the press is protected by their First Amendment rights. The Press Freedom Act moves next to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, then to the Assembly floor for a full vote later this month.

A man in Lakeport in court after charges of child molestation and lewd acts. He was in court last fall in the case after he was charged with oral copulation, sending harmful material to a minor, lewd acts and annoying or molesting a child under 18 and indecent exposure. 32 year old David Johnson booked into the Santa Rita Jail last year and brought to Lake County soon after. There have been several court dates since, all continued. The man waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was ordered to a jury trial which was set for January. Then also continued. He is currently not in custody. During remote proceedings DNA evidence was discussed but not what it was. Johnson while out of jail may not even go to the grocery store and is under supervised conditional release and under the supervision of a probation officer. But that is now under further consideration. He's due back in court Monday.

Adventist Health's CEO reporting some employees at one of their clinics have tested positive for coronavirus. He says they've increased safety measures at their clinics since the pandemic started and says there's no evidence of exposure to patients from those who contracted the virus, which happened outside of the clinic. Those infected had mild symptoms and are isolating at home.

No new cases have been reported at the Sherwood Oaks Skilled Nursing Facility so far this week, and two more residents got to leave the hospital and are considered recovered and no longer contagious. The two left Adventist Health Mendocino Coast yesterday and returned to Sherwood Oaks. There are however four other residents who are still in the hospital but are expected to be okay, as their conditions are reportedly improving.

A major marijuana grow found and tens of thousands of plants removed in Lake County. The state Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, California Department of Food and Agriculture and other allied agencies, served a search warrant spanning two parcels in the Scotts Valley area of Lakeport in Lake County. The two parcels not legally registered for the gardens, so six agencies on site, pulled nearly 52,000 plants, grabbed 7 firearms, took more than \$27,000 and found about 40 Fish and Game Code crimes. They found various water degrading crimes including diversions and stockpiles of dangerous chemicals for waterways and cited several people, including a

08/13/20 couple of teens. The case turned over to the District Attorney's office.

As part of the Mendocino County Grand Jury report the jury says the county needs to make sure all is in working order for its Emergency Communications System. The annual report including the section, "Emergency Communication System in Mendocino County: Protecting Life, Health, Safety and Welfare" says there were seven failures last year, two four hours long. It says the failures are worse year over year. It reminds that there are two dozen local agencies depending on the Emergency Communication System. And that a technology company warned the Board of Supervisors about some of the equipment hitting the end of its shelf life. And that there were previous reports on the system facing permanent failure. The report concludes the Board of Supervisors should fix the system with the help of the Executive Office for the "life, health, safety, and welfare of Mendocino County residents".

The Sheriff asking for the public's help after several fires are set in Ukiah. There were evacuation warnings for one of them in the 200 block of Jefferson Lane near Grace Hudson Elementary School. Three other fires then erupted in the same area, the end of Plant Road, one between Gobalet Lane and Highway 253, and another in a vineyard near Norgard Lane. Someone called the sheriff and said they saw an individual who was either Hispanic or Native American in black clothes with a ponytail, riding away on a bicycle. Now the sheriff's office says this is a "person of interest related to the fires." Two more fires were reported a few hours later, one by Walmart and another near the corner of Talmage Road and Babcock Lane, with someone describing the same person of interest in the area. Later another fire near Costco was also reported.

A fire that scorched 177 acres in Covelo is said to be holding. The fire broke out on Hopper Lane Monday. Cal Fire reports one structure was destroyed but none are threatened and the fire's 90% contained.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors trying to get an understanding of the data gathering surrounding the pandemic. The board hears, as they do weekly, from the Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace who has been reporting the case count as manageable with only two deaths and less than 300 cases since March. But with many counties in the state, there's been a backlog of test results. Dr. Pace says in Lake County two small outbreaks are traced to social gatherings and some in local businesses and retailers, but no outbreaks can be traced to the public from employees of any businesses. Dr. Pace did however say there's been an increase of 150% of COVID-19 cases in children and an increase in the positivity rate in the county as a whole.

2 dozen tents are expected at a park and ride in Guerneville for up to 25 homeless people to stay during the pandemic. There are now five sites like this nearby and others at hotels and trailers in Sonoma County. They're serving meals to those staying there too so they're safe and to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The county also providing security or a supervisor overnight. They're not allowing any drug or alcohol use, but those staying may come and go. But if they leave at night, they can only come back the next day so quiet hours can be enforced.

The Governor announcing a slowing of the spread saying there are fewer new cases. The announcement as Newsom says the state's starting to get thru a number of backlogged cases due to a data mess up. He says he's feeling better about the downward trend of hospitalizations as well. Down 21%. ICU admissions also down 15% for two weeks. He says the number of new cases though, more than 5,400, showed the state was turning the corner. It's less than half the record of 12,807 new daily cases reported during a surge last month. There've been nearly 11,000 deaths across the state including 180 reported yesterday.

The state's still getting through almost 300,000 coronavirus test results backlogged due to some sort of technical error. California's been watching the numbers closely to decide if schools and businesses can reopen, again. The Governor's announcement yesterday, that the virus seemed to be slowing again, with less than half the daily cases as when we saw a major surge last month. The Judicial Council of California is set to vote today about evictions being allowed again, or if eviction protections will stay in effect well into next year. At the same time as the Governor's announcement yesterday on better signs regarding the pandemic, another prison employee died and almost 100 inmates were identified as infected at Folsom State Prison. The Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports sending a medical team to help with the outbreak. There are nearly 2,500 inmates at Folsom prison. An outbreak reported at Sonoma County Jail. Three inmates have tested positive and were in isolation. One of them was recently in a courtroom in person for a hearing. But the Sonoma County Superior Court Executive Officer says they did a thorough cleaning and notified staff and judicial officers. The Sheriff says there will be more testing done for inmates and staff. And unrelated to that, a courthouse staff member in the court's criminal division also contracted the virus and was quarantining at home. They were not in a position where they dealt with the public though. 34 new cases of coronavirus were reported in Sonoma County yesterday.

City leaders in Fort Bragg are still considering a name change. At a meeting held over the internet Monday the City Council discussed establishing a citizens commission to research, discuss and explore renaming the city. There's also a name change committee who have reportedly met 24 times. They've met to choose people to sit on the commission and to set guidelines for the commission's work. They'll research the history related to the city's naming and will consider both sides of the name change debate. They're apparently narrowed it down to 16 commissioners and seven meetings which would be public and private.

11 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Mendocino County, bringing the total to 489.

Temporary extensions being considered in Lake County Superior Court. The court reportedly going to the state for permission to extend some trial deadlines because of the pandemic. Lake Co News reports the Court's Executive Officer says they've sent a request to the California Chief Justice for an extension after getting new guidance and recommendations from the Lake County Public Health Officer about jury trials. One of those was jury selection to be done offsite. The request is covered by judicial emergencies for proceedings to be held somewhere besides the Lake County Courthouse in Lakeport. The request to extend the deadlines as far as California's speedy trial rules law goes. That includes trial within 60 days of arraignment or indictment for felonies, or 30 days for misdemeanor or infraction cases. Some fires burning in regional forests could be bringing smoke to nearby skies. The Red Salmon Complex is at nearly 10,200 acres and 35% contained. The two fires that make up the complex are burning in the Trinity Alps Wilderness on the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests. The Red Fire is about 9,400 acres and only 19% contained. And the Salmon Fire is just over 800 acres and 89% contained with containment lines all the way around the fire and mop up operations continuing.

The head of the Sherwood Oaks Nursing Facility says there's more good news to report with another resident returning from Adventist Health Mendocino Coast after being treated for coronavirus. They're considered recovered and no longer contagious. Out of 2 dozen residents who contracted the virus since the start of July, 12 recovered and others are expected to get there in the next couple days. They say all of the staff members, 8 of them have also recovered and all nurses who were working in the since shuttered Covid ward are back at work.

Some residents in Lake Tahoe speaking out about people from out of the area coming in and leaving trash behind. Locals trying to slow the spread of the virus upset about tourists trashing the town. Some on social media saying the city's not doing anything so they need to take matters into their own hands. One post went viral with comments about protests because of packed areas where locals say they can't even go and that they're being punished. The social media about the protests planned for this weekend calling them roundabout rallies. They're at 4pm tomorrow and 9 a.m. on Sunday at four locations around the lake — Truckee, Meyers, Incline Village and Kings Beach.

PG&E is urging customers not to use too much energy as there are extreme heat alerts, and a statewide Flex Alert. Temperatures locally in the upper 90's – 105 thru the weekend. But we're expecting nearly a week of heat in the North Bay and beyond. The National Weather Service says it's even going to be pretty warm overnight, only dipping into the 60s and 70s. There's smog expected in the Bay Area too as PG&E reports a Flex Alert today between 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. It's caused by a high-pressure system over the state. The excessive heat watch over the weekend for us locally.

Forecasters say we will experience "record or near record heat" from noon today to 7 p.m. Sunday with dangerously hot conditions in Inland Mendocino

08/14/20 County and a lot of Lake County

A diversity grant from North Coast Brewing Company and UC Davis for scholarships in the brewing industry. The \$50,000 endowment for a Mark E. Ruedrich North Coast Brewing Diversity Scholarship for a Master Brewers Certificate at UC Davis' Continuing and Professional Education. It comes after a study by the Brewers Association showed nearly 90% of brewers and 76 percent of production staff at breweries were white.

New health orders in Mendocino County. As of today at 3 pm, we stay mostly the same, but there are more limits on our so-called social bubbles. Dr. Noemi Doohan issued the new Shelter in Place order yesterday, to go into effect today at 3. There are also new protocols for schools, planning ahead for in-person instruction. The order reduces gatherings from 100-50 outdoors for faith-based services and cultural ceremonies; outdoor funeral and memorial services; as well as outdoor protests. Children's bubbles or activity units are ten children and two adults, for recreation, not outdoor sports, that follows youth sports requirements of physical distancing of at least 6 feet apart. These protocols just changing language, pretty much the same. This order stays in effect until a week after Labor Day, but for school aged kids, until further notice.

An arrest has been made in the case of several fires set in Ukiah Wednesday. The Mendocino Sheriff reports 32 year old Alberto Vincent Acosta, a 32-year-old homeless man, living in Ukiah, was stopped by a police officer yesterday morning. Now he's held in jail for several felony arson charges, including arson during a state of emergency on \$1 million bail. Fires were all put out before spreading far or causing serious damage. The man became a person of interest in the arsons Wednesday night when a deputy recognized Acosta and saw him walking near where some of the fires started. Then some surveillance footage from nearby homes and businesses further strengthened Acosta's possible connection to the fires.

A firefighter at Ukiah Valley Fire Authority has tested positive for coronavirus. They're symptomatic though and isolating. The symptoms showed up just as they were about to start a 48-hour shift on Wednesday, and they were immediately isolated, as were other close contacts. The equipment and facilities were quickly disinfected and rapid testing was performed right away to confirm that positive result. The Fire Authority says the firefighter had limited workplace contact with anyone else and that they're working with Mendocino County Public Health for contact tracing. They can still fully staff the department and be operational.

Lake County Public Health Officer reports 37 active cases, but things remain manageable. With a total of 267 positives in the county. But in Mendocino County another day of a surge in cases, hitting 513 cases locally, 119 are isolating, 9 in the hospital and 4 in an ICU. 10 people have died in Mendocino, 2 in Lake. The state of Calif. has now surpassed 602,000 cases and has had almost 11,000 deaths. The Konocti Vista Casino and Resort in Lakeport has identified a case in an employee. They closed down for a deep cleaning and for contact tracing for guest, employee and community safety. Management confirms the employee had limited contact with the public, but is suggesting any guest or employee there between Aug. 1st – 9th should get a test and see your doctor if you feel you have any COVID-19 symptoms.

With the extreme heat, Pacific Gas and Electric has promised regulators there will be a better way to handle their intentional power downs without disrupting the public too much. The utility with the promise in a hearing in front of the Public Utilities Commission. It's all part of the continued investigation into the botched public safety power shutoffs last fall. It could be worse unfortunately as millions of people work are either working at home, or have schooling online because of the pandemic.

Two people running for two open seats on the Fort Bragg City Council. The deadline to fill out the necessary paperwork closed a week ago today. The County Clerk has certified nomination papers for the Mayor William V. Lee and Vice Mayor Bernie Norvell. So the election which was budgeted for \$10,000 is canceled. The money goes back into the city's General Fund. There is still an election of course, for federal, state and county offices and initiatives.

While we wait for the legislature to take up the issue of evictions, they can resume Sept. 1st. That's the word from the Judicial Council of Calif. that the state can restart evictions and foreclosures unless lawmakers do something before that. The Council has therefore voted to end the temporary statewide protections for those without a job due to the pandemic. Lawmakers are reportedly negotiating with the Governor to stop most evictions while the pandemic continues, but they haven't come to any agreement even though they've reportedly been in talks for five months.

The city of Sacramento is part of a coronavirus vaccine clinical trial. UC Davis Health reported earlier this week they're trying to get up to 200 people from the greater Sacramento metropolitan area to take part in the clinical trial that will include as many as 30,000 people worldwide. The trial with both Pfizer and BioNTech, who have been working on a COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Sacramento was chosen because UC Davis Health can reach out quickly to minority communities with the city being the third most ethnically diverse in America, per the US News & World Report.

A man in Lakeport's been arrested after a woman at a local laundromat is robbed. Police say they arrested 26 year old transient Michael Toney yesterday morning. Police report the victim was a 64 year old woman who was doing her laundry at Willow Wash in the Safeway Shopping Center when Toney assaulted her. Police reported to the laundromat and the woman gave them a detailed description of a man who she says she never met before. She says he pinned her against some laundry equipment after she already gave him money while he was panhandling. Police found Toney, who matched the description nearby. He's charged with robbery by force and was held on \$150,000.

State Senator Mike McGuire says he secured millions in critical mental health funding for both Humboldt and Mendocino counties from a grant established last year by lawmakers. The Mental Health Services Act grant. McGuire says there's a \$5M dollar fund that was recently approved by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for each county to split and work with schools on mental illness in children and teens. The 4 year grants have a projected start date of this fall for such things as expanded school and peer counseling services at school sites, suicide prevention programming, enhanced family support for low income students and homeless students, stigma and dropout prevention and more.

08/17/20 4 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Mendocino County, bringing the total to 541. There were 8 on Saturday.

Several fires are burning in the Mendocino National Forest. The largest of seven, is called the Doe Fire, and has burned 100 acres. The fire's described as being about 35 miles northwest of Willows in Glenn County and was ignited by a lightning strike yesterday. The fire is one of several that were sparked by thunderstorms Sunday morning. Some are burning without support until firefighters can get to the scene. The Doe Fire does have resources on site including at least one engine and a couple of airtankers. The rest of the fires were estimated to only have burned a 1/2 acre to 10 acres.

The Sheriff's office is on the lookout for someone they say may have lit some burn piles in Willits. Mendo Fever is reporting scanner traffic said emergency personnel went to the scene after a man was seen running from the area of Hawk Terrace. Police said they saw the man go into a home, then quickly leave. The news site describes him as a 5'10" parolee who was seen in a gray hoodie & shorts.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors discussing the upcoming election at their next meeting, discuss the current public health orders and how to enforce them, and revisit the appeal of a bioenergy project. Lake Co News reports the Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace will give his weekly coronavirus update first. Then the appeal for the Planning Commission's approval for the study of a small-scale bioenergy production facility in Kelseyville. Later during the meeting the Registrar of Voters will address the board regarding the latest preparations for the Nov. 3rd presidential election, and to possibly use the board chambers for Election Day. The second and final reading for the enforcement of public health orders ordinance will also happen tomorrow. That will be education, then possible fines.

The meeting can be watched live on Channel 8, online at <https://countyoflake>

To participate in real-time, join the Zoom meeting by clicking this link at 9 a.m

To submit a written comment on any agenda item please visit <https://countyof> the meeting but will become a part of the record.

Red Flag warning, but no word about any public safety power shut offs. In Lake and Mendocino counties, the warning until 5 pm today. Winds, low relative humidity and hotter than normal temperatures, a ripe mix for fires. Thousands of lightning strikes yesterday ignited some smaller fires. The largest, 100 acres in the Mendocino National Forest, the Doe Fire. The National Weather Service forecasting slight chance of thunderstorms today, which could also spark fires. But there's also a possibility of scattered showers. Wind later, and a hazardous weather outlook. The hot weather is forecasted thru most of the week getting into the upper 90's and 100's.

A man arrested in Ukiah after police say he terrorized his girlfriend for two days. Police say John Dodd of Willits assaulted the woman at two motels in Willits, locking her in a bathroom and not letting her leave, taking her cellphone. Police got a call to a Safeway grocery store about a man and woman arguing and that it looked like the woman was trying to get away. Police found the woman and two minor children alone; the man had left. She told police Dodd was drunk and cut his own hand with a knife and threatened to blame her for it if she called police. Police sa the victim had multiple visible injuries. Dodd was arrested nearby and had a minor laceration on his hand. He's charged with robbery, domestic violence, false imprisonment and violating probation. He apparently also resisted and threatened a police officer. His bail was set at \$125,000.

After closing for more than a week due to a couple of positive tests at the Mer Sutter Health and UC Davis Health working with more than 2 dozen other healthcare providers across the country to share clinical data regarding COVID cases. The info goes to public health departments, but nothing about hospital capacity. This comes after the federal government started to give hospitals and physicians' offices electronic health record systems to improve treatment of individual patients. But apparently there's never been a mechanism to quickly move information on infectious disease from providers to public health agencies. Congress has only allocated half what's needed so the info is moving slower than Covid-19. A recent report says it could be the reason 300,000 Covid-19 tests were backlogged in Calif.

California is the first state to go past 600,000 cases of COVID-19. Last Thursday the state crossed 602,000 confirmed cases, 100,000 more than 2 weeks before. Now we're at nearly 621,000 cases with 11,224 deaths as of yesterday, but those were actually Saturday's numbers. Numbers do appear to be flattening, or headed back down the other side of the curve. Cases doubled over the last month and the amount of people who have died also nearly doubled in the same time period. Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange counties have the most deaths.

A fire tornado has been reported in Lake Tahoe. The story going viral with a picture of what they're referring to as a "firenado" which appeared during an out-of-control forest fire north of Lake Tahoe Saturday afternoon. The fire cloud known as a pyrocumulonimbus was just east of the town of Loyalton, about 40 miles west of Reno. It happened when high winds crashed into the flames and swirled them up into the air into a tornado-shaped fire. The Loyalton Fire has burned more than 36,000 acres and is only 5% contained. It jumped a highway and triggered evacuations. Another firenado was caught in Calif. in 2018 during the Carr Fire. Before that there had only been one other documented firenado in Australia in 2003.

Those in California still unemployed due to the pandemic, have lost that extra \$600 the federal unemployment added on to claims. Then the president ordered a \$400 extension, but it's up to individual states to fill that amount in. Governor Gavin Newsom says the state of Calif. cannot afford the benefit. State's have to put up \$100 per week of the total \$400, which Newsom says will cost the state about \$700 million a week. The state is already in a major hole, a 54 billion dollar gap. The governor says if the federal government comes up with the other \$300/week, that will be distributed as quickly as possible. Sacramento's CBS13 reported Friday they reached out to the unemployment department who says they're working closely with the state and federal government to see if the lost wage assistance is even happening.

The California Independent System Operator which runs California's electric grid has called for rotating outages as the state is dealing with record breaking heat. It's to protect the state's grid and all utility companies, including PG&E have to participate. They last about 1 to 2 hours for most customers and have nothing to do with Public Safety Power Shutoffs or issues with PG&E's equipment. So the Independent System Operator has issued a Flex Alert asking you to conserve energy thru Wednesday this week between the hours of 3-10pm.

In Lake County public health is asking residents and businesses to conserve energy during the Flex Alert, set your thermostat to 78° or higher, if your health permits. Try not to use any major appliances; turn off unnecessary lights and appliances, unplug unused electrical devices, close your blinds and drapes, use fans if possible and try to limit the amount of time the refrigerator door is open. You can also, pre-cool your home, or lower air conditioning thermostats to 72 degrees, charge mobile devices and laptops earlier, and electric cars too, run dishwashers, washing machines and other major appliances earlier and set pool pumps to run in the early morning or late at night.

An elderly man from Sonoma is missing and believed to be around the Clearlake area. 78 year old Robert Fuentes' white Nissan Frontier pickup truck was found in the area this morning. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office and Sonoma Police Department say Fuentes hasn't been seen since last Thursday and left his cellphone at home. Police say it was believed he was just going to the downtown area of Sonoma, but when he didn't come back he was reported missing. He also apparently has some medical issues which require medicine and treatment. He was last seen in black pants and a gold button-up golf shirt. Anyone who's seen Fuentes is asked to immediately call the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office or local police or sheriff's office.

It's now official, Mendocino County is on the state's watch list for coronavirus cases. One of more than 40 counties being monitored even though it appears the state is flattening the curve of the latest surge. There were nearly 15,000 new cases confirmed as part of that backlog of almost 300,000 test results hanging in the balance due to a data mix up. The Governor announced yesterday Santa Cruz came off the watch list, but with Mendocino was Amador, Calaveras, Sierra and Inyo counties. The state's been identifying about 9-10,000 new cases a day for a week, but the positivity rate is lower than it's been. He says the numbers are still high but trending in the right direction with hospitalizations down.

08/18/20

Since last week when the Hoopa Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services announced new cases COVID- 19, four more have been identified. They reported five cases Friday, but four more for a total of 42 cases have been reported. There are currently 24 active cases. With 18 recovered and no deaths. The commander of the COVID- 19 incident management team says it's a life and death situation, something where everyone needs to work together. And it's not political. The local medical center said an employee was positive for the virus but was not in contact with the public. They're bringing in more people to help including 6 contact tracers and a dedicated hotline operator.

After a lightning storm at the end of last month sparked a couple of fires... the Red Salmon Complex has charred more than 15,000 acres. The fires are burning in rugged and remote forest land in the Trinity Alps Wilderness on the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests northeast of Willow Creek. The Red and the Salmon fires make up the Complex that both started July 27th. The fires are 35% contained. The fires are near each other and continue to grow steadily together. The north and east sides of the fire are being managed and fire lines are being constructed. They're also using drones to watch fire activity.

Those living in the state without an employer sponsored health insurance plan after losing their job due to the pandemic can get it through the state. Covered California has extended its enrollment deadline for a couple more weeks. And Mendocino Coast Clinics is offering to help with registration. The executive director says they have patient advocates ready with free support for enrolling. Three people on staff are bilingual in English and Spanish and the majority of their services can be provided on the phone. Covered Calif. is part of The Affordable Care Act of 2010, aka Obamacare.

The City of Clearlake giving startups and small businesses a boost with a Shark Tank like competition with thousands available. The Record Bee reports a \$10,000 sponsorship from the City is one of the various sponsors for the inaugural "Hands Up Lake County" which offers a cash award and ongoing mentorship to winners. There's a \$ 5,000 grant from premier sponsors, the owners of The Lodge at Blue Lakes too, for a total for first prize of \$15,000. The deadline to apply is two Mondays from now, August 31st.

The Cobb Area Council trying to entice tourism, is spending \$25,000 on marketing. There will be an economic development sub-committee with business owners, artists and community members to help steer consumers to the area for the benefit of the community. Local experts on the project include a website and logo designer, and local photographer. The new chairperson of the Council says she has great confidence in the marketing team which is being funded by a grant the Council got last September for the economic development of the area after the Valley Fire.

With the high heat, could come some blackouts. We warned there could be rolling blackouts or power downs during the Flex Alert the next couple of days. PG&E said they might turn off power yesterday between 5 and 10 p.m. but that didn't happen. The company says after looking at forecasts of their electricity supply and demand, it wasn't needed. The California Independent Systems Operator issued the Flex Alert through tomorrow for voluntary conservation because extra electricity use could tax the grid. Then late yesterday they issued a statewide Stage 2 Emergency, but it was canceled by 7:30 p.m. last night.

Two people are recovering after a head on crash on Highway 20 east of Clearlake Oaks. The Clearlake office of the California Highway Patrol reported 20 year old Stephen Collins of St. Helena and 48 year old Robert Vogler of Kennewick, Washington each had major injuries in Friday afternoon's crash. Collins in a Chevy Volt headed east and Vogler in a Chevy 2500 van headed west. The CHP says for some reason the Volt crossed over and hit directly into the van, head on. The van overturned and the highway was blocked for a couple of hours. The two men life flighted from the area to the hospital. Law enforcement says they don't suspect either drugs or alcohol as factors in the crash and said both men were wearing seat belts.

The latest demographics related to COVID-19 in Lake County have been released by the public health officer. 32 more cases than a week before for a total of 272 cases as of yesterday. Public Health reports 138 of those cases were from a close contact to a known case; 51 were still being investigated; 40 were listed as "other/unknown"; 25 are from out of county contacts; 10 are thought to be from community transmission; six cases presumed work contact; two others holding, from Lake County Jail. The data shows most of the cases were in females, and most were in the Clearlake area, followed by the Northshore area, Lakeport, then Kelseyville, Loch Lomond and Cobb area.

As many as 20 fires have started on the Mendocino National Forest by lightning. The fires broke out Sunday are being managed as one incident called the August complex. As we mentioned yesterday some are very small, about ½ to ten acres, but the largest, the Doe Fire, which yesterday was only 100, was pegged at about 2,000 acres. The fire's burning by Valley View Orchard 35 miles northwest of Willows in Bear Canyon. The next largest in the complex is the Pine Kop Fire at 750 acres, then the Rockwell Fire which is 400 acres. The fires are 0-percent contained. The Box Fire in the Snow Mountain Wilderness is 25 acres. Some of the other fires are contained and being monitored.

The search is on for a man in Covelo the Sheriff says is connected to the murder of another man and injury to another. Mendocino Sheriff Matt Kendall says they're continuing to look for Jameson Jackson using bloodhounds, choppers and ground crews. Yesterday afternoon there was a shelter in place order for neighbors after one man was shot in the head, another hit on his earlobe. Jackson is reported to be the same man, who at the time was just 15, who was involved in the murder of Brooktrails store owner Joan LeaFeat. He was arrested again in March for domestic battery and second-degree robbery. The sheriff has detained a woman he says was with Jackson. The pair seen near the Round Valley Tribal Cemetery but ditched the car they were in. A gun magazine was found inside.

Something the Sonoma County Public Health Officer says is alarming along with a spike in cases, six more nursing home residents have died from complications of the coronavirus. 57 people have now died from the pandemic in Sonoma County. And last week alone saw more than 735 more infections. Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase says there are many reasons, but also says they're not allowing the virus to get away from them saying the county is a state hot spot though. The latest deaths reported over the weekend all people over 64 with underlying health conditions. Three were men and three were women. They all died between Aug. 7 and Aug. 13.

The Medical Director at Sherwood Oaks Skilled Nursing Facility in Fort Bragg where there had been a COVID outbreak says their last two residents at Adventist Health Mendocino Coast are back. Dr. John Cottle says the last two patients who were positive came back yesterday. Of the 2 dozen residents and 8 staff members who contracted the virus all recovered except for 7 residents who passed away. They have also hired more temporary staff, and had implemented strict isolation policies which are still in place. They're doing weekly testing, the next round of results are expected this weekend. No staff have tested positive in a month. And no residents in the last week and a half.

The Governor calling out power regulators in Calif. for allowing residents to go without power during a major heat wave as many are bound to their homes amidst the pandemic. Gov. Newsom called the blackouts experienced by 100's of thousands "unacceptable" and has ordered an investigation. Newsom wrote to the heads of the California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission and California Independent System Operator saying he was only told about the intended blackouts moments before they started. He says there was no time for residents to prepare, and that it was unbecoming of the nation's largest and most innovative state.

A bunch of test results have come in after 300,000 were backlogged, and with that is some better news. The results showing a decline in hospitalization rates. There was also fewer than 130 deaths on Sunday, the first time since last month. The information also shows lower community spread and that those testing positive over a two week time span was at 6.5% yesterday. The Governor says all of that is an early indicator that the state was "stabilizing, and moving broadly in the right direction".

Since the Sunday lightning storm ignited several fires, some have exploded in size. A large complex of fires in Napa sending smoke into the sky, there are more than 60 in the LNU Lightning Complex, with the biggest of the bunch the Hennessy a 10,000-acre east of St. Helena burned one structure and two outbuildings; then there's the 10,000-acre Gamble fire, west of Brooks; the 8,000-acre 15-10 fire near Putah Creek Bridge; the 1,000-acre Spanish fire near Spanish flat; and the 2,500-acre Markley fire near Monticello dam. 5,700 people have been evacuated. In Mendocino County we have some fires burning, one in Covelo, the Creek fire, off Hwy 162 and Short Creek Road. That fire is 40% contained and has charred 800 acres.

One structure has been destroyed. Another fire near Potter Valley, the 3-19, 08/19/20 has burned 62 acres and is 40% contained.

In Lake County there's an evacuation order because of the the smaller Napa Fires is near the county line. The Sheriff telling Lake Co News the Gold Mine fire is only threatening very sparsely inhabited areas. He says they've contacted everyone in the area, and some say they're staying in their homes. They will also re-evaluate this morning.

In Sonoma County the 13-4 fire outside Healdsburg has burned 500 acres, and the 11-16 fire north of Jenner charred 25 acres. Evacuations called for in the northwestern end of the county amidst a heat wave and a pandemic. The fire burning north of Guerneville in a hilly rugged area with evacuations called for over a 40 mile area. The two fires burning yesterday sending smoke into the air, a reminder of the massive Kincadee fire last year and the 2017 firestorm. These fires blamed on lightning strikes, not PG&E equipment. Fire officials say most of the fire activity is in remote areas.

A new rule in Calif. for anyone entering a Cal State University school for ethnic studies. The Governor has signed a bill into law requiring incoming freshmen to take a course focused on one of four ethnic groups in order to graduate. So any student who wants to finish college at one of the 23 CSU campuses will have to take either Native American studies, African American studies, Asian American studies or Latina and Latino studies. The bill passed the Assembly a year ago and the Senate this past June. The Calif. Faculty Association says Calif. will be the first state in the nation for the mandate.

A church that burned in the Clayton Fire four years ago is reopening. The fire set by convicted arsonist Damin Anthony Pashilk burned more than 300 buildings including Lower Lake Community United Methodist Church. The church is still finishing up the work but has reopened to members amidst the pandemic. They can only have a handful of people in at a time to adhere to public health restrictions. There are also online services on Sundays. The church was standing before the fire for more than 150 years.

