

**KWNE-KMKX FFC Reports Q2, 2023**

The latest on a murder investigation in Covelo. An autopsy report released over the weekend confirmed that the victim, 20-year-old Nicholas Whipple of Redwood Valley, was shot to death. Deputies found him with those deadly wounds early last Wednesday morning on Tabor Lane. Authorities have also identified a suspect. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office says Lee Anthony Joaquin is wanted for murder and should be considered armed and dangerous. The sheriff's office says Joaquin is 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighs approximately 180 lbs. He has shoulder-length hair that is sometimes pulled back in a ponytail. The Round Valley tribe is pleading with anyone with information about the case to contact law enforcement. Any tips will stay

04/03/2023 confidential.

Several people have been arrested after police found them squatting in a condemned building in Willits. Police got a report of trespassers in the shack on Sherwood Road, where they found the eight people holed up inside. They are all facing a variety of charges, including two counts of animal cruelty. As the police searched the building, they found an emaciated Husky and four small German Shepherd mix pups living in squalor. Mendocino County Animal Control was called to rescue the abused dogs

Investigators say an alarm sprinkler likely saved a bowling alley in Windsor from ruin in a weekend fire. The fire started in a dryer at the Windsor Bowling Center on Conde Lane early Sunday and caused smoke and water damage to the building. No one was in the building, and there were no injuries to first responders.

You aren't alone if you have ever been fascinated by the endless colors, markings, and variety of butterflies, which are among the first signs of California spring. Lake and Mendocino counties are home to literally hundreds of species, and the Lake County Agricultural Center has opened a new educational display about them. You can learn about large local butterflies—the Twin-Tailed Swallowtail is over three inches across—and small ones, like the Western Pygmy Blue, the smallest in the world at 12 inch across. The display of 325 butterflies, representing 254 different species, is on view at the Ag Center on Lakeport Blvd., in Lakeport, from Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New guidance about masks from the California Department of Health takes effect today. Hospitals, nursing homes, and detention facilities will be free to stop requiring masks in most routine situations. Don't look for an end to masking, though. Some hospitals are still requiring them, while others will only require them in certain locations or for certain procedures. Bottom line is, you'll still have to follow hospital rules, but the state says it is ok for the rules to be less strict than they have been. The Department of Health has specific guidance on its website.

## Sheet1

The Mendocino County Office of Education is investigating a potential data breach that might have affected some personal information stored in district computers. The investigation started when the IT department noticed a problem with its network on March 6th. Officials say an unauthorized user hacked into the system and had access to things like address, phone number, email address, student identification number, date of birth, Social Security number, and other sensitive private information. The district says it has changed passwords and reviewed policies and procedures related to data protection. The district is also offering potentially impacted individuals access to credit monitoring and identity protection services. You can find out more—including what to do if your data was breached—at the distinct website. There is no word on how many people may have been affected or if investigators have identified the cyberthief.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has voted to move ahead with a plan to find money to help several water resilience projects around the county. Mendovoice.com reports the supervisors agreed to work with a consultant that has ranked several projects that could get grants. Five projects are listed as priorities based on the consultant's ratings. Those projects include new reservoirs in Fort Bragg, modernization of the Mendocino City Community Services District's Laytonville Community Water District's water treatment plant repairs, MCCSD's smart water meter project, and the North Gualala Water Company's Gualala River Flow Bank Project that will provide residents with drinking water. Five other projects were ranked lower. The consultant, EKI Environment & Water, will now work with local governments and tribes to help them find money for those prioritized projects.

California is moving ahead with plans to phase out sales of heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses. The EPA has signed on to the plan that will require 100% heavy-duty vehicles in California, wherever feasible, by 2045. The governor says transitioning away from gas and diesel will protect millions of Californians from harmful pollution. Several other states are working on their own zero-emission vehicle goals. Along with California, those states make up 22 percent of the U.S. heavy-duty truck market.

The FAA has approved new rules that allow public land managers to list their properties as no-fly zones for drones in an FAA app for drone pilots. The California Fish and Wildlife Department and environmental groups had pushed for that rule to protect some sensitive habitat from drone overflights. The banned areas will now be added to the FAA app, which drone operators consult before putting up a flight. The FAA says its B4UFLY app is an important tool for drone pilots to understand where they can't go. Back in 2021, a drone crashed into a Least Tern nesting area in Orange County, which disturbed the habitat of those endangered birds for months.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors could choose an architect this week for the new sheriff's office facility at the old national guard armory on Hoyt Avenue. The designer will have a budget of just under \$250,000. The county got the armory property in a land swap with the state for some other property in Lakeport. The new department headquarters would replace the old office on Martin Street in Lakeport. The discussion is on the agenda for tomorrow morning, starting at 9:00. You can watch through the normal social media channels,

## Sheet 1

Lake County has lifted a boil-water advisory for water that comes directly from the south part of Clear Lake through private intakes. That advisory was put in place late last month due to a sewage overflow at a private residence on Burns Valley Road in Clearlake. That situation has been dealt with so the county health department has lifted the restriction. The department says is safe to recreate in the areas of Clear Lake around the city.. Before using the water from a system drawing water directly from the southern half of Clear Lake, County Health Services still advises customers to first throw out ice, flush faucets, and flush other appliances in order to ensure the removal of all potentially contaminated water.

04/04/2023 Three people died this morning in a tragic car fire along Highway 101 near Calpella. According to CHP, just after 6am a car drove off an embankment along northbound Highway 101, about one mile north of the Lake Mendocino exit. Mendocino County Sheriff's Officers, CHP and firefighters were on the scene and are investigating.

A string of hoax calls yesterday affected several area schools, in what may have been part of a trend of "Swatting" or false reports of school shootings. Fort Bragg High School and Dana Grey Elementary School went into lockdown after reports of shots fired. It happened around 1pm when someone claiming to be a teacher called 911. As of about 2:30 in the afternoon, Fort Bragg High School's Facebook page read, "The situation at Fort Bragg High School has been resolved with no injuries, and all students and staff safe." The lockdown was lifted for all sites in the Fort Bragg area. The same afternoon, just before 3pm, Willits Police and Mendocino County Sheriff's deputies responded to an active shooter report at Willits High School. Minutes later, a search was conducted with no active shooter found. Sources are reporting a similar call was reported at Ukiah High School.

The County of Lake Health Services is lifting a boil water notice for all residents who get water from the southern half of Clear Lake using private intakes. The sewage overflow on Burns Valley Road in Clearlake that prompted the boil water advisory on March 22, 2023, was initiated after a sewage pipe broke. The issue has been resolved and no longer threatens public health. The Environmental Health Division of the county is also announcing that the lake is safe for recreation. There have been no illnesses reported in the community. Questions and concerns can be addressed by calling your medical provider or the County of Lake Health Services at 707-263-1090. The Public Health Division and the Environmental Health Division are available to help answer questions.

Last Friday, CHP responded to a motorcycle crash west of Boonville. According to police, the rider was driving a Honda CBR motorcycle west on SR-128, near milepost marker 27. The rider traveled off the edge of the road, overturned when the rider was ejected. The biker was pronounced deceased at the scene. The crash is under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact Ukiah CHP.

Last Saturday afternoon, Humboldt County Sheriff's deputies searched a home on Garden Lane in Bayside. There, officers found 42-year-old Ryan Doucet, who is on probation, along with Kathleen Ellis, and a child. Police found fentanyl, over 15 grams of meth and more; easily accessible to the child. They also searched a truck at the property and found firearms, ammo and bomb making materials. Doucet was arrested and booked into the Humboldt County jail on charges of child endangerment, felon in possession of a firearm, manufacturing an explosive device and more. The woman was also arrested and booked into jail on charges of child endangerment. The juvenile was placed in safe custody.

## Sheet1

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors will meet tonight and address a navigation center in Eureka. The county department of HHS will focus on a plan to help homeless people find shelter and employment in the navigation center proposal, with sights set on a location on West Third Street. Also on tap, are considerations that would ban police from using unleashed dogs to control crowds or apprehend suspects. Additionally, the supervisors may continue three emergency declarations from the 6.4 magnitude earthquake in December, and the winter storms that began early in March.

Tuesday the Lakeport City Council will host a reception and hold a public hearing at 5:30 at Lakeport City Hall. The regular meeting begins at 6 p.m., when the mayor will read proclamations designating April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Arts, Culture & Creativity Month. The meeting is aimed at discussing affordable housing development and will consider a contract to demolish the former Natural High building. Public Works Director Ron Ladd will ask the council to award nearly \$80,000 for a construction contract to Unlimited Environmental Inc. for the Natural High demolition. The council chambers will be open to the public for the meeting. Masks are highly encouraged where 6-foot distancing cannot be maintained.

Lake County's former National Guard armory may be considered for the new sheriff's office headquarters facility at the Board of Supervisor meeting this week. The board will discuss remodeling the former California Army National Guard Armory on Hoyt Avenue, next to the Lake County Jail. The architectural and engineering services are being considered, with work from Dewberry Architects Inc. The contract, limited to just under \$250,000 for the conversion. The board meeting at 9am is the first floor of the Lake County Courthouse. You can watch the meeting live on Channel 8 and on the county's Facebook page.

The East Region Town Hall, or EARTH, will meet tomorrow, April 5th at the Moose Lodge on Moose Lodge Lane in Clearlake Oaks. Guest speaker, LT. Richard Ward of the Lake County Sheriff's Office will give an update on the Roadmap Task Force progress. Among other agenda items are the Clearlake Oaks consolidated lighting district, the Lake County Geothermal Project Watchlist, commercial cannabis cultivation and restoration projects.