The Governor has declared a state of emergency due to the heat wave and forecasted high winds and a lack of resources to fight fires in the midst of the pandemic. Gov. Newsom says all available resources are being called upon to keep communities safe in these "extreme conditions". Newsom says the state is working with federal and local partners during the "continued dangerous weather conditions." Earlier in the week the Gov. announced getting Fire Management Assistance Grants from FEMA to help with the response.

Willits Schools are opening online only. Schools open a week from Monday online as the county hit the state's coronavirus monitoring list. The schools will follow state and county guidelines as staff and teachers have been working over the summer to come up with this new way to educate. They say it will be effective and engaging. There will be assigned schedules for kids and activities where they can interact with other students. There will also be independent activities at specified times. The school district says they're committed to help families and will be calling them all next week.

A man on the run after a murder in Covelo has been caught. The Mendocino Sheriff Matt Kendall reported Round Valley Tribal Police nabbed Jameson Jackson after a search with bloodhounds, helicopters, and ground crews. They say they also caught a woman who was with Jackson, Shayla Guerrero. The arrests after the shooting Monday near the Round Valley Indian Health Center. A vehicle spotted with a woman in the driver's seat, then ditched later and the two reportedly went into the woods. Two people were shot, allegedly by Jackson. One a 30 year old man pronounced dead, the other a 38 year old man with a minor wound. The two were found yesterday, Jackson has a long criminal history and as of yesterday had multiple warrants out for his arrest including for robbery, rape, and cruelty to a child. Guerrero's arrested for conspiracy and accessory and held on \$100,000 bail. And Jackson busted by Tribal Police while deputies were out at fires, has not been charged yet, but is held in jail.

19 more cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Mendocino County. For a total of 575. 2 more people have also died, they're from the Ukiah area, for a total of 12 deaths. 4 people are still in the hospital, including 3 in the ICU. There were 4 in the ICU yesterday. 96 people are isolating due to the virus. A protest hearing is being held regarding water rate increases. The Ukiah City Council is holding the legally required hearing Oct. 1st, online. The council agenda for tonight shows there have been nine protest letters regarding Prop. 218 notices sent to ratepayers of proposed increases over five-years. The Daily Journal got a hold of some of the protest letters, some complaining it's the wrong time, that in the face of the pandemic, they have lower or no income and to raise the rate would be economically crushing. The rate increases are proposed to start in October and increase each year until 2024. The lowest would be about \$2/month now, and \$13 more a month in 4 years.

The 2nd and final reading on that enforcement ordinance for COVID orders in Lake County, was a close vote. The vote by the Lake County Board Of Supervisors 3-2 with Supervisors Rob Brown and Bruno Sabatier giving it a thumbs down. The enforcement of mask wearing and other public health orders allows the county's Health Services director and Community Development director or their designees, and any official designated by the Board of Supervisors to be allowed to enforce any violations like not wearing a mask, not socially distancing, follow hygiene requirements, and failing to close certain business sectors. It will be \$100 for a first violation, up to \$200 for a second violation within a year of the first violation and no more than \$500 for each violation of the same ordinance within one year of the first violation.

Another Covid-19 outbreak at a senior care facility in Calif., this time in Woodland. Public Health officials in Yolo County say the latest outbreak is at Gloria's Country Care, off Hwy. 16 just east of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District offices. As of just this morning they had identified 16 cases. 7 are in residents and nine were in staff members. The health dept. reports one resident tested positive over the weekend, so health officials immediately tested all residents and staff, per the guidance set out by the state to do testing right away for individuals at high risk.

Police have arrested a woman they say was involved in setting a couple fires behind a business on Sunday morning. Police have identified the suspect as a homeless woman who was arrested last night. The police dept. got a call to 814 N. State Street Sunday for the fire in a debris pile that they say was threatening a building. They say they put the fire out with fire extinguishers they had and called firefighters in. The back of the business got scorched. When officers were investigating they saw smoke coming from just down the street, behind 955 N. State Street, finding a dumpster engulfed in flames, same deal, they put it out. Yesterday they found Kristine Lynn Tupper who matched the description of the alleged arsonist so she was arrested and held on arson and other charges and on an enhanced bail of \$100,000.

Various arson fires being investigated by Ukiah firefighters. The Ukiah Valley Fire Department reports 8 arson fires were set in the city between last night and this morning and want anyone who may have seen anything to call.

A gas leak has been reported by the Sheriff in the 2100 block of N. State Street in Ukiah near Kunzler Ranch Rd. The Sheriff announcing an evacuation order for the area immediately. Questions are being answered on the Sheriff's Facebook page that say if you're on Kunzler Ranch Road, either move to Hensely Creek Road or down to Masonite Road and not to stay on or near the 2100 block of North State. Apparently PG&E had been working in the area, or a contractor for the utility, per Mendocino County 5th District Supervisor Ted Williams, and they hit and broke a high pressure gas main. PG&E's been moving their gas line due to the Ackerman Creek Bridge project.

Another death from coronavirus has been reported in both Lake and Mendocino counties. The Public Health Officer in Lake, Dr. Gary Pace reported the third death in that county in someone under 65 years old. All he said was they were younger than 65 and had recently gone into the hospital with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. They died yesterday. Dr. Pace says it's another tragic reminder to take all necessary precautions to slow

08/20/20 the spread of the virus.

In Mendocino County the Public Health office reported on their daily COVID-19 dashboard there was a death with a short note saying it was a patient from the Sherwood Oaks skilled nursing facility in Fort Bragg. So there have been 8 deaths from the facility and 13 total in Mendocino County. There were also four more cases reported yesterday for a total of 579 cases. The county's COVID incident dashboard still shows 4 people in the hospital and 3 in an ICU.

Steady progress by firefighters on a fire reported in Mendocino County yesterday. The fire called the Red Fire was burning on the Ridgewood Grade along the 101. It was holding late last night at 12 acres. CalTrans and CalFire were allowing escorted cars thru on the northbound side of the highway last night. Firefighters had planes flying over the fire as it climbed the grade.

A temporary emergency closure has been called on some Bureau of Land Management public lands. The Ukiah Field Office issued the emergency closure across from the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in Lake and Napa because of wildfire danger.

Several fires burning after lightning strikes that started in Napa and spread to Lake, together the Lake Napa United, or LNU Lightning Complex have charred more than 124,000 acres, are 0 percent contained. Residents in southern Lake County had to leave their homes late yesterday in areas east of Highway 29 at Napa County's northern border out to the southern intersection of Highway 29 at St. Helena Creek Road in Lake County. And all of St. Helena Creek Road, from Highway 29 until the Butts Canyon Intersection, was also evacuated.

Rolling blackouts this week as schools are reopening online. The power outages were continuing with the Flex Alert issued by the state's electric grid manager. The Gov. issued a state of emergency due to hundreds of fires across the state. As we reported yesterday the Governor announced an investigation into those overseeing the state's power as to why they weren't more prepared so there didn't have to be rolling blackouts when temperatures reached more than 100 degrees in some places. The Gov. spoke Monday after finding out about potential power outs between the hours of 3-10 pm, urging Californians to try to limit their energy use during those hours.

In court, the victims of the Golden State Killer address him directly before his formal sentencing. Convicted serial killer and rapist Joseph DeAngelo will be sentenced tomorrow for years of violent criminal acts. His victims saying they want him to go to the most severe lockup since he's not going to get the death penalty. A couple months ago, the former police officer admitted he killed 13 people and pleaded guilty as well to 13 rapes between 1975 and 1986, plus many other sexual assaults. He will likely get several life sentences under a plea deal so he avoids the death penalty.

Two people in the hospital after a shooting in Clearlake. Police called out last night to Twin Oaks Village in the 5700 block of Old Highway 53. There was a report of shots fired where officers found multiple people, two with gunshot wounds. One of them ran away, but they were stopped by police. The victims, two men were treated and one of them flown out of county. Not a lot more information was made available early this morning.

The Clearlake City Council angling for a pay raise after decades without. The reading of the ordinance at their meeting tonight and where the council will consider possible changes to commercial cannabis rules, including allowing more permits for operators. Lake Co News reports the meeting is closed to the public due to the pandemic, but you can catch it on the county's YouTube channel. The city council hoping for a \$200/month raise, from \$300 to \$500/month. They were first asking for more than twice what they're currently earning, or 5 percent more for each year for the last 3 decades. They'll move onto other business with possible changes to the city's cannabis regulations. The meeting tonight at 6 pm.

A report says less kids are being vaccinated in Calif during the pandemic. The state's health and human services secretary says ahead of flu season which generally adds hospitalizations, they're seeing a trend of less vaccinations for measles, mumps and rubella because kids are being schooled at home. Dr. Ghaly of the state, says the flu and coronavirus have health officials concerned as the state deals with a surge in Covid-19 cases. Childhood vaccinations are reportedly off about 30% from last year.

Several shake reports after more than a dozen earthquakes hit Mendocino County. On Tuesday night, Central Mendocino County had a string of shakers, the largest, a decent sized temblor at 4.6 in magnitude. The United States Geological Survey reported another, a 3.1 quake was reported 3 miles from Willits at 5:46 p.m., then less than 10 minutes later, the 4.6 about 4.5 miles from Willits, shake reports by about 345 people. Then around an hour later, a 3.6 near Willits too. Then a smaller, 2.2 was felt in the same area followed by a 3.8 magnitude. 10 more shakers felt the same night between 7 and 8:15 pm, many near Willits but a couple near Redwood Valley, all less than 3.0 in magnitude.

Lightning fires across the state after as many as 11,000 lightning strikes. Officials say that ignited more than 370 new fires and most have been snuffed out with aggressive firefighting. There are more than 10,000 firefighters on almost two dozen major incidents or complexes. Fire officials say weather has made it a challenge including high heat, low humidity and strong winds. The hot weather is expected to continue this weekend which could create problems for firefighting efforts. Cal Fire reminds to have an evacuation plan, a supply kit, and important paperwork so it's it easier if you have to evacuate.

35 wildfires make up the August Complex started by lightning across the Mendocino National Forest. It's charred more than 116,000 acres. Firefighters on rugged land and windy conditions, dry fuels and hot temperatures keeping the fire active. Officials say there are structures and powerlines being threatened. There are evacuations in the area.

As we reported earlier, another death in both Lake and Mendocino from coronavirus. In Mendocino County it was another patient from the Sherwood Oaks skilled nursing facility. The head of the facility says it was someone who had survived caused by the virus, then was feeling better for a week, then died from long standing heart disease, but the cause is listed as Covid related. That means 8 residents died of Covid complications at the facility. 16 other residents and 8 staffers recovered. It's also been nearly 2 weeks without a new resident case at the facility and more than a month for a staff member.

Fort Bragg starts school online like the rest in the county. The school superintendent says everyone is trying to adapt to the new normal and they're all doing their best in a new and confusing situation. She says the biggest concern is that everyone has access to the internet and says everyone should try to stay flexible and stay in communication with schools. Any questions about distance learning is posted on each school's website. 5 people have died in several dozen wildfires burning in Northern California. The Press Democrat reports someone died in Solano County, but the Sheriff didn't say much more about how or why. In Napa County, three people have died and more than 30 civilians and firefighters have been injured. The newspaper says it's not sure if the number includes a Pacific Gas & Electric utility worker found dead Wednesday in Vacaville. And there was a pilot in central Calif. dropping water on a fire, who crashed and died. 2 people have also been reported missing. At last count, the fires had burned 175

08/21/20

structures, including homes, and are threatening 50,000 more. 17,000 inmates in the state are being released to slow the spread of coronavirus. Mendo Fever dot com reports the sheriff put out a statement saying he got several calls from concerned citizens about a possibly surge in crime with the releases. The Sheriff announced a new program he calls, "While You're Away" for extra patrols for homeowners concerned about their properties.

Water's about to cost a stitch more. The city council has approved proposed rate increases even though there was concern about doing that in the middle of a pandemic. The Daily Journal reports the price increase will keep going up each year for five years. It starts with only 4 cents more a month for under 750 gallons or for the smallest meter, from the current \$37.85/mo to \$39.88, an increase of just over \$2/month, starting in October. Council members voted unanimously on the price hike which will start after the needed "protest hearing" required by Prop. 218. The city manager says the price increase for the smallest meter is less than most small bottles of water at the store.

Ukiah Unified getting ready for in person classes, even though they've begun with distance learning. As local health conditions allow, the return to class will see upgrades to classrooms and facilities. The School District put out a statement yesterday that staff members are working hard to make sure students and staff are safe when they're back in person, having already spent more than \$500,000 from their emergency funds from the State following CDC and Public Health guidance. There's more custodial staff on duty for cleaning and sanitizing, classrooms have new wall-mounted hand sanitizer dispensers, sanitizer on hand for all teachers and staff members, and all elementary school classes have a sink and soap dispenser. There are also new air purifiers for classrooms and other workspaces. There will also be new plexiglass barriers where staff have to interact with the public or other staffers.

Another death has been reported in Mendocino County from coronavirus. Once again it appeared on the Public Health Office's daily COVID-19 dashboard update. All it said was there was another COVID-19 related death in the Ukiah area. Boosting the number from 13-14 deaths this week. Mendo Fever dot com reports the Deputy Chief Executive Officer Sarah Dukett said the person who died was a Latino man over 60 years old. Also of note this week we went from 3 down to 2 people in the ICU. There are still 4 people in the hospital. Also another 5 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the county for a total of 584.

Cal Fire reports low numbers of firefighters available for the massive amount of fires across the state. So now a spokesperson for the agency there's fear that people are trying to organize thru social media to create volunteer troops to go out and fight fires themselves. Firefighters from other states are expected this weekend. The Cal Fire chief says some people are refusing to leave their homes when there are mandatory evacuation orders. And because of the coronavirus pandemic some are concerned about gathering in shelters. 8,000 people have been ordered to evacuate in Sonoma County as two fires burn near the Russian River, the entire town of Healdsburg has been warned to prepare. Fires are reportedly threatening 25,000 people across five counties. The president of the union that represents thousands of Cal Fire firefighters, says the legislature needs to allocate more money as some firefighters are working 40 to 50 days at a time with no relief.

The fire straddling Lake and Napa counties has added another 84,000 acres. The LNU Complex has exploded to 215,000 acres in a day. It was at 131,000 yesterday morning. There's no containment on the fire so far and four people have reportedly died due to the fire which has also grown to 5 counties. 3 people in Napa County and one in Solano County. There are more than 30,000 structures threatened and 480 destroyed already. Another 125 have been damaged. In Lake County, there are two fires that are part of the complex, the Aetna which has burned 4,500 acres and the Round fire has burned 4,000. There are evacuation orders for widespread areas of Napa and Sonoma counties. In Lake, also. Cal Fire is reporting extreme fire behavior with spotting in several directions. There's a state of emergency in Lake County. The Sheriff reporting there are not enough firefighters, but the fire's not moving very quick like fires in the past. That gives residents time to prepare.

[Mendocino College says as they prepare for classes to begin, the safety of st](#)

A sale of a local winery to another... Shannon Ridge has acquired Steele Wines of Finley. The purchase includes Shooting Star, Stymie and Writer's Block. Lake Co News reports Shannon Ridge can now easily produce more than its 310,000 annual cases. They say they plan to use the newly acquired facilities for more winemaking capacity and storage and a mercantile where they sell meats, eggs and other farm goods, plus add family activities, like movie night and holiday celebrations.

It's a go, the Clearlake City Council is getting a bit more money each month. They voted yes to get a salary increase from \$300 which has been in place more than 3 decades, to \$500/mo. The maximum allowed, per the state. Cities with populations less than 35,000 allows the council members to get 5-percent yearly raises. So the council could have boosted to \$465 a month, or dip in further, for a 5-percent raise over the past 31 years – for a total of \$765/mo, which they considered, then opted not. It's going to cost the city \$18,000 more a year for a total of \$30,000. The extra funds come from the city's general fund, but it doesn't start until January.

Nearly 2 dozen fire emergencies with major fires after thousands of lightning strikes last weekend. The Gov. spoke yesterday saying the state's having fires like haven't been seen in "many, many years". He says unlike last year's Kincadee or the Camp a year before, these fires are across a larger area and harder to manage. In Lake County, the Sheriff has declared a state of emergency and ordered evacuations in and around Hidden Valley Lake and Jerusalem Valley including North of Butts Canyon Road, South of Hofacker Ln to Morgan Valley Rd, East of Hwy. 29 and West of the Lake/Napa County line. This for the so-called LNU Complex, or the Lake Napa United. The fire has destroyed 105 structures and damaged 70 others. 4 people have died due to the fire and four people were also injured. The two fires in Lake County proper had burned 8,500 acres and were 0% contained. Officials mindful of the pandemic say if you have Covid-19, or think you were exposed to still follow evacuation orders. And wear a mask. Shelters will be at one third capacity.

An arrest has been made of another alleged arsonist. Wednesday a homeless woman was arrested for two dumpster fires, now the police department reports Wednesday they responded to a vegetation fire behind Oak Manor School that a citizen was dousing with a garden hose when they got there, then smoke from another fire was seen nearby, that in a dumpster. Police fanned out in the area looking for a possible suspect or more fires. After viewing surveillance footage from nearby businesses, they identified Esteban Rodriguez, a 28-year old transient and questioned him, determining he was responsible. He's arrested with a bail enhancement of \$250,000 for arson, arson during a state of emergency, and violation of probation.

2 Lake County parks are closed due to high fire danger. The Kelseyville Fire Protection District has requested the immediate closure of Highland Springs Recreation Area and Mt. Konocti County Park and Regional Trails, effective immediately, until further notice.

The LNU Complex of Fires has grown a bit more since this morning. We reportedly earlier we hit 215,000 acres, 84,000 more than yesterday. So far today, the fire is only up about 4,000 more and is 7% contained. In Lake County, the Aetna and Round Fires are holding at 4,500 and 4,000 acres respectively but have no containment. There are mandatory evacuation orders in place and a state of emergency in Lake County. Cal Fire reports expecting there to be significant fire growth as they're seeing extreme fire behavior with short and long range spotting. The fire moving in multiple directions, impacting several communities.

Crews from Oregon, Idaho and Arizona have come to Calif. to relieve local firefighters and engines are even headed here from as far away as Maryland and New Jersey. There are tens of thousands of homes threatened in the state as fires broke out last weekend after almost 12,000 lightning strikes just ahead of a massive heat wave that brought triple-digit weather and monsoonal moisture from the south. Fire officials say some of the nearly 2 dozen fires burning in the state doubled in size in one day.

A man in Covelo accused of setting fires last August has asked the court to change his plea from not guilty to no contest for setting a fire in a home. Court papers say Derek McCormack also admitted a sentencing enhancement for the arson last August in Potter Valley at his ex-girlfriend's home which was set during a fire state of emergency. His case sent to the probation department for a sentencing recommendation. He will be sentenced in October. As part of his plea he has to register for life as an arsonist. And it's a three strikes offense. He faces up to 9 years in prison.

A fire near Lake Pillsbury in the Mendocino National Forest has charred 3,000 acres and triggered evacuation warnings. The Hull Fire, five miles north of Lake Pillsbury on the Upper Lake District first spotted last Wednesday after lightning strikes during thunderstorms. Crews fighting the fire in steep, rugged terrain with ground crews and flyovers. The fire's burning in timber and reportedly most active in Rattlesnake Creek. It's 0% contained and reportedly threatening some cabins and other private property. This occurring in the middle of a Red Flag Warning with winds forecasted of up to 40 mph until this evening. The area of Pillsbury Ranch

08/24/20 had been warned they may have to evacuate.

A man in Ukiah who police say was driving too fast on the 101 S. near Perkins St. crashes on a right turn at the off ramp. The CHP reports the driver, Dylan Pullins could not keep control of his RAM 3500 and crashed into a tree. He had a passenger in the front seat who became trapped. He's been identified as Garrett Taylor. The Ram burst into flames and Good Samaritans tried to pry the door open and help him out but he died in the vehicle. The driver, Pullins was taken to the hospital with minor injuries, then arrested for several charges including Felony DUI and Gross Vehicle Manslaughter. He's held in Mendocino County Jail.

A report of shots fired in Covelo at an apartment complex brings deputies to the scene. They found expended casings on their arrival this weekend. Witnesses say they saw a dark colored pick-up truck leaving the area of the shooting so officers did a canvas of the area and looked at area surveillance footage, but so far have not arrested anyone.

The Lake County Public Health Officer says they're stopping Verily Testing this week. They're going to re-evaluate daily. This is due to the high fire danger in the county and poor air quality from smoke. The Clearlake station is closed today. Anyone with an appointment is told to register again online. A reminder that even though the wildfires in the area are at the forefront, COVID-19 is still very active in the area too.

A fire in Sonoma County is rampaging thru homes and buildings. The Walbridge fire has destroyed 560 structures, taking down about 70% of the buildings so far accounted for in lightning strike caused fires in the North Bay. The Press Democrat reports Cal Fire's first tally of the damage from only one part of the LNU Lightning Complex fires that have ravaged Sonoma, Napa and Solano. So far nearly 350,000 acres have been blackened by the complex and 871 structures destroyed. Another 30,500 are threatened and 5 people have died. This fire has made the Calif. history books already, in one week, the second largest ever. The fire is 22% contained with red flag warnings and dry lightning forecast last night.

The President has signed a major disaster declaration for Calif. Congressman Mike Thompson on the press conference with Cal Fire last night regarding the LNU Complex of fires, the Lake Napa Unit. Lake and Sonoma Counties once again dealing with massive fires. There's a press conference tonight with Cal Fire and Lake County online, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic at 6 pm.

<http://www.facebook.com/lakecountycagov/> (To listen)

<https://lakecounty.zoom.us/j/91338634529?pwd=SEdhd0ovNXBSdXo4Qnpoc>

Meeting ID: 913 3863 4529

Passcode: 094776

Representatives of the Red Cross, County Health and Social Services Agencies, Lake County Behavioral Health Services will be on the call.

Another fire joins with the others in the history books, the CZU Lightning Complex in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The fire fighters on the incident report people making it more difficult for them to fight as residents are not listening to evacuation orders and others looting businesses or even stealing from firefighters. 100 officers out patrolling the evacuation zone saying they'll arrest who isn't heeding orders. One firefighter had some of his belongings stolen. Fires burning on each side of the San Francisco Bay Area since more than 11,000 lightning strikes a week ago.

A bright spot in otherwise dismal news when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic. State and federal scientists say they expect a peak in Chinook Salmon next month. They had forecasted more than 473,000 adult salmon in the Sacramento River system, nearly 100,000 more than last year thru the so-called Salmon Highway. That moves along the Marin Coast. Scientists say there could even be a Salmon traffic jam over the next month. The season had been delayed because of the pandemic, fishing closed from April to June.

The Mendocino County Health Office reported 2 more deaths since last week. The report on Friday brings the total to 16 people dying from Covid-19 in the county. There were five deaths last week alone, 4 of them were in the hospital, one at the Sherwood Oaks skilled nursing facility. Health Officer, Dr. Doohan says the county's had 85 cases per 100,000 cases as of late, which is getting close to the 200 case threshold for when schools cannot allow waivers for reopening. It's also a lot higher than the 25 cases per 100,000 allowed for two weeks for a county to be removed from the state's watchlist. The county is sending in 10 school waivers to the state. The health officer has lifted lodging restrictions for fire evacuees and says the outbreak at the Sherwood Oaks facility has been contained.

Dr. Doohan says the county is still seeing cases rise and no flattening of the curve. As of Friday there were still 106 active cases including 6 people in the hospital, but none are in an ICU. On Saturday the health office reported 19 more cases and Sunday another five for a total of 629 cases. 507 people are considered released from isolation, or no longer infected. That number does not reflect the 16 deaths in the county.

After a murder investigation in Covelo, the Mendocino County Sheriff's office reports it was at a large illegal marijuana grow. The Sheriff's Marijuana Enforcement Team pulled more than 2,100 actively growing marijuana plants the night of the murder. They say there were growing marijuana plants, two plastic style hoop houses with processed marijuana that had two thousand pounds of hanging/drying marijuana "bud". Deputies came back after the initial investigation, due to safety concerns and a limited amount of officers due to the fires in the area. They returned again last Wednesday and pulled another 4,721 marijuana plants.

Infighting in the Democratic party at the state capitol. Lawmakers in their final week of this session on family leave. One senator from Santa Barbara has reportedly been trying to expand family leave benefits. Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson's bill is supported by the Governor, apparently, he negotiated in June on the idea. Her bill guaranteeing more time off for family leave for businesses with more than five employees. But others in her party say during a pandemic, is not the right time. In July there was a debate on the bill between moderate and progressive Democrats, but it passed, barely.

A domestic violence shelter in Mendocino County says they've continued to offer services during the pandemic, remotely. The Daily Journal reports Shelter In Place, Project Sanctuary is trying to work within the limits of face to face services, utilizing telephones for confidential work and HIPAA compliant video counseling, in English and Spanish. They have an emergency shelter, can help with restraining order preparation, court advocacy, sexual assault response, and have a 24/7 crisis and support line, all for free. Their outreach coordinator says there's been a rise in domestic abuse reports across the world during the pandemic. They say their advocates are available 24/7: (707) 463-4357 for the Inland Crisis and Support Line or (707) 964-4357 for the Coast Crisis and Support Line.

The south boat ramp at Lake Mendocino has been closed due to low water levels. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers closed the ramp for the rest of the summer as of last week. A week before that they also closed the north boat ramp so this means nothing you can't carry yourself onto the water can be in the water. The Mendocino Voice newspaper reports this hasn't happened for six years, since the summer of 2014 and that the Army Corps and Lake Mendocino officials were trying to keep the ramps open until Labor Day, but that was not to be. It comes at a time that water management strategies are being tested at the Lake by researchers from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at UC San Diego.

A couple of men in an ongoing dispute shot on the Round Valley Indian Tribes Reservation. The Mendocino County Sheriff says the non-life threatening injuries last week due to "some beef going on and there's not a lot of cooperation with law enforcement." After the shots fired report Round Valley Tribal Police and Mendocino deputies responded with the sheriff who was there already on unrelated business. Officers say they went into a home and found the victims who were shot in the legs. Sheriff Kendall says they were in their early 20s or late teens and were Native American. He says two other young men at the scene, not person's of interest gave conflicting reports than the victims, as to what had happened.

As fires continue to burn across the state, more than 14,000 firefighters work more than 24 major fires and lightning complexes. Concern about the weather turning into more lightning across the state last night turned out to be true even though weather conditions were more favorable. Firefighters were monitoring in case there was more lightning after more than 11,000 a week ago. Since a week ago, more than 625 more fires have started and charred more than 1.2 million acres. Cal Fire reports at least seven people have been killed and more than 1,200 structures destroyed. The agency reports there are already 2,700 more wildfires this year than there were all of last year. A Red Flag Warning issued by the National Weather Service was canceled earlier today.

Cal Fire has briefed the public on the LNU Complex of fires which started last weekend in dry lightning. The fire has burned over 350,000 acres across Napa, Sonoma, Lake, Solano and Yolo counties. The unit chief Shana Jones says the fire's going to take some time to put out and firefighters appreciate everyone's patience... Jones says the incident is number one priority for the state. The National Guard and U.S. military have sent help to Northern California due to staffing shortages on fire lines.

After the Mendocino County Public Health Officer announced the outbreak of Covid-19 at the Sherwood Oaks skilled nursing facility in Fort Bragg had been contained, word now that another resident has tested positive. The positive test after last Monday's testing and the results this weekend. The elderly resident is asymptomatic and were reportedly exposed three weeks ago. A test two weeks ago came back negative though. The resident is isolating at the facility and is expected to have a full recovery after 8 other residents died and 16 other staff and residents have recovered. Staff are being tested every week with no positive tests in more than 4 weeks.

The LNU Lightning Complex fire which is straddling several counties including Lake has grown by nearly 3,000 acres. The fire ignited by lightning Aug. 17th is at just under 353,000 acres and is 27-percent containment. The complex incident manager says the fire is, so far, the second-largest wildfire complex in recorded state history, behind the Mendocino Complex of 2018 that burned thru Lake, Mendocino, Colusa and Glenn counties. Incident Commander Shawn Kavanaugh says the fire has destroyed more than 900

08/25/20 structures...

30,000 structures are still threatened. They are depending on air support since the fire is burning in rugged terrain. The LNU Complex is reportedly burning on the Rocky and Jerusalem fire scars.

The August Complex in the Mendocino National Forest's Grindstone and Upper Lake ranger districts has also burned a significant swath of land. Cal Fire reports the fire at over 181,050 acres and is 11 percent contained. The US Forest Service reports 10 structures have been destroyed. There's an evacuation warning for the Pillsbury Ranch area still in effect. The Forest Service reports the fire was made up of 37 different fires all lightning started last Monday, many contained or merged to become larger fires.

The Sheriff Matt Kendall says he's working with state Senator Mike McGuire to get reliable and consistent cell service for Covelo and its surrounding area. Sheriff Kendall says there are many issues the two are working on together, but this is at the top of his priority list. The Sheriff says he's working with McGuire and Supervisor Haschak to resolve the cell service issue as quickly as possible. He says it's critical as fewer and fewer people have landlines and especially critical in more remote areas of the county, adding the biggest concern is for folks to be able to reach a 911 operator in times of crisis.

Firefighters getting some support after fighting for nearly a week with barely a break. More than 500 fires ignited after that lightning storm a week ago, including more than 60 in Sonoma, Napa, Lake, Solano and Yolo counties. The Sonoma County Fire District Chief says some of his crew worked three days straight without stopping. Officials with Cal Fire say others pulled 96 straight hours after the Meyers and Walbridge fires broke out. They're part of the LNU Lightning Complex. More than 14,000 firefighters and other personnel on fires after those thunderstorms August 15th. There's fewer available because of the pandemic. Inmate firefighters no longer available as they've been released from prison to slow the spread.

Cal Fire was expecting more lightning strikes to hit Northern Calif. but they mostly hit other parts of the state. Part of the LNU Complex is nearly contained, the 2,360-acre Meyers fire along the Sonoma Coast. Incident commander Shawn Kavanaugh says they have a good plan in place, but that it's a very large fire and weather and more could hamper their efforts.

Another issue of concern in Sonoma County, the pandemic could spread during the wildfires and thousands have to leave their homes. Shelters for evacuees are limited with residents in W. Sonoma County displaced due to the Walbridge fire. The public health officer says the virus will spread as people are in constant contact with people outside their immediate households. Dr. Sundari Mase says the county's still struggling to slow the virus and that it will likely be spread by those who are asymptomatic. Sonoma County's testing results at more than 10% positivity, about twice as much as the state's latest infection rate.

The unemployment department's reportedly not answering a majority of calls coming in as the agency's still dealing with a backlog of claims. The Press Democrat reports the Employment Development Dept. Director spoke in front of lawmakers yesterday as the agency has more than a million pending claims since the pandemic first surfaced in March. Department Director Sharon Hilliard says they should have 3,700 people working in the call center by January, instead of the 350 they had before the pandemic hit. She says they were caught unprepared for the massive surge in unemployment claims and says they can only answer about 54% of calls they're getting. Since the president has declared areas hit by wildfires federal disasters, that means individuals, families and businesses can apply for disaster assistance. Pres. Trump approved the declaration over the weekend so those hit in Sonoma, Lake, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Monterey and Yolo counties can apply for federal grants. It's to help the uninsured or underinsured with property or business losses and other disaster-related costs, repairs, funeral or medical expenses.

New reports of deferrals for Calif. college entrants. The Cal State University system is allowing entering students to defer enrollments due to the coronavirus pandemic. Some students are delaying for an entire term to delay online school or others are going to local community colleges outside California. International students are reported to be the main group getting the deferrals. This is also the first year the university system has allowed deferrals or delays for a semester. Each campus decides if they'll allow the deferrals. Students who've requested the deferrals across the CSU and University of California campuses is said to be a small number when you compare it to the thousands who have decided to continue their enrollment.

Homeless Housing and help and prevention for homelessness is being offered by the Lake County Continuum of Care. The Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program available with grant money to help address immediate homelessness challenges in Lake County. The money to be spent to move those who are currently homeless into permanent housing and ensure they are able to stay in that as permanent housing. There's about \$440,000 to use for this project. Interested agencies are encouraged to apply for collaborations. You must be a nonprofit, government or Tribal organization serving the homeless or those at-risk of becoming homeless in Lake County. The deadline is Sept. 25th.

More favorable weather has helped firefighters across the state. But Cal Fire says there are still more than 14,000 firefighters on more than two dozen major fires and lightning complexes across California. Weather conditions were more favorable last night, but there were more than 200 recorded lightning strikes across the state. Firefighters are still monitoring for more lightning strike wildfires and the possibility of more lightning today. Since Saturday, August 15th, there's been more than 13,000 lightning strikes, with over 230 new strikes in the last day. And with that more than 650 new wildfires, which have now burned over 1.25 million acres. That's larger than the State of Delaware. And a new Red Flag Warning has been issued because there's a possibility of lightning with little to no rain.

Things are looking up in California's fight to slow the spread of coronavirus. The Gov. said he's going to announce the reopening of some businesses that had to close again two months ago when the virus made another run. The announcement during a press conference on the massive wildfires that have broken out across the state. More than 1,000 homes have been destroyed and 7 people have died. The Gov. says it's a difficult period, fighting both the pandemic and the wildfires up and down the state. He says more than 100,000 people are being tested for COVID-19 every day, but the fires have made that more of a challenge. The infection rate is now at 5.6%, the target was 8%. Some larger counties that had been on the state's monitoring list including Orange and San Diego have been removed. Hospitalizations are down by almost a half and the average number of deaths has also dropped.

A man arrested in Ukiah for assaulting someone with a knife has been convicted. The Mendocino County DA reports the jury returned this morning with the guilty verdict against Joseph Hart, most recently of the Laytonville area. He also admitted a sentencing enhancement, an out of state strike offense, robbery. That means he would be ineligible for probation and will be sentenced to prison with his earliest release after spending 80% of whatever his sentence is. His case was referred for sentencing to the probation department. He faces 4-8 years behind bars and is currently held without bail.

The Willits Educational Foundation announces its Summer Gala has been canceled. But the foundation says kids still need help during the current challenges of COVID-19 and distance learning. They say each student in the Willits Unified School District will probably need about \$60 worth of supplies which adds up to about \$90,000. With that the Rotary and foundation are working together to bring basic school supplies to the school district, not the music, art and library supplies the Gala has typically helped fund. The school superintendent says schools provide all needed distance learning supplies, but they need to have double their supplies, for at home, and at school, they can't use the same stuff for sanitation reasons. So the foundation has a go

08/26/20 fund me instead of their yearly gala.

The fires on the Upper Lake and Grindstone ranger districts in the Mendocino National Forest caused by lightning are being managed together. One of the fires in the August Complex, the Doe Fire is close to the Hull. The Doe is the biggest of all of the fires in the complex, at just over 160,000 acres. The August Complex on the Grindstone District is in Glenn County and the Hull Fire outside Lake Pillsbury is on the Upper Lake Ranger District. The fires have burned almost 200,000 acres and are 17 percent contained. There's a chance of more thunderstorms again too today.

There's an air quality alert in Lake County due to the fires. The Lake County Air Quality Management District says the alert goes thru tonight. The LNU complex of fires burning in Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties along with the August Complex in the Mendocino National Forest is bringing unhealthy and potentially hazardous air to the region. Winds are expected to change directions today which could blow the smoke out but is expected to linger until the fires are all contained.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved the emergency declaration for the LNU Lightning Complex. The Sheriff Brian Martin issued the declaration last Thursday after the fire started the weekend before, when it was about 131,000 acres and had zero containment. It's now 27% contained, but it's nearly double that size at 356,326 acres. The fire's also taken down almost 1,000 structures and killed five people, three in Napa County and two in Solano County, there were also four civilian injuries. The Sheriff had ordered evacuations for several neighborhoods. Lake Co News reports as many as 7,000 residents are affected. The county has also asked for help from out of county agencies to be patrolling the evacuation area.

Crews getting the upper hand on the Walbridge fire which has burned more than 54,923 acres in northwestern Sonoma County. The fire is 19% contained but some folks are being allowed to return home. Fire officials say it's mostly surrounded, but a shift in wind could blow containment lines. 5,100 people are still under a mandatory evacuation order and there are warnings for more than 400 more. The fire's part of the massive LNU Complex, straddling five counties. The Meyers fire is nearly contained, the Hennessey fire is 33% contained but one fire, near the county line of Lake and Napa is still troublesome, in Middletown, where the Valley Fire burned in treacherous terrain.

The National Guard and California Conservation Corps could be joining Cal Fire as the fire season is in full swing and it could get worse with more lightning forecasted. The lightning-sparked fires have grown in a week to some of the biggest we've ever seen in Calif. Inmate firefighters are not supplementing crews like in years past due to the pandemic. Cal Fire's Chief of planning says historically, it's in early fall when the biggest and most damaging wildfires hit the state, so the middle of August is "very concerning". Firefighters have been using more bulldozers, aircraft and getting help from firefighters from other states and the federal government. A union representing Cal Fire firefighters says 96% of their crews are committed.

The state auditor says the state's been getting so much money from the federal government to help with the pandemic, that it's a high risk for waste, fraud and abuse. Auditor Elaine Howle sent a letter to the Governor and legislative leaders invoking a state law that gives her the authority to watch over 18 government agencies who are supposed to oversee spending. She says prior audit findings and the federal money moving so fast into the state mean that responsible state agencies don't have adequate processes in place for possible risks.

The LNU Complex has grown several thousand acres. From yesterday the complex added more than 6,000 acres for a total of 356,326 acres with 27% containment. Cal Fire reports 978 structures have been destroyed and another 256 damaged. Cal Fire reported there's extreme fire behavior and in one area between Napa and Lake, where the Valley Fire burned in 2015 in Middletown is particularly challenging. They were trying to choke the fire off last night there, we haven't received the morning report yet. The fire was switching directions with the wind, and crossing containment lines.

After two firefighters in Ukiah contracted coronavirus we find out, it seems they got it while fighting a fire in Southern Calif. The city manager says after contact tracing, they have confidence the two firefighters got it while they were on a Strike Team in Southern California, but that quick work from the fire dept. and other team members contained the virus from spreading. The first positive case was two weeks ago today, Aug. 12th so their quarantine period ends today. The two firefighters who tested positive are self-isolating and being monitored by the city and the Mendocino County Public Health Office.

A bill in the legislature that looks to ban flavored tobacco has passed the Assembly. The bill passed the appropriations committee Monday and heads back to the Senate now for another vote. Assemblyman Wood and State Senator Mike McGuire support the bill which has a \$250 fine for violations. The bill includes flavored tobacco, including menthol. Wood tweeted Monday it's to curb smoking in younger people. McGuire is one of the group of senators who introduced the bill, saying it's essential for youth health.

A Sherwood Oaks nursing facility resident who recently tested positive for COVID-19 is now in the hospital. The head of the facility says they were admitted to Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Monday even though they're asymptomatic. He says they decided to have the patient transferred there to protect others at the Fort Bragg facility which had suffered an outbreak, which ended in 8 patients dying and several other residents and staff infected. 5 residents and staff who may have been exposed to this patient were tested and they expect results back today. All other residents and staff are stable. 16 residents and 8 staffers have recovered from Covid.

Yesterday the county confirmed 7 more cases of coronavirus for a total of 652 cases. 16 people have died from the virus in the county. There are currently 125 isolating including 4 in the hospital and one in an ICU. 506 people have been released from isolation and are considered no longer contagious.

Another community meeting with Cal Fire for Lake County residents. This one tomorrow night on Local Cable channel 8, Zoom or Facebook. The meeting at 6pm will include Cal Fire representatives, and from the Lake County Sheriff's Office, and other partnering agencies in the response for the county to the wildfire. There will also be representatives of the Red Cross, County Health Dept. and Social Services Agencies, Lake County Behavioral Health Services, and others available to answer constituent questions. Elected representatives have also been invited.

A live stream will again be posted at <http://www.facebook.com/lakecountycag>

Questions can be emailed ahead of time, to vision@lakecountyca.gov, or pos
A limited number of County residents can also participate and ask questions in real-time via Zoom:

<https://lakecounty.zoom.us/j/94612629840?pwd=Y3pONVN5VnQ1YlFmSnZS>

Meeting ID: 946 1262 9840

Passcode: 288749

Those without reliable internet can listen or participate by phone: 1-669-900-6

A new fire burning near Calpella has triggered evacuations. The fire by the exit to Hwy 20 on the east side of Hwy 101 near mile marker 29.2. The Mendocino County Sheriff has ordered evacuations of nearby residents and has deputies knocking at homes telling people they need to leave. Mendo Fever reports the fire was spotted across N. State Street before 2:30 this afternoon. The Sheriff says the areas of North State Street near Agnes Lane north to Calpella, Central Avenue, Hopkins Street, Moore Street, eastside Calpella Road, Graziano Lane, Third Street, and Durable Mill Road.

The Sheriff says with the help of US Cellular, service to the Covelo area is improved. The Sheriff announcing work with the Round Valley Indian Tribe and Senator Mike McGuire and Supervisor John Haschak to get better service to the area. Sheriff Kendall says it's not perfect, but they're still working on long term solutions.

The LNU complex has grown some... Cal Fire Chief Sean Kavanaugh on the complex. Kavanaugh says if the weather stays calm people can go home over the next 24 to 72 hours, but there's a lot of work to do. Firefighters moving to Middletown to try to corral the area of the fire in the Valley Fire burn, which is in treacherous terrain and the highest priority. There's also a tough area for firefighters on the Walbridge Fire, part of the complex in W. Sonoma County where there are a lot of structures and fuel to feed the fire.

Two people have been found dead in a creek in Ukiah. Police report the two men's bodies were found Tuesday night near a small park in Doolan Creek. Police say it doesn't appear to be foul play but they've not released any official cause of death. The two men have reportedly been identified but their names were not released. They said the men, one 32, the other 43 years of

08/27/20 age were found by someone passing by the area.

A fuel tanker has crashed into a tree in Covelo. The CHP reports the driver of a 2019 International truck with around 2,000 pounds of diesel fuel was headed west on Highway 162 near Barnes Lane Tuesday night and for some reason came off the edge of the road and rolled, crashing into the tree. The driver was reportedly killed. Mendocino County Environmental Health and the Redwood Empire Hazardous Incident Team were on the scene to off load the diesel fuel from the truck. The highway was closed for about an hour after the crash for the fuel transfer.

The change to have jury selection for trials in Lake County at the fairgrounds has been approved. The Presiding Superior Court Judge went to the state to get the judicial emergency order approved so that proceedings can be held outside of the Lake County Courthouse in Lakeport due to the pandemic, for social distancing. Lake Co News reports the chief justice signed the order about two weeks ago. There are six cases affected by the emergency order, three got time waivers so they can be set later than state law of 60 days. Apparently cases set for trial in the Superior Court were either resolved or rescheduled up until now. The Public Health Officer had suggested the court move jury selection due to cramped quarters at the courthouse.

A new evacuation warning for part of Lake County due to the growing LNU Lightning Complex. For the Lake-Colusa county line. It grew yesterday afternoon and this morning to 370,000 acres charred so far. The fire is now 33 percent contained. So far, it's destroyed 1,080 structures and damaged another 272. There are still 30,500 in harms way. The fire that's getting close to Middletown, still a priority. The Hennessey is burning in Lake, Napa, Solano and Yolo counties. The Walbridge, part of the complex in Sonoma County hit 19% containment and grew to 55,353 acres with 19-percent containment. The Meyers fire north of Jenner is less worrisome to firefighters they say, it's 97% contained, after blackening 2,360 acres. The new evacuation warning affecting those in Spring Valley, Long Valley and the Double Eagle Ranch subdivision.

More cases of coronavirus in Lake County. The case count has stayed pretty low, with new reports coming weekly from the Public Health Office. There are 23 active cases in the county, 33 more positive cases than a week before. Five are in the hospital, the most so far. 3 people have died from coronavirus in Lake County and almost 9,400 have been tested so far. There have been 314 positive cases, less than half what Mendocino County reported in their last county, 656.

Parts of the Mendocino National Forest are closed due to the August Complex of fires. The fire started with many others across Northern Calif. more than a week ago during a lightning storm. The fire has blackened more than 200,400 acres and is only 17 percent contained. The largest section is known as the Doe Fire which has burned more than 160,000 and is 31-percent contained. There are also several dozen smaller fires that are part of the complex in Glenn County on the Grindstone Ranger District and the Hull on the Upper Lake Ranger District. That has burned nearly 5,000 acres and is only 5-percent contained.

The biggest fire and biggest area of concern in the LNU Complex, the Hennessey still burning out of control, but fire officials say they've got a better handle on it. The Middletown section of the fire in treacherous terrain where the Valley fire burned before it, 5 years ago. The fire on its own has burned more than 303,000 acres with 33% containment. A Cal Fire spokesman says with cooler temperatures they were trying to get ahead of the fire, and they're bringing in more resources to help. Lake Co News reports 250 National Guard troops got to Santa Rosa yesterday to help on the massive LNU Complex which started in Napa County last week.

After new guidance was released from the CDC saying asymptomatic people with Covid-19 may not need testing, the Governor said nope... and the Sonoma County Health Officer says she's not going to follow the new testing guidelines either. Dr. Sundari Mase says the county will continue to test anyone who's been in close contact with a known case. The new guidelines from the CDC after reported pressure from the White House. Public Health experts say that could spread the contagious disease more. Dr. Mase says the state has advised to keep testing people who want to be tested, whether they're asymptomatic or symptomatic.

Cooler weather and more humidity aiding firefighters in Northern Calif. More equipment and resources also came to firefighters on the LNU Complex. 35,000 people who were under evacuation orders were allowed to go home too. The chief for Cal Fire in charge of the incident says firefighters and utility workers went to areas and cleared them so residents could return after they gained a little bit more containment on the massive fire last night. The fire, he says, jumped a highway and started to threaten structures in Yolo County. That led to more evacuations near the town of Rumsey.

Air quality in Mendocino County has improved a little, but the Air Quality Management District says smoke from Northern Calif. fires is impacting the air quality with moderate to unhealthy range for most of the county thru tomorrow. Inland communities and surrounding areas may also see some short periods of "Very Unhealthy" air quality depending on fire, wind, and other meteorological conditions. The agency says coastal areas can expect good air quality in the morning, then "Moderate" to "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" later in the day.

A new police chief has been named in Willits. Alexis Blaylock was part of the San Diego Police Dept. for almost 25 years where she was a patrol officer and had specialized assignments like dignitary protection, border crime suppression, internal affairs and juvenile services. She was also an adjunct professor who taught Police Investigative Report Writing for the San Diego Community College District. She retired from San Diego and continued training officers as a consultant across the state. She also worked as a public safety officer at USC and has donated time and effort to charitable causes.

A new report shows many workers comp claims across the state due to the coronavirus pandemic. More claims in June and July than any month of the pandemic, with over 27,000 claims from May to July. The claims the report says could add up to over \$2 billion in costs to employers and their insurance companies because employers in Calif. have to pay for workers' comp coverage and for those who file claims they could get lost wages, medical benefits or death benefits for their families. The Workers Compensation Institute says its recorded at least 140 workers families who had applied for death benefits since the pandemic first arose in March. Imperial County had the highest rate of COVID-19 claims.

Local businesses in Lake County will be able to get federal coronavirus stimulus money. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve allocations of CARES Act funding for local businesses, senior centers and more thru the COVID-19 pandemic. The board made the decision after hearing from a committee formed to decide how the \$6.6 million from the federal CARES Act would be spent. The committee reportedly wanted approval for \$5.5 million to be used on basic disaster response and the rest for a secondary category like grants for local businesses and meal programs for senior centers.

Firefighters get a hand from mother nature with better weather conditions aiding their containment efforts. Cal Fire reports more than 15,600 firefighters on over two dozen major fires and lightning complexes across the state. In the last 24-hours there were over two dozen lightning strikes in Northern California so firefighters continue to monitor for more lightning lit wildfires. They're reporting more containment at a faster rate than before thanks to the weather. 96 out of state fire engines have also been assigned to fires. The extra resources, good humidity and lower temps overnight helpful to firefighters. Cal Fire reports warmer conditions expected over the weekend with possible thunderstorms in the upper portion of northern California and the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The LNU complex is at just under 370,000 acres and 33% contained. Almost 1100 structures have been destroyed and five people have died.

Reports of shots fired in Ukiah early this morning. Police responded to the area of S. Orchard Avenue after several 911 calls. Police searched the area looking for possible victims and saw two men then several expended bullet casings on the ground near them. They were detained but found not to be involved. Police say there were two cars and a home with people inside also hit by gun shots. Police say witnesses saw a car speeding in the area of where they heard the shots fired and later found some nearby homes had surveillance cameras. They're looking over the footage and asks anyone who may know anything to call.

Some people who'd been evacuated due to the massive LNU Lightning Complex have been able to return home. The Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin said Hidden Valley Lake and part of Lower Lake were reduced to evacuation warnings instead. There were other warnings lifted earlier yesterday, but for Middletown, the warnings stayed. The Sheriff also said yesterday just because Orders are reduced to Warnings, doesn't mean those who went home are totally in the clear. But firefighters made better progress on the biggest fire in the Complex, the Hennessey. It did grow yesterday, it's just over 313,530 acres, containment was 33% earlier in the day. The Complex was at just over 371,000 with almost 1,100 structures

08/28/20 gone and another 300 damaged.

A man in Ukiah's been arrested after reports of a man without clothes on standing on a roof. The report Tuesday afternoon that the man was on top of a house with a kitchen knife acting bizarre. The deputy told him to drop the knife and come down to the ground, but he refused. Then he vanished and went into the backyard of the home, so deputies further told him to appear in front of them. One of them went onto the roof and the homeowner at the same time came out of the house with a gun. The deputy told them to go back in their house and backup from the probation office came. The naked guy also ran off. He was found and taken to a hospital kicking and screaming. Police say they told him to control his breathing but appeared he was high on something. He was taken to Adventist Health Ukiah Valley. No charges are pending.

The Round Valley Indian Tribe reportedly asking the Sheriff's Office for help with crime on and around the Tribal lands in Covelo. The Sheriff's office says that would include illegal marijuana growing, selling and the sale of firearms and environmental degradation after an uptick in violence in the area. Just Tuesday deputies stopped someone and saw a gun in their car, it was found to be fake, but the deputy then saw a loaded assault weapon. The owner of the weapon and driver of the car, Jesse Gurrola has been arrested, but released due to the pandemic. The Sheriff's office says they'll continue patrolling the area and will request whoever's arrested be prosecuted by the DA or Office of the United States Attorney General.

A traffic stop in Covelo ends in a bunch of cocaine being found and an arrest. The deputy last Sunday stopped the Toyota truck and contacted three people all from Santa Rosa. The passenger, Jesus Espinoza, was holding a bag of "Chex mix". He was found to be on pretrial release. The Chex mix was actually filled with plastic bags of cocaine. Deputies also found a bunch of cash in the car. Since Espinoza was violating his pre-trial release, he was arrested. For that and trying to conceal or destroy evidence and throwing stuff out of the truck. They also say he tried to resist officers. He was released though due to the pandemic.

3 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Mendocino County, bringing the total to 659. 1 additional death has been reported for the Ukiah area. Yesterday we reported six people in the hospital. There was one in an ICU, but that's been removed from the dashboard and now there are five in the hospital. No other information was released from Public Health officials.

A woman from Galt, CA has been arrested in Covelo. During the sheriff's office regular patrols of the area, deputies stopped Michelle Woodyatt for a traffic violation. They say there were warrants out for her arrest in Mendocino and Lake counties and she had a felony warrant in Butte for car theft. She was arrested and held in Mendocino County Jail with no bail.

2 people in Covelo, busted in regular sheriff's office patrols for not stopping at a stop sign. They say the driver of the vehicle, Maryanne Whipple, had a suspended driver's license. They then found her passenger, Anthony Barber, had two felony arrest warrants from Lake County for failing to appear and two misdemeanor warrants from Mendocino County for possession of a controlled substance and violation of probation. Whipple got off with a citation, but Barber was arrested for the four warrants and held in Mendocino County Jail without bail.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has declared 2020 the "third driest year on record" for Lake Mendocino. The Corp announced the North and South boat ramps had been closed due to low water levels. The Lake last year was recorded at dropping about 12 inches every five days. The latest report on the Lake has water being released to maintain the minimum instream flows for fish in the Russian River, and further, the Lake continues dropping about a foot every five days. As of Tuesday it had dropped almost two feet in 11 days.

Legislators looking for ways to pay to fight fires when we had an early start to wildfire season due to the lightning ignited fires almost two weeks ago. The last minute legislation proposed to put aside \$2.5 billion for future projects to handle wildfires and adapt to climate change. It looks to use a utility-bill fee and take up to \$500 million to train firefighters and more. The utility fee would be extended for another 25 years but cost ratepayers less than \$1 dollar a month. They say that would tap into the multi-billion insurance fund created last year to pay for utility caused fire damage. It remains to be seen if it'll happen this session, which is supposed to end Monday.

The state's planning to double coronavirus testing capacity ahead of flu season. The Governor says Calif. has entered into a new public-private partnership with life sciences company PerkinElmer. Gov. Newsom says in the next couple of months there will be new laboratory space so the company can help the state so it can do as many as 150,000 more daily tests starting mid-November. That would mean the state was conducting nearly 200,000 tests/day. The Gov. says the cost will be cut to about a third of what they normally do, saving the state money. They will also guarantee turnaround time at 24 to 48 hours.

Officials in Lake County letting fire evacuees know about shelters if they need to leave their homes. The Dept. of Social Services put out a statement about sheltering due to the massive LNU Lightning Complex fires. The agency, the Lake County Health Services Department and the American Red Cross working together for those most in need. There's a shelter set up by the Red Cross at Kelseyville High. They ask evacuees to meet in the school parking lot and they will direct you further. They have areas for people who are COVID-19 positive or symptomatic or in a high-risk or vulnerable category for contracting the virus. They're also assisting those who need to be quarantined. The Area Agency on Aging for Lake and Mendocino Counties says they're open and operating remotely due to restrictions during the pandemic. Senior centers are still open too with certain adjustments due to safety protocols. Those who get home delivered meals in areas where there are mandatory evacuation orders, not warning, will not get a delivered meal since drivers cannot enter evacuation zones.

Middletown still the focus for Cal Fire on the massive Hennessey Fire, part of the LNU Complex. The Operations Chief at their briefing this morning says that fire is the first priority in the entire complex, in an area just south of Middletown. The Chief says they're trying to contain this part of the fire just above Anguin and Calistoga. There's also the Walbridge fire in Sonoma County which the chief says has also been "overwhelmingly challenging" due to the terrain, fuels and structures. The Hennessey Fire is at 313,000 acres or so and 33% contained and the Walbridge has charred more than 55,300 acres, it's also 33% contained.

Public health officials in Calif are preparing, they say, for a possible third surge of coronavirus cases. They say they believe it will come from two groups already hit hard: essential workers and younger folks. The Press Democrat reports the college campuses are closed, large outbreaks have been connected to fraternities in Los Angeles. And there's an outbreak in the Central Valley, that closed a poultry processing plant. Experts say nearly 9,000 of the more than 12,600 deaths from the pandemic came after Memorial Day, around the time the economy started reopen.

Officials in Lake County announce a meeting next week with the Board of Supervisors and PG&E officials on possible Public Safety Power Shutoffs. The meeting with the Board Tuesday after last falls disastrous intentional power outages left people in the dark and heat for days on end. The utility company says they've been working the last year to limit the impact of these events, harden their energy infrastructure against fire risk through their Community Wildfire Safety Program. The meeting Tuesday at 10.

A man's been arrested for allegedly raping his wife while she was passed out. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports getting a call from the DA's office in February about a rape, identifying the suspect as Anthony Oakley. They say there were several incidents along with another of criminal threats towards one victim and after investigating further found at least two abuse victims. One of them told deputies she was also raped by Oakley. Then a third woman said there were multiple rapes over a one year period, and criminal threats. So Oakley was arrested last week in Little River on

08/31/20 several charges and held without bail.

The Mendocino County Registrar of Voters office says they've been getting a bunch of calls regarding the upcoming election and when ballots are going out. The Governor ordered all Californians to receive a mail in ballot, so Mendocino County voters will get those by mid-October. They're going out October 5th. The office says if you don't get yours by October 15th to call for a replacement ballot. There will be Ballot Drop Boxes if you cannot mail yours due to the pandemic. The office encourages you to process then mail in your ballot as soon as possible after you get it. If mailing your ballot through USPS, it must be mailed by Election Day. If mailing on Election Day, be sure to get it postmarked. If you use a Ballot Drop Off Location, please drop it off by 8 pm on Election Day.

The Governor has announced a new four tier system for reopening the economy again. Similar to the first, but a little stricter with guidelines. The County Monitoring List is replaced by watching the number of cases per 100,000 residents. Each county has a color that goes with the four tiered approach. Counties have to stay in whatever their tier is for at least 3 weeks before moving forward with the data reviewed weekly and tiers are updated each Tuesday, starting next Tuesday, September 8th. Since Mendocino was on the monitoring list, it's now on the highest tier, also known as the purple tier because the virus is widespread in the county. But hair salons and barbershops can reopen indoors, retailers and indoor malls can reopen with 25% capacity, grocery stores must maintain 50% capacity and there is new guidance for childcare and extracurriculars, instead of 12 kid cap, there's now 14 allowed with up to 2 supervising adults. The new order goes into effect this morning at 8.

Another death from coronavirus has been reported in Lake County. The Public Health Officer put out a statement over the weekend that the person who died was over 65, and living in a residential care facility, and had very serious, long-term medical issues. They had a positive COVID-19 test when they passed away last week. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace reminds if someone who is living in a congregate living situation tests positive for COVID-19, they have great concern others may have been exposed, so with that the staff at the residential care facility are appropriately responding by testing, isolating and quarantining residents and employees. The Public Health Office and state Department of Public Health are consulting, but have not released the name of the facility.

Along with Mendocino County, which generally follows what Sonoma County is doing... Sonoma is also allowing barbershops, hair salons and shopping malls to reopen indoors. No food courts or child play areas will open in malls though. It's in alignment with the new four tiered system in the state released by the Governor last week. The new Blueprint for a Safer Economy, is a color-coded system allowing for very few cases per 100,000 residents for a total reopening, and even that still has many modifications. The four tiers are widespread, substantial, moderate and minimal virus spread.

The part of the LNU Lightning Complex in Sonoma County, the Walbridge fire has not grown that much more, firefighters monitoring for hot spots. The fire has blackened nearly 55,000 acres. Yesterday firefighters worked an area including Rio Nido, Hacienda and Guerneville. Cal Fire officials say the weather has helped them get a better foothold on the massive LNU Complex, which has burned more than 375,200 acres. It's now 58% contained. The complex is burning in Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Lake and Yolo counties, and some in Colusa County too. More than 1,200 structures have burned. Evacuation orders have been lifted in several places, but nearly 1,800 people are still evacuated and more than 3,350 have been warned they may have to leave. The Hennessey that's been threatening Middletown, and burning in Colusa, Lake, Napa, Solano and Yolo counties, the largest in the complex, had burned just under 318,000 acres with containment up to 57 percent. 8 homes in Lake County have been destroyed.

Lake County's not done with complaints on tax collection repossessions. The Board of Supervisors is reportedly considering a vote of no confidence on the treasurer-tax collector and is looking at potentially asking for her resignation. Lake Co News reports the board will consider the matter after a presentation tomorrow morning by the Supervisor Bruno Sabatier. The news site reports Sabatier will cite continued problems, including delayed deposits, not yet implementing new taxes or figuring out new ways to collect current taxes, problems solving staffing issues and trying new technology, and a generally lack of follow through. Barbara Ringen reportedly offered to retire early previously, but then retracted the offer. The City of Clearlake also recently filed suit against the county on the same issue.

Lakeport will hear a report on the state of policing in the city. The meeting online tomorrow night will also include a discussion on a grant for the city's new community center. The Police Chief is set to present a report on the first half of 2020. Then the city manager is also going to give a report on the League of California Cities Annual Conference. The city also looking to get a piece of the CARES Act thru a grant application to buy kitchen equipment for the Silveira Community Center. The City Council will also vote on the continuing local emergencies for the Mendocino Complex fire; the public safety power shutoffs last year, the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and more.

Another death has shown up on the Mendocino County Public Health COVID-19 dashboard for a total of 17 deaths in the county. Saturday there were also 16 more cases and another 7 last night. A total of nearly 696 cases so far.

A man in Redwood Valley says he was awakened by a couple of people who broke into his trailer saying they were police officers. The man pulled out a gun and the intruders took off, but first fired their own guns into the trailer. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office's reports the property had several marijuana grows and deputies say they think the intrusion was probably related to the grows. The man told deputies the intruders told him he needed to evacuate because of a fire. Deputies found spent bullet casings and at least one bullet hole in the trailer.