[Yesterday, the Mendocino County Superior Court released details on how residents ca](#)

Several school districts in Mendocino County want to get the FBI involved in yesterday's unfounded reports of threats, which prompted a major police response. High schools in Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Willits, and Anderson Valley all got similar calls around 1:00—all hoaxes. The calls are a lot like others that have plagued schools nationwide in the past couple weeks. Fort Bragg Police Chief Neil Cervenka said the fake threat disrupted hundreds of lives and tied up emergency resources from the

04/05/2023 local, county, state, and federal levels.

It has been more than a week now since anyone has heard from 24-year-old Riley Hsieh from Brooktrails. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office thinks he may still be in the area. The department says if anyone spots Shieh, they should call 9-1-1 and not approach him. The MCSO is asking anyone in the Brooktrails area with outward-facing surveillance cameras to look over their images. Mendofever.com reports that Hsieh's family thinks he may be experiencing a mental health crisis.

## Sheet 1

Unemployment in Lake County went up in January, according to the California Employment Development Department. It stood at 6.7 percent, up from 5.4 percent in December and 6.6 percent in January 2022. Lake County's rate was 2.5 percent higher than the overall California rate of 4.2 percent; nationwide, it is 3.4 percent. The only job area that showed some month over month improvement was the category of private education and health services, which was up by 1.3 percent from December's number. The state states the unemployment rate in Mendocino County in January was 5.4 percent.

California has issued a warning about being on or around the water this spring. The big snow and big rain of the past few months could lead to high water risks this spring. River and stream levels are already rising, and with the eventual thaw, those waters will become increasingly fast, cold, and dangerous. The state Division of Boating and Waterways, the Department of Water Resources, and CalFire are encouraging people to wait until summer to recreate when conditions are safer. They say even the most experienced swimmer could quickly get overwhelmed. DWR Director Kathy Nemeth says safety needs to be a priority when outdoors—especially this year when conditions are a lot different than we may be used to.

Here's a number: 60 feet. That's how much snow has fallen this season at some of the big resorts in the mountains. It is the snowiest winter into spring in Lake Tahoe since 1971–72. That means a longer season for skiers and puts smiles on the faces of ski area operators, who expect several more weeks of good conditions.

We have all done it. We've been distracted by our phones, glanced down at the radio, spilled hot coffee on ourselves—some of the many ways we can get distracted while driving. Police across the region will be cracking down as part of April's distracted driving awareness month. It means offenses like texting while driving that might have gotten away with a warning from the cop will more likely get you a ticket instead. In 2020, there were reported 3,142 deaths blamed on distracted driving, not to mention thousands of injuries and damaged vehicles. There are ways to minimize the distractions—putting the phone on do not disturb, not scrolling on social media, and designating a passenger as a designated texter.

Talk about an expensive wine. A man from the Bay Area bought a bottle of back in the late 1970s for \$250—a lot back then. It's worth a lot more now. His 3-liter bottle—a jereboam—of 1971 Domaine de la Romanee-Conti La Tache, a Pinot Noir from France's Burgundy region, could get more than \$80,000 at an auction next week. At that price, a standard glass would cost about \$4,000. Cheers!

PG&E lawyers are back in court this week trying to get manslaughter charges against the utility tossed out. PG&E is facing 11 different charges for the deaths of four people in the Shasta Fire in 2020. The judge in the case indicated he might dismiss two misdemeanor charges but not the more serious allegations. His ruling is expected later this week. The trial is scheduled for January. The case is one of many legal challenges facing PG&E for its role in the Shasta fire—and several others.

The National Weather Service is evaluating tests last week of its tsunami warning system in Mendocino and Humboldt counties. According to mendovoice.com, The NWS is overall pleased with the tests and the responses it got from social media. Meteorologist Ryan Aylward says there was one problem with a warning siren along the coast at Pudding Creek that didn't work. The Mendocino County coast is generally not at risk from tsunamis, but officials say that it is still important that a warning system with several methods of notification be in place and working properly.

## Sheet1

The city of Ukiah and the Coyote Valley band of Pomo Indians are getting some state money to defend against wildfires. Ukiah will use its 7.2 million dollar grant to inspect 200 defensible spaces, maintain existing fire breaks, conduct prescribed burns, and take several other steps to shore up the city's fire defense. The Coyote Valley band will receive almost a million dollars to hire a mitigation specialist, come up with a tribal evacuation plan, and take other steps to make its community more fire resistant. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore says all of the projects are critical to protecting homes, property, businesses, and people's lives from catastrophic wildfires.

The State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways is spending money to prevent the further spread of quagga and zebra mussels into California's waterways. Grants will be funded by the California Boater Mussel Fee Sticker — known as the Quagga sticker. The anti infestation program expects to award up to \$3 million to eligible applicants. Applications will be accepted from April 10-May 19. DBW provides grants to entities that own or manage any aspect of water in a reservoir that is open for public recreation and is mussel-free. Funds for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation program are available for prevention projects such as planning, watercraft inspection stations and inspectors, launch monitors, watercraft decontamination units, educational signage, and outreach. Quagga and zebra mussels pose a serious threat to California's waters and fisheries. The spread of these freshwater mussels threatens recreational boating and fishing, aquatic ecosystems and fisheries, water delivery systems, hydroelectric facilities, agriculture, and the environment in general.

04/06/2023 The DBW webpage has information about the grants and infestation protection.

California foster children could get a chance to go to college and come out debt free under a bill under discussion in Sacramento. The measure would cover tuition, housing, food and books for students at Cal State, UC and community colleges. Those behind the bill say it could be a life change for kids who don't have a family to fall back on to help them pursue a college education. The program would kick in when the students have run out of other ways to pay. There are over 60,000 children in the state foster care system.

The old National Guard armory in Lakeport will soon become the new Lake County Sheriff's office headquarters. The board of supervisors has approved a \$250,000 dollar contract with the architects who will design the remodel of the building on Hoyt Avenue. The county acquired the property last year from the state in a land swap for a vacant 15.5 acre property in Clearlake. That land will be developed into affordable housing. The new HQ will be right next to the county jail. The first phase of the design work will take about 4 months.

The Clearlake City Council has its April meeting this evening with a couple of big contracts on the agenda. The council will consider a contract for the 18th Avenue Improvement project for more than 4.6 million dollars, and another for the Dam Road Extension/South Center Drive Improvement Project at almost 1 million dollars. Several proclamations and other routine business will come before the council in the meeting that starts at 6:00 in the council chambers at city hall. If you'd like to look over the agenda, it is on the city website, if you'd like to watch, the meeting will be on the usual social media channels.

## Sheet 1

You can have your say in the future of Lake County's parks, recreation and trails next week. The visioning workshop on Tuesday evening will focus on the county's master park, rec and trails plan that's being written. IT will include an inventory of what's there now and a plan for what could be there in the future. The meeting runs from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the County Courthouse. There are also a couple of pop-ups where you can share your idea. More on those, and the overall plan, is on the project link on the county website.

Mendocino County is on a census bureau list of the highest percent of population loss in California from July 2021 to July 2022. The census says the county lost 1.6 percent of its population over those 12 months. That is the 9th biggest loss of any of the state's counties. California's biggest gainer—Yolo County, which saw a 4.2 percent increase Demographers—people who study those trends—say the Pandemic had a big effect on population movements over the past three years but but that most parts of the state are getting back to their pre-pandemic levels.

A man from Humboldt county has died in a motorcycle crash near Big Sur. Kymkemp.com reports the rider collided with a truck that was turning onto Highway 1, south of Monterey early Wednesday. Both the rider and the truck's driver died at the scene early Wednesday. The name of ,motorcyclist, who was from Miranda, has not been released.

The Lakeport City Council is honoring the many, many volunteers who serve on various boards and commissions. This is volunteer month, established in 1991 as part of then-President George H.W. Bush's 1000 Points of Light initiative . Council members say Lakeport wouldn't be the community it is without those who serve without pay. There are lots of opportunities to step up. You can contact the city clerk's office if you'd like to know about them.

FEMA is granting more than 22 million dollars to North Coast Opportunities to harden 500 homes , which will help reduce the damage from wildfires—and save lives. The idea of a defensible space is to keep flammable material away from homes and give firefighters an area around t property to defend it. The program will focus on the Kelseyville Rivera Community Association in Lake County. NCO's Home Hardening Program Manager Deanna Fernweh tells LakeCo.news her organization is anxious to get stated on a project that will make the community safer. If you'd like to find out more, the website ncohomerhardening.org.

California has recently ended the COVID-19 State of Emergency. The California Department of Public Health will stop weekly news releases of COVID data, however, all information will continue to be available and updated on the state's dashboard each Thursday. As of this week, nearly 73 percent of the population has been vaccinated with the primary series. The most recent data suggests that \$11.2 million residents have been diagnosed with COVID. Yesterday's average case count was 1,343 over the last week. During February, unvaccinated residents were more than 2 and a half times more likely to get COVID than people who have been vaccinated.

04/07/2023 Sadly, there have been over 100,000 COVID related deaths in California since 2020.

## Sheet 1

Governor Newsom is announcing a request for a Federal Fishery Disaster Declaration to support the salmon fishing industry facing closure for this salmon season. Projections show California's Chinook salmon population at historic lows. If approved, the Federal Fishery Disaster Declaration would begin providing relief to fishing communities financially impacted by the closure. Severe wildfires, prolonged drought and other environmental and weather related events have harmed algal blooms and oceanic shifts, resulting in some of the lowest stock on record. Last month, CDFW announced \$22.5 million for projects to support and restore the habitat for salmon.

More news from Governor Newsom, he is announcing that 11 more communities have earned the distinction of being named Prohousing for their commitment to build more housing, faster, including Ukiah. This designation will help allow additional funds for communities to scale up their efforts to meet critical housing needs. California's goal is to build 2.5 million new homes within the next eight years, with at least one million new homes focused on lower-income families. The Prohousing Designation unleashes funding programs by the California Housing and Community Development Agency. To earn the Prohousing Designation, cities and counties must demonstrate they are promoting climate-smart housing development by utilizing Prohousing policies, including streamlining multifamily housing developments, up-zoning in places near jobs and transportation, and creating more affordable homes in places that in some ways not don't reach households of color and of Californians who earn lower incomes.

One of the largest employers in Humboldt County, the Blue Lake Rancheria is announcing an agreement with the Unite Here International Union, representing over one hundred hospitality workers at the Blue Lake Casino, Blue Lake Hotel and other entities among the Tribe's largest government-owned enterprises. Under the new agreement, employees will be represented by the union to negotiate benefits and salaries. The Tribe and Union have a cooperative labor management process to bring workplace issues to resolution, as well as increase employee recruitment and retention.

[Humboldt County is issuing an update on earthquake recovery efforts. In a press relea](#)

Caltrans and a contractor have diverted traffic at the slide on Hwy 101 near the Humboldt/Mendocino County border to a side road that was recently paved. One-way traffic is in effect temporarily. The slide affected travelers early this year as the roadway narrowed to one lane, and dropped several feet. California Senator, Mike McGuire announced state funding of \$20 million to fix the north south highway. Traffic continues to be slow through the area. Leave extra time for driving through the construction area.

In other road work, bridge work in Fort Bragg from Manzanita Street to Pudding Creek Road will continue with one-way traffic control will be in effect from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can expect up to 5-minute delays.

On Route 1, emergency work north of Rockport at Cottaneva Creek to south of Leggett will continue. One-way traffic is in effect from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with up to 20-minute delays.

And on Route 20, emergency work from James Creek to Three Chop Road will begin today. One-way traffic will be in effect from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Travelers should anticipate up to 20-minute delays.



## Sheet1

Redwood Forest Foundation Inc is announcing the hire of Alicia Bales as the new Program Director. She will lead RFFI's efforts to encourage community involvement in the future of the region's forests. Bales is a well-known resident in Mendocino County, with decades as a community radio journalist and community organizer. RFFI's attention has demanded focus on raising money, since they acquired the property. Innovative funding models and grants for several large-scale restoration and fire mitigation projects have been successful and the nonprofit will grow its staff and aim to deepen community engagement in forest activities.

The monthly Art Walk will take place today. Artists are hosting an evening of art, music and refreshments. Historic Downtown Ukiah will continue to host the event on the first Friday of each month, beginning at 5 p.m. In April they will have about 15 local artists showcasing their unique talent. DJ Seshwann will be providing free live entertainment from 5 to 7 p.m. Wood carving artist Jarrod Flowers will be carving all day Friday and Saturday. W Real Estate is featuring local artists participating with the Veterans Art Project. Among many features and exhibits, the Ukiah Library is inviting the community to join their free exhibit, sponsored by the Ukiah Valley Friends of the Library and Mendocino County Library. Art Center Ukiah is exhibiting "Re-Use It," featuring art which uses materials that might otherwise be discarded. Grace Hudson Museum is exhibiting "The Curious World of Seaweed." The exhibit explores the history behind seaweed, its connections with indigenous peoples, and the threatening human impact. For more information, contact Mo Mulheren at [ukiahvalleynetworking](mailto:ukiahvalleynetworking). There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Redwood Valley Rancheria Learning Center in Redwood Valley today, from 3 to 5pm with prizes and refreshments.

In Ukiah, the Ukiah Elks Lodge #1728 will have their Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday at 9am at the lodge on Hastings Road, with the Easter Bunny on hand for photos. Children ages under 5 are free, kids ages 6 to 12 are \$7.50 and ages 7-13 are \$15.

Fort Bragg Police gave an update on last week's handful of hoax calls aimed at Fort Bragg High School, and other schools in the area, including Willits High School. Fort Bragg and Ukiah's shared dispatch system was able to alert multiple law enforcement agencies including medical help by ground and air. Authorities confirmed that they are working with federal officials because the suspected caller sounded like they were not in the United States. The event did give school district officials adjustments on plans for active shooter protocols and procedures.

04/10/2023

Lakeport Unified School District property had an active shooter training for local law enforcement last week. The FBI led two Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training, or ALERRT, sessions in Lakeport. The training was put together by the Lakeport Police Department during spring break. There were sixty officers from eight local and state agencies. Over the last four years, the ALERRT courses have trained 115 officers.

## Sheet1

California officials seized guns from people who had become legally prohibited from owning them. The seizures were targeted at convicted criminals, those with serious mental illness; people who were suicidal, and those who have restraining orders against them. Officers said out of nearly 24,000 people, the highest amount in state history, the organization seized 1,437 firearms. The Judicial Council of California created the Armed and Prohibited Persons System that tracks people who are ineligible to own guns. Those who are convicted of a felony are prohibited for life from owning a gun in California. A misdemeanor conviction can bring up to a 10-year ban. Though enforcement and oversight have been an issue in the past, the council is making strides to increase its staffing numbers, and was recently awarded nearly \$5 million from California's Department of Justice. Funds helped sheriff's offices in 10 northern California counties to fulfill the council's mission of gun violence prevention.

The Clearlake Police Department is looking for a woman last seen in August, 2022. 29-year old Alice Irene Hoven is known to have been in and around the area behind the Walmart in Clearlake. Hoven has a history of drug use and may have mental health issues. Hoven is a white female, 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs around 148 pounds. She has short black hair and blue eyes. On Hoven's lower left arm is a Batman tattoo. If you have any information where Hoven may be, please contact the Clearlake Police Department.

Saturday morning, two people reportedly jumped off the Albion River Bridge. One person died, and the other was flown away with life flight. The only remaining wooden bridge on State Route 1 was also the scene of suicide in July of 2020. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is investigating. No names were released. If you see anyone who has a mental emergency, all the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-TALK.

Willits Police Officers responded to a tow business on North Lenore Street early Saturday morning, searching for a woman refusing to leave a vehicle on the property. Before officers arrived, 41-year-old Kimberly Livingston of Fort Bragg, took the vehicle and fled the scene. She was seen running a stop sign on Lenore and East Commercials streets. Willits authorities tried to stop the vehicle when it was nearly struck head-on by Livingston during the chase. The car was later found near State and Humboldt Streets, with Livingston close by. She was arrested and charged with Auto Theft, Felony Vehicle Pursuit, and Assault with a deadly weapon.

A two-vehicle crash on the north end of the Willits bypass slowed traffic on Highway 101 Saturday afternoon. Just after 1pm, a Chevy truck and a Honda collided with the vehicles landing in the southbound lanes of the highway. A juvenile passenger is being assessed for back injuries. CHP reported a child and a baby were passengers, but no other information has yet been released.

Last week, Governor Newsom announced the closure of salmon season, requesting federal aid. On Friday, Representative Jared Huffman joined House Speaker Pelosi in calling for emergency funding to be sped up. Huffman says it is a two part challenge in the industry, expediting relief and restoring salmon populations. Industry businesses echoed sentiments of laying off personnel in the wake of the disaster. Golden State Salmon Association's John McManus was concerned, but was also optimistic that federal relief will be expedited.

## Sheet 1

Late last week, the Clearlake City Council approved contracts for two road projects. The 18th Avenue Improvement Project was approved, with \$4.5 million funding the work. The council also approved nearly a million dollars for the Dam Road Extension/South Center Drive Improvement project. The city council meeting also included a directive aimed at the North Bay Animal Services, the acting city's animal shelter. City Manager Alan Flora focused on how the shelter can improve with issues of animal handling and housing, as well as problems with volunteers there.

Highland Springs Recreation Area is now open. Visitors are reminded to use caution while visiting the area, due to continued storm damage, including downed trees and fallen limbs on the disc golf course and trails. Due to wet weather, trails are still closed to equestrians and bikers. The Water Resources Department will be marking hazardous areas, and will continue cleaning up storm damage.

Sunday, the Redwood National State Parks posted on social media, a warning of bear behavior in the parks. They are warning of a bear, who gets close to vehicles, saying people need to respect the nature of the predator and are directed to not engage in trying to feed bears. The mammals can become dangerous to themselves and to visitors. The Redwood National and State Park are asking the public to help keep the park clean and safe, and to keep your distance from the bears.

A Chevy Tahoe crashed into a tree in Gualala just before 9am this morning at Pacific Woods Road and Friendly Avenue. One person in the SUV Chevy was air lifted out with moderate injuries, according to CHP.

As of April 1st the pandemic-era bump in CalFresh food assistance expired and some families have to try to live on \$24 a month for food. A new law would change that to a minimum of \$50 in California. A hearing will take place at the State Senate Human Services Committee next Monday.