Another incident involving gunshots in Ukiah this time. Police say they had several 911 calls about shots fired, went to a home where a man says someone was hiding in their yard saying they were shot by at least one of three men who asked if he was part of a gang. UPD, MCSO and CHP went searching, but found no evidence of a shooter. However the man was shot. No word how serious the gunshot wound was.

The Fire in the Mendocino National Forest, burning on the Upper Lake and Grindstone Districts has not grown much in the last day, but is only 18 percent contained. The August Fire has burned about 221,300 acres. It's made up of the Hull, Doe, Tatham, and Glade fires. Firefighters doing mop up on some areas and monitoring the fire, building more containment lines. They warn of poor air quality in the area.

Now there are more than 16,000 firefighters on 18 major fires and lightning complexes across California. Last week there were a couple thousand less. More firefighters, bulldozers and flyovers, Cal Fire says, means good progress with increased containment figures on all of the fires, and full containment on two of the larger wildfires. There are also less evacuation orders and more downgraded to warnings. But there are still almost 40,000 people evacuated from the current wildfires. 7 people have died across the state since the lightning strike wildfire storm 2 weeks ago and over 2,800 structures were destroyed. The LNU Lightning complex burning in Napa, Lake, Sonoma, Solano, and Yolo Counties has burned more than 375,200 acres, no forward movement since yesterday, and now 63% contained. The largest and the one burning near Middletown, the Hennessey is at just under 318,000 acres with 62% containment and the Wallbridge in West Sonoma County at nearly 55,000, it's 64% contained.

On the August Fire in the Mendocino National Forest, the forest service announces military soldiers joining forces to fight the fires. The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, and the National Interagency Fire Center working with the Department of Defense to send 200 soldiers and command staff to help with wildfire suppression efforts. They're supposed to be here early this week from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. They're set to work on training and fire line certification. The regional forester says they're thankful for the help and additional aircraft with suppression. The last time they had help from the military was two years ago on the Mendocino Complex Fire. The fire has burned more than 236,200 acres and is only 20% contained.

The jury was waiting, in the case of a couple of former officers of a local gun club, then a no contest plea. The two defendants Audie Lee Norbury and Penny Renate Mathis, both of Ukiah, had been accused of stealing from the Ukiah Rifle and Pistol Club. Their plea for a misdemeanor, gets them 2 years of probation. They agreed to the deal and were given credit for time spent in jail and have to pay \$10,000 restitution to the gun club and waived any claim of right to recovered property alleged by the prosecution to be stolen. They had a co-defendant, also from Ukiah, Jack Mathis who was found guilty last

09/01/20 year of possessing two assault weapons. He got probation.

Reports of a car into a utility pole turns into a murder case. The CHP got a call Sunday morning to N. Lakeport for the crash. The Lakeport Fire Protection District also on the scene found 29 year old Yancy McCloud Jr., of Nice unresponsive. They tried CPR with no luck, and he was pronounced dead at a hospital. But they found his injuries didn't match that of a car crash, but probably from a physical altercation with Wynona Starr Anderson, also of Nice, his girlfriend. The CHP and police started a homicide investigation, and gathering information discovered McCloud had been murdered, blaming Anderson, and arrested her. She was already in Jail for a DUI, driving without a license and an unrelated misdemeanor. She's now held in jail on \$1,000,000.00 bail.

A firefighter has died working in the Mendocino National Forest on the August Complex. The Forest Service only put out the report on the death yesterday, and said another firefighter was being treated, but no other information was available.

In Mendocino County, the cases of coronavirus keep coming. 8 more cases reported last night, after more than 20 over the weekend for a total of 704.

Not looking good for a last minute bill in the state Assembly to address climate change projects, including money for wildfire fights. The bill was introduced last week and the legislative session ended yesterday, some lawmakers say they didn't have enough time to go over it as it was amended. There were those in both parties who were against the bill. The bill to help prevent more catastrophic wildfires and provide millions of dollars to restore some state parks, thin forests and conservation projects too. The Assembly Speaker's office says leadership was not comfortable throwing the legislation in at the last minute and that much of the bill was for fire prevention instead of immediate suppression of fires already burning; and it could wait until the legislature is back in January.

The settlement and trial setting conference for a man accused of murder has been delayed. Mavrick Fisher due back in court next week and his jury trial's set for the end of the month after it was supposed to happen in May. He's accused of murdering his friend, Grant Whitaker from Mackinaw, Illinois. The two traveled to Calif to reportedly start a deaf camp together. A deaf media outlet reported Whitaker was missing last summer. His body was found on a remote property in Scotts Valley. The body found after the Lake County Sheriff's office got a tip about Whitaker's car possibly being found near a Dollar General store. Fisher reportedly admitted to the murder and directed police to Whitaker's body. Bail has been denied.

[You can go get a drive thru test at the Redwood Hotel Casino. Starting tomorrow](#)

The August Complex has had a fatality. A firefighter has died and another injured, but there's not a lot more information either. The fire's been burning in the Mendocino National Forest, partly in the Grindstone and partly in the Upper Lake Ranger Districts. It started, like many other fires, with lightning and has been burning for 2 weeks. The fire has burned 236,288 acres and is 20 percent contained. It's burning on the Ranch Fire scar, part of the Mendocino Complex 2 years ago.

A man from Clearlake has been sent to prison for a fire outside Clearlake Oaks in June. 27 year old Jose Feliciano Medina Jimenez got four years for arson on forest land and resisting executive officers by means of threat or violence. He also has to register as an arson offender for life. The fire reported June 20th, then Jimenez was seen waving his arms on Hwy 20 to get attention. When he was approached by deputies and Cal Fire, they say he had a large knife and when they commanded him to drop it, he didn't listen. They say he continued thrashing around and resisting once in the patrol car. He was also found to be high on meth at the time. He later admitted he started the fire and was paranoid from the drugs. The fire burned six acres. Police also found and yanked some marijuana plants nearby during the investigation.

Containment growing and forward progress holding on the LNU Lightning Complex. The fire burning for two weeks after thousands of lightning strikes start hundreds of fires across the state, burning more than 375,200 acres. The fire is 66 percent contained. The fire made up of the largest fire, burning near Middletown still, the Hennessey, it's burned over 317,600 acres and is 64-percent contained; then the fire burning in Sonoma County, the Walbridge fire west of Healdsburg, at just under 55,000 acres is now 70-percent contained. And the last which is nearly 100% contained, the Meyers fire north of Jenner, has burned 2,360 acres. 3,375 structures are still threatened, 1,209 were destroyed and another 193 damaged. Eight homes in Lake County were destroyed, the rest in Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties.

Those still in danger of losing their home to eviction or foreclosure have another reprieve. The Gov. announced he's signed legislation protecting millions because of the blowback from the pandemic. Gov. Newsom says tenants declaring they are unable to pay their rent, either in full, or partially will get help. He says it will also help homeowners not be foreclosed on for nonpayment. The Gov along with Senate and Assembly leaders made the announcement last week that tenants and homeowners cannot be thrown out of their homes before Feb. 1st because of financial hardship since the pandemic started. There are some restrictions though, like paying 25% in January.

Smokey skies persist As the Red Salmon and August Complex fires continue burning, with smoke drifting into Mendocino County. The Air Quality Management District has warned residents to stay indoors and the National Weather Service says the unhealthy air should continue into next week. The smoke could also start drifting into Humboldt County as winds shift and calm. The forecast calls for unhealthy air quality for most of Mendocino and Humboldt Counties today. The smoke is expected to stay stagnant until the fires are under control. It could cause eye and throat irritation, coughing and even problems breathing. As always those with respiratory diseases, heart disease, young children and older adults are most at risk.

More evacuation warnings have been lifted in Lake County put into place because of the LNU Lightning Complex. The area north of Butts Canyon Road, east of Hwy 29, south of Morgan Valley Road and west of the Lake/Napa County line seem to be safe along with a couple areas east of Hwy 53 and south of Hwy 20. Another fire in the Mendocino National Forest has killed a firefighter and injured another. Not a lot more info so far from the Forest Service except that it happened on the August Complex burning in the Grindstone and Upper Lake Ranger Districts. The fire has burned nearly 243,00 acres, growing about 6,000 acres since yesterday and remains just 20 percent contained. The fire was more than 3 dozen fires that all merged. The latest is the 5,500 acre Hopkins fire which is about 25 miles northeast of Covelo in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness and the Shasta Trinity National Forest. And LNU Complex is at 69 percent containment.

Another death from coronavirus reported in Lake County. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace reports the fifth death related to COVID-19 was the second death after a cluster of cases at a local residential facility, which he has not named. He says this second death from the outbreak at the facility was someone who was over 65 years old and had chronic medical issues. They tested positive last week and passed away early this morning. Dr.

Pace says the public can be sure the facility is following guidelines from his 09/02/20 office and the state Department of Public Health who's also consulting.

A young man from Ukiah's been killed after his car went down an embankment along Highway 20. The CHP reports the driver, 19 year old Christobal Calderon, was in an SUV headed west on the highway early Monday morning when he veered off onto the right shoulder, then went down the steep embankment. He reportedly died at the scene.

The state's newspaper industry getting a hand from lawmakers, giving them a year more to meet new labor laws for freelancers. The Assembly Bill called the "Save Local Journalism Act" passed unanimously in the Senate on Sunday night and goes to the Assembly. It was amended so the newspaper industry has another 12 months before a new law takes effect which looks to change how some employees are classified.

A new fire reported in Lake County triggers evacuations. The CHP's traffic incident page says the fire jumped Highway 20 on the east side of Clear Lake. So the Lake County Sheriff ordered evacuations for the area of Morine Ranch Rd in Clearlake Oaks last night. The Sheriff said on Facebook the fire looked like firefighters were dumping enough water on it that it might be contained quickly, but we have no new info as of first thing this morning. The fire had charred about 15 acres and was 70% contained. It's burning near Highway 20 and Catholic Church Rd. and has been dubbed the Catholic Fire.

The Mendocino County Air Quality District reports smokey skies sticking around due to active wildfires in Northern California. The District says fluctuating wind could change how thick the smoke is as there's a strong high pressure ridge developing over the state. That they say can bring "Very Unhealthy" air to the area. Right now the District's air monitors show particulate matter concentrations in the "Moderate" to "Unhealthy" range, but inland communities and surrounding areas could have times of "Very Unhealthy" air quality. Higher air temperatures could bring that Very Unhealthy air and smoke to valley areas. Another reminder too to stay indoors if possible and if you're outdoors to limit activity.

More info on the death of a firefighter in the August Complex Fire. Three firefighters working on the Tatham Fire in the Complex Monday when the vehicle they were in rolled. One firefighter died, other reports, not from the Forest Service say it was a female, working on the fire with her son. The Forest Service says one other firefighter in the vehicle was treated for burns on a hand and arm, and a third firefighter was not injured. The CHP is investigating and the Forest Service says they'll release more information as they can.

Damage information has been released in Napa County on the lightning-ignited Hennessey fire, part of the LNU Complex. Cal Fire reports the fire destroyed 254 single-family homes, so it's now noted as one of the most destructive in county history. The most damage since the October 2017 wildfires that destroyed 655 homes in Napa County. 35 other homes were damaged in the Hennessey Fire, about a third or so in Lake County. There were also five commercial buildings and 96 other minor structures destroyed. The Hennessey Fire, the largest in the LNU complex had burned just under 318,000 acres. It's 70% contained. It killed three people near Lake Berryessa and two residents of Solano County.

A post on social media identifies the firefighter on the August Complex fire who died. A local newspaper in Cresson, Texas identified the firefighter as Diana Jones and say she died while working on her son's contracting team in the Mendocino National Forest east of Covelo. A social media post ended up in the town's local paper, the Hood County News. It reports that the Fire Chief got a call from Jones' son about her death working on the Tatham fire. The report that their vehicle crashed, she died and a second firefighter was injured and a third had no injuries. On the Facebook page, the Cresson fire department announced the death with Jones profile picture showing the terrain of the fire where she had been working. The chief called her a classy lady and said the department was numbed by the news.

Damage assessments being done on the Walbridge Fire, part of the enormous LNU Lightning Complex in Sonoma County. Damage assessment teams surveying west Sonoma County's 86 square mile burn zone. Cal Fire reports 157 homes were destroyed on the stretch of land and 135 other structures were also destroyed. 10 homes were damaged. They continue today and tomorrow surveying even though the fire is not fully contained. The Cal Fire Incident Team says the damage assessment probably won't change much. Cal Fire staff had a moment of silence in Calistoga yesterday to honor firefighter Diana Jones. The Press Democrat reports she was the contract firefighter working on the Federally Managed August Complex. They were on the Tatham fire northeast of Lake Pillsbury.

The Walbridge Fire part of the massive LNU Complex, now 75% contained. The fire has burned almost 55,000 acres and has not expanded much in several days. Cal Fire reports they're in the homestretch of this one and working to reinforce control lines around the rest of the fire that was not surrounded yesterday. They hoped to announce it completely contained soon but are working in steep terrain with what they referred to as razorback ridges and deep canyons. The 2,360 acre Meyers fire near Jenner is 100% contained finally. It sat at 99% contained for days.

Another response to the local Grand Jury report in Clearlake. The City Council meeting tomorrow night can be seen on the city's YouTube channel or local cable. It's on Zoom too. The city manager asking the council to respond to the Grand Jury's report on the PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs last year. It is referred to as "PSPS – 5 Days in October." The city's response is required. Apparently the report spent a lot of time talking about the county and the city wasn't even interviewed, so the city manager says the city's preparedness and response would be brief. But the city's ok with more detailed planning in the future. The council is also looking at a change in the way it permits commercial cannabis businesses, to allow for more businesses in the city.

After the Governor reached out of the state for help fighting fires, a group of Israeli firefighters has arrived in Calif. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services got a team of 10 Israeli firefighters. They got to Sacramento last weekend and will work in Northern Calif. In the past, like on the Mendocino Complex, firefighters from out of the country also deployed to California. That time from Australia and New Zealand, but this is reported to be the first time Israelis were assigned to fight fires in the United States. They're expected to be here for two weeks.

Less firefighters now, but it's because many of the large fires that broke out two weeks ago in lightning storms have calmed some. There are still more than 14,200 firefighters on more than 20 major fires and lightning complexes in California. More than 18,200 people are still under evacuation orders. Some of the fires have made it into the record books as some of the biggest ever in the state including the LNU Lightning Complex – the 3rd largest ever and 10th most destructive, and the August Lightning Complex in the Mendocino National Forest is the 9th most destructive. The LNU complex has burned over 375,200 acres and is 76% contained. The fire has destroyed almost 1,450 structures in 5 counties and killed 5 people. The August Complex has destroyed more than 261,200 acres and is 20% contained. The Forest Service is hosting a community meeting on the fire tonight at 7 on the Forest Service Facebook page.

8 search warrants on 11 pieces of land across the Emerald Triangle finds thousands of illegal marijuana plants and hundreds of pounds of processed marijuana. Last week the state Department of Fish and Wildlife along with the Sheriff's Offices of Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino Counties served the search warrant in the Island Mountain area where the three counties converge. More than 28,000 illegal pot plants were taken along with over 4,900 lbs of processed cannabis, six firearms and about \$100,000 in cash. There were also more than 75 environmental crimes. Two people with rifles at a nearby cattle ranch were seen and detained. But no arrests were made. The Trinity County and Mendocino County District Attorney's Offices will consider the cases for possible prosecution.

A young man who used to live in Fort Bragg gets nearly 19 years behind bars for selling drugs to a minor and child abuse. The DA's office says 19 year old Francisco Javier Martinez pleaded guilty to several crimes including selling drugs to a minor, threatening a victim, assault with a knife and child abuse, plus a laundry list of more crimes. It comes after police found Martinez last December after a domestic assault call to Purity Market in Fort Bragg. A girl there with a swollen face, bruises and other signs of abuse, including several knife marks. Police say Martinez had been abusing the girl, but told police she was in possession of drugs and had an addiction issue. The girl called police inside the market where they found blood on the floor. They arrested Martinez after the girl told them several stories about abuse

09/03/20 over several months.

A new public health officer has been sworn in in Mendocino County. During the Tuesday virtual meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Dr. Howard or "Andy" Coren was officially sworn in. At the same meeting the director of Behavioral Health warned the board about a pending "mental health epidemic" from fear, isolation and depression many people are dealing with due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 3rd District Supervisor John Hashak then thanked the previous Public Health Officer, Dr. (Noemi) Doohan for her work during the first days of the coronavirus pandemic. She will continue to work with Coren thru the end of the year. Dr. Jenine Miller, then spoke to the board about the increases in anxiety, depression, substance abuse and alcohol sales due to the pandemic. The county is starting a campaign to ask others in the community if they feel suicidal, and says there are new support groups for English and Spanish speakers.

An announcement from the Mendocino County Elections Office about mail in ballots. They're being sent out Oct. 5th for all registered voters in the State of California, including Mendocino County voters. They say if you don't get yours by Oct. 15th to call for a replacement ballot. The office encouraging everyone to vote the ballot as soon as you get it and either mail it right away or put it in one of the various Ballot Drop Boxes. There are many in the county, in Willits, Fort Bragg, Point Arena, the County Administration Building, in Boonville³⁴ and at the Fairgrounds. There will also be in person voting for those who would rather...

The Willits City Council has voted to move forward with a beautification project downtown. At their meeting last week, members decided to hire Granite Construction for the Willits Downtown Improvement Project. The design was already accepted and authorized by city staff to put out to bid in June. Granite came in with the lowest, at just under \$593,000. There was only one other bid, that one \$200,000 more. The project has been planned for years. The city working with community members for the new streetscape.

Firefighters getting an upper hand on area fires due to cooler weather and fog, but hotter weather is headed our way and warnings that there could be rolling blackouts for the state's power grid. The Press Democrat reports the extreme heat watch was issued by the National Weather Service with triple digit temperatures also forecast thru the holiday weekend. Cal Fire officials say the hot weather means they'll have to work extra hard to mop up spots where they're still working on finalizing containment on the massive LNU Complex that's scorched ground in 5 counties, killed 5 people and destroyed thousands of structures.

In light of expected higher temperatures, the California Independent Systems Operator has issued an order for power providers to postpone maintenance this weekend that could trigger outages. A spokesperson for PG&E says they're doing what the Independent Systems Operator demands and they don't see any intentional power downs, but they're preparing using updated technology to help them, if need be, restore power more quickly and efficiently. The National Weather Service says smoke from the August Complex fires in the Mendocino National Forest drifting into the County, but mostly elevated. There are excessive heat watches in Lake and Mendocino counties until next Tuesday and Air Quality Alerts continue for Lake.

Those evacuated in the North Bay due to the LNU Lightning Complex fires may be able to get money from the federal government for emergency expenses but the deadline is approaching. The deadline to tap into FEMA help this Saturday for evacuation costs, but it's not for those who had property damage from the fires. It applies to folks in Lake, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Yolo, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties. Some area nonprofits say not many people have applied. FEMA reported as of yesterday afternoon, there were only 340 applications in major Northern California fire zones.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors have heard from officials with PG&E about last year's power shutoffs. The utility company says this time around if they have to power down, it will only affect about a third of those it did last fall. They're working to isolate the power downs by utilizing microgrids and substations which should all be constructed by the 15th, about a week and a half from now. They also said their notifications will have more detailed information about when the power will be off, then on again. It's all part of their Community Wildfire Safety Program.

The president of Adventist Health for Mendocino County is leaving. Jason Wells who oversees the hospitals in Ukiah, Willits, and Fort Bragg announced he was promoted to Chief Consumer and Innovation Officer so he's moving to Roseville at the end of the year. MendoFever reports he will still continue on as the chairman of the 3 hospital community boards after he moves. He says there will be a local president and he'll be the interim president until a new candidate emerges. He tells the news site his new position will address the complexity, uncertainty, and fear patients can feel as they receive medical care, with improved access and experience for patients.

Several soldiers will be assigned to the August Complex on the Mendocino National Forest. The fire has burned more than 261,200 acres and is just 20% contained. In the community meeting last night it was announced that 200 soldiers from Washington who arrived last week have been assigned to the fire. It grew about 19,000 acres yesterday. The biggest part of the fire, the Doe/Glade fire is burning on the Grindstone Ranger District in Glenn and Tehama counties. And the Hull, is burning on the Upper Lake District in northern Lake County and Mendocino County. That triggered an evacuation warning which still holds for the Pillsbury Ranch area. A firefighter was killed on the fire Monday and another injured in a car crash.

As firefighters continue working on containment lines on the massive LNU Lightning Complex, a National Guard firefighter had to be rescued after a fall in steep terrain in Sonoma County. There was no immediate word on the firefighter's condition as they worked on — now what is the 3rd largest fire in state history. Forward movement seems to have stopped on the 375,209-acre complex and containment is at 81% contained. The Hennessey, the largest of the complex has burned just under 318,000 acres.

Two more areas that had been evacuated are allowing residents back in. The evacuation order for areas south of Butts Canyon Road, east of Highway 29 and north and west of the Lake-Napa County line are downgraded to warnings. And the warning for areas north of Morgan Valley Road, east of Highway 53, south of Highway 20 and west of the Lake-Colusa county line are lifted. The are now fire lines all around the Walbridge fire, part of the massive LNU complex. It's 87% contained. And the biggest in the complex, the Hennessey fire has a patrol line all the way around it. They're working on one section near the Lake County line still so there are still evacuation warnings. Since the weather is heating up the next several days they're staffing up again to monitor the fire line. The Hennessey fire's containment is 78% and the entire complex is now 81% contained.

The top health official in Calif. is warning ahead of the Labor Day holiday weekend to limit gatherings and to keep them outside. Health & Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly also reminding to wear masks, socially distance and use good hand hygiene. The acting state health officer with Ghaly at a press conference where she says case numbers and hospitalizations are both down, as well as ICU bed use, which was down 25%. She reminded the state has made incredible progress and they don't want to lose ground over the holiday weekend, that it's time to stay vigilant. The safest thing you can do, Dr. Erica Pan says is to stay at home with the people you live with.

The August Complex burning on the Mendocino National Forest in the Grindstone and Upper Lake Ranger Districts is active. The Forest Service says the fire is only 23% contained and has burned over 287,100 acres. Firefighters working in an active area in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest to slow the spread and protect structures and cultural resources. They're working to improve containment lines ahead of some windy conditions. The Doe Fire on the northwest side of the fire has crossed some early containment lines. Where the Hull Fire started on the southwest side of the Doe Fire there are also more crews being added to reinforce containment lines after a spot fire broke out. They warn smoke will spill into areas creating poor air quality.

After massive fires burned for almost three weeks, the Bureau of Land Management in Ukiah is reopening areas of the Cache Creek Natural Area in Lake and Colusa counties. The BLM says due to reduced wildland fire danger, the areas in the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument are reopening for recreation today. They had closed the public lands across from the monument 2 ½ weeks ago after the LNU Lightning Complex fire started. No cars are being let in, but hiking, biking and horseback riding is allowed again. They're not scarred by the fire. There are other areas still closed though, the Blue Ridge Trail, Fiske Creek Trail and Frog Pond Trail due to wildfire activity. The LNU Lightning Complex has burned more than

09/04/20 more than 375,000 acres in six counties.

The CHP reminds they'll be out on the roads looking for impaired or distracted drivers this long holiday weekend. They say drivers need to keep themselves safe and use caution behind the wheel, use your seatbelt, don't get distracted, drive the speed limit and get a designated driver if you plan to drink. 45 people were killed in crashes in the state last year during the Labor Day holiday. The CHP says about 75% of the accidents where someone died, they were not wearing a seat belt. They say they also made over 1,000 DUI arrests.

Since we're in another heat spell, with that, another warning from the California Independent System Operator there could be rolling outages. There's a statewide Flex Alert starting tomorrow and lasting until Monday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. So we shouldn't be using our appliances during those hours, and if you can stand it, turn your thermostat up a bit. It's supposed be well over 100 degrees with Heat Warnings from the National Weather Service too. Daytime highs are expected to be 10 to 20 degrees above normal and overnight lows as much as 10 degrees higher than normal. There's been no word so far from PG&E about possible public safety power shutoffs.

More people evacuated due to the massive LNU Lightning Complex fire, got to go home. The fire is now 86% contained. The biggest in the Complex, the Hennessey is also 85% contained after it blackened nearly 318,000 acres in Colusa, Lake, Napa, Solano and Yolo. Another section of the fire in Sonoma County, the Walbridge fire has 92% containment after scorching almost 55,000 acres. Crews still working on holding containment lines ahead of the heat wave this weekend and although they're letting some crews leave, they're keeping more than they would in milder weather. There are still 1,350 structures threatened. Almost 1,500 were destroyed, 8 homes here in Lake County.

Some recreational areas along the Russian River are reopened as wildfire danger calms. Some Sonoma County parks and river beaches were closed during the Walbridge and Meyers fires, part of the LNU Lightning Complex. They're reopened just in time for the heat wave this holiday weekend. The National Weather Service had issued an excessive heat warning this weekend. Steelhead, Sunset and Forestville River Access beaches are all open. There are more rangers there to remind folks, we're in the midst of a pandemic. They want to remind people to stay apart and help with traffic too. Masks are also required if you cannot maintain 6-foot distance away from others not in your immediate household.

A settlement's been reached between the operator of two assisted living facilities and the state and local government after the homes abandoned about 100 frail residents in Santa Rosa during the October 2017 firestorm. Oakmont Senior Living in Windsor and two other companies which own and operate the Varenna and Villa Capri facilities were accused of not evacuating the residents who could not have gotten out themselves during the deadly Tubbs Fire. The complaint filed last year by the Sonoma County DA and state Attorney General. The companies have to pay out \$500,000 and have to come up with a disaster and evacuation plan and train staff properly on evacuating. They will also be monitored by an outside company for five years.

Another injury to someone working on the Walbridge Fire, part of the LNU Lightning Complex. Firefighters in rugged terrain of W. Sonoma County when a tree trimmer had a stomach injury after falling yesterday. On Wednesday, another injury, that one for a National Guard soldier who fell 100 feet down a hill working on the same fire. A spokesperson with Cal Fire says they're in steep areas where there are hazards like trees, rocks and places so rugged, they don't have sturdy footing. The Press Democrat reports a foreman with PG&E had been with a tree-trimming company and reported someone had fallen from a tree. But the company has not confirmed that. The man's injuries were said to be serious.

Another virtual townhall is set for renters and homeowners affected by the wildfires. The townhall today on wildfire assistance and insurance. The California Office of Emergency Services director, Insurance Commissioner and an insurance nonprofit will be in the meeting which starts at 1:30 live on the state's Dept. of Insurance Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to view it.

The State Parks Dept. reminding to play ahead for the holiday weekend because many parks are closed this holiday weekend either because of the pandemic or wildfires. State beaches in Monterey County are closed and full or partial vehicle access for Santa Cruz and down south in Santa Barbara as folks get in their cars to vacation over the long weekend. The State Parks Director reminding residents to be responsible to help slow the spread of COVID-19, even in the outdoors. And say with those in your immediate household. So no large gatherings, picnics or parties. He says if there are too many people at a local outdoor destination to socially distance, or visit another time.

The Mendocino County Public Health office reporting on the continued case load saying it's due to ongoing social gatherings and close living quarters, like apartment complexes. The office says that could mean a faster spread of the virus. A reminder too for the holiday weekend about previous holidays causing surges and outbreaks. The new Public Health Officer, Dr. Andy Coren says cases are starting to go down but we could have a setback from a holiday spike from extended family gatherings, parties, or because of folks living in close quarters. The office says there should be no social gatherings outside of your household of 6 unchanging people. Backyard gatherings of more than that can spread the virus. And all the rest of the restrictions we've come to expect, mask wearing, social distancing and good hand hygiene. We have a new Evacuation Warning for Mendocino National Forest north of Hull Mountain in Mendocino County. A warning to be ready to leave and if you feel unsafe to leave immediately and not to wait. To monitor media and Nixle and not to call 911 for information, only for a life-threatening emergency.

PG&E reminding this weekend we have a heat warning and with that a Flex Alert from 3-9 pm each day. The utility company is urging customers to reduce energy use during those hours as "air conditioners drive consumption." They remind if you conserve during those hours, others will be able to also use their air. TO avoid running your appliances during these hours, close your drapes and turn off unnecessary lights. The Flex Alert by the Independent System Operator is an urgent call to "conserve electricity and shift demand to off-peak hours."

[The Calif. Coastal Cleanup will look a little different this year, with a call to res](#)

More containment on the major fires in Calif, less firefighters. 1,100 less firefighters on the ground of the 23 major fires and lightning complexes. Many evacuation orders and warnings lifted or downgraded since the lightning storm August 15th. There is however an extreme heat wave this weekend with expected triple digit temperatures. That led the National Weather Service to issue an Excessive Heat Warning from Saturday to Tuesday for a lot of the state. Cal Fire urging residents to be extremely careful this weekend to prevent starting a fire. The fire danger is elevated in this weather. The LNU Complex has stopped forward movement and has more containment. It's burned 375,209 acres and is 87% contained, the Hennessey, part of the Complex burned 317,909 acres, and is 88% contained, The Wallbridge at 54,940 acres is 93% contained and the smallest of the Complex is 100% contained, the Meyers has scorched 2,360 acres.

Unemployment is up for the second week. After some improvement for several weeks, there's a second wave that moves with the second wave of shutdowns because of the pandemic. More than 8 million Californians have filed since March. Another 237,000 filed last week, 40,000 more than a week before. But the number of claims in the country were down 130,000 from a week before. Last week in Calif. was the highest amount of claims since July 25th.

The Governor has issued a state of emergency due to this weekend's heatwave. The California Office of Emergency Services reports the Governor signed an emergency proclamation so there's more energy capacity because of forecasts for extreme temperatures across the state. This allows power plants to generate more power, temporarily suspending some permitting requirements so the state's energy grid can handle the demand. Violations of the requirements are reported to local authorities and state regulators.

The state Employment Development Department could potentially be audited after complaints that some people are still awaiting payment after filing claims all the way back in March. A Republican state senator in Riverside County says one of her constituents told her he hasn't received any money and can't get anyone on the phone. Senator Melissa Melendez says it's unacceptable. She says another told her he got more than 100 envelopes from the unemployment office to his home even though he had a job and never applied. The envelopes she says, were addressed to more than 300 people and some had debit cards in them. The unemployment dept. says there have been an onslaught of fraud attempts since the pandemic started. A bright spot though, next week the department will add another \$300 to the weekly unemployment benefit for those who have claims.

There's an Evacuation Warning for all Mendocino County in the Mendocino National Forest, north of Hull Mountain. There are vacation homes and primary residences along with undeveloped private lands threatened by the August Complex fire in the National Forest. Residents are asked to be ready to leave. The Forest Service reports there's a shift in wind coming Monday and Tuesday which could bring more fire activity to the Complex. The Hull, Doe, Tatham, and Glade fires are all one large fire. And more firefighters are being brought to the more active parts of the Complex. So far it's burned nearly 298,300 acres and is 23% contained.

The August Complex is continuing to burn as a Red Flag Warning continues. The fire has charred 349,565 acres and is 24 percent contained. The Hull, Doe, Tatham, and Glade fires burned into one giant fire. Over the weekend the winds shifted directions and today we could see strong gusts of up to 30-40 mph. The Red Flag Warning issued Sunday for last night starting at 10 pm until tomorrow morning at 8 am. With that comes the possibility of more fire activity and spread with heavy smoke. Mendocino National Forest

09/08/20 officials have also updated the closure area due to the August Complex.

The new closure will be in place until the end of October. The Snow Mountain Wilderness is open to recreation, but most of the southern area is closed so firefighters have better access and the public is kept safe from fire behavior and hazards because of the fire. Smoke from the fire's in the unhealthy range at times. Plus there's still a Fire Weather Warning in effect until tomorrow.

There's an evacuation Order for the Mendocino National Forest in Glenn County still in place due to the fire. It's from the Forest Boundary west to the Mendocino County line due to the active fire burning on west side. More areas have also been added to the Pillsbury Ranch evacuation order to include the entire Lake Pillsbury Basin. So all areas and residents north of Pack Saddle Creek, south of the Lake County line, west of the Lake County Line and east of the Lake County Line have to leave their homes due to an immediate threat. If you need a temporary shelter, go to the Upper Lake County Park at 575 East Hwy. 20. You must stay in your vehicle and wear masks when you get there.

A new fire over the weekend in Mendocino County has triggered evacuations. The Oak Fire has burned 1,000 acres West of Highway 101 at Big John Road & Skyview Road, in the Brooktrails area of Willits. The Evacuation Order is right there, for Big John Rd, Skyview Rd, First Gate Road, Schow Road to Ryan Creek, and north and east of Big John Road. Crews say the fire's burning in grass, brush, oak and pine trees in extreme conditions with high heat, low humidity, and a potential for erratic winds.

[Due to the LNU Complex which is more than 90% contained now, Lake Coun](#)

A couple from Clearlake have been arrested in Redwood Valley for drug sales. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office reports a deputy on routine patrol seeing a Jeep in Redwood Valley with expired registration tabs. The driver, Joseph Fitzgerald and his passenger Allison Strout. She had some outstanding Humboldt County arrest warrants with search terms, deputies found a bunch of heroin and some meth. They say Fitzgerald was going to sell the heroin so he was arrested for possession of narcotics for sale and Strout for the outstanding warrants.

Solar arrays have been put up on three schools in the Ukiah Unified School District. Calpella Elementary, Eagle Peak Middle School, and Grace Hudson Elementary. The school district working with a company in Santa Rosa to be more energy efficient. The solar panels are supposed to save the district money along with new LED lighting. The school district says with all of the savings, they can then upgrade heating, ventilation, and air conditioning at Grace Hudson. The three ground-mounted systems are reportedly saving the district nearly \$208,000 a year.

Because the August Complex keeps growing and the containment is still only 24% the evacuation orders have grown with the fire. The Lake Pillsbury Ranch area in Lake County has been ordered to leave and the United States Forest Service has ordered a temporary closure of all of the day use and campsites in the Forest. There's been no update from the Forest Service so far this morning on the fire. The last update was about 24 hours ago. The fire's now the fourth largest wildfire in modern California history, burning on part of the scar from the largest fire ever recorded in the state, the Mendocino Complex. This fire is expected to keep burning even as it slows in the fire scar. The August Complex has burned more than 356,350 acres. There's a red flag warning for the eastern areas of Mendocino County and a large swath of Lake County above 1500 feet. Also in Sonoma County due to powerful winds expected today. Meteorologists have forecasted wind gusts of up to 25 to 30 mph in the valleys and stronger gusts up to 50 mph on hilltops and ridge lines.

There are a couple of evacuation centers set up for the Oak Fire as 3,400 structures are reportedly threatened. One center at Willits High, and the other at Baechtel Grove Middle School. Large animals can be taken to Willits High also. In Laytonville, evacuees and large animals can also head to Harwood Park. If you've tested positive for coronavirus or are under isolation orders or quarantine and have to evacuate, there is another location set up. There is no school for the Willits and Laytonville school districts today due to the fire.

As of last night the Oak Fire had crossed the 101 north of Oil Well Hill. The highway is closed between the north end of the Willits Bypass, and the intersection with State Route 162 to the north. You cannot get into the Brooktrails area at all and there's no estimated time of reopening. All of the area is under a mandatory evacuation order and more in the Willits area today, but no residential areas as of last night. The fire has burned 1,000 acres and is 0% contained. The fire being fought on the ground and in the air by Cal Fire with local departments and prisoner hand crews. Additional resources have been called.

Flare-ups have been reported on the LNU Lightning Complex fire's Walbridge fire in Sonoma County. That has caused a new evacuation order and evacuation warning. The fire has not moved as far as acreage, it's burning more actively, but within containment lines. It's burned just under 55,000 acres and was 95% contained. The entire complex has charred 375,209 acres and 91-percent contained. On Saturday the Sheriff lifted evacuation orders, then last night the Sheriff's office issued new mandatory orders and a warning for another area. For Lake County, the Hennessey fire has remained in its containment lines. The fire has also burned in Colusa, Napa, Solano and Yolo counties and is still at 317,909 acres and 91-percent contained.

PG&E has started to turn power off across Northern Calif because of the extreme fire weather. 22 counties in Northern California could have outages thru tomorrow morning, but only two dozen Lake County residents and no Mendocino County residents were expected to be affected. The latest public safety power shutoff due to the forecast of extreme heat, low humidity and gusty winds, a mixture that can create critical fire weather with high ignition risk. None of those affected in Lake County were medical baseline customers. Those who do lose their power were expected to go dark between 3 and 6 a.m. this morning and have it restored tomorrow night by 7 p.m. PG&E is using temporary generation and islanding so 69,000 customers and several medical facilities stay online.

The Oak Fire's growth downgraded by Cal Fire from 1,000 acres to 863. The fire which blew up yesterday was expected to expand overnight because of windy weather, but it thankfully did not happen and instead, the acreage shrunk. It was also zero percent contained last night, and this morning the fire agency said they had it 5% surrounded. So far one structure has burned. The 101 is still closed north of Willits in Mendocino County from the North Willits on-ramp to the 101's intersection with State Route 162 at Longvale. There is no estimated time for reopening. Winds are unfortunately supposed to pick up this afternoon. There are also mandatory evacuations for the entire Brooktrails area and nobody is allowed to come into the area. The route out is very narrow, and no large rigs will be allowed thru. Mandatory Evacuation Orders — West of the 101 and Main St in Willits to Sherwood Rd, North East of Sherwood Rd to near 2nd Gate rd, south of Schow Road to the 101, East of the 101 extending 1 mile East of Hwy 101. All homes accessed off of Shimmons Ridge Rd., west of Sherwood Rd from Main St in Willits, up to Timber Rd, South of and including homes accessed off of Timber Rd, East of Blue Lake Rd and Ridge Rd including all homes on those roads, and North of Willits City Limits. Evacuation Order, West side of Hwy 101, North of and including homes accessed off Schow Rd., to East of Scherwood Rd near 2nd Gate Rd, and South of and including all houses off of 3rd Gate Rd.

Evacuation centers are open at Willits High School and Baechtel Grove Middle School. Animals are also being evacuated to the high school.

There was no school in Willits and Laytonville today. Unfortunately, if you need to do banking at the Savings Bank Laytonville Banking Center, it's also closed. Another fire breaks out in Ukiah... Mendo Fever reporting Ukiah Valley Fire Authority got a call early this morning to a fire in the 850 block of North State Street, to the Redwood Tree Service Station. Police say there was "significant damage" to the building. When firefighters arrived they found fire outside the building and possibly extending inside. Firefighters controlled the exterior fire and went inside, finding flames on the second floor of the building, extinguishing that. The fire is under investigation, no word how it may have started.

Several miles of the 101 north of Willits are still closed due to the Oak fire. The fire started along the west side of the highway yesterday afternoon and exploded in size within hours to 700 acres. Cal Fire had estimated the fire hit 1,000 acres last night, but downgraded it this morning to 863 acres burned. 3,700 people have been ordered to leave their homes and there is no way for them to get back as there's only one road in. The township of Brooktrails is where the homes are threatened and firefighters are building fire lines with an existing road and a recent vegetation management program. Firefighters took advantage of cooler weather this morning, but winds were expected to kick up later this afternoon into the evening in deep ravines and wooded areas. Drivers cannot get thru the area unless they use long, curvy bypasses. Instead they're told to use Highway 1 between Leggett and Fort Bragg, then connect to the 101 via Highway 20.

Mendocino County Animal Care has established a site on the south side of the Willits High School for domestic animals. Utilizing the disaster preparedness trailer donated by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Animal Care has the capacity to lodge approximately 100 domestic dogs and cats.

Animal Care has resources for larger domestic animals, horses, and livestock at the Willits Junior Horseman's Association. Larger livestock can be delivered to 901 East Commercial Street in Willits for lodging.

The entrance to the Animal Care disaster rescue station is marked with signs on North Main Street in Willits, just south of the entrance to the Willits High School.

Smaller domestic animals can be taken to the south end of the Willits High School or can be coordinated through Animal Care to meet with citizens who have domestic animals from the evacuation area. To coordinate a pickup of a domestic animal with Animal Care, please contact the Call Center at 707-234-6052.

Animal Care is also requesting donations of blankets, towels, and sheets for the disaster rescue station. These items can be donated at the Willits High School Agriculture Building. Other monetary donations for animal food can be made at JD Redhouse at 212 S. Main Street in Willits, California.

The Oak Fire has not moved more thankfully, with the containment up a bit too. Firefighters kept the Willits fire from growing thanks to lower winds than expected. The fire started Monday afternoon near the Brooktrails neighborhood. The fire quickly jumped to 700-acres by nighttime Monday. Yesterday it grew to 863 acres and went from 5-10% contained thanks to cooler temperatures. There was also smoke hovering over the fire from the August Complex fires burning in the Mendocino National Forest. Cal Fire reported the smoke cover, lower temperatures and calmer wind assisted firefighters. There are more than 4,300 people evacuated and another 2,275 were warned they may also have to leave. 13 miles of the 101 north of Willits has been closed indefinitely until trees can be cleared. Also air pollution is bad in the area, hitting the top of the six tier scale last night according to the EPA. Some said it seemed like the middle of the night, in the middle of the day, calling it apocalyptic. 2 structures have been

09/09/20 destroyed.

The August Complex grew last night to 421,899 acres leading to more evacuation orders east of Covelo yesterday. It's only 24% contained. That fire was the reason for the evening like skies above Willits. State Senator Mike McGuire says Cal Fire has been monitoring the August Complex Fire. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook the fire was just four miles from the Eel River Work Center, the boundary of the National Forest. The Press Democrat reports McGuire saying firefighters, engines and dozers will hopefully be able to leave the Oak fire as soon as containment is higher to help on the August Complex. More firefighters are expected in Mendocino County this afternoon.

A fire in Clearlake had police door knocking telling people they had to evacuate. The fire yesterday afternoon triggered mandatory evacuations for a four block area. Roads were also closed as nearby structures were threatened and one burned. A couple helicopters were above the fire last night dropping water on the flames. Lake Co News reports one structure and multiple cars burned, but forward progress on the fire was stopped within a couple hours.

A flare-up reported on the massive LNU Lighting Complex in Sonoma County. The Walbridge fire has been mostly burning within its own containment lines. It's 90% contained, but it's burned 20 more acres about four miles west of downtown Windsor. They had the flare-up corralled in a few hours, but there were new mandatory evacuations for people who had just been allowed to go home again after another round of evacuations. Some of the new orders were lifted again yesterday morning. But others were in place still last night.

A student from Sonoma State University reportedly contracted coronavirus and is isolating on campus. The school announced the student is in a dorm designated for infected students and is being monitored. Also word that three school employees are also being monitored for symptoms due to exposure. The university also announcing a staff member had the virus, testing positive August 24th but it's unrelated to the student. The employee also was not on campus when she was symptomatic, but didn't tell the school about her positive test until after she was considered recovered. All staff and students have to do daily health assessments and immediately tell the school if they have tested positive.

Mendocino County has a new health order regarding Covid-19. The order was released last night and became effective immediately. It follows the new State tiered system, and remains in the purple, Widespread risk category. But there are some modifications for transient lodging and certain State-permitted outdoor gatherings. The 24 hour vacancy restriction between reservations is no longer. Also the cap on outdoor gatherings of up to 50 people are removed. But there is a restriction that it be limited to accommodate people and still maintain a minimum of six feet social distancing between attendees from different households or living units. Also outdoor venues for gatherings and church services can reopen too. Worship services are required to have contact sign in sheets for two weeks after their events for possible contact tracing.

Another death has been reported in Lake County due to coronavirus. The Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace announced the death yesterday of another resident of a senior care facility where there had been an outbreak. Dr. Pace says the patient was older than 65 and had underlying chronic medical issues. They had tested positive before becoming ill.

A change in regulations says any child in the Ukiah area under 18 years old is eligible for free food from the Ukiah Unified School District. The School District out with the information that Ukiah High will have food distribution on Wednesdays from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm regardless of weather. There will be no bus deliveries though. It's breakfast and lunch, thanks to a state program that covers the meals. There's also a free drive thru BBQ today for all children in the district and in the community from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Ukiah High.

A warning about air quality due to the smoke coming from the August Complex, Red Salmon and Oak Fires. The Air Quality Management District says to expect widespread haze and smoke in most of Mendocino County. Right now there's dense smoke over the county, but the changing wind directions and high pressure can move the smoke down to the surface bringing "Very Unhealthy" to "Hazardous" air to the area. Air monitors show particulate matter concentrations in the "Moderate" to "Unhealthy" range for most parts of the County and "Hazardous" to Willits and its surrounding area. Inland communities may experience episodes of "Very Unhealthy" air quality. Coastal areas can have "Good" air quality conditions in the morning and "Moderate" and "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" later in the day.

Nurse practitioners in Calif can have their own practices. Thanks to a bill by North Coast Assemblyman Jim Wood, now awaiting the Governor's signature. Wood says working for the last 2 years on the bill was challenging and sometimes unpleasant because of the opposition. He says there were more than a dozen organizations representing doctors from outside of the state launching attacks that were full of misinformation and they made uncivilized personal attacks. But the California Association for Nurse Practitioners was behind him. Wood says 11 million residents don't live near a health care provider, and his bill will allow nurse practitioners to provide care without a doctor supervising. He says the pandemic has shown we have a serious shortage of primary care doctors in California.

As they have many times in the past, the Redwood Credit Union Community Fund has started a Fire Relief Fund. The 2020 Fire Relief Fund for those who've lost their homes to recent fires and ahead of any other fires that may cause others to lose their home. The president and CEO says every year there are new wildfires, "taking a toll on our communities' emotional and financial wellness". He says putting the relief fund together for survivors "simply feels like the right thing to do." 100% of the tax-deductible donations are given directly to fire survivors who have lost their primary residence in Sonoma, Marin, Napa, and Lake counties. For more info, redwoodcu.org/2020-fire-assistance.

Since lawmakers had two months off because of the pandemic, a slew of bills await the governor's signature. If he doesn't sign, it passes, unless he vetoes it first. Legislators back in May passed a smaller state budget due to coronavirus. There were also several hundred bills that had to be tabled because of the new budget deficit, instead of surplus. Some included allowing police to get involved if they see other officers using excessive force, allow homeowners to get a forbearance on mortgages during the pandemic, and a "Green New Deal" like package to fight climate change. Growth on the LNU Lightning Complex has not moved, and in fact Cal Fire has adjusted the acreage, down about 12,000 acres the last couple of days. The fire is at 363,220 acres and is 92% contained. The largest in the complex the Hennessey itself has burned just under 318,000 and is 92% contained. The Walbridge fire has been active near Windsor, with fresh evacuations, but the containment was not broken, it's at 54,940 acres and is 95% contained. The Complex has destroyed almost 1,500 structures. There have been 5 deaths and 5 people injured.

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County has granted several thousand dollars to Mendocino College. A \$10,000 check was donated to support the Mendocino College Food Pantry from the Foundation's COVID-19 Relief Fund. The president of the College accepted the money last Friday. The Foundation started the relief fund in March after the pandemic first surfaced. It was put together to help individuals, non-profits, and small businesses in the county. SO far they've awarded over \$700,000 countywide to support those impacted by the pandemic.

The fire in the Mendocino Forest is not stopping and the containment is not growing. The August Complex exploded in size yesterday, but now one of the fires in the Complex has been removed from the acreage count and will be managed as part of another Complex. The August Complex has burned more than 372,000 acres and is 24 percent contained. But the Hopkins Fire which has burned nearly 50,000 acres in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness. Windy conditions continued today and structure protection is in place with new evacuations by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office for the Island Mountain and Mina areas north of Bell Springs and north of Covelo. The August Complex is burning where Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties meet. The Doe Fire is the biggest fire burning in the August Complex and stays as part of that Complex. But the Hopkins and Elkhorn, and Willow Basin fires, which are mostly burning in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, will become part of the new complex, the Rock Complex. All National Forests in Calif. have been closed due to the historical fires across the state. The Pacific Southwest Region of the US Forest Service announced they are closing ten more National Forests, so the entire National Forest system in the state is closed. The addition to earlier closures now includes the Eldorado National Forest, Klamath National Forest, Lassen National Forest, Mendocino National Forest, Modoc National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest, Plumas National Forest, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Tahoe National Forest, and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

PG&E says nearly 100% of those who lost power in the latest public safety power shutoff are back online. The utility activated the power down Monday night for 22 counties including some in Lake County, but not Mendocino due to red flag weather conditions. Yesterday PG&E went about inspecting their equipment by air and the ground, on more than 10,750 miles of transmission and distribution power lines, but had to stop for a time because of unsafe flying conditions. They say they found no wind-related damage to their equipment. Only 24 residents of Lake County were affected and none were medical baseline customers. There are still some 5,000 customers in Butte, Humboldt, Napa, Plumas, Sierra, Trinity and Yuba counties without power, but it's expected to be back on by noon today.

There's been another death from COVID-19 in Mendocino County. The Public Health Dept. also announced only one new case yesterday, for a total of 778. The new death happened outside the county, but the health department did include it on the latest coronavirus dashboard data. A big rig rollover closed Highway 1 about three miles from the 101 in Leggett. The California Highway Patrol reported the rig was totally blocking the highway so there was no way to get through as the 101 was still closed at the time due to the Oak Fire. Neither is the case now, as the 101 was reopened around 830 or so last night and the big rig accident on the 1 was cleaned up about an hour later.

Most of Brooktrails can go home, except "Zone 1" – and includes the areas Third Gate Road, Skyview Road, Big John Road, Live Oak Drive, and Ryan Creek Road west of Highway 101.

09/10/20

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

WHAT: Fire officials will provide an operational update on the current status of the Oak fire in the Willits area of Mendocino County and be available to answer questions submitted online via Facebook.

WHEN: 6:00 p.m. Thursday September 10, 2020

WHERE: Facebook Live – <http://facebook.com/calfiremeu>

CAL FIRE is committed to providing the public with regular incident updates and information. This meeting will be a virtual event to ensure we are keeping the public informed while providing for proper Covid procedures for social distancing. We are committed to answering your online questions and will field some questions at the conclusion of the virtual meeting, all others will be answered online via Facebook.

SAFETY MESSAGE – The public is reminded to stay vigilant on current fire conditions. Please continue to adhere to road closures and any evacuation orders or warnings. If you see electrical wires on the ground, stay clear and contact 911 immediately. Trees and poles with deep charring, particularly if still smoking, should be considered hazardous. Please drive slowly and yield to emergency personnel in the area.

The 101 is opened again near the Oak Fire outside Willits. Cal Trans announced the reopening last night as the fire's containment grew. The fire is still at 863 acres and is now 25% contained. The fire burning north of Brooktrails into a canyon along the highway. Cal Fire had announced the highway would be closed indefinitely, but lower temperatures and smoke hovering in the area due to other fires helped firefighters get a foothold on the fire. 2 structures are known to have burned, but Cal Fire's damage inspection teams are going to survey the area to see if there are more.

There are new evacuations in Humboldt County due to fires in the Shasta Trinity and Mendocino Forests. Garberville is also under an evacuation warning. What was part of the August Complex and now part of a new Complex instead. The two fires burning in Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, Tehama, Trinity and Humboldt counties. The Mendocino County Sheriff ordered evacuations yesterday. The August Complex has jumped the Black Butte River and M1 Forest Road. It's also burning in the Yuki Wilderness, and possibly into the Middle Fork Eel River Canyon. Aircraft has not been able to assess the area due to heavy smoke and wind. The Elkhorn and Hopkins are part of the new Rock Complex. The Hopkins Fire had zero percent containment and burned almost 50,000 acres and the Elkhorn has burned 69,735 acres and is 58% contained.

A badly decomposed body's been found in the Mendocino National Forest, it had nothing to do with the fires. It was last month, August 9th, that deputies got a call that possible human remains were found. So detectives from the Department's Major Crimes Unit responded and determined the remains were human and badly decomposed. There was an autopsy that week revealing it was 48 year old John Dickerson of Nice who was a murder victim. Detectives have not released how he died and are still investigating. They ask anyone who may have known him to call.

Still thousands evacuated near the Brooktrails neighborhood and more warned to be ready. Several others told to leave their home near Covelo due to the August Complex which started almost 3 weeks ago. The August Complex which has now been split into two Complex's has burned nearly 422,000 acres, the second most acreage in the state. It's only 24% contained. As we reported yesterday all US Forests are now closed in the state. There were 8 closed Monday, then yesterday another 10, including the Mendocino National Forest due to explosive growth of fires throughout the state.

Another fire is threatening thousands of homes in 3 counties, Butte, Plumas and Yuba. The North Complex has killed three people and several others have been critically burned. Several structures have burned and at least 20,000 people have been evacuated or warned they may have to leave their homes. The fire has burned more than 252,000 acres and is only 24% contained. Part of the town of Paradise, which was mostly destroyed by the Camp Fire in 2018, is under an evacuation warning. 85 people died in that fire. The 3 deaths announced by the Butte County sheriff this time, but no further details were released. Several homes have been destroyed in the county.

The oldest state park in California is closed after damage brought by another fire, the CZU August Lightning Complex fires. The State Parks department says there was damage to Big Basin Redwoods State Park and the surrounding community in Santa Cruz. The redwoods in the park are unstable, so they have to be stress tested ahead of winter storms before the public can return. One of the scientists at the park says no prescribed burns, along with vegetation buildup were contributing factors for the worst fire in Big Basin park in recorded history. The park's headquarters burned along with the main lodge, ranger station, nature museum and campground facilities.

PG&E says nearly 100% of those who lost power in the latest public safety power shutoff are back online. The utility activated the power down Monday night for 22 counties including some in Lake County, but not Mendocino due to red flag weather conditions. Yesterday PG&E went about inspecting their equipment by air and the ground, on more than 10,750 miles of transmission and distribution power lines, but had to stop for a time because of unsafe flying conditions. They say they found no wind-related damage to their equipment. Only 24 residents of Lake County were affected and none were medical baseline customers. There are still some 5,000 customers in Butte, Humboldt, Napa, Plumas, Sierra, Trinity and Yuba counties without power, but it's expected to be back on by noon today.

There's been another death from COVID-19 in Mendocino County. The Public Health Dept. also announced only one new case yesterday, for a total of 778. The new death happened outside the county, but the health department did include it on the latest coronavirus dashboard data.

A big rig rollover closed Highway 1 about three miles from the 101 in Leggett. The California Highway Patrol reported the rig was totally blocking the highway so there was no way to get through as the 101 was still closed at the time due to the Oak Fire. Neither is the case now, as the 101 was reopened around 830 or so last night and the big rig accident on the 1 was cleaned up about an hour later.

[A local health emergency has been declared in Lake County due to smoke fr](#)

[Even though the August Complex has been split into two Complexes, the For](#)

A harmful algae has been detected in the Navarro River. The California Department of Parks and Recreation says high levels of cyanotoxins can be unhealthy for pets and humans. They warn not to touch the water or let pets drink the water or go into the river. And not to eat fish or shellfish from the river or use river water for drinking or cooling. And the Parks and Rec Dept. warns even boiling or filtering the water, won't make it safe. If you happen to come into contact with infected water, you should get out and rinse off immediately and quickly seek medical attention if there are adverse effects.

Most of the people evacuated in the Brooktrails neighborhood have been allowed to return home. One area, officials call Zone 1 has to stay out of the area, that's the area of Third Gate Road, Skyview Road, Big John Road, Live Oak Drive, and Ryan Creek Road west of the 101. There will be law enforcement stationed in the area with new road closures so nobody can enter the area where there is active fire burning. So both access roads to Ryan Creek Road from the 101 (north and south) and Third Gate road near the Metzler Ridge Road intersection. Nobody can pass the road closures and get into Zone 1 because there is fire damage. There are still evacuation warnings for 3 other Zones. The fire has burned 1,100 acres and destroyed 20 structures. 20 others are damaged and 2,000 are threatened. It's 40%

09/11/20 contained.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors in a special meeting have ratified the Public Health officer's health emergency declaration due to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire. The fire burned 85,000 acres and destroyed several homes in Lake County, and 363,220 total acres across Lake, Colusa, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties. The fire is 95% contained, but there's no date certain for full containment yet. The Hennessey Fire, part of the Complex, is the fire that burned in Lake. It's also 95 percent contained. Lake Co News reports there were thousands, possibly up to 7,000, residents told to evacuate because of the fire. All evacuation orders and warnings have since been lifted. Hundreds of firefighters are still assigned to the Complex to get that final containment. The county's Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace told the board yesterday the emergency proclamation was "mainly to help us move through the cleanup process" which he estimated could begin today.

A lawsuit has been filed against Lake County after a major resort and residential project was approved. The Center for Biological Diversity is suing to get the approval of the Guenoc Valley Mixed Use Planned Development Project reversed. The so-called Maha Guenoc Valley development on 16,000 acres with nearly 1,400 residential estate villas, 400 hotel units and 450 resort residential units. There are also campsites, workforce units, a spa, sports fields, equestrian center, golf course and outdoor entertainment area. Only one Board Supervisor, Rob Brown voted against the project. The Center for Biological Diversity objecting to it being in a fire-prone area with one two-lane road in and out, and that it will bring pollution. They also claim the county's environmental impact report had violated the state's

~~Environmental Quality Act~~
A car crash near Middletown last week has been identified. The Lake County Sheriff's Office reports 74 year old Robert Lewis Cromer was killed in the crash last Friday morning on Highway 29 after he was hit by a Kia Optima driven by Bryan Taber of Clearlake Oaks. The CHP reports Taber in the northbound on Highway 29 and drifted across the double yellow lines and crashed into Cromer. Cromer died at the scene of the crash and Taber had major injuries and was reportedly DUI of prescription meds.

A woman from Lake County has been arrested after a fire broke out along the railroad tracks near the Adventist Health Ukiah Valley hospital in Ukiah. Police say they got several calls Wednesday about the fire in the 200 block of Hospital Drive and that the person who may have been responsible was still parked nearby. Police reported to the area with Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, but the fire had been put out by community members. It burned vegetation and bark after someone says they saw the woman, now identified as Michele Gray toss a burning piece of paper. Gray, aka Michele Huey, of Lucerne also had a felony warrant for her arrest regarding four arsons in Willits on Christmas Eve last year. She's now charged with suspicion of arson, and arson during a state of emergency and held on \$25,000 bail.

The Humboldt County Health Officer says an outbreak of coronavirus led to more than 20 cases after a gathering of as many as 50 people. Health Officer Teresa Frankovich says it's still against state rules to have gatherings of any size outside a household or living unit. She says now there are positive cases in others who were not at the party because they were exposed to others who were there. She says staying within your own household unit is safest but if you do socialize outside your household, to do it safely with less than 6 people; outdoors only; wear masks unless you are at least 6 feet apart; bring your own food and drinks; carry and use hand sanitizer and if possible, socialize only with this small group.

Fires that had been part of the August Complex and now part of a new one, called the North Zone. It's made up of the Elkhorn, Hopkins, Vinegar Peak and Willow Basin and are being managed by a different US Forest Service team. The fire's burning on the Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. Crews working to protect structures in the Ruth Valley. They're trying to push it to Horse Ridge and Soldier Basin. The Hopkins just about 50,000 acres and is zero percent contained, the Elkhorn at 69,735 is 58% contained. But the August Complex which still includes these fires as of last night had burned an astounding 746,607 acres. It's still only 25% contained. More than 2,000 homes have been destroyed in the North Complex, 10 people have been killed and 16 others are missing.

Fires in California this year have burned 26 times higher more acreage than in 2019 during the same time period. There have been 19 fatalities and more than 3,900 structures have been destroyed. The increase in the number of fatalities includes seven more confirmed in the newly named North Complex Fire in Butte County which had been part of the August Complex. The fire blew up yesterday due to the merging of the Elkhorn, Hopkins, Willow, and Vinegar fires. But the smoke layer over a lot of Northern California will help maintain cooler temperatures this weekend and next week increased humidity will also help. But actual expected fire weather is normally in September and October. The Oak Fire has grown some to 1,100 acres from 863 a day before. Containment also grew to 40% and most evacuees have been allowed to go home in the Brooktrails neighborhood. One Zone is still evacuated and three are warned they could have to leave again.

The LNU Lightning Complex has burned 363,220 acres and firefighters are working to surround the last bit of the fire. It's 95% contained and has destroyed almost 1,500 acres and killed 5 people, including a traveling firefighter from Texas.

The North Complex, mostly burning in Plumas County has burned 252,534 acres and is 23% contained with evacuations in place. The August Complex is now at almost 491,450 acres and is only 25% contained. It's burning in the Mendocino National Forest and two others. It's the largest ever in the state now, blowing past the Mendocino Complex. There will be a another Virtual Public Meeting, last night it was Cal Fire on the Oak Fire, tonight at 7 for the August and North Zone Complex Fires. It'll be on the Mendocino National Forest @MendocinoNF Facebook page.