04/11/2023

More news from Sacramento, Governor Newsom is announcing that 11 more communities have earned the distinction of being named 'Prohousing' for their commitment to build more housing, faster, including Ukiah, the first rural city in NorCal. This designation will help allow additional funds to scale up their efforts to meet critical housing needs. California's goal is to build 2.5 million new homes within the next eight years. To earn the designation, municipalities must demonstrate they are promoting climate-smart housing development, and creating more affordable homes in places for families with lower incomes.

A hit-and-run in Cloverdale injured a man walking along the road on Easter Sunday. According to Cloverdale Police, it happened on East First Street. The 30-year-old man was taken to the hospital and is in critical condition. The suspect car dropped a black plastic grill with decorative heart shaped straps, according to police. Authorities believe it was a white 2009 or 2010 Toyota Corolla with custom red accents along the lower sides and around the wheel wells. Anyone with information about the hit-and-run, or the vehicle description is asked to call Cloverdale Police.

A new update on the hoax phone threats to area schools last week, which affected Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg. They weren't the only calls that day. Calls came in regional clusters around the nation. And in 42 states over the last year. The Feds have learned of these calls, numbering in the thousands, with some information citing a man with an Ethiopian accent. Local enforcement likened the calls to a terrorism campaign, and some are looking for more information sharing. In Fort Bragg last Monday, the Chief said the caller was the same man who made the call to Ukiah.

## Sheet1

A missing Hopland area toddler has been found, according to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office today, thanking the public and first responders who helped in the search. The 2 year old boy named Johnny had been reported missing last week.

The search in the county continues for a 24-year-old Willit's resident, Riley Hseih. He was last seen in a gray robe with a green or blue tote bag. Police are asking for people with security camera footage in the Brooktrails Sub, saying he may be sheltering in backyard structures. People are urged to not approach Hseih if seen, and are asked to call the Sheriff's office.

Saturday, Ukiah Police performed a high-risk traffic stop, after flagging a woman driving recklessly over the speed limit on N. Orchard Avenue. Officers arrested 27-year-old Marissa Diaz, of Ukiah. She was arrested charged with five misdemeanors and two felonies, including reckless evading from police, violation of probation and drunk driving. Diaz was medically cleared at Adventist Hospital and taken to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Jail.

The Clearlake Planning Commission is welcoming two new members this week, at their meeting tonight at 6pm at Clearlake City Hall. Christopher Ingils and Jack Smalley will be sworn in as part of the five-member commission. During tonight's meeting, the commission will appoint its chair and vice chair for the year. Residents can submit comments and questions to the commission before 4p today.

After discussing the matter last month, the Lake County Board of Supervisors will meet on Tuesday and will likely chose to create a new town hall to replace the Lucerne Area Town Hall. The meeting begins at 9am this morning in the Lake County Courthouse. The meeting can be watched live on Channel 8. The board will also discuss an extension for the temporary emergency warming shelter in north Lakeport.

Yelp's new list of the top places to camp in North America is Mendocino Grove Campground. The spot came in sixth place on this year's list. The 37 acres near Highway One that overlooks the Pacific drew 170 positive reviews with a perfect five-star rating.

04/12/2023 The area shook with a 4.4 magnitude earthquake in Lake County last night. The quake was followed by two aftershocks with magnitudes of 2.8 and 2.5. The quake happened at about 10:40pm last night, with the epicenter about seven miles northwest of Cobb.

One of Mendocino Coast's most legendary bars is reopening tomorrow, with a full reopening planned for this summer. The former Caspar Inn is being re-launched as The Caspar Hub/Good Bones Kitchen, with a return of live music. Owner Miles McCreary, a chef-artist is working the eatery, wine and beer bar. Built in the early 20th century, the building houses units upstairs that are now are under reconstruction. Live music begins at 5pm on Thursday with Gillian Grogan, Tomo Nakayama and Bryan Appleby.

Wineries in Mendocino County are upgrading to long-duration energy storage, with provider ESS. The company is delivering three Energy Warehouse systems for a solar and storage microgrid at Roederer Estate, Scharffenberger Cellars and Domaine Anderson. The system is expected to be up and running late this year. The iron-flow battery technology delivers long lasting energy storage and the company ESS says the systems are safe and non toxic, aimed to reduce carbon footprints.

## Sheet1

Registration is open for The State of the Redwood Coast Region's 3rd annual regional economic development summit in Ukiah this fall. The title of the summit is "Our Elemental Economy" and is a two-day event aimed at innovative thinking along the coast, including Mendocino County and tribal lands. For more information search Eventbrite for the 2023 State of The Region Summit.

Two Eureka people killed in a crash on Highway 101 north of Ukiah last week have been named. MSCO says 30-year-old Gavin Backues was the driver of a Toyota sedan that crashed into a tree and caught on fire. The female passenger was 22-year-old Caroline Salcido. A third male passenger has not yet been named. The fatal crash happened early April 4th, when the sedan veered off the highway, just south of Pomo Lane. It's still not known if drugs or alcohol were factors in the crash.

Authorities are still searching for a missing person, Riley Hsieh of Willits, who was first reported missing over two weeks ago. According to MSCO, the 24-year-old was last seen at his home in Brooktrails around 11am on March 27th. Hsieh is 5 feet 10 inches tall, and weighs around 130 pounds. He was last seen in a gray robe carrying a blue or green bag when he disappeared. Hsieh is considered to be at risk. Anyone with information on where Hsieh may be is asked to keep their distance, and call the Sheriff's Office.

The Santa Rosa Police Department found 1200 suspected fentanyl pills, cash and guns from a suspected local fentanyl drug trafficking organization on Monday. Five Sonoma County residents were arrested following a months-long investigation. The five suspects were charged with conspiracy, possessing drugs for sale with one of the suspects having an additional firearm charge. Each suspect, aged 19 to 23, was booked into jail Monday night, with bail set at \$800,000 each.

A man charged with two counts of attempted murder and more, appeared at the Lake County Superior Court early this week. 23-year-old Hunter Toles of Cobb is not currently in custody. The court appearance has been continued to Friday with the hearing set for June. The jury trial, scheduled for this month, was vacated. The charges, from June of last year revolved around a woman who had been shot near Rainbow Road on Cobb Mountain. She was treated for a non-life threatening gunshot wound. Toles entered a not guilty plea.

A Clearlake Oaks man who had been arrested and charged with shooting at homes has been found dead, after missing a court appearance at the Lake County Superior Court. The defendant, 62-year-old Benjamin Wilkinson Jr. was charged for felony firearms violations, stemming from the event in January of 2022, on Garden Court. The case has dismissed and the trial vacated.

[Personal-use firewood permits are now on sale for wood collection from the Mendocin](#)

A Mendocino County jury found William Roberts Jr, of Willits guilty of selling fentanyl yesterday, a felony conviction. Roberts Jr. resides in Willits, as well as Missouri, making sentencing recommendations complex, with extensive records in both places.

Roberts Jr. has eight felonies combined. He spent a couple years in prison in Missouri before being placed on parole. Judge Shanahan will sentence him on May 12, 2023 at the Ukiah courthouse.

04/13/2023

The Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah is hosting the "Curious World of Seaweed" exhibit, and this Saturday, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. is hosting "Pomo Perspectives on Seaweed." The works of art on display were created by native American artisans showing how they incorporated seaweed into their daily lives. The event is free with museum admission: \$5 per person; \$12 per family; \$4 for students and seniors

## Sheet1

The U.S. Geological Survey is reporting that the earthquake Tuesday night was 4.6 miles northwest of Cobb, just inside the Sonoma County line. People in Clearlake, Glenhaven, Hidden Valley Lake and Lakeport felt the shaking. The quake was followed by several aftershocks, the strongest at magnitude 3.3 in the area. By Wednesday morning, nearly 700 shake reports were submitted to the U.S. Geological Survey from all around Mendocino County to Nevada.

Tonight at 7pm, the Middletown Area Town Hall will be held at the Middletown Community Library. A topic on the agenda includes an update on cannabis related business from the county. The Cannabis Task Force Committee Program Manager for the Community Development Department, Andrew Amelung, will update the public on the progress of the task force. Also on tap, strategies for community engagement, operating needs and volunteers. The public is welcome.

The EPA reporting that it has finished another step in the process to finish the Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine Superfund Site cleanup plan. The 160-acre site sits on the shore of Clear Lake in Clearlake Oaks. The plan includes cleaning up significant portions of the site, specifically the mine area, the Elem Indian Colony and contaminated soils in the residential area, southwest of the site. Documenting the final plan is the next step, expected to extend into winter.

Highland Springs Recreation Area recently re-opened after closing due to storm damage. There is still some brush that needs to be cleared to allow full use of the park and trails. This Saturday, the Lake County Water Resources will host a Highland Springs Vegetation Cleanup Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are asked to bring hand tools, gloves, sunscreen and lunch to join the event. They will meet at the Highland Springs disc golf course. The group will work to gather brush into piles, and clear pathways.

Representative Jared Huffman is part of a group of lawmakers sending a letter to Secretaries Tom Vilsack and Deb Haaland, urging the Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior to make formal rules to protect mature and old-growth forests. In the letter, they say that old growth forests play a huge role in capturing carbon and have environmental and community benefits like increased water quality and recreation. Last spring, the President issued an Executive Order recognizing mature and old-growth forests as vital to the health and prosperity of communities across the US, saying they're essential to climate and conservation goals.