FEMA has approved a one week extension on the deadline for those needing help after the LNU Complex. You then have until tomorrow instead of last Saturday to apply with FEMA for critical needs if you've lost your home. The Critical Needs Assistance program for life-saving and life-sustaining items like water, food, first aid, prescriptions, infant formula, diapers, consumable medical supplies, durable medical equipment, personal hygiene items, and fuel for transportation. It's a onetime \$500 payment per household. Your pre-disaster primary residence has to be in Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, or Yolo County.

The August Complex has now become the deadliest of the year with reports this morning of ten deaths, in Butte County. The Sheriff there announced seven deaths yesterday and 16 more are missing. And more bodies may be found the Sheriff says as teams are sifting thru burned ground. A team of anthropologists from Chico State University are helping. More than 2,000 homes and other buildings have been destroyed in the part of the fire, now dubbed the North Complex. Burning in some parts that were devastated by the Camp Fire, not even two years ago. There was an evacuation warning for Paradise lifted yesterday. The town was mostly destroyed by the Camp Fire. There are still about 20,000 people under evacuation orders or warnings in three counties from the fire.

The US Forest Service and CAL FIRE working together on the biggest fire to ever burn in California. Their coordinated response to manage and suppress the August Complex which has three zones for management purposes, the North, South and West Zones. All together the fire has burned 755,603 acres with 30% containment. The fire size slightly down after more accurate mapping and establishing management zones. Firefighters are mopping up all along the fire's perimeter with ground and aerial resources. Some of it being done by soldiers from Washington's Joint Base Lewis-McChord. A dozer line is being completed around the Salt Creek Conservation Camp and a structure protection group has been established in the Pillsbury Lake Basin. Crews are monitoring and patrolling the fire area. The fire has also crossed containment lines in the Yuki Wilderness and made a run to the west. Greg Gonzalez one of the managers on the incident... Firefighters are working in smoky conditions again today with low relative humidity and cooler temperatures in the the upper 70s to mid-80s. There is wind expected of 10-15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph. Fire activity will continue to remain

09/14/20 high due to critically dry fuels.

Another day of critical fire weather due to dry conditions, low humidity and less smoke hovering over the fire zone. The joint handling of the massive August complex by the Forest Service and Cal Fire with priority in the North Zone for structure protection, line construction (away from the fire's edge), direct line construction and tactical firing operations. The President met with the Governor today on the various fires burning across the state too.

A rare "fire tornado" hits the Central Valley near Huntington Lake in Fresno County. That from the Creek fire which spread fast last week. High flying flames mixed with fast moving wind caused trees to be uprooted. The Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department Chief and others in his department caught pictures and videos they were going to show evacuees. The fire tornado, aka fire whirl due to intense heat which causes hot air to surge up from the ground and form a whirl or tornado-like rotating column of air. The State Fire Marshall's inspectors say the fire behavior is the worst they've seen in their careers.

At a special meeting of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors they declared a local emergency due to wildfires. They also agreed to a local health emergency related to the fires, air quality and increased risk of spreading Covid-19. The new health officer Dr. Andy Coren says the fires are a hazard to human life.

He also commented on the threat of spreading COVID amongst evacuees...

The Oak Fire has stayed at 1,100 acres and is at 95% containment as of the last report last night. At the meeting Friday, the chief of Cal Fire's Mendo Unit, George Gonzalez said firefighters were working in difficult terrain. He also spoke about the massive August Complex which triggered new evacuations this weekend outside Covelo. The fire has several zones since it's so big, burning almost 756,000 acres with very low containment still. Thankfully there has been no loss of life due to this fire.

Sheriff Matt Kendall at the meeting with the supervisors explaining the zones and how they're divided...

The Emerald Triangle of Mendocino Trinity and Humboldt County inundated with smoke, but the sheriff says that's actually helped slow forward movement of the fires.

For the first time in months there were no new cases of Covid-19 in Mendocino County, then the weekend arrived and there were several. The 11 new cases this weekend bring the county total to 789.

More evacuations ordered by the Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall due to the August Complex, West Zone. The Eden Valley Area, Bennett Valley, and the West Face Of Sanhedrin Mountain. There are also warnings for several areas on the Sheriff's Facebook page. There are also road closures near Williams Creek, Bell Springs, Mendocino Pass Road and Hearst Willits Road at the bridge. As far as the Oak Fire goes, all of the Evacuation Orders and Warnings have been lifted. There had been only one zone left under Evacuation Order, but several warnings were still in place, now that's all over and all road closures were also lifted. There may be some slow going though as fire crews and utility workers are still working there while unburned areas continue to burn inside the containment lines.

The biggest fire to ever burn in Calif. the August Complex now at over 755,000 acres with only 30% containment. The fire's front is one hundred miles long as it moves towards the Central Valley. It's burned across the Mendocino National Forest, the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and Six Rivers National Forest. It's burning towards the Emerald Triangle marijuana region at a time of harvest. The fire almost double the size of the state's largest fire before this, the 2018 Mendocino Complex in Lake and Mendocino counties. The fire is burning outside Covelo now and toward Alder Point in Humboldt County. It's also threatening critical communications where there were mandatory Evacuation Orders this weekend.

Sheriff Matt Kendall and others from his department hoping to educate and prepare people who migrate to the Emerald Triangle for the harvest. There are typically only 14-1,500 who regularly live in Covelo, but this time of year, there could be 10,000 or so. The Sheriff commented yesterday that the cooler weather and calmer winds helped firefighters into difficult to reach terrain to build breaks and protect communities, but windier days are coming. The Complex began due to lightning nearly a month ago along with the LNU Lightning Complex which is barely alive, but still burning.

There are no shelters set up in Lake County during high heat. The Record Bee reports the onsite manager of Elijah House for the homeless of Lake County told them they've seen more people lately who cannot deal with the smoke. He says there are more and more people coming in daily, trying to find shelter or who've been evacuated. PG&E says 29 counties have cooling centers. They're just sending info out to tell you how to prepare for a power outage, if they turn your electric off.

Two teenagers from Ukiah have been arrested for having illegal weapons and running from police in Hopland. Ukiah police report seeing a sedan driving without headlights early Friday morning, so they stopped the car. Then the driver took off at unsafe speeds through the residential neighborhood and headed onto the 101 driving faster than 100 miles an hour and crossing into the opposite side of the highway. CHP joined the chase, but when they hit the Hopland area, they stopped, hitting a fence., Cops detained the two, one a 17 year old, the driver, who was arrested for felony evading, being an unlicensed driver and several other felonies. The passenger, 18 year old Christian Hernandez arrested on weapon and drug charges. The two booked into jail, the 17 year old, to juvenile hall.

Lake County Board of Supervisors to get an update on COVID. They're due to get updates weekly from the Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace. They'll meet tomorrow morning for the in person and online meeting. No community members are allowed in person. They ask those interested to submit questions beforehand, you can see the agenda on the county's website. The board's considering a resolution for straight-time overtime pay for management employees who work over their regular 40 hours a week because of local emergencies due to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire and COVID-19.

Cal Fire and the US Forest Service are working together to manage the massive August Complex fire. It's been separated into three zones: South, North and West. The South Zone mostly in the Mendocino National Forest, from the South Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness to about Lake Pillsbury at nearly 756,000 acres for the entire Complex. Now the largest ever in Calif. Firefighters working on the Doe Fire which is about half of the whole Complex, mopping up around the containment lines, reducing fuels and increasing fire breaks, lines and where hoses can be used. They're using airplanes for drops when they can and are patrolling and monitoring the fire. There are new evacuation Orders and Warnings.

Firefighters still working the LNU Lightning Complex, which is just barely 100% contained. The fire started in the middle of August with others ignited by dry lightning strikes. The fire has burned 363,220 acres. The part of the fire that burned into Lake County, the Hennessey burned just over 305,650 acres. It also blackened land in Colusa, Solano and Yolo counties and the Walbridge fire in Sonoma County has burned more than 55,200.

Public health experts say smoke from the wildfires choking California carries dangerous levels of particulate matter. Studies show firestorms drive a spike in visits to the emergency room – especially among the elderly. Dr. Janice Kirsch is a medical oncologist trained in public health. She says the toxins in the smoke can cause serious damage.

:13 “Breathing these particulates can cause or exacerbate heart disease, respiratory disease, lung cancer and probably other cancers. Prolonged repeated exposure leads to dementia and other behavioral problems in children.”

Tag: Kirsch says indoor air quality can be almost as bad as outdoors – so she advises people to use an air purifier and turn on your air conditioner if you have one, to improve circulation. And if you have to go outside, N-95 masks not cloth masks to protect against coronavirus will not stop particulate matter.

Second Cut: Groups that fight climate change say the extreme drought, heat and wildfires are symptoms of a bigger problem. Kathy Dervin, with the nonprofit 350 Bay Area, says climate change is a public health emergency that demands rapid and transformative solutions.

:13 “We have great goals for clean electricity, for cleaner fuels, for cleaner transportation. But we really need to front load those changes and not wait until the goal of 2045. We don’t have any time to wait.”

Tag: In 2018, California lawmakers passed Senate Bill 100, which set a goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2045. Now advocates say the state has made so much progress that they’re calling for a new deadline of 2030.

New evacuation orders for Mendocino County due to the August Complex... West Zone.

- ZONE- AB – South of the Middle Fork of the Eel River, west of Eden Creek, north of Salt Flat and east of Salt Creek.

- ZONE- AC – East of Brushy Mountain, south of the fire road on Salt Flat, west of Eden Valley and north of Bald Mountain.

There are also more road closures:

- Private driveway near Williams Creek is closed to north bound traffic
- Bell Springs closed to north bound traffic at Lundblade Ranch Road
- Mina Road is closed to north bound traffic at the bridge over the North Fork of the Eel River
- Mendocino Pass Road closed to east bound traffic just east of the Williams Creek Bridge
- Hearst Willits Road at the bridge, closed to east bound traffic

Oak Fire 100% – 1100 acres, 56 structures destroyed, 1 damaged.

CAL FIRE working with the US Forest Service and the Mendocino County and Humboldt County Sheriff Offices. There are resources from across the state, Montana, Utah, Texas, and New Jersey on the August Complex West Zone. The overall acreage of the August Complex has decreased due to more accurate mapping, intel and rezoning of the incident. But the fire was active yesterday, spotting and making uphill runs out of control with torching which is all expected to continue for the next few days. Damage Inspections teams are actively assessing the area. Aerial firefighting resources are being used as smoke conditions allow. 5 structures have been destroyed and 14000 are threatened. The fire has burned over 755,600 acres and is 30% contained.

There’s a virtual meeting on Facebook for the August Complex. Tomorrow night at 6 pm CAL FIRE is hosting the meeting where the Unified Commanders will provide details on the fire. They will take questions at the end of their comments. CAL FIRE is reminding the public to stay vigilant, adhere to road closures and any evacuation orders or warnings. A reminder if you see electrical wires on the ground, to steer clear and call 911 immediately. Trees and poles with deep charring, especially if they’re still smoking, should be considered hazardous. Please drive slowly and yield to emergency personnel in the area.

The August Complex has been updated with less acreage than we have been reporting due to better mapping. But the fire is active and only 30% contained. So far, the entire Complex has burned over 755,600 acres. But firefighters reported improved weather conditions yesterday so they could head towards the fire and fly over it to build lines and work aggressively to contain it. There's been one section pushing deeper into the Mendocino National Forest northwest at the back of Sanhedrin Mountain and towards Dos Rios on privately owned land, so that means there are new mandatory evacuations south east of Dos Rios, north of Willits and south of Covelo. There are also road closures. The fire, the largest ever in Calif. with a 100 mile front from Trinity County to Lake County. Cal Fire reported active work east of Covelo, east of Hearst, east of the Island Mountain area, and east of King Rock into Trinity County. They say they're trying to keep flames out of Covelo and Willits, but there is a mix of perfect conditions for fires to burn.

The President in Sacramento to get briefed on the wildfires by the Governor. He also recognized the Calif. National Guard for their work airlifting some campers who were stranded during the historical fires. The President blaming poor forest management for the deadly fires, but a lot of the fires right now are not burning in forests. He was asked about Climate Change and said the science is wrong and it will cool down...

The yearly budget meeting is being held by the Lake County Board of Supervisors. The hearings begin tomorrow and may spill into Thursday in the board chambers and online due to the pandemic. The County Administrative Officer Carol Huchingson is recommending a budget of over \$292M, an increase of \$34M over last year. Huchingson told the board after the pandemic first surfaced in the state there would be changes to the budget hearings, to extend them for presentations and to hear from the county department heads ahead of a final approval. The county has received some federal stimulus money and other cash from the state due to Covid-19. They were looking at possible cuts, but Huchingson says the stimulus money has helped. But departments are being told to stick with their same net costs as last year.

Congressman Mike Thompson is having another of his virtual town halls to talk climate change. The meeting this Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. with special guest Rep. Kathy Castor (FL-14), who's the chair of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. The congressman has had more than a dozen of these virtual town halls this year. It'll be over Zoom and limited to 500 people, but they also stream on Thompson's Facebook page. Thompson represents California's Fifth Congressional District, which includes all or part of Contra Costa, Lake, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties.

The August Complex has been divided into three zones, the North, South and West for management purposes. CAL FIRE and the US Forest Service working together on the largest fire to ever burn in Calif. At 755,600 acres. It's only 30% contained. Firefighters working with soldiers from Washington State's Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the Mendocino Forest. They've built a dozer line around the Salt Creek Conservation Camp and another structure protection group is in the Pillsbury Lake Basin to help protect infrastructure there. Yesterday they reported that the fire had crossed containment lines in the Yuki Wilderness Sunday. It's been a challenge due to winds, high temperatures and dry fuels.

An alleged arsonist in Ukiah has been arrested. Last week reports of a fire at the Redwood Tree Service Station. When firefighters got to the business in the 800 block of N. State St. they found a wooden gazebo on fire and part of the exterior of the building. There was major damage to the building as smoke got inside. Police detectives looked at video surveillance and saw someone on the property at the time the fire started. Enhanced video showed to patrol officers who matched the description to a man walking along that block of N. State St. A local homeless man David Zakedis was stopped and interviewed and he admitted he started the fire. Zakedis was arrested without incident for arson, committing arson during a state of emergency and a violation of probation and held in county jail.

AFTERNOON UPDATE:

More fighters keep being added to the state due to the historic fires. A month ago, lightning storms or as the state is calling it a siege, that ignited dozens of fires. Right now there are more than 16,600 firefighters still working on the front lines of 25 major wildfires. There was more activity yesterday on several wildfires, but others made progress toward full containment. The Oak Fire burned 1,100 acres near the Brooktrails neighborhood in Willits. It's now 100% contained, but destroyed more than 50 structures. There us still a red flag warning in several areas of the state and temperatures were expected to warm too. But the weekend should be cooler, even as the state is dry and ripe for more fires. The August Complex has grown, it's now burned nearly 803,500 acres, it's 30% contained. The North/South Zone 754,480 acres, 30% contained, West Zone 49,009 acres, 0% contained. There's been one fatality, early on in the fight. A firefighter from Texas.

That planned massive resort in Lake County is getting push back. The 16,000-acre project between Clear Lake and Napa Valley, the Guenoc Valley project by Lotusland Investment got the greenlight by the Board of Supervisors in July. It's situated off Highway 29 outside Middletown and north of Calistoga. The proposal includes 400 hotel units in five "boutique" complexes and 450 resort units, 1,400 estate villas, 500 workforce units. The Press Democrat reports on the lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity to get the decision tossed out due to what they call an inadequate environmental document. Now the lawyer for the group has pointed to the Hennessey Fire as an example how fires could encroach upon the property. But project managers say there will be fire-safety elements and more staffing at the local fire protection district.

Part of the massive August Complex known as the South Zone, the largest part of the fire is just under 523,000 acres and 30% contained. Firefighters are focusing on that part of the fire which is in Lake County in the Lake Pillsbury Basin. CAL FIRE reports good progress in the northern area of the South Zone and mop up operations on the perimeter of the eastern side of the Crane Mills property. Wind gusts of up to 20 mph were expected, but some moisture is expected tomorrow, with higher humidity. There are Evacuation Orders in effect for Mendocino, Lake, Glenn, Humboldt and Trinity Counties.

There are new evacuation warnings for Mendocino County in the West Zone southeast of Highway 162. They're in what they're calling Zone AN and Zone AQ, South of Highway 162 and the Eel River, west of Salt Creek, north of Brushy Creek and the Eel River, east of Highway 162; also North of the Eel River, south and east of Highway 162, west of Redwine Springs.

Areas of Mendocino County, Evacuation Order:

- ZONE- H- West of National Forest boundary, north of Thomas Creek and the Eel River, and east of Twin Bridges Creek, south of Bald Mountain
- ZONE- I- West of Elk Creek south of Deep Hole Creek, north of the National Forest Boundary
- ZONE- W- West of the Eel River, north of Deep Hole Creek, east of Eden Valley, including the entire valley floor, south of Eden Creek

Other Areas of Mendocino County, Evacuation Warning:

- South of the Middle Fork of the Eel River, west of Eden Creek, north of Salt Flat and east of Salt Creek, ZONE- AB
- East of Brushy Mountain, south of the fire road on Salt Flat, west of Eden Valley and north of Bald Mountain, ZONE- AC
- South and west of the Eel River, north of Foster Mountain Road, east of the ridge west of Willits Road, ZONE- AD
- North of Twin Bridges Creek, east of the Eel River, south of Brushy Creek and west of Brushy Mountain, ZONE- AE

A case of Covid-19 has shown up at the Lake County Jail. The Lake County Public Health Officer Dr. Gary Pace reported to jail staff an inmate had tested positive for the virus three days before going into the jail. The case is the only one in the jail and the inmate is asymptomatic. The inmate's in isolation for 14 days after first being in a dorm. The dorm reportedly holds up to 15 inmates, but for social distancing, they only had two others there. Those two have also been tested and isolated. So far none are showing any symptoms of being sick. They all get masks and have to wear them while around others. The inmate who tested positive had been assigned work to

09/16/20

clean common areas, but was directed to wear a mask and gloves. The CAL FIRE and US Forest Service team on the August Complex have mapped out the burn of the fire for the West Zone, which is burning in Mendocino, Humboldt-Del Norte and Trinity counties. It's at 35,398 acres. There are firefighters from the state of California, Montana, Utah, Texas, and New Jersey. Firefighters report the fire was active yesterday with torching in some areas. There's a low pressure weather system headed here with relative low humidity. Tonight the unified resources are having a Facebook Live town hall to update on the fire.

Because of the August Complex, there's continued widespread haze and smoke throughout Mendocino County the next few days. It's been hot, dry and smokey due to a high pressure which forecasters say is weakening. The AQMD says smoke from surrounding wildfires is also hovering over the county, but it could come lower into the county due to fluctuating wind directions, bringing "Unhealthy" to "Very Unhealthy" air to the area. Yesterday the air monitors showed particulate matter concentrations in the "Moderate" to "Unhealthy" range for most parts of the county. If we're lucky, we could get some rain by the end of the week.

Closures of National Forests have been extended to properties managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Nearly 50 properties that are inside or near the Forests are closed through at least Monday due to historic fire conditions. The closures of wildlife areas or ecological reserves across the state along with the temporary closure of all national forests put into place about a week ago. So hunters or recreationalists are encouraged to check for closures before they head out. You can visit the Fish and Wildlife Dept website for tag return and preference point eligibility requirements and more.

Info released from the Fort Bragg City Council after a letter was sent to the city regarding the Thin Blue Line Flag on police patrol cars. A city Councilmember brought the letter up to the full council that a concerned citizen wrote in regarding the Thin Blue Line American Flags on the City of Fort Bragg Police Department patrol vehicles. They remind the flag memorial was put onto patrol cars after Deputy Ricky Del Fiorentino died. He was the first officer killed in the line of duty in Fort Bragg. The flag was created to honor those who protect and serve, not those who abuse their power. The department says it does not take away from their oath to Protect and Serve all persons of Fort Bragg and that they'll continue to do this with the utmost respect for every person they encounter.

Another death in the North Complex Fire east of Chico, just outside the burn scar of the Camp Fire 2 years ago. Now 15 people have died due to that fire, a victim found in the ruins. Also the Butte County Superintendent of Schools has confirmed two elementary schools have burned, Berry Creek and Feather Falls. Crews however were able to get a better foothold as the weather was in their favor, but yesterday winds picked up again. They worked mostly in the Willow Creek area, but say the fire is still mostly within its own footprint, but there have been some spot fires. It's at 273,335 acres and it's 34% contained. The fire has extended out towards Lake Oroville, but did not burn in Paradise.

A man from Santa Rosa reported missing from family in the Kelseyville area... A woman on Facebook reports her brother Josh Fowler has been missing for at least 2 weeks. She says he has most recently lived in Santa Rosa and may be in either a red pickup truck or a Volvo wagon. He has not been seen for three weeks by neighbors and his employer hasn't spoken to him for nearly a month. He's described as 5'7 about 135-140 pounds with dirty blonde/brown hair, blue eyes in his mid 30's. His sister describes him as mentally unstable. If you've seen him, you're asked to call Santa Rosa Police.

The Ukiah City Council to take up its plan on homelessness. Tonight at their virtual meeting, the "Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness" will be considered which was put together by a Continuum of Care of 31 public agencies and private non-profits in the county working with the unsheltered population. City staff note that services for the homeless go thru the county and the Continuum of Care, but homeless is felt most by police, fire departments and the streets and parks departments. A list of ways to combat homelessness was put together by the city a couple of years ago working with an expert in the field. The county has four goals, making the problem of homelessness "rare, brief and onetime" coming up with a community understanding of the issue, form an Outreach and Public Relations team for public presentations and teams or groups in each region to come up with strategies. The meeting tonight online at 6.

The Clearlake City Council considering a city code amendment for commercial cannabis rules and they'll award a roads repair project after damage from the 2017 Sulphur fire. PG&E will also give an update on potential public safety power shutoffs. The council's considering the final reading for a new Municipal Code on commercial cannabis businesses that would amend how many businesses could be in Clearlake. That includes delivery-only dispensaries. Right now the Municipal Code allows 3 retail dispensaries, 2 delivery-only dispensaries to two and 12 other cannabis businesses like those for indoor growing, distribution, manufacturing and labs. All would be the same except delivery and the other businesses would no longer be limited by number, instead on where they're located. The council will meet beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17.

Because of the county's shelter in place order, Clearlake City Hall remains closed to the public, however, the virtual meeting will be broadcast live on the city's [YouTube channel](#) or the Lake County PEG TV YouTube Channel. Community members also can participate via [Zoom](#).

Sherwood Firewise going over the evacuations as they related to the Oak Fire. The fire that burned 1,100 acres in Willits led to mandatory evacuations for the Brooktrails neighborhood. Firewise had their meeting last Thursday with a local volunteer firefighter who says their emergency access route, FIRCO, was useful. And board supervisor John Hashak said it was one of the successes of the fire, creating a shaded fuel break that the fire departments used which was important in fighting the fire. There was some confusion though as to the evacuation zones not being permanent zones. But apparently that is something that's being worked on. They also discussed internet access so evacuation maps can be viewed because the Nixle alert instructions were vague. About 3 dozen people utilized the evacuation center at Willits High.

Firefighters working the August Complex have four teams on the three zones. And with that they apparently counted some of the acreage twice. So the West Zone of the fire is actually at 42,171 acres. The fire was active overnight with isolated torching around the perimeter of the fire. Officials say there was moderate fire behavior and uphill slope-driven runs. They say since there's a low pressure weather system they probably won't make much progress today. And similar weather is expected tomorrow with low humidity. 7 structures have been destroyed in this Zone of the fire and 1 structure has been damaged. 14,000 structures are threatened. Full containment on this Zone is expected in 2 weeks from today, 9/30.

The South Zone continues to grow in some areas, but it's staying the same in others. Firefighters were able to put in more control and containment lines yesterday and are doing some burning operations near Salt Creek. The fire's moving toward Lake Pillsbury where extreme dry conditions and heavy fuels mean the fire's growing. Firefighters trying to construct lines and using old 2018 Ranch fire lines. The fire also growing in the Yuki and Sanhedrin Wilderness Areas. Firefighters using air tankers for retardant drops. There are many evacuation orders and warnings for Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt and Trinity Counties. The South Zone has burned more than 531,000 acres. The August Complex-South Zone has a Virtual Public Meeting tomorrow at 7pm on the Mendocino National Forest Facebook page.

Police in Ukiah reportedly arrested a man with a strange looking gun. A patrol officer saw 19 year old Jonathan Cervantes of Ukiah and saw an open bottle of booze in the back seat of his car so he was detained. Then the cop saw a loaded 9mm handgun with an attached 32 round magazine under the driver's seat during a search. The officer said the gun looked like a Glock, but it wasn't fully functional and had no serial number or unique markings, something commonly referred to as a "Ghost Gun" since it cannot be traced. The man reportedly got the gun from someone else. He was arrested for various weapons charges and taken to jail.

A fire put out, but a possible arsonist on the run in Ukiah. Police reported getting a call to the fire in an area north of Mason Street between Clara Avenue and Ford Street. When they got there, they saw a wooden railroad trestle and several trees in flames. They evacuated residents and businesses. After the fire was put out, it was determined it had been an arson fire, now police are looking for a person of interest in the case.

The public health officer in Sonoma County has announced major outbreaks of Covid-19 at more than a dozen pre-school and home-based child cares. More than 60 people have become infected with coronavirus at 13 facilities, 25 kids who are mostly under 6, 27 of their family members and 10 staffers at the preschools. None of them ending up in the hospital. Dr. Sundari Mase's office had closed an unidentified preschool two weeks ago after there were 16 infected children. 30 infections were linked to the site where one child was sick. There's a planned demonstration in downtown Santa Rosa today to get in person learning back at county schools. Dr. Mase says it's not surprising, but she thinks it could be good to rethink in person class

09/17/20 right now.

A winery in Geyserville faces a massive fine for doing work without a permit. The Press Democrat reports Sonoma County agriculture officials fined Skipstone Ranch and its owner Fahri Diner over \$172,280, the most ever in the county – for grading an acre of land. Skipstone is appealing the July fine which has 3 violations attached to it. The newspaper reports county agriculture officials found industrial grading on a steep hill at the property in the Anderson Valley. A spokesperson for the winery says the construction was for repairs after the Kincadee fire last fall.

The state insurance commissioner is looking at some regulatory changes to offset higher prices for consumers related to wildfire risk. The Department of Insurance is having a hearing with homeowners, industry experts and insurance providers for an accelerated premium for some homeowners, but they would find out how their property might be affected by wildfires, then they'd be assisted with mitigation. Commissioner Ricardo Lara says "climate change is going to continue to disrupt communities through extreme heat and weather and affect our insurance markets" so looking at different insurance models is critical for him as a regulator.

3 more deaths related to COVID-19 have been reported in Lake County. The Public Health Officer, Dr. Gary Pace sent out notice last night that the three were all residents of a skilled nursing facility in Lakeport. 7 patients from Lakeport Post Acute have now died due to the pandemic, for a total of 10 people in the county. Dr. Pace says the 3 new deaths were all people over 65 with chronic health conditions. So far 30 residents have become sick there. Dr. Pace didn't name the facility, but Lake Co News reports the state did. There have been 433 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the county. Right now 54 are active and three people are in the hospital. The state is getting close to 800,000 cases and nearly 15,000 deaths.

The latest on the August complex is just under 818,000 acres have burned and it's still at 30% containment. The fire has destroyed 35 structures and one person has died, a Texas firefighter early on in the fight after the fire started a month ago. The fire continues to burn across the Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. There are three zones being managed by CAL FIRE and the US Forest Service. The South Zone includes the Doe Fire, the largest of the 3. It's burned into northern Lake County, and has charred 531,471 acres. They're having a virtual public meeting on this zone tonight on Facebook on the Mendocino National Forest's Facebook page. Last night they did the same for the West Zone. There are still multiple evacuation warnings and orders in place.

A man accused of child molestation in Clearlake has his trial set. 70 year old Bert Tino Besio will have his Jury Trial next Wednesday, September 23rd. It's expected to last about a week. At a preliminary hearing almost a year ago, enough evidence was brought in to bring the case to trial. Besio's charged with two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a minor, five counts of forcible lewd acts on a child and three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child after a yearlong investigation. He's accused of acts against two victims under 13. He was arrested last summer and pleaded not guilty.

Not a good idea to trick or tweet this year. The word from the state Health and Human Services Director Dr. Mark Ghaly. Dr. Ghaly says things are different this year than in the past. He says taking your kids door to door to get candy is ill-advised during the pandemic, but there's been no official word from the state, straight out banning it. The Governor is reportedly clarifying that in days to come. But last week LA County is strictly banning some trick-or-treating and gatherings with non-household members even outdoors. Car parades, Halloween movie nights at drive-ins, Halloween-themed meals at outdoor restaurants, and Halloween decorations on homes are allowed.

Learning hubs are being created in Lake County to help students who aren't in person in class. The Lake County Office of Education, the local school districts and partnering organizations working together for the hubs following all Public Health guidelines. The hubs will be open during certain hours, and include the Clearlake Youth Center, Lower Lake Museum, Spring Valley Community Center and Behavioral Health Offices. There, kids will have access to the Internet, a site and school district representative, and they may even have access to transportation and get some food.

The August Complex is the largest fire to ever burn in the state. It's at almost 820,000 acres and remains 30% contained. There are three zones to the fire with acreage all updated today – South Zone 484,754 acres, 30% contained; North Zone 248,573 acres, 25% contained; West Zone 78,706 acres, 5% contained. The acreage has been decreased some after the Forest Service updated their mapping. The Complex includes the Elkhorn, Hopkins, Willow, Vinegar, and Doe fires, the Doe, the largest, over 500,000 in the history books itself. Both CAL FIRE and the Forest Service are working together on the massive Complex. There is no date of anticipated containment, but there is a possibility of some light rain tonight and tomorrow after weeks of record temperatures in severe drought conditions. The fire's expected to continue moving toward Lake Pillsbury, and to the west beyond the Impassable Rock area.

The Governor has announced money going to counties in the first round of Homekey. With that Mendocino County got almost \$9.7M from the \$600 million program to purchase and rehabilitate housing, including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties, and convert them into permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The County is negotiating to buy a motel on Orchard Ave. in Ukiah which will be used for transitional housing. The Governor announced Homekey in June, and in July made \$600 million in funding available. \$550M of that is going to cities and counties from federal Coronavirus Aid Relief Funds. \$50 million more comes from the state to supplement the acquisition and provide initial operating funds.