[The Lake Local Agency Formation Commission, or LAFCO, has an opening for a com](#)

There's a new principal in town, at Pomolita Middle School. Ukiah Unified School District is welcoming Jon Dewey into the position. Dewey is from Redwood Valley and Ukiah, having attended Ukiah schools. He's got a degree in history and education and an MBA from Kansas Wesleyan University and an Education degree from Arkansas State University. Dewey played football during college and served as head football coach at Ukiah High School. After serving as the interim principal for Pomolita this school year, the district is formally giving him the title.

There's a new principal in town, at Pomolita Middle School. Ukiah Unified School District is welcoming Jon Dewey into the position. Dewey is from Redwood Valley and Ukiah, having attended Ukiah schools. He's got a degree in history and education from Arkansas State, and an MBA from Kansas Wesleyan University. Dewey played football during college and served as head football coach at Ukiah High School. After serving as the interim principal for Pomolita this school year, the district is formally

04/14/2023 giving him the title.

## Sheet 1

A large housing development in the south end of Ukiah that was previously called Garden's Gate got approved for a modified version this week. The project had been approved nearly 15 years ago as a 197-lot subdivision across from Plant Road. The revised project designed by Chico developer Guillon, Inc. building 172 single-family lots, 39 of which will be for seniors. The new owners began applying for the revised plan in 2020.

According to Child Care Resource Network, light-hearted play leads to profound child development benefits. The Nokomis Elementary School principal is encouraging parents to play board games with their kids. Taking the time to sharpen their thinking skills through old style board games has shown a measurable cognitive benefit to growing minds.

PGE is saying a new billing system may lead to higher bills, in the short-term, while they develop the two-part system. Customers could pay up to \$100 dollars more a month for utilities. The new proposal recommends an independent state agency or third party be responsible for verifying customers' total household incomes. Electric rates would be based on a tier system with customers who make less, pay less.

A dog was rescued from a drain by Willits Police Officer Basurto on Thursday. The poor pup was found in a storm drain on Baechtel Road. Officer Basurto found the yellow lab stuck with just enough of his muzzle to be seen deep down the drain. Helpful residents were on hand to help with tools, and helped the officer as he lifted the 80 pound concrete lid to free the dog. The rescued lab was held at the police station and returned to its owners.

Lake County OES is asking residents to review and comment on the working draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The office would like the public to participate before they submit the final draft to Cal OES by early summer. They're asking for your thoughts via email at [lakesheriffes@lakecountycal.gov](mailto:lakesheriffes@lakecountycal.gov) by May 1st. More information will be released during another upcoming round of public comment soon.

The Fort Bragg Fire Department has a forty-foot fire training tower almost finished along the coast, with a second tower near completion in Ukiah. For the first time, the county will have access to two "in-house" sophisticated fire training structures so firefighters don't need to travel away to train. The coast tower is located on Holquist Lane on an old mill site. The Board of Supervisors awarded county fire chiefs \$1 million from PGE's payout for its responsibility for wildfires over the past few years. Among the new training features, they'll have two burn rooms with an obstacle course. There firefighters can practice forced entry, wall breach, and roof venting.

In more firefighting news, the Lakeport Fire Protection District Board has approved repairs to Station 52, damaged by a vehicle crash in the fall. Last November, a car crashed into the building, after veering off the Hill Road exit off Highway 29. The crash caused a lot of damage to the buildings steel framework and bay doors. Fort Bragg Electric got the contract to fix the station, and will install new metal columns, siding and more.

The Mendocino Board of Supervisors are proclaiming May 5th as Mendocino County Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People. The Tribal Chairwoman of the Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Deborah Ramirez discussed people suffering from a variety of crises, from domestic violence to sexual assault. She says they need more help from federal agencies. Ramirez said local law enforcement is recognizing and responding, and hopes to increase cooperation in the future. The board responded with the proclamation, vowing to keep the community safe, including indigenous people.

## Sheet1

Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire's legislation to increase offshore wind development passed Tuesday in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. McGuire says the bill expedites the permitting process, and protects the state's coast and fishing fleet. The bill brings infrastructure in place and get career training going. SB 286 now continues to the Senate Energy Committee.

A teenage girl was found dead in a field in Covelo by her uncle over the weekend. Police say 16-year-old Ruby Sky Montelongo appeared to have been assaulted.

04/17/2023 According to authorities, she had been hanging out with a 15-year-old girl Friday night, when the younger girl attacked Montelongo. Detectives arrested the 15-year-old Saturday. She is in jail, charged with murder.

Willits Police arrested Luis Hernandez, a sex crime parolee, on five felonies and a misdemeanor charge last week. The charges include a firearm violation, criminal threats, robbery and possession of meth. Police made a High Risk Traffic Stop and arrested Hernandez after a victim called police saying he threatened to kill her at gunpoint.

A man was found dead, after an apparent hit-and-run near on Highway 53. Just before midnight on Friday, there were reports of a pedestrian down between Jessie Street and Dam Road. Clearlake Police closed off the northbound lane of the highway for the investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call the local CHP office or Clearlake Police.

A multi-family apartment complex in Laytonville was engulfed in a fire Saturday evening, near Twin Pines Road and Highway 101. Residents were evacuated as several area fire departments rushed to the scene. About an hour after the initial fire was reported, firefighters reported progress in slowing the spread. The Red Cross was called in to help those displaced.

Willits Police Officers arrested a man for felony kidnapping, false imprisonment and more. It happened on Bonnie Lane last week, when police responded to reports of a woman screaming. When they arrived, they found Owen Kenny, drunk inside of the home, obstructing the door. They were able to get in, and restrain Kenny. They also found a woman hiding. According to authorities, she said that Kenny had locked her in the home, and sexually assaulted her. Kenny was charged and put into jail.

According to reports, a blue sedan landed on its top after crashing into a tree on southbound 101 near Nelson Ranch Road south of Ukiah on Sunday morning. A male was reported in serious condition, and was flown to Santa Rosa Memorial. A female passenger was taken to Ukiah hospital.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors is meeting tomorrow morning at 9am in the Lake County Court House. The board is moving to establish a new chief public defender's office. The new position, referred by the Sixth Amendment Center, is needed to manage and oversee a plan for the homeless. The current contract for Lake Indigent Services ends this June. The board will also announce this week as California High School Voter Education Week. The meeting can be watched live on Channel 8 and online.

Lake County schools are welcoming students to the High School Voter Education sessions. Students ages 16 and 17 can pre-register to vote, so when they turn 18, their registration is complete. All Lake County Libraries are open for students to register. Information booths will be available at the Clearlake Library on Wednesday from 2 to 4pm, and at the Lakeport Library on Thursday from 2-4pm.



## Sheet 1

The Peregrine Audubon Society will be hosting a presentation at the Ukiah City Council Chambers at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 18. There will be a discussion on the geology, history, and the influence of fires around the Cow Mountain Recreation Area, including the flora and fauna of the wildlife habitat.

Friends of Mendocino College Music, the recently formed affiliate of the Mendocino College Foundation, will present a free concert featuring both guitar and mariachi ensembles from Cal Poly Humboldt at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 17 at the Mendocino College Little Theater. The concert is open to everyone.

The Clear Lake Trowel and Trellis Garden Club will meet at noon on Tuesday at the Lakeport Scotts Valley Women's Club House on Hendricks Road. There will be a speaker from the LA City Fire Department, presenting a program on fire safety. The club welcomes new members.

04/18/2023 A Lake County jail inmate died in a Placer County hospital over the weekend. The Lake County Sheriff's Office was in custody, and is investigating. Inmate Jason Ray died on Saturday, while being treated for a medical condition at Sutter Roseville. Ray was in custody pending prosecution for sexual assault. Authorities say more details will be released as the investigation is ongoing.

A car veered off the road and landed on its top after crashing into a tree on southbound 101. According to report, it happened near Nelson Ranch Road south of Ukiah on Sunday morning. A man was flown to Santa Rosa Memorial in serious but stable condition. A female passenger was taken to Ukiah hospital.

The Lakeport City Council today at 6pm at Lakeport City Hall. They'll honor the Clear Lake High football team, and discuss the road management program, and safe and sane fireworks. The council is also announcing open recruitment for an electrical mechanical technician for the city.

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is starting a planning process to prioritize community fire safety this year, and they are seeking community input. They shared a survey to assess home and neighborhood readiness for wildfire, and want to assess defensible space around homes. The council also announced applications are now open for micro-grants, to fund fire safe councils and districts for individual projects. The grants range from \$2,000 to \$8,000. These applications are due by April 30.

Caltrans District 1 is announcing free Large Item Dump Day events on Saturday, April 22 to celebrate Earth Day. Large items will be accepted at the Caspar Transfer Station on Prairie Way from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some locations are accepting mattresses and furniture only from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at C & S Waste Transfer Station in Lakeport, South Lake Refuse & Recycling and Eastlake Landfill in Clearlake. Caltrans reminds residents to secure and tarp all cargo loads.

The Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District has a new update they'll be posting regularly. The latest report shows Lake Mendocino up over 500 acre feet. And, the district announced their National Environmental Education Week through Earth Day. The event showcases the California Project WET program which helps educators teach science and encourage environmental studies with students.

California state lawmakers are considering regulating "wasteful" set gillnet fishing offshore. The California Fish and Game Commission is meeting today and Thursday to consider ways to reduce bycatch from offshore gillnets that end up entangling more than 125 species of marine life, according to a new report from Oceana and the Turtle Island Restoration Network. They say voters and fishery managers have taken action in the past to ban this non-gear in near shore waters resulting in rebounds of vulnerable fish and marine mammal populations.