Distance learning to continue at Mendocino College thru the spring semester. The Superintendent/President Tim Karas announced earlier this week that after multiple discussions with staff, faculty, and administrative leadership, the evaluation of guidelines by local and state health agencies, and recommendations from the State Chancellor's Office, they've decided that most classes would be remote next term. Karas says it's to protect the health and safety of students, employees, and the community. There will however be some in person courses and others with hybrid instruction. Karas also says he hopes as spring nears that they can add more in person classes.

09/18/20

The incident team working on the August Complex West Zone has updated the acreage for that portion of the fire, which does not include the massive Doe Fire. The West Zone has burned over 80,000 acres and is 7% contained. They have firefighters on the incident from Montana, Idaho, Texas, and New Jersey. The fire was active yesterday and fire officials reported they expected it to stay active through the night. The August Complex was split into 3 zones, the West, North and South. The entire Complex has burned 809,135 acres. There's been one fatality and 18 structures destroyed.

Crime numbers in Sonoma County way off, but it has nothing to do with the pandemic. From 2010-2019, crime statistics showed a drop of 22% and the state of California also had its lowest crime level in recorded history last year. The info comes from the state and was published by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco. It shows 10 other counties with lower crime rates than Sonoma County, but 41 counties reported crime rates were down the last decade.

Due to the historic fires and erratic fire behavior Yosemite National Park is closing to all visitors. The smoke from the fires is closing the park. There are notices up at all of the park entrances and roads after they closed indefinitely yesterday afternoon. The park says there's hazardous air quality and they'll reopen when conditions are safe. It comes after Sequoia National Park closed earlier this week. But Kings Canyon National Park is staying open with poor air quality.

A preschooler in Kelseyville has reportedly contracted coronavirus. The Kelseyville Unified Superintendent says they were informed a student at Kelseyville Elementary School tested positive, but no school staff were in contact with the student. Lake Co News reports the Lake County Superintendent of Schools posted a message on the Office of Education website yesterday saying the school had sent notice to parents and guardians at the school, which is not named. The preschool will close for 2 weeks after the date of last known exposure and the building is being closed for deep cleaning and disinfecting. The student apparently had no symptoms. In the latest demographics from the Lake County Public Health Dept. it shows 40 children from birth to age 12 have tested positive for COVID-19.

A big thumbs up at a couple of school districts in the North Shore of Lake County. Lake Co News reports after just about a month in class, the superintendents of both school districts, Lucerne and Upper Lake – say there have been no issues. The schools have new restrictions in place, smaller classes, hand sanitizer stations around the schools, regular playground disinfection, more bus runs, shorter school days, plexiglass cubicles and teaching stations, mask wearing, staggered lunch hours and more outdoor learning. Upper Lake schools got a new HVAC system. There's no sports happening in either district. All of the county's other school districts are still doing online learning.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors has approved the latest budget. They had their final budget hearing Wednesday, going thru each county department, one by one over two days' time. The county approved a temporary hiring freeze. The cannabis industry is making good money for the county. A staff report says the code enforcement division has been kept busy with new cannabis businesses after nine years of pretty stagnant business. The proposed budget was just over \$210,300,000 the same as last year.

A new fire in the Clearlake area. The Wolf incident burning northeast of the city and last night was pegged at 15-20 acres, burning at a moderate rate of speed in grass. There were reports of multiple explosions, power lines down and structures threatened. There were no evacuations ordered by last night. Dispatch reports say a resident reported a propane tank explosion around the start of the fire. So firefighters who reported to the fire had left soon after and were going back to work on the August Complex.

Scientists say smoke from the fires ravaging Calif. and other Western states are now reaching Northern Europe. The fires that started a month ago in California, Oregon and Washington billowing unhealthy smoke affecting millions. Now scientists from CAMS, part of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts says while using satellite observations to track wildfire activity around the world they could detect the smoke. They say fire activity this year in the US has been "tens to hundreds of times more intense" than on average from 2003 to 2019 across the country as a whole. Several more cases of coronavirus in Mendocino County. The county had some good news though, that it reached the next tier of the new system on reopening businesses in the state. There were 5 new cases yesterday and 9 on Wednesday. But the state has Mendocino County in the Red Tier for daily positive cases. The Red Tier is several weeks in a row with less than 7 daily positive cases. The public health office reports getting to the Red Tier is because of the work residents in the county are doing, practicing social distancing and consistent mask wearing. As of yesterday there had been 822 positive cases and 18 deaths.

CAL FIRE and the Mendocino County Sheriff put out a statement to thank community members for donating items, but they're asking for any more donations to be directed to charities. Due to safety precautions because of the pandemic, the Sheriff and the CAL FIRE August Complex West Zone team ask that any volunteer efforts or donations go to local charities instead to help people displaced due to the fire. They also warn to be careful if you use an online donation platform.

Fort Bragg schools offering free meals to all children under 18. 5 days of meals and snacks can be picked up each Wednesday between 2 and 3 pm at Redwood Elementary and Dana Gray Elementary. Children must be 18 years of age or younger regardless of which school they attend, or whether or not they are enrolled in school at all. The meals provided weekly until either December, or the meals run out.

A man from Covelo's been found guilty of two burglaries in the spring. The jury convicted Neil Waldron yesterday afternoon for two counts of commercial burglary in downtown Covelo in April. The burglaries at The Village Hearth and Keith's Market. The man had spent time in prison on a similar crime in 2019 at Mina Burger and had just gotten out of prison when he committed the two new crimes. The case has been sent now to the Adult Probation Department for a background investigation and sentencing recommendation. He's set for sentencing October 9th and is in custody until that time.

PM UPDATE

In the West Zone of the August Complex Fire, an Evacuation order in Mendocino County has been downgraded to a Warning. These are Orders we told you about this week in 4 zones covering areas South of the County Line. And road closures are reopened on Hearst Willits Road at the Eel River Bridge and FH-7 at M1 – Eel River. We've been here before, but the sheriff's office is reminding to stay vigilant during the current fire conditions.

Zone S: South of the County Line, East of Bell Springs Rd, North of Bell Springs Creek and West of the North Fork of the Eel River.

Zone Q: South of the County Line, West and North of the North Fork of the Eel River, North and East of Bald Mountain Road.

Zone D: South and East of the Eel River, North of Bentley Basin and West of the National Forest Boundary.

Zone N: North of the Middle Fork of the Eel River including the Eel River Ranger Station and Black Butte Store, West and South of the National Forest Boundary, East of Williams Creek.

A US Forest Service firefighter has been killed on the El Dorado Fire. Now 26 people have died in the fire that was sparked by a device at a gender reveal party in Southern Calif.

The Forest Service reports almost all of the eastern section of the south zone of the August Complex is nearly fully contained. They say there are only a few locations of uncontained line remaining. They're conducting mop up operations in some locations, but most of the eastern area is progressing to a patrol and monitor status. The evacuation for Glenn County in the Mendocino National Forest was lifted this morning. This area of the fire is active on the southwest perimeter and north of Lake Pillsbury. They report extremely dry fuels and fast winds are carrying the fire south. More humidity carried by a cold front onshore with more cloud cover and some showers should help firefighters on the August Complex. The fire as a whole has now burned 824,118 acres and is still only 30% contained.

No new unemployment claims will be accepted in California for 2 weeks. That's so the backlog can be caught up on and to reduce fraud. The state's Employment Development Department has a backlog of about 600,000 claims and one million claims need to somehow be modified. Outdated technology is apparently causing the logjam as the state receives mountains of claims amidst the coronavirus pandemic. The department says there are around 2.1 million people out of work, but the rate dropped to 11.4% in August from 13.5% in July. Currently if you have to file, you'll have to wait until October 5th, the agency will only accept contact information, then will be in touch in two weeks to complete claims. Those already in the system

09/21/20 should not have their claims interrupted.

Reports of an armed robbery at a home in Laytonville lead to several arrests. The Sheriff's office reports getting a call to the Black Oak Ranch in the 49000 block of North Highway 101, last Thursday finding multiple victims and identifying even more suspects. Tyler Bagliere and his dad, Louis at the property with Lathiaro White and Anthony Watson armed with firearms Thursday. Deputies say they held several people at gunpoint and demanded money, shooting one weapon near one of the victims. They eventually left, with about 20 pounds of marijuana, and said they'd be back in two days. And Tyler came back with three others Christopher Stewert, Deangelo Villalona, and another unidentified man. Same thing, shooting a weapon, demanding money. Three of the suspects arrested right away after being found with several assault rifles, a handgun and ammo. They're charged with several crimes including armed robbery in concert, assault with a deadly weapon, felony child endangerment, and criminal threats. All were held except Louis Bagliere who was released for medical reasons. One of those reported at the marijuana robbery was caught later and charged along with the others.

A vehicle stop in Willits leads to a trio of arrests. Deputies stopped a car on Sept. 10th on the 101 north, at the West Road off ramp in Redwood Valley. The driver Jerry DeGurse, the front passenger, Nathan DeGurse and a rear passenger, Vicki Sandage. Jerry had 7 warrants so he was held, then it was found Nathan also had 2 warrants, all of them out of Siskiyou County. So the two were arrested. Heroin was found on Nathan as well and the female passenger had meth. She was held to appear later, the others held in jail.

The sheriff has requested help from the state since they aren't getting hand crews from prison populations on the August Complex. Sheriff Matt Kendall appealing to the state for National Guard members. The Sheriff says Guard troops are trained to help CALFIRE Type 1 Hand Crews in establishing and maintaining fire lines, and they will not be used for law enforcement purposes. Other hand crews have been sent to the North Zone building dozer lines. The August Complex North and South Zones have burned together.

A gathering in Fort Bragg to show support for the police. Residents on Main Street yesterday supporting first responders with a rally after there was a recent complaint regarding the flag logo on patrol cars showing a thin blue line. The thin blue line was in remembrance of fallen Deputy Ricky Del Fiorentino, the first officer killed in the line of duty in Fort Bragg. Those rallying yesterday say they support all first responders, Law Enforcement, Fire, EMT's, Dispatchers and others. The organizer says all of the attendees observed coronavirus outdoor gathering restrictions.

The North and South Zone of the August Complex have burned together. Some evacuation orders have however been lifted to warnings. There are still many orders and warnings in Mendocino County though. CAL FIRE'S unified team and the U.S. Forest Service are working in a coordinated response on the Complex, which was split into three zones for a more effective response. No word if there will only be two zones yet. But CAL FIRE's Incident Management Team has ordered the National Guard to come help. The West Zone on its own has burned 91,800 acres and is 20% contained. Besides resources from across the state of California, firefighters from Montana, Idaho, Texas, and New Jersey have been assigned to help. There was increased fire behavior over the weekend due to higher humidity levels, increased temperatures and critically dry fuels near Lake Pillsbury. The entire Complex has burned 837,241 acres and is 34% contained. There's been one death, the Complex 100% containment date has been projected for the middle of November.

An extension of the Public Health order and an update expected at the next Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting. The board is also expected to revisit issues with the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. The board may take up a proposed no confidence vote for the Treasurer-Tax Collector Barbara Ringen after she reportedly told the board she wasn't prepared to respond to several complaints and concerns by board members themselves, and the city of Clearlake on tax defaulted property sales. The board also taking up several proclamations for some retirees and honorees at the meeting tomorrow.

The Forest Service making progress on the South Zone of the August Complex even though it burned into the North Zone. The fire which has destroyed 35 structures is still threatening another 1,600. Crews were working over the weekend strengthening lines near Pillsbury Ranch and working to protect structures with burning operations. Soldiers from Washington were helping Calif. firefighters. There are many still under mandatory evacuation orders or warnings. Some were allowed to go home in the Mendocino National Forest in Glenn County. If residents have to get to their homes on a Forest Service road they have to have a Forest Service permit. The South Zone evacuation orders remain in effect for Mendocino and Lake counties.

looked to be drowning in a pool Labor Day weekend at a resort in Nice. 20 year old Lydia Meraz, a staff member at WorldMark Clear Lake Resort reportedly did CPR on the 3-year-old, Darius Apar after he was pulled out of the swimming pool by his mom. Lake Co News reports tomorrow morning the Board of Supervisors will recognize Meraz for her heroic actions. Meraz is the resort's guest services manager. She says she heard screaming for help Sept. 6th and told others to call 911 and went to the pool. Mom was apparently swimming laps and found the 3 year old face down in the pool, so Meraz did CPR.

the right direction related to Covid-19. Public Health Officer Andy Coren in a regular Friday meeting of his office for the public on the pandemic said containing the numbers is helping the county potentially move out of the purple tier, the most restrictive in the state. Dr. Coren says more businesses can reopen in the red tier. Another death was confirmed last week. Coren described the patient as an elderly Hispanic woman. He also announced that Ken Fowler Auto Center had an outbreak, and as of Friday, they had nine cases. There were 18 more cases this weekend for a total in the county of 851. Dr. Coren reminded about the upcoming flu season and is urging residents to get a flu vaccine, especially healthcare workers.

“significantly understaffed” with a 19% vacancy rate and 29 open positions. He also said retaining deputies has been an issue due to lower salaries in his department. The \$9.3 million budget was approved for the sheriff's department, which was the same last year. The supervisors also talked about getting other departments in the county to also bring them proposals to use cannabis tax revenue. The board also noted sales tax revenue was projected to be as much as 80% less than last year due to the pandemic. donations going to the Wings of Hope Bereavement program and special needs of Hospice patients. This is the fourth year for the event. Organizers say in years past some restaurants have donated up to 50% of their sales and included a large tip. But they say this year they hope to see full restaurants with businesses keeping their sales and having those donation envelopes separate. There are also several sponsors.

For more information, call Hospice Services of Lake County, (707) 263-6222. Visit the organization's website at <http://www.lakecountyhospice.org>. Forest Glen and Trinity Pines/Post Mountain. Those established containment lines on the eastern part of the fire, east of East Low Gap being actively monitored. Crews are mopping up, improving fire lines, dropping snags and making sure the fire line will continue to hold. Ground resources will be actively patrolling containment lines. The North and South Zones have burned together in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness. The public is told the wildfire activity can change quickly and to follow all Evacuation Orders and Warnings.

many other situations. Dr. Pace says post-holiday cases are common as with Labor Day. He also says the numbers are consistent with the state's most restrictive tier, Purple so if the case load continues as is, the county could be in that tier which means closing indoor dining and other restrictions like schools not opening for in person. So he says slowing transmission by wearing masks and avoiding gatherings with people outside of our

09/22/20 households is the best practice.

North Zones have now burned together. The fire is burning in the Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. There have been 35 structures destroyed and still there are 1,595 threatened. We still have evacuations in the South Zone of the fire in effect for Mendocino and Lake counties, Pillsbury Ranch and the Lake Pillsbury basin in Lake County are still under mandatory orders.

In the West Zone of the fire 125 National Guard personnel are assigned to the incident. This zone has charred almost 94,000 acres and is 30% contained. Calif. firefighters and National Guard members are joined by resources from Montana, Idaho, Texas, and New Jersey. The Forest Service reports being successful with their firing operations near Lake Pillsbury yesterday which helped them eliminate isolated pockets of unburned fuels. Firefighters are mopping up areas further north where the fire has died down. There is a lot of smoke, active pockets and several areas where the fire continues to smolder and creep.

rule changes last Thursday after they first took up the matter last month to allow more permits to be released due to higher demand. The city manager reported to the council that existing businesses were successful and there should be more allowed, so the council has given the green light for more delivery-only dispensaries and other cannabis businesses, but not retailers, because the city code calls for the amount the city already has. The city manager told Lake Co News there were four additional permits wanted already.

Last August it was 4.5 percent. The state recorded 11.4 percent in August, down from 13.5 percent in July. It's the first month since the pandemic first surfaced where the state's rate was lower than when it was during the recession, at 12.3%. In Mendocino County the August unemployment was 8.8%, down more than 2 points from 10.9 percent in July, and in Colusa, 11%, Napa, 8.3% and Sonoma was 7.7%.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife looking for a regulation change so hunters of elk and pronghorn (antelope) can get full refunds due to shortened seasons due to wildfires and forest closures. Those eligible could also potentially get a preference point for elk or pronghorn for the 2020 season. The agency's director says the unprecedented forest closures and wildfires cut the season and the tags are expensive. He says refunding the fees and restoring the preference points is the least they can do. Hunting fees pay for scientific research and conservation measures. An elk tag is \$461.50 and a pronghorn tag costs \$155.27, not including application and processing fees. Those are not going to be refundable.

caught, but some negative and racist comments followed. Another said the image was "highly disturbing". Edmonds and six others were caught after three men, a woman and a girl were all held at gunpoint.

[A group in Mendocino County reminding not to forget to fill out your Census q](#)
pick up supplies Saturday at your assigned location. You have to pre-register by Thursday at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QNP95FB>. For more information, contact Edelman at deborah.edelman@mcrd.org.

:13 "We are swept in the funding allocations that are not specific to health-center needs. So therefore our needs have not been addressed. So that is why we will continue to push for health center-specific funding."

A man from Lake County accused of arson who had to be examined for competency has been found competent to stand trial. But Matthew Miravalle pleaded no contest to the arson charge in March. He also waived his right to a trial by jury though, on the question of competency. His lawyer asked for doctor's reports which were presented to the court. He now goes to court October 5th. But to be sentenced. The case has gone on to the Lake County Probation Department for a sentencing recommendation. He's accused of setting three fires in Clearlake Oaks. Two doctors found he was competent. He's also recently been registered with the state as an arsonist.

adjusted for inflation all of next year unless it means an inflation rate less than zero. The legal marijuana industry still competing with the black market, lobbied lawmakers for tax relief.

:15 "There are 1,300 sites serving 7.2 million people. We are seeing one in three of the state's Medi-Cal recipients and one in six Californians."

Now the biggest fire to ever burn in Calif, at almost 880,000 acres. Since the

No Kelseyville Pear Festival this year. Lake Co News reports it's the best attended one day event in the county, a one-day celebration of the county's harvest of pears, walnuts, olives and winegrapes. Due to the pandemic the event is canceled for the first time in nearly 30 years. The event is planned for next year.

man with a metal pipe. Ukiah police say they got a call to the 900 block of South State Street Saturday where yelling was coming from the area near ABC Supply Company. The woman, Melissa Miller was seen pushing the victim into a dark area of the parking lot, wielding the pipe and pushing it up against his throat. They ordered her to drop the pipe and she refused, they eventually talked her down and arrested her. The victim told police he knew Miller before the altercation, but she threatened his life. She also admitted the same to police. She's charged with suspicion of attempted murder, kidnapping, resisting arrest and violating her probation, and is being held

09/23/20 under \$250,000 bail.

The public health office in Sonoma County has reported another six people have died from complications of coronavirus. Now 120 people have died in the county. The latest are five senior care facility residents, the other was not, but was a man over 65 years old. There had been no reported deaths for the last week, but one of the deaths reportedly actually happened back in August and was just reported now. Of the 120 who have died, 95 were living at skilled nursing facilities or residential care homes. A reported outbreak also at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital last month in the medical surgical area. There was contract tracing on 26 health care workers and less than five patients and no more infections. The hospital says it did deep cleaning and will add another layer of restrictions to prevent another outbreak.

Some fitness centers in Sonoma County are suing the state saying they're being treated differently than other businesses during the pandemic and should be allowed to reopen indoors. The lawsuit was filed by the California Fitness Alliance and says it's not fair that restaurants, barbershops, movie theaters and other businesses don't have such rigorous restrictions and want evidence that gyms spread the virus. The suit filed by the business trade group last week in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

A new shelter in place order has been put in place in Mendocino County. The Public Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren revised what was in place staying in the purple, or most at risk tier. But he says the new order is more streamlined to avoid duplication with State orders. So there are almost no restrictions on tourism except there must be an individual caretaker/manager on-call 24/7 and prepared to be there within one hour. The stable groups or bubbles are modified to 12 people instead of 6 and restaurants, wineries and tasting rooms do not have to close at 8 pm. The new health order goes into effect immediately.

A man from Lakeport's been arrested after he was seen lighting a fire in Upper Lake. Baraquiel Simon Ruiz arrested after a report Sunday night of an arson. A witness told deputies he saw the man light the fire in the 6600 block of Westlake Road in Upper Lake, then take off. He described the man to deputies and said he yelled at the guy to stop and he then stomped it out and ran. The witness video's the whole thing. Ruiz was identified in a line up, then admitted he was trying to burn trash. He was arrested and booked into jail on \$250,000 bail.

The Mendocino Air Quality Management District reports there's still a lot of smoke coming off the August Complex fire. The firefighters on the area near Lake Pillsbury are doing backfiring which is also producing more smoke. The management district says the better air quality is expected to stick around for a few days, but there may be widespread haze and smoke. Right now air monitors show particulate matter concentrations in the "Good" to "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" range for most parts of the county. There could be "Unhealthy" air quality in northern and northeastern inland communities. Coastal areas have good air quality in the morning then "Moderate" and "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" later in the day.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors expected to instruct the Registrar of Voters Office to go ahead and verify over 2,000 signatures for a referendum challenge on an ordinance to enforce state and local Public Health orders. Lake Co News reports the vote was unanimous yesterday. The ordinance was agreed to last month and the board could just rescind it, but instead decided to follow protocol for verification. The ordinance is due to go into effect about now, 30 days after its approval, which was Aug. 18th. But it was suspended because of the referendum petition's submission. The ordinance is to enforce public health orders related to mask wearing, social distancing, hygiene requirements and if a business doesn't close if the health order calls for it. There have been 516 positive cases in the county and 11 deaths.

Less than 200 acres growth on the August Complex. The three zones of the fire, south and north, which have burned together, and the west, have burned more than 851,000 acres. It's 38% contained and is still actively burning on the Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. Burning operations in the Lake Pillsbury area continue and there are mandatory evacuation orders for some in that area. Firefighters on the West Zone are working on control lines along the eastern area of the zone. There have been 35 structures destroyed and 1,600 are threatened on the entire fire.

A fire quickly put out in Ukiah after it starts in the garage of a home. It happened Sunday on Creekside Court. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority reports quick work on the fire after several people called it in. When crews got to the scene they found flames erupting out of the window of the garage. They cut into its roll up door so they could put the fire out. They reported smoke damage throughout the house and didn't know how it started, but say it didn't appear to be suspicious. They also noted there was what looked to be a marijuana-drying operation in the garage.

Looks like the pandemic has affected enrollment for the state's community college system. A new report by the Chancellor of the system says there's a decline of student enrollment for the fall. Numbers were already down before the pandemic, but the Chancellor says the fall semester saw a decline in enrollment and the gap is closing, but they won't know for sure until another set of data is released in November. He says right now they're experiencing about a 5-7% decrease. But there was an increase over the summer. A community college survey with half of the state's colleges reporting back showed off numbers in enrollments, for part-time and full-time students. But there were a few with higher enrollments.

One of the many fires that started more than a month ago in a dry lightning storm is finally 100% contained. Firefighters gained full containment on the CZU Lightning Complex in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. But there are still more than 2 dozen other major wildfires in California and over 18,200 firefighters on the front lines. They report making progress on the fires and another 22 new wildfires that started yesterday. A Fire Weather Watch is in effect starting Saturday morning for a large part of Northern California due to expected gusty winds and low humidity, bringing critical fire weather conditions. It's forecasted to last through Monday along with an expected sharp increase in temperatures this weekend across most of California. The LNU Complex which had triggered evacuations last month in Lake County is still not quite contained at 363,220 acres, with no new growth expected, it's 98% contained. The one we continue to watch closely, with evacuation orders in Mendocino and Lake counties, the August Complex, the South Zone has burned almost 488,000 acres on its own, is 50% contained, the North Zone, at over 269,000 acres is 35% contained, and the West Zone of the fire has burned nearly 104,000 acres is 45% contained.

A man in Ukiah has been arrested after reports of a shooting death during a family dispute. The sheriff's office got a call this morning to the 2500 block of Twining Road and found the shooter, who surrendered on the spot. He's been identified as Thomas Dean Jones. Deputies found two victims who'd been shot, one of them dead. That was a 28 year-old man, the other a 44 year old man who had life threatening injuries and was taken by air ambulance to an out of county hospital. Police and the CHP also reported to the scene. Right now investigators say it looks to have been a family dispute regarding the possible sale of the family property. Detectives from the sheriff's office working the case with the DA's office and the state Dept. of Justice.

The team working on the August Complex, CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service report the West Zone of the fire is now at 103,780 acres, spans approximately 195 miles of fire line and is 45% contained. There are still evacuation orders and warnings and others are being reduced as fire conditions change. Firefighters conducted additional firing operations in the Mill Creek area, above Lake Pillsbury, trying to burn out the isolated pockets of unburned fuels. Further north, ground resources and aircraft worked to improve and widen containment lines. Firefighters performing direct fire attack and mop up where fire conditions safely allow. 8,900 structures

09/24/20 remain threatened.

A man in Lakeport says another man burglarized him of several firearms and knows who did it. The victim told police he thinks 18 year old Michael Dore was to blame. But Dore denied it. Deputies found ammo, but no guns at his home. The burglary victim called later to say Dore recently shot at another man at Highland Springs Reservoir and the victim could confirm. Indeed, that victim said he was at a party where a car drove towards him with Dore as the passenger; and he fired shots at him. Deputies again went to question Dore. He admitted he was at the scene, but didn't shoot anyone, he was arrested anyway. Later in the day a loaded firearm was found in Lucerne near where Dore had first been stopped. A Glock handgun reported stolen almost a year ago was recovered and Dore admitted he tossed it. He's charged with several crimes and held on \$250,000.

The elections office in Mendocino County looking for some folks to help with the upcoming election. The office in Ukiah says they need 2 Extra Help as they're mailing 52,000 + ballots to registered voters in Mendocino County on October 5th. The office says once the ballots start coming back they need some dedicated people to help. You will be working with experienced Election workers who will train you on how to work in teams to scan barcodes on each ballot envelope, check signatures, file and maintain a precise chain of command with opening and preparing the ballots to be counted. They will also gather supplies for the Polling Locations and help with required canvass procedures after Election Day. The work is for 6 weeks starting mid October to the end of November. You need to be at least 18 years old, registered to vote and organized.

We follow all the County Public Health orders, practice social distancing and clean frequently. Please call our Elections Office at 707 234-6819.

The Mendocino County Elections Office says they've been receiving questions about the upcoming election. As a reminder Official Ballots will be mailed October 5th to all registered voters in the State of California due to the pandemic. If you don't receive it by October 15th, they would like you to be in touch for a replacement ballot. The ballot can be mailed back or brought to a Ballot Drop Box Location after you fill it out. The ballot can be processed as soon as the Elections Office gets it. There is no postage necessary.

PG&E warning about possible public safety power shutoffs this weekend or next week due to predicted fire watch weather. The utility will first send a notification two days before any event, then one day before. After the Watch notification, the company will send a Warning if forecasted conditions show they will need to power you down. The Warning notifications are to be sent about four to 12 hours before the power is shut off. The company says the Watch and Warning notifications are directly tied to weather forecasts which can change fast. They will do it by automated calls, texts and emails. During the shut off event they will continue to provide updates to customers at least once a day until power is restored.

Sonoma County's in the purple tier, the most restrictive for reopening businesses as the county apparently cannot meet requirements. The Press Democrat reports the county may be catching up though and might be able to reopen some businesses as soon as next week, depending on a couple of key metrics. The county has to prove the spread of coronavirus has slowed since the beginning of the month, and that it's stable. The Public Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase says the county is very close to meeting the requirements. It's one of two Bay Area counties stuck in what was the state's watch list, and now is the purple tier. Contra Costa is the other.

Firefighting resources remain a challenge in California, so Mexico says it's sending 101 firefighters to the United States to help on the Calif. wildfires. The Environment Department in Mexico reported yesterday they're sending five teams of 20 trained, equipped firefighters from their national forestry commission to work with the U.S. Forest Service. They're first reporting to Sequoia National Park where the SQF Complex of fires started by lightning continue burning. The country reports they were able to send crews because only one of Mexico's 32 states has active wildfires. Summer and early fall are when it's typically wet and rainy in most of Mexico.

An online meeting scheduled once again to update the public on the August Complex. The South Zone team is hosting the online meeting tonight at 7 on the Mendocino National Forest Facebook page. The fire as a whole has added several thousand acres the last few days, with a fire weather warning coming this weekend. The fire started well over a month ago and is still less than 50% contained. Full containment is not expected until the middle of November. 35 structures have burned and 1,600 more are threatened. There are evacuation orders on the South Zone in both Lake and Mendocino Counties.

The state is allowing more businesses to reopen. That includes some of the largest counties in the Bay Area and Southern Calif. The state health secretary, Dr. Mark Ghaly also announced earlier this week that nail salons could also reopen, but cautions, flu season is arriving, and cases are rising in Europe and other parts of the U.S. The reopenings are based on the amount of positive tests and per capita new cases per county reporting. A county has to report less cases and stability in new cases before they can move to the next tier, but most counties are no longer in the purple tier. Los Angeles County has been in the purple tier but could be out, along with Sonoma County next week.

A new report shows the heavy smoke from wildfires across the state has killed more people than the fires. Health experts reported between the beginning of August until Sept. 10th at least 1,200 and maybe as many as 3,000 people have died in the state. The report by researchers at Stanford University says the deaths were in those over 65, most of them had pre-existing conditions like heart disease, diabetes and respiratory ailments. 26 people have died in direct relation to wildfires this year across Calif.

AFTERNOON UPDATE

The name has been released of a man killed earlier this week during what the sheriff's office has called a family dispute. 44 year old Jamie Wilcox of Ukiah is the man who police say was killed by Thomas Dean Jones. They say another man, a 28 year old was also shot. They have not released his name. An autopsy has been set for this afternoon on Wilcox. The 28 year-old man is being treated and is expected to recover from his injuries.

Schools in Lake County that have made adjustments due to the pandemic may have to again. And now reports of a student at Clearlake High who's contracted COVID. The Public Health Office has reported a student tested positive and contact tracing has begun. All students and families in the students small instructional group have been notified. On Tuesday, Dr. Gary Pace at the Board of Supervisors meeting talking about how the county is closing in on the Purple Tier, like the state's watch list, which has the strictest guidelines. It could mean businesses that closed, and reopened, would have to close again. And it could mean schools go back to distance learning. Lake Co News reports last month Lucerne Elementary and Upper Lake Unified became the first two county school districts to reopen in a hybrid model. But Dr. Pace says the schools that already opened shouldn't be affected, but others may be delayed.