## Sheet 1

The Willits City Council discussed repairs to Frontier Days facilities at their meeting last week. Repairs are needed after a downed tree damaged the bathrooms and portions of the bleachers in December. Due to legal concerns, the city will not be able to repair the bathrooms this year. The city council also resolved to apply for the Clean California local grant program to help upgrade parks and streets and help fund clean-up events.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors completed shutting down the Lucerne Area Town Hall project, with a unanimous vote last week. The action rescinded the 2017 formation of the Middle Region Town Hall and the 2018 amendment to change it to the Lucerne Area Town Hall. They will now establish a new organization, called the Central Region Town Hall.

The Lake County Office of Emergency Services will have a Public Information Session Thursday, April 20, at 5:30pm. The purpose of the session will be to update the public on the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, a long-term strategy to reduce disaster-related losses.

American Rivers released its yearly list of America's Most Endangered Rivers, spotlighting ten rivers where human health and safety are at risk. The 2023 American River Project has named the Eel River the sixth most threatened river in the nation. The listing includes the threats to the river's Chinook salmon and steelhead, as they get closer extinction. Organizations say the threats to the river are because of two obsolete dams that make up PG&E's Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project. The utility says it has a multi-year plan in the works to decommission it.

04/19/2023

A cold case from September of 2021 has been solved, thanks to DNA. A human body was found two years ago beneath Underpass Road at North Highway 101 in Willits. Sheriff's Detectives and the coroner began investigating the identity of the man, and the cause of his death. Last week, the DNA from the body hit a match in a Richmond lab. The body belonged to Thaddeus Bradley, a homeless man who was reported missing months before his body was found. The cause of his death was a meth overdose.

The Round Valley Indian Tribal Council declared a state of emergency on the reservation during a special closed session meeting Sunday night, a day after the body of a 16-year-old was discovered. It was two weeks after a 20-year-old was found beaten and shot to death. Monday night, council members met to work through the declaration. A 10:00 pm curfew for people under 18 is in effect. The law is already a tribal ordinance. Currently, Public Law 280 is in effect in California, meaning that although tribes are sovereign, they are under the jurisdiction of county sheriffs.

The Savings Bank Willits Banking Center will be closed for one day as the second phase of their lobby transformation progresses. The bank will be closed on May 1st, but will reopen on Tuesday, May 2nd. The new lobby will feature a more open space to do business in. The only local charter, the Savings Bank of Mendocino County remains strong financially, and will continue to work for Mendocino and Lake Counties according to the bank.

Mendocino County has updated their Cannabis Grants Operations, with the Local Equity Entrepreneur Program, or LEEP. There are currently several grants available. For those that applied, but had not received funds, the review process has been delayed due to a labor shortage. For more information and for fee waivers, check with the Department of Ag and the Mendocino Cannabis Department.

## Sheet1

As the 2023 High School Voter Education Week Sessions continues, a reminder that there will be an informational booth set up in the Clearlake Library today from 2-4pm. Registrations are also available at all Lake County Libraries.

The Redbud Audubon Society will have an avian ecologist with the Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin County on Thursday, April 20th at 7pm. The group will have an update on the heron and egret nesting colonies in the northern part of the Bay area, including the use of GPS telemetry. Check with the Redbud Audubon Society for the Zoom link to the meeting.

There will be a Native Learning Symposium this Friday, hosted by Mendocino College's Lake Center at 3pm. Representatives from the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, the Round Valley Indian Tribe and Robinson Rancheria will be speaking. The leaders will discuss education among native students. To register, search EventBrite for the Native Learning Symposium.

For the first time, a flux tower has been installed in the state's redwood forest ecosystem. The tower in Jackson Demonstration State Forest will help researchers gather continuous data of how much carbon, water, and energy are entering and leaving an ecosystem over time. The flux tower will also monitor how changes in weather are affecting the health of an ecosystem. Long-term, the tower can estimate how climate change is affecting an ecosystem. The tower joins a national network

04/20/2023 across many different types of forests.

A murderer's sentencing was paused, after he revoked part of his plea deal. The defendant, Nova Maye Deperno of Occidental appeared in court Tuesday for a 2021 murder. Deperno's attorney believed they had reached a plea agreement months ago, which offered him 25 years to life for the murder of Ronald Meluso of Lucerne, along with a 10 year enhancement. The plea deal also covered an assault with a deadly weapon in a different case. Deperno insisted he did not want to plea to that charge, saying he was innocent. He was appointed another defense attorney and given a new hearing for May 2, when the plea will be withdrawn or the sentencing will be rescheduled.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors decided to scrap the Lucerne Town Hall project, in favor of a new Middle Region Town Hall in a unanimous vote last week. This week, a group of community members are planning to meet to continue the original Lucerne Town Hall project, despite the board's decision. The group will meet at 6 p.m. tonight, in the multipurpose room at Lucerne Elementary School. The moderator will be Kurt McKelvey, who was chair of the Lucerne Area Town Hall before the board took action to dismantle it on April 11. They will discuss bylaws changes, as well as the county's responses to previous town hall actions.

The Mendocino Cannabis Department will have the front counter open Friday, April 28, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, the deadline to accept Tax Appeal Packets, for the Cannabis Cultivation Tax Amnesty and Payment Plan. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. This will be the only opportunity to appeal the 2022 Cannabis Business Tax.

Residents can submit an Appeal Application in person to the County of Mendocino Cannabis Department, Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Sheet1

Cal Fire has launched a new online process for burn permits, which will allow people to apply online for residential burns, general burning, agricultural burns, and more. Once a permit is approved, permit holders will still need to make sure it is a permissive burn day with the local air quality district. All residential burn permits expire on April 30 annually and a new permit must be applied for on May 1st. More information about the new online application process can be found at this Cal Fire website.

Families hard hit by the pandemic could see some relief in the form of proposed child tax credits. Proponents say that could help up to 1 million low income California households. Local children falling into poverty has increased according to a recent study, and the newly proposed bill has draw opposition although many local leaders have endorsed the plan. If passed it would cost about 700 million annually.

The Governor says no to new funding for foster care advocate program. Reporter Lesley Lotto says Newsom is trying to plug the budget hole at the expense of children.

Governor Gavin Newsom is cutting funding to CASA, or the Court Appointed Special Advocates, an organization serving distressed children. CASA of Mendocino and Lake Counties is losing a large chunk of money that normally goes to help abused, neglected and at risk children who many times end up in Foster care. They have 5 employees, about 20 volunteers and serve about 400 cases for these kids. CASA is mandated to be funded by the government and has only limited donations. They are continually challenged for financing. And now the state's cutting support from 60 down to 20 million dollars next year. The Governor's decision to cut the already low state share is being decried by local CASA director Sharyn Hildebrand as "sadly unfair to distressed children and the people who are trying to help them"

A two-day economic summit designed to foster innovative thinking will be hosted this year in Ukiah. The goal of Our Elemental Economy which is this year's theme, is to identify shared economic opportunities and strengthen collaboration. The Ukiah Valley Conference Center in Ukiah will be the site for the conference on Sept, although attendees are encouraged to register now for the event.

Legislation advanced from Sen. Bill Dodd that would boost diversity in California city councils by allowing the first council pay cap increase in nearly four decades, bringing salaries more in line with the cost of living. According to a press release, Dodd says "It's a major commitment that's especially hard on working people... My proposal will improve diverse representation and increase access to elected office for all Californians by making it less of a financial challenge to serve." The maximum amounts set by state law have not been increased since 1984, despite inflation of more than 300% during that time. Sen. Dodd's proposal, Senate Bill 329, would allow councils to adjust their maximum pay to reflect inflation as measured by the California Consumer Price Index. Any increases would require a majority vote of the city councils.

The Biden administration has identified more than 175,000 square miles of old growth and mature forests on U.S. government land and plans to craft a new rule to better protect the nation's woodlands from fires, insects and other side effects of climate change. Federal officials plan to announce results from the government's first-ever national inventory of mature and old-growth forests in advance of a public release. Officials say those stands of older trees are under increasing pressure as climate change worsens wildfires, drought, disease and insects and leaves some forests devastated.

## Sheet 1

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has instructed PG&E to begin the process of surrendering the Potter Valley Project license. The deadline for PG&E to submit its surrender plan is at the end of December, 2024. The Russian River Water Forum was formed to negotiate with the utility to take over the facilities. The group is struggling to get the money it needs. In Mendofever online, they say some have proposed the California State Water Resources Control Board help with funding the acquisition. The Planning Group is made up of people from Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma County Governments, tribes from Eel and Russian River basins, agricultural and recreational groups. The RRWF website has a link to news articles about the process, as well as an email sign-up sheet to receive updates.

The Lakeport City Council, held a discussion during their Tuesday meeting, on whether to continue the selling of safe and sane fireworks. According to the Lake County Record Bee this week, the council told staff not to include removal of fireworks sales on the ballot for an upcoming election, but instead make ordinance updates. Fireworks sales are conducted by four non-profit groups in accordance with Measure C, which allows for the sale and use of California State Fire Marshal approved fireworks within the City of Lakeport. The city has continued to reduce the use of fireworks outside of designated areas in a campaign aimed to inform the public. The next regularly scheduled Lakeport City Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 2, at 6 p.m.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors held their weekly meeting and are considering an ordinance regarding "ag exempt" and "temporary ag" structures for use in the cannabis industry. The board discussed allowing hoop houses, as "temporary hoops for cultivation." The hoops would be exempt from building codes if they met certain criteria; including no use of electricity, and hoops removal during the rainy season. Another recommendation was the allowance of drying structures, tents, and shipping containers for a period of three years. The board also discussed providing a budget of \$120,000 to hire a chief public defender and potentially create a Public Defender's Office, according to the Record Bee.

The Cal Fire Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, or LNU, announced changes to it's staffing by elevating their level to hire 79 additional firefighters who are going through the rehire academy at the Napa County Fire Training Center this week. The incoming firefighters allow the unit to staff 11 state engines. The unit also announced a winter recap. The LNU responded of over 6,300 incidents from January through the end of March, an increase of 28 percent compared to the previous five-year average for the same time period. They say crews responded to increased storm-related emergencies.

The American Lung Association released a report released yesterday that shows 98 percent of Californians are experiencing unhealthy levels of air pollution. In its annual "State of the Air" the organization tracks the status of ozone and particle pollution for every U.S. county. The 2023 report shows many California counties receiving failing grades for both smoke and ozone pollution. Grades are assigned based on a weighted average of the number of days where the AQI reached "unhealthy" or "hazardous" levels. Research has shown that lower-income communities are likely to have fewer trees and higher temperatures compared with wealthier, more shaded neighborhoods. Next week, the California Air Resources Board will vote on two measures that would impact future air quality. They will include regulations for locomotive operation and zero-emission trucking.

## Sheet1

Should felons be allowed to vote in California? A proposed amendment to the California state constitution would allow incarcerated people in state and federal prisons in California to vote in elections. 140,000 are in California's state prisons with about 8,500 doing time in Kern County. According to The Sentencing Project, none are allowed to vote. The law has been on the books in California since 1866. If the amendment passes committee by two thirds it will go on the 2024 ballot.

Mendocino Sheriff's Deputies are still looking for the suspect in the murder of Nicholas Whipple. Lee Anthony Joaquin is wanted in connection to the homicide of the 20-year-old man in Covelo 3 weeks ago. Joaquin is 5 foot five inches, and weighs around 180 pounds. He has shoulder length hair, sometimes pulled back. Joaquin is considered armed and dangerous. Anyone with information on Joaquin is asked to call the sheriff's department at 707-463-4086.

Local health officials are warning allergy medication users about possible side effects. Oral medications and nasal sprays are only for temporary use, and allergy sufferers should stay inside when pollen counts are high. It's also a good idea to change out your furnace filter regularly and one that filter allergens. Taking off clothes exposed to allergens and washing them can help reduce attacks.

04/21/2023

The new chairman of the California Assembly Education Committee wants to raise the pay of teachers and school workers by 50 percent over the next seven years. Money to pay for it would come from increased base funding, which legislation was introduced for last week. With over worked teachers and under staffed schools, local administrators say the pay increase would help retain good people.

Sonoma County's Regional Climate Protection Authority held a virtual public meeting, on Wednesday evening. It was intended to test public support to move toward becoming a carbon-neutral county by 2030. The polls focused on buildings, land and water management, and transportation. 140 people that participated in the poll said some goals include; financial assistance for low income households, tenants and landlords to reduce carbon emissions, improving paths for bicyclists and pedestrians and supporting agricultural practices that would limit greenhouse gas emissions. Those and other programs will help make a summer survey, asking county residents if they would support public funding to pursue those priorities. If approved, recommendations would then go to voters.

There's a new mural in the works at Pear Tree Center on Perkins Street, on the south facing wall of Lucky Supermarket. In the Ukiah Daily Journal, artist Anthony Ortega, says his unique interpretation was inspired by fruit crate labels of the 1920s. The huge 3,175 square foot work of art will face Perkins, the gateway to downtown Ukiah, with maximum visibility. Wednesday night with he projected the image onto the wall. Over the next few days, he will spray in the colors, the highlights and drop shadows, and put in any last details, hoping to complete it by Sunday.

The Lyrid meteor shower will peak this weekend in NorCal. It's time to start watching for falling stars in the skies this weekend. The best times to view this meteor shower, known for producing fireballs that blaze across the sky and leave dust trails that last for several seconds, are from evening to dawn Friday through Monday morning. Forecasters are expecting clear skies on Friday night. The moon will barely shine, at 2 percent illumination and will set around 10 p.m. Friday, 11 p.m. Saturday and midnight Sunday. The Lyrids continue through April 29, intersecting with the Aquariids, which also started on April 5.

## Sheet 1

William T. Frederick Junior has been arrested for the attempted murder of a police officer after he fired at police while fleeing as a passenger in a car. Frederick was found in Red Bluff around 4:15pm yesterday, and was taken into custody without incident. The driver of the car, 21-year-old Rylan Witmer of Wilson, Kansas was arrested and charged with possession of meth and felony evading.

A suspected hit-and-run driver, William Len has been charged in the incident that killed Amanda Arney's body was found down an embankment on Highway 20, several hours after being struck by a hit-and-run driver. William Len was charged for the crime, but failed to appear at a preliminary hearing. A bench warrant was issued and bail set at \$20,000. The Lake County Sheriff's Office served a warrant, and after an investigation by the CHP, Len was arrested and booked into Lake County Jail. He posted bond and was released. He is being charged with felony hit-and-run and vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence.

Healdsburg Police arrested two kids Tuesday afternoon, after finding a handgun in a backpack following a chase through town. The young men, who police say were a 15- and 16-year-old from Healdsburg, jumped fences and ran through yards trying to get away from police. A pistol and a loaded magazine were found during a search of one of the boys' backpacks, according to the news release. The unidentified boys were booked into Juvenile Hall on possessing a loaded firearm, possession of a concealed firearm in public, possession of stolen property and resisting arrest charges.

A group of U.S. attorneys general led by California's Rob Bonta urged federal transportation officials to recall millions of Hyundai and Kia vehicles yesterday, due to highly susceptible theft thanks to a security vulnerability. The state law enforcement leaders called for the NHTSA to institute a recall of unsafe Hyundai and Kia vehicles manufactured between 2011 and 2022, whose easily bypassed ignition switches and lack of engine immobilizers make them vulnerable to theft. A viral TikTok "challenge" in recent years has shown users how to bypass anti-theft measures in Hyundais and Kias. Anti-theft software upgrades, announced in February will make their way to owners in phases.

Another 100 percent live release rate for the North Bay Animal Services was announced at the Clearlake City Council meeting last night. Clearlake Animal Control announced that more dogs are being adopted. In Lake County News today, over 100 dogs have come to the shelter from the first of the year thru this week. There are 62 dogs at the shelter now, down from 80 when last reported in March. North Bay Animal Services began several directives in response to issues with conditions at the shelter, which is contracted through the city.

The state's Department of Water Resources is maximizing the capture and storage of the huge snowpack across the state. Known as Article 21 water, this additional water does not count toward State Water Project allocations. Since the end of March, the SWP has delivered over 200,000 acre-feet of water to local water agencies with an additional 37,000 acre-feet planned for next week. While California's surface water conditions have grown a lot this year after three years of historic drought, several water supply challenges remain in the northern part of the state and in overused groundwater basins. Millions of Californians rely on groundwater supplies as a sole source of water.

## Sheet 1

Sales tax revenue is decreasing in Ukiah and Mendocino County as a whole, giving new challenges to local governments. In Mendocino online today, Ukiah city officials said they expect a \$1 million shortfall in sales tax revenue this year. The latest sales tax report shows a decline of about 10 percent during the fourth quarter of 2022. The spiraling numbers signal a slow local economy as people aren't spending as much, affecting the county's struggling weed industry. The updated figures show a local economic slowdown continues at a greater pace than throughout California.

Mendocino County's overall budget status is murky showing a decline in sales tax revenue. County officials are stuck in budget delays and uncertainty about the revenue projections, and a sharp shrinkage in the local cannabis industry because of consistent concerns about a local regulatory framework. Researchers in a special report named 'Cannabis Supply and Demand in 2023' released two weeks ago announced "California's cannabis industry is not dead, and it's not dying. It's just realizing that the market is not large enough to support everyone hoping to get a slice of the piece."

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Jeanine Nadel just issued a decision three years in the making. Mendocino Railway tried to use eminent domain to buy private property in Willits. The Judge in the case decided in favor of property owner John Meyer, this week. Meyer will not be forced to sell his twenty-acre parcel to the railroad, who sued him for the right to purchase and use it for a loading station and more. In her decision, Judge Nadel mentioned that 90% of Mendocino Railway's revenue comes from its tourism offerings, saying there was no explanation to distinguish the private operations from "proposed" freight and passenger enhancements." The City of Fort Bragg is suing the Skunk, arguing that "Mendocino Railway is in fact an excursion only railroad, and therefore is subject to the jurisdiction of the City of Bragg." It's scheduled to come before a local judge in June.

California lawmakers voted to protect sexual assault survivors from retaliatory lawsuits Thursday. Supporters of the legislation hope it will halt efforts to silence victims. The bill would make it clear that a victim's comments about sexual assault or harassment are protected against defamation lawsuits if the allegation is not knowingly false or reckless. It would also help victims who successfully defend themselves in a defamation lawsuit to recover financial damages. The bill has to pass in the Senate before reaching Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk.