Firefighters continuing to work on the August Complex, but switching management teams on the South Zone. The US Forest Service reported several thousand more acres burned on the Complex yesterday, now gaining on 863,000 acres across all three of its zones. The entire Complex is 38 percent contained, that number down 1% from a day before. The fire is sprawling, burning a huge swatch of land on the Mendocino National Forest and also spreading onto the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. Fire officials say they're trying to bolster containment lines, taking out trees, finding smoldering hot spots and continue to manage containment lines near structures. They're also reinforcing dozer lines north and west of Pillsbury Ranch where there are still mandatory evacuation orders. Today there will

09/25/20 be a new management team on the South Zone.

Congressman Mike Thompson is having another of his virtual town halls related to the COVID-19 pandemic. His next, is next Thursday, Oct. 1st at 7 pm. This time around, his special guest is Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut. She's the chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The two will discuss the congressional response to the pandemic. Lake Co News reports this is the 15th in the Congressman's series of town halls on the pandemic. It's held over Zoom and Congressman Thompson's Facebook page. He represents the state's 5th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Contra Costa, Lake, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties.

Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital has had an outbreak of Covid-19 in its medical surgical unit so patients are being quarantined. Apparently the patients were exposed by a hospital employee, so they're being isolated within the unit. The Press Democrat reports an official with the National Union of Healthcare Workers says there are 19 patients quarantining. The hospital CEO says it's out of an abundance of caution and the patients are at low risk. He also says a new case popped up at the hospital in an employee but it was unrelated to an outbreak in August when 26 employees and less than five patients were infected.

There's a new chancellor for the California State University system, the first person of color to ascend to the position. Fresno State President Joseph Castro was named as the 8th chancellor on Wednesday by the board of trustees. He's also the first native of California, first Mexican-American and first CSU president who got the job. He will replace the retiring Chancellor Timothy White in January. And Castro says he went after the job due to the pandemic because the system needs a strong leader. The Governor weighed in saying he has an extraordinary record. Castro also says he's already talking to legislative leaders and Gov. Newsom.

The state's health and human services secretary says flu season is close and since that could overwhelm hospitals, he's urging flu shots. Health and Human Services Secretary Mark Ghaly says if there's a severe flu season this fall and winter it could overwhelm California hospitals even as the state sees progress in Covid-19 infection rates. Health officials are recommending all Californians six months and up should get a flu shot this year. California has reported almost 791,000 confirmed cases, the most in the country.

Get ready for a new set of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). PG&E reports several thousand people in Northern Calif. could lose their power this weekend. The utility company says they notified their customers yesterday afternoon of the possibility. They could start to power people down tomorrow night depending on the forecast. But right now it looks like hot and dry conditions with fast moving wind is coming. And that can trigger power downs to prevent the utility company's equipment from starting wildfires. The utility company giving warnings hours before and says they'll be in touch at least once a day during the PSPS event, and it'll take about 12 hours to get the power back on, once they have an all clear.

Nail Salons get to reopen across the state even in Purple Tier counties. The state health dept. says beauty industry representatives have kept in touch with them on protocols for opening indoors. The nail salons had been blamed on high coronavirus transmission rates so they could only be open outdoors. Many opened outside under tents and in parking lots. There was an outcry after hair salons and barber shops were allowed to open, but not nail salons. The state health and human services secretary says since case and hospital rates are down, it was a good sign to allow other businesses to reopen.

Yosemite National Park is reopening. After shutting down due to smoky conditions, the national park announced they'll allow visitors in this morning. They had closed last week due to smoke from the Creek Fire which brought unhealthy air, at hazardous levels to the area. There were closed roads that reopened last Sunday to through traffic only. You will need a day use reservation to go into the park and for campsites, you can book online. You can also check the status of the roads into the park there. The Creek Fire is burning northeast of Fresno and has charred more than 291,000 acres and is 34% contained. Officials in the National Park say they're continuing to monitor air quality and are keeping in touch with local and federal public health experts on smoke impacts.

Board Supervisor John Hashak and his wife, Janice, both long time teachers are retiring from their teaching jobs. The Willits News reports after 50 years of combined service for each, they're hanging up their hats. The two have each taught different subjects throughout their careers, John for 18 years at Willits High in Foreign languages, English Language, History and more. He also has taught elementary and middle school. Janice has taught at Blosser Lane for 21 years, leading classes in English Language, and also taught history classes at Willits High.

The Mendocino County Grand Jury mandated to be a watchdog of sorts for the workings of government, writing up a report on the Parlin Fork Fire Work Group. High marks for the group in its report from back in February after a site visit. The district is located in the Jackson State Demonstration Forest on Highway 20 and is part of the state Department of Corrections and Rehab managed by correctional officers and operated with Cal Fire. It's also the oldest conservation camp in Northern California. It helps inmates learn new skills and serve the community. The visit before the coronavirus pandemic broke out. The Grand Jury reported the camp looked to be managed well and there was a dedicated staff who were to be commended for maintenance and being positive role models for inmates.

Fire weather watches this weekend so PG&E triggering public safety power shutoffs. Watch for the National Weather Service to issue weather warnings for most of Northern California this weekend and parts of Southern California next week as temperatures get to triple digits in some areas. Pacific Gas & Electric telling their customers to be prepared with fire weather, comes intentional power downs to prevent their equipment from catching on fire and spreading. Tens of thousands of people have already been warned their power could be off for at least two nights in high fire-risk conditions. PG&E says they will inspect their lines, then re-energize them, and that could take 12 hours. There are more than 2 dozen major wildfires burning in the state including the August Complex, the largest in state history. The US Forest Service reports the fire has charred nearly 870,000 acres and is still under 40% contained. The strongest winds are expected tomorrow into Sunday.

The Governor has signed Assemblyman Jim Wood's bill into law so pharmacists can administer the COVID-19 vaccine once we get one approved that is proven effective by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Assemblyman Wood says as we're getting ready for the approval, it's critical to be prepared to deliver it to as many people as possible as quickly as possible. Pharmacists have long been administering flu and other routine vaccinations. Wood says if we want our children to go back to school and if we want to get back to work and together with friends and family, we've got to make sure all Californians have access to an FDA-approved and effective vaccine as soon as it's available.

The new incident management team has taken over the massive South Zone of the August Complex Fire. The total acreage on the fire is nearly 870,000 acres and it's 40% contained. The US Forest Service says crews continue to make progress in the Pillsbury Lake area, mopping up after successful firing operations earlier this week. And other crews are working on firelines in the Elk Creek drainage and the Sanhedrin Wilderness to prevent further fire spread to the west. As we've been reporting, the east side of the South Zone is fully contained. It's being monitored to make sure it stays that way. There are still Evacuation Orders in the South Zone for areas of both Mendocino and Lake Counties.

A Christian school in Ukiah has reopened. The Ukiah Junior Academy which is located in a local vineyard has children back in class. The Principal Rick Nelson says they were worried long periods of isolation away from school would be harmful to students' psychological well-being and says they felt a reopening was necessary. Nelson says they put protocols in place to keep children safe. They were able to open after being cleared by the county health department and sending a waiver to the state health department. They have students from kindergarten through sixth grade at in-person classes; seventh-through tenth grades are distance learning until further notice.

3 people in trouble with the law after someone told CAL FIRE officers they had been robbed at gunpoint. The Mendocino County Sheriff's office got a call yesterday morning to an area on Highway 162 approximately .5 miles from the intersection of the 101. The victim said there were 3-4 armed suspects, with assault weapon style rifles and dressed in body armor who took off in a black Chevy Tahoe and a gray Toyota Tacoma. A Sergeant on routine patrol on Highway 20 east of Potter Valley saw the two vehicles and took chase after the Tahoe which went onto a dirt road. The Sergeant stopped chasing as a deputy stopped the Tacoma. The driver was arrested, Jesus Estevan Vargas Jr. for armed robbery. Shots were heard where the Tahoe had stopped, two victims tied up, one shot as they tried to run, and the remaining two suspects were finally taken down with the help of a SWAT team. One suspect shot himself in the head and was flown to an out of county hospital for treatment. The investigation continues with several charges for the 3 arrested. The Sheriff's office working with CALFIRE, the CHP, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, Ukiah Police and the Potter Valley

09/28/20 Fire Department.

The August Fire is getting up near 900,000 acres and remains the largest fire to ever burn in the state. The fire has 3 zones, and is 43% contained. So far 86 structures have been destroyed. For weeks another 1,595 have been threatened. The Forest Service reported critical fire conditions yesterday with extremely hot and dry weather which is expected to hang around for several days. The fire is moving slowly though, but that could change with the fire weather. Firefighters have been working in the Lake Pillsbury area and other critical areas for days and report being ready for potential fire spread and firelines to be tested. The east side of the South Zone remains fully contained, and is being patrolled for any threats to control lines. There are evacuations in the South Zone of the Complex, and orders are in place for portions of Mendocino and Lake counties. The fire is spread amongst Lake, Mendocino, Colusa, Glenn, Tehama and Trinity Counties

*South Zone 487,666 acres, 70% contained

*North Zone 280,577 acres, 36% contained

*West Zone 104,836 acres, 70% contained

Evacuation Warnings in Mendocino County have been upgraded to Evacuation Orders and new Evacuation Warnings have been issued.

Zone R: West and south of Mina Road, south of the North Fork of the Eel River, east of the Eel River.

Zone P: South of the county line, east of Mina Road north of Hulls Valley Road and west of Hulls Creek.

Zone O: South of the county line, east of Hulls Creek, north of Mendocino Pass Road, and west of Williams Creek.

Zone Q: South of the County Line, west and north of the North Fork of the Eel River, north and east of Bald Mountain Road.

Zone S: South of the county line, east of Bell Springs Road, north of Bell Springs Creek and west of the North Fork of the Eel River.

More firefighters needed in Calif. That's the word from State Sen. Mike McGuire who says it's the state's "top priority" for Sonoma and Napa counties and that right now the state's "squeezing as many resources out of the system as possible". As of early this morning more than 6,000 more homes were evacuated in Sonoma County due to the Shady fire which broke out last night and was rampaging thru homes already. The fire jumped Highway 12 and started burning in neighborhoods. It's burning on the Nuns and Tubbs fire scars. There were a couple of other new fires that started yesterday, in Butte (Byoote) and Shasta counties. The state has limited resources already due to the massive August complex and more than 20 others that started 6 weeks ago in a lightning storm. the 2017 Nuns and Tubbs fires, which under other conditions might have lessened the fire's growth.

The red flag warning has been expanded for the whole North Bay which includes all of Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa and Marin counties and won't end until tonight. It was only for the higher elevations of the North Bay hills and was supposed to expire this morning, but it changed. The intentional power downs from PG&E also changed to include more homes. The utility company utilizing its Public Safety Power Shutoffs again to prevent its equipment from starting any more fires. The National Weather Service reported the expanded alert into the lower elevations was because of winds in the valleys. Some gusts in higher elevations could reach up to 50 mph. Firecrews watching containment lines on the LNU Lightning Complex which started around the same time the August Complex ignited.

A new playground is coming to Westside Community Park in Lakeport. The Lake County Tribal Health Consortium working with the Lions Club for the new playground. The Tribal Health Consortium donated \$5,000 last week for the new park after the Lions Club donated \$100,000. Apparently a fundraising letter went out to raise \$5,000 more after the Lions Club's donation and the Consortium stepped up. There were also \$4,000 in donations from the community.

A couple of meetings from the Lakeport Board of Education to discuss in person, hybrid and distance learning for the next school year. There were in person board meetings, that were socially distanced last week. The school Superintendent delivered a presentation about the possible change-over to hybrid learning. The Record Bee reports some administrators who attended the meeting by Zoom said it had been a challenge to teach online and manage kids in person. Some of the children were without internet as only 50 of 200 hotspots were delivered because the cell phone companies were late with them. That was noted as a priority so the students who couldn't log on were taken care of. They also discussed how classrooms would be reconfigured for in person learning. The district reportedly working with the Lake County Office of Education to open learning hubs around the county. School officials said hybrid learning was the goal ASAP and as safe as they could make it.

Mendocino County has a plan for homelessness and Ukiah is signing on. The Daily Journal reports the City Council voted unanimously to endorse the county's Strategic Plan to address homelessness. But a couple of councilmembers said they thought it would be a good idea for administrators to be hired to manage what more than 30 agencies and service providers were doing on the matter. It all started with the county considering a plan on homelessness after a report was prepared by a doctor who studied the local homeless and transient populations and blossomed from there. There is a list of four goals with action steps, timelines to meet them and their final results.

It's official, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has approved of buying a motel to be turned into affordable housing. In a closed session meeting last week the board agreed to buy the Best Western motel on South Orchard Avenue for \$10.6 million after it was announced the state was sending \$9.6 million to the county to create housing. The county quickly entered negotiations on the property for transitional housing for individuals and families already homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The rooms will be studio-style units and there will be upgrades to about half of them for permanent housing within about ten years. It's all part of Project Homekey.

Since there's been more cases of Covid-19 in Lake County, the Public Health Office has announced possible new business restrictions. Dr. Gary Pace says the last few weeks have seen a surge in cases and outbreaks at two Senior Residential Facilities. One of them had 39 residents test positive, 7 of whom died. 16 staff members were infected. At the other, 3 residents and 8 staff tested positive. There have also been clusters of infections at some businesses, schools, and in first responders. If there's a new case rate for any county in the state at more than 4.7 cases/day, they're placed in the "Purple Tier" which replaced the "Watch List". With that Dr. Pace is ordering indoor services at restaurants, places of worship and gyms and fitness centers to be prohibited in Lake County by this Friday unless things don't change. But Dr. Pace says they're appealing to the state to delay it because if the senior facilities are all clear, the county could stay in the Red Tier. The county could be placed in the Purple Tier as soon as tomorrow.

AUGUST COMPLEX – WEST ZONE EVACUATION ORDER FOR LOWER INDIAN DICK ROAD AND BAUER SUBDIVISION IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

09/29/20

WHAT: Mendocino County – Evacuation Order for Zone E.1

WHEN: Effective Immediately

WHERE: ORDER Area of Mendocino County:

Zone E.1: North of Mendocino Pass Road (FH7), east of the Middle Fork of the Eel River, south of Bar Creek, west of Nebo Rock (to include Bauer Subdivision).

ROAD CLOSURES:

FH7 (Mendocino Pass Road) and M1 (Indian Dick Road) at Eel River

NOTES:

The public is reminded to stay vigilant on current fire conditions. Please continue to adhere to road closures and any Evacuation Warnings and Evacuation Orders. Please remember to drive slowly and yield to emergency personnel in the area. There may still be smoke in the respective areas as firefighters continue their suppression operations.

The Mendocino National Forest will remain closed, for updated forest cl

View the most current evacuation map at: <https://tinyurl.com/mendoeva>

For more information about wildfire preparedness visit: www.readyforwi

Another giant fire in Santa Rosa. The Glass fire burns in the scars of the Tubbs and Nuns Fires from 2017 across the Mayacamas Mountains into Sonoma County into residential neighborhoods that have been through this before. The fire started east of Napa Valley between Calistoga and St. Helena over the weekend and dry weather and fuels exploded in red flag weather conditions. It was at more than 36,230 acres last night, mostly uncontained. Cal Fire reported over 100 structures already destroyed in Napa and Sonoma counties, and more than 8,500 more were threatened. There were over 68,000 people evacuated and 30,000 more warned.

The Gov. has once again issued a state of emergency proclamation, this time for two wildfires in Northern California, including the Glass fire in Sonoma and Napa counties. It also covers the recently started Zogg fire burning in Shasta County. The Gov. also sent a letter to the President requesting a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, which would bring federal assistance to the state and local governments. The request covers fires that are also currently burning in Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego and Siskiyou counties.

During the ferocious fire in Santa Rosa, a senior living community was spared. Almost 5,000 people live at the Oakmont Village community which was the scene of an evacuation in 2017 too. Cars stuck on narrow, Highway 12 trying to escape wildfires once again. The Glass Fire surrounding Oakmont on 3 sides, but firefighters got a handle on the massive flames, sparing the community, except for one triplex and two homes. Some of the homes in the community had just been rebuilt after the 2017 wildfires that took thousands of homes. Firefighters went house to house putting out spot fires as embers flew in the wind.

A man the sheriff's office was looking for has been caught by a police dog. Deputies went to a home in the 26000 block of Sherwood Road in Willits Saturday night on a warrant to arrest Kevin Pike who they say took off on their arrival. He was wanted for violating his Parole. Deputies say they found him in the back of his house, then he started to run down a hill when he saw them. The police dog Ruddick nabbed him and he surrendered after without incident. He was taken to jail and booked for violation of parole and held in lieu of \$25,000.00 bail.

Lake County is spared so far moving into the Purple Tier. The Public Health Office put out the word last night that it's been postponed at least for a week after the county has some outbreaks at senior living facilities and businesses. There have been 559 cases confirmed with 20 new ones since the weekend. That's about 16 cases/100,000 residents for a couple weeks ago, which should have landed the county in Purple. Right now the positivity is 7.8%, so that's at the top edge of the Red Tier. Some of the cases were associated with one outbreak so the state agreed to grant the county a week to see if the case rate stays high or wanes again. Dr. Pace says the data for the last week is trickling in and it does look so far like the county will be in the Purple, most restrictive Tier. He says business owners are encouraged to plan for this.

The Mendocino County Sheriff distressed about wildfires and the mounting crime along with the pandemic, says it's time to step up enforcement. The Sheriff put out a statement yesterday about the armed robbery that occurred Sunday in Willits, the wildfires being the worst in recorded history and now he says he's had reports of fire personnel threatened, intimidated and ordered by illegal marijuana growers to water their plants. Sheriff Kendall also reports water being taken illegally which causes a problem for fire suppression. But more concerned he says about info he received that criminals were planning to kill deputies if they were caught Sunday. He says the marijuana trade is not victimless and that he gets countless calls about it from residents. He says he supports the legal market, but not illegal dealers, who must be dealt with. He's asking residents to help him get more staff by chiming in with the board of supervisors.

Both the Mendocino and Lake County Offices of Education are looking for tea

More information has been released about that armed robbery over the weekend in Willits. We already knew about one suspect who was caught and named, Jesus Estevan Vargas Jr., was busted after being chased in a Toyota Tacoma. He's charged with robbery, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy and held on \$2,500,000.00 bail. He and two others were accused of wearing body armor, having assault rifles and threatening people, one of whom was reportedly shot as they tried to get away. We have the name of a second suspect who was driving a Chevy Tahoe, charged with the same as Vargas and held on the same amount of bail was Roy Ha. A third suspect shot himself in the head during the chase with police. He was flown to an out of county hospital and is said to be alive. His name has not yet been released.

The August Fire mostly still burning out of control in the Mendocino National Forest, Trinity and Humboldt Forests is over 902,000 acres. The fire is still only 45% contained. The Forest Service and CAL FIRE working together on the Complex which is three zones. There are National Guard troops and soldiers from Washington along with firefighters from out of state continuing to work on the fire. There are too many evacuation zones to list. Yesterday we had more orders and warnings in Mendocino County. The West Zone of the fire has burned more than 111,000 acres and 65% contained. It covers about 195 miles of fire line.

PM NEWS UPDATE

A fire burning in Shasta County has killed 3 people. The Zogg Fire is part of the state of emergency declared by the Governor. The fire's burning southwest of Redding and has blackened over 40,300 acres, it's 0% contained. There are evacuation orders in place. 146 structures have been destroyed. The Glass Fire hopped from Napa to Sonoma County yesterday and is burning 4 miles east of Calistoga. It's burning in scars left by the 2017 Nuns and Tubbs fires, and in between on fresh fuel. It's charred 42,560 acres and is also 0% contained. There are also evacuation orders in effect and more have begun for others who were warned they might need to leave. We continue to monitor the massive August fire which keeps chomping away at more and more acreage. From yesterday to today, we've recorded over 35 thousand acres of growth. The fire remains only 43% contained. The fire is broken up as such, the South Zone is getting close to 490,000 acres, it's 70% contained; the North Zone has burned over 332,300 acres, it's 49% contained; and the West Zone has burned nearly 117,000 acres and is 65% contained. One firefighter died early on in the fight. She was based out of Texas. The August Complex has destroyed 86 structures and threatens hundreds more.

Mendocino Transit Authority says it's picking up its service again to Sonoma County, but it'll be a reduced schedule. The CC Rider, Route #65, is going once a day, Monday through Saturday, from Mendocino and Fort Bragg to Santa Rosa. And Route #95 will also go once a day, but, Monday through Friday, from Point Arena to Santa Rosa. The service will start again on Monday, Oct. 12 with coronavirus safety protocols in place. You will need to wear a face mask and practice social distancing. All MTA vehicles are equipped with hand sanitizer and the company says it will be sanitizing and disinfecting buses every day. For more info, <http://www.mendocinotransit.org> or the Mendocino Transit Authority Facebook page for all service updates and changes.

Kelp restoration work continues in Noyo Bay. Last month several commercial red sea urchin divers started to remove kelp-eating purple urchins. Since the beginning of last month, they've cleared about six acres of reef, pulling out more than of 21,000 pounds of purple urchin. The nonprofit Reef Check California is leading the effort and says there's new growth of Kelp in Noyo Bay. The project was supposed to start sooner, but the pandemic delayed it a bit. The project managers say there were great ocean conditions so it didn't really affect the work much.

A deaf man accused of murdering a friend he was supposedly traveling with to Calif. to start a deaf camp will be finally going to trial. Court papers say Mavrick Fisher's case goes to jury trial Oct. 21st. Fisher's charged with murder, assault with a deadly weapon (that is not a firearm with great bodily injury likely) and grand theft of a firearm related to the death of his friend Grant Whitaker of Mackinaw, IL. His body found on a remote Scotts Valley property. The trial was supposed to start tomorrow but that was delayed, after several other attempts. The trial should last three weeks.

Power was back on for thousands of Pacific Gas and Electric Co. customers who were part of the latest public safety power shutoffs due to red flag weather. The energy company says they turned off power to 65,000 customers in 15 counties including Lake, but not Mendocino County Sunday. There were still several hundred in the dark last night. Only 55 people lost their power in Lake County. 2 were medical baseline customers. It all started early Sunday morning, those in Lake were near the county line with Napa south of Middletown. But they had an all clear yesterday morning. The utility reported no damage to infrastructure or hazards to any electrical equipment in our region. Wind gusts of up to 73 miles an hour were recorded on the Mt. St. Helena West weather station in Sonoma County and 72 miles per hour at Jarbo Gap in Butte County.

The Glass Fire in Napa Valley out of control evacuating entire communities. The Press Democrat reports Angwin, for the second time in a month, and the entire city of Calistoga. This is also an economically important time of year for Wine Country, tourism and the harvest. Evacuations were expanded last night to cover mountainous and canyon regions in Calistoga west of Highway 29 and along Highway 128 to the Napa-Sonoma county line. A CAL FIRE spokesperson said residents were in imminent danger. The fire burning where so many others have burned in the last three years, the Tubbs, Nuns and Atlas fires which killed more than 30 people and destroyed more than 7,700 structures in Sonoma and Napa counties. We also have the LNU Lightning Complex which is still burning after first starting the middle of

09/30/20 August and is 98% contained.

The state attorney general is suing the Trump administration to outlaw "ghost guns" which cannot be traced. The do it yourself manufactured weapons are not illegal federally so buyers don't have to have background checks. But the Attorney General Xavier Becerra is asking a federal judge in San Francisco to get a change in the federal government's policy on ghost guns saying it's a violation of the common definition of a firearm under federal law. There are two plaintiffs who have signed on with the state who lost their teenage children at a shooting at a Southern Calif. school.

The Governor has signed a bill into law to help those who've lost their home in a wildfire. The bill penned by North Coast Assemblyman Jim Wood will stop insurance companies from deducting the land value of an insured property if the homeowner decides to rebuild or replace their home in a different location. Wood says it's understandable someone would want to leave the location of their burned out home. The new law, which goes into effect next year, would also give more living expenses to a fire victim if they can't live in their home or it's got insufficient infrastructure. And it gives more to replacing the insides of a home so they can immediately buy needed essentials.

Congressman Mike Thompson along with members in Oregon and Iowa are introducing a Disaster package. Thompson is the Chair of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures. He's introduced the Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020 along with Congressman Earl Blumenauer of Oregon and Congresswoman Abby Finkenauer. Thompson says the bill will help survivors of natural disasters, not the pandemic. He says right now his district is in the middle of a devastating fire, destroying homes and businesses, and leaving communities to deal with another round of anxiety and grief. The same for the Oregon rep who's district is also dealing with massive wildfires. Iowa suffered after a windstorm last month. The August Complex wildfire continues to burn out of control, adding tens of thousands more acres the last 24 hours and still under 45% contained. The entire fire, which has been split into 3 management zones, has burned nearly 940,000 acres, growing almost 60,000 more acres from the day before. It's continuing to burn on the Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. CAL FIRE and the US Forest Service are jointly managing the massive inferno, along with the Calif. National Guard and firefighters from across the country. Last night they added more than 1,600 more firefighters to the Complex. The South Zone burning near the Lake Pillsbury area and the Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness.

Lake County getting millions from the state like many other counties as part of project Homekey to help with homelessness, or for those at risk of becoming homeless. In Mendocino County, supervisors purchased a motel in Ukiah with their money. In Lake, the county received \$3.3 million. Lake Co News reports the county's Dept. of Social Services is partnering with Adventist Health Clear Lake to work with the nonprofit Hope Rising Lake County to operate Hope Center in Clearlake. Hope Center is running a 20-bed interim housing facility and working to find more housing and helping those at risk of losing their shelter, but who are not utilizing the services at Hope Center.

Smoke from area fires impacting Lake and Mendocino counties. The Grass Fire in Napa and Sonoma Counties along with many other fires in the state and nearby in Oregon are causing unhealthy air quality. The Air Quality Management Districts in each county have put out statements warning areas will be "UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS" to "UNHEALTHY" through tomorrow. But wind conditions could push smoke out of each county too. Smoke concentrations vary depending on location, weather, and distance from a fire. Smoke and ash from wildfires and structure fires have harmful chemicals that can affect your health.

The Mendocino Registrar of Voters office says they're mailing ballots out Monday to all registered voters. Assessor Clerk Recorder, Registrar of Voters, Katrina Bartolomie put out a statement yesterday after getting a lot of questions about signatures. Two questions they get asked frequently, do you have to sign your mail ballot return envelope exactly as you registered; and what to do if your signature has changed? She says if you think signature has changed a lot, you should re-register. And as for the ballot envelope, you could sign your full name or variation of it as long as the signature style is the same, they will accept the signed ballot envelope. Ukiah is going to the goats... due to a shortage in inmate crews due to the pandemic, the city's considering getting goats out to chomp grass and weeds on the Rail Trail and other areas. The Daily Journal reports City Council member Maureen Mulheren came up with the idea to hire the Gonzalez Brush Busters. The company brings goats over to clear vegetation. It would cost the city around \$700 per acre and they want to clear just over 100. So a herd of 230 goats and five guardian dogs would come to the city if approved by the City Council. The newspaper reports the contract will be discussed at a special meeting of the council today at 4 pm.

Mendocino College says they're starting a public lecture series on social and community challenges. The lectures for students and the community at large focusing on relevance and community connection. The college is offering the lectures on Zoom, starting next Tuesday and continuing every first Tuesday of the month. They are taking December and January off, the first lecture, October 6th will be led by a Political Science instructor called "Thumb on the Scale: Using Gerrymandering and Voter Suppression to Rig Elections". The topic on how congressional districts are drawn and how politicians enact voting laws to benefit their own party but undermine democracy.

PM NEWS

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors is starting a climate advisory committee after declaring a climate emergency. The Climate Mobilization Project reports 1,783 local governments in 30 countries have declared these emergencies. Mothers Out Front, a group in Woodland says we have to get off fossil fuels before it's too late as the board of supervisors put the county putting its money where its mouth is, \$50,000 in county funds to support the advisory committee. A press release put out by the county says the all volunteer, Yolo County Climate Emergency Coalition will help the county put together a policy statement. The coalition first approached the board back in March.

Reports of a burglary in Ukiah yields no arrest or suspect. Apparently a homeowner called the Sheriff's Office saying they remotely witnessed the ripoff on their home security camera system, seeing two suspects force entry into their home. The homeowner says at the time, a 13 year old was there alone, but hid from the intruders. Deputies got there 12 minutes after the first contact with the homeowner, who also got home quick. No suspects were found. Deputies say the thieves took more than \$50,000.00 cash and some processed/package marijuana.

A fire weather watch in effect for the North Bay hills now upgraded to a red flag warning. The change in the forecast for tomorrow starting at 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. Friday. The National Weather Service says there could be gusts of 25-30 mph in higher elevations, along with dry conditions and expected low humidity. There are added evacuation warnings for the Glass Fire in Napa County, the fire has burned over 48,000 acres in 3 days and is burning along scars of 3 other fires that blackened the land just 3 years ago. The fire is only 2% contained. On Monday 68,000 people were evacuated, 14,000 are still out of their homes. The Sonoma County Fire Dept. also reports a flare up in the LNU Complex – Walbridge Fire, but it was put down fast.

A missing boater from New Jersey who got lost on Lake Tahoe has been found. Ryan Normoyle had rented a ski boat in August. It washed ashore on the Nevada side of the lake Aug. 10th. He had apparently recorded himself jumping into the water with the boat still in gear, pulling him. Officials say he couldn't swim fast enough to catch up to the vessel and drowned. They couldn't find his body at the time, but his family contacted a nonprofit specializing in underwater recovery called Bruce's Legacy. They found the body last Thursday 1,565 feet underwater and brought him up Saturday. Bruce's Legacy says it's the deepest body recovery ever recorded in the United States and Canada.

Coronavirus restrictions are easing in the majority of California counties as there are small signs of a possible surge again. The Press Democrat reports seven counties were upgraded from the purple tier, the most restrictive so they can reopen restaurants, churches, gyms and movie theaters.

Two firefighters on the Glass fire in Napa County had to deploy fire shelter tents due to giant flames. CAL FIRE reports the two were not injured after jumping inside the "aluminized cloth tents". The fire has blackened 48,440 acres and is 2% contained.

A new management team has taken over the South Zone of the August Complex. The fire's burned more than 949,000 acres with 47% containment. Crews continue to mop up, check control lines and enhancing structure protection in the Lake Pillsbury area. It's burning in Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, Tehama and Trinity Counties

Elk Creek and Stonyford area (Mendocino National Forest)

*949,055 acres, 47% contained

*South Zone 489,151 acres, 70% contained

*North Zone 341,488 acres, 37% contained

*West Zone 118,416 acres, 65% contained

*1 fatality

*86 structures destroyed

*Includes multiple fires including the Elkhorn, Hopkins, Willow, Vinegar, and Doe fires