Lake County has a new deputy county administrative officer. Certified Economic Developer Ben Rickelman has been appointed to the position and will manage the creation of a countywide Economic Development Strategic Plan. His many years of administrative work along with a masters degree in public administration from George Washington University have officials hopeful about the future.

Clear Lake High School's varsity football team's outstanding season they were presented a certificate of achievement at Tuesday's Lakeport City Council meeting, as the 2022-2023 Coastal Mountain League champions. In Lake County News today, the team got more than accolades. This week parents and community members pitched in, and raised \$9000 to get each player their own championship ring.

New artwork will welcome people into Ukiah. On the south facing wall of Lucky Supermarket, artist Anthony Ortega says his vision was inspired by crate labels of the '20s. The over 3,000 square foot work of art faces Perkins at the gateway to downtown. In the Ukiah Daily Journal, the artist describes his methods and hopes to have it finished by Sunday for all to enjoy.



## Sheet1

California has reached its goal of selling 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles two years ahead of schedule. Gov. Jerry Brown launched the goal of selling that many cars and trucks by 2025, more than a decade ago. California now has a more ambitious goal of requiring all new cars sold to be zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

04/24/2023 Ukiah Police arrested a 20-year-old man and a 15-year-old student on two felony firearm charges each, after a "ghost" gun was found. Police were alerted by school staff at Ukiah High School that a suspicious social media threat was made by a student toward a South Valley High student. The Ukiah student posted a picture holding a semi-automatic handgun. The threat came just days after a fight broke out between the two high school students. UPD along with Mendocino County Sheriff's deputies searched the home of Gabriel Aguilar, where they found a "Polymer 80" Glock-style semi automatic 9mm gun in a duffel bag. Aguilar was arrested on the spot, and the student was arrested on school grounds. The Ukiah Police Department says the Ukiah Unified School district notified them immediately, enabling them to bring a scary situation to a safe resolution.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will discuss vacation rental limits at its next meeting, tomorrow. On the agenda is a public hearing to consider an appeal of the Planning Commission's resolution to clarify Mendocino County Code, affecting vacation rentals. A group called the "Friends of Coastal Access" wants to see an expanded code to ease up on restrictions limiting short-term rentals. Instead, the group wants to see development of additional housing. The discussion, revolved around tourists versus local worker housing. The planned expansion of the Fort Bragg library will also be discussed, as well as approval of the Mendocino County Juvenile Justice Plan.

Road work continues in Mendocino County, with utility work in Manchester from Kinney Road to Alder Creek Beach that begins Monday. Bridge work in Fort Bragg from Manzanita Street to Pudding Creek Road will continue on Route 1. Drivers can expect short delays. Emergency road work from Road 430 to north of Hardy Creek continues. One-way traffic control will be in effect to 5:30 p.m. On Route 20, construction continues with 20 minute delays for drivers, from James Creek to Three Chop Road. More roadwork is happening in the county, and can be found in the Ukiah Daily Journal.

Ukiah Unified School District announced that Jim Evans has accepted the principal position at Grace Hudson Language Academy, effective July 1. The Academy's new principal has nearly two decades of experience in education, last serving as principal at Jefferson Elementary School in Cloverdale. Evans majored in Spanish and Anthropology at Humboldt State University and is bilingual and biliterate. He earned his Master's degree from Sonoma State University and more. Evans was a Microsoft Certified Systems engineer prior to his graduate studies.

The Museums of Lake County has opened its newest exhibition, traveling from the Smithsonian's Museum of American History. The exhibit titled "Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964" explores the story of the program, which brought millions of Mexican guest workers to the United States to help fill the labor shortage during World War II. The exhibit illustrates the program's impact on agriculture, labor and immigration, as well as on the lives of the workers and their families. The Museums of Lake County California will host the exhibit from May through August. There is more information in Lake County News.

## Sheet 1

The County of Mendocino began reopening Bower Park in Gualala, on Friday. The park had been closed since January 6, due to weather damage from the atmospheric rivers that passed during the winter. A partial opening began with the parking lot, the restrooms, and the baseball field. Mendocino County hired a third-party contractor to work on storm damage repair and clean-up services. So far, all downed trees have been removed. Mulch has been spread throughout the park. The playground has been worked on, and new equipment is on order. While work continues, there are some closures in the park as clean-up and restoration are on-going, including the outdoor theatre, tennis and basketball courts and more.

In the Record Bee over the weekend, a Clearlake City Councilman brought up an emergency item during the Clearlake City Council meeting on Thursday on the 18th Avenue Project. The project is set to connect Old Highway 53 through the old airport site. The council authorized the construction contract on April 6, in a unanimous vote. Since then, according to city leaders, the Housing and Community Development Department changed some requirements during the process of construction, which prompted the city to reduce the scope of the project, decreasing the cost from about \$14 million to \$5.5 million. The goal is to have all the funding allocated in by July 1. The Clearlake City Council will meet again on the first Thursday of May.

A motorcycle rider crashed in the northbound lane of Hwy 101 south of Laytonville, Saturday morning. It happened near mile marker 63. According to police reports, the biker had major injuries including broken ribs, cuts and road rash. CHP was on hand to help the rider and clear the scene.

The 2023 recreational Pacific halibut fishery will open Monday, May 1 until Nov. 15 or until the quota is reached, whichever is earlier. The 2023 Pacific halibut quota for the California sub-area is nearly 40,000 pounds, about the same as last year's quota. California's Department of Fish and Wildlife urges anglers to check for updated information including limits and gear restrictions.

California Legislators are advancing a bill that would codify film set safety rules in the wake of the accidental shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, in Alec Baldwin's production in New Mexico. Studio representatives and unions are working on amendments to the new measure, Senate Bill 735 that passed last week through the Senate Labor Committee. The proposed legislation is an attempt at imposing legal safety requirements on film production, and would create the first state regulations around the use of firearms and live ammunition on film and TV sets. Under the proposed legislation, casts working near guns would need training and productions must use armorers whose sole duty would be preparing firearm usage, along with risk assessment.

Small, part-time drop-off centers for beverage container redemption operated by Redwood Waste Solutions, Inc. (RWS) are projected to open sometime in May. In the Mendocino Beacon yesterday, the City of Fort Bragg has been searching for a company, after a redemption site closed last summer. All drop-off locations will have scales and bins, which will be hauled away at the end of the day. RWS has not announced the locations yet, but the city hopes to have a schedule soon. Beverage containers made of aluminum, glass, plastic, and some metals will be accepted. Milk and infant formula containers are not accepted. As of January 1, 2024, CRV centers will accept wine and liquor containers in the state.

## Sheet 1

The Clearlake Planning Commission will consider approvals for the city's new Burns Valley Sports Complex project. In the Lake County News today, the commission will discuss the project site, part of 31-acres behind Safeway. In August, the city received \$3 million from State Parks' Rural Recreation and Tourism Program to create the new complex. The commission will meet beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday, at Clearlake City Hall

The Lake County Board of Supervisors this week will discuss approving a right-of-way purchase for the South Main Street-Soda Bay Road Improvement Project. The board will also consider an ordinance changing the county code on allowing temporary hoop structures for cannabis cultivation. And the board will consider an additional 90 days and a new total of just over \$300,000 to keep the North Lakeport Emergency Warming Shelter open longer. The board will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, in the Lake County Courthouse and can be watched live on Channel 8

There was a horrific dog attack in Fort Bragg recently. Two women were violently attacked by pit bulls at a friend's home. One woman was flown to Mendocino Adventist Hospital, another woman was taken to the hospital by ambulance. One of the dogs has been euthanized, another in quarantine, and a third dog was medically evaluated after two of the attacking dogs turned on her. Fort Bragg Police officers and a Community Service Officer provided care to slow the bleeding of women's wounds to their faces, arms and legs.

Save the Redwoods League announced it has selected nine projects to receive over \$160,000 in grant funding for research and discoveries in coast redwood and giant sequoia forests this year. Funds will go to those who will study effects of fire; migratory birds, amphibians and microorganisms within forest communities. The league said they'd like to see collaboration with Indigenous tribes to create a database of plants and their traditional uses and more.

A Department of Fish and Wildlife chased a Cadillac Escalade up to speeds of 100 mph southbound Hwy 101 near Willits. According to reports, CHP joined the pursuit and set a spike strip up. Around 10pm last night, after a tire was damaged, the car crashed on southbound 101 near Coyote Valley. One suspect fled the car on foot.

04/25/2023 Another person was at gunpoint in custody.

Willful defiance suspensions may be banned permanently in California, if a bill is passed and signed into law. Current state law bans suspensions for students in K-5th grades for non-violent acts. The Senate Bill 274 would expand on the ban for middle and high school kids, and make willful defiance suspensions disappear. Willful defiance includes ignoring the teacher, talking back or disrupting class. Some say disciplinary actions affect Black, Latino and indigenous students more, leading to higher dropout rates. Teachers could still suspend students for more severe behavior, including violence, having drugs, theft or bullying. State teachers associations would like to see the bill amended, before they endorse legislation.

CalFire is announcing that over \$142 million has been awarded for investment in projects to capture carbon and the restoration of burned forests in the state. 27 grants have been green-lighted with projects on state, local, tribal, federal and private lands in 24 counties. Prescribed burning and fuels reduction treatments are included in the approved projects, to return forests to more fire, drought and pest resilient conditions. Most of the award projects will benefit disadvantaged or low-income communities, while also providing jobs and reducing risks to communities. And the good news continues, with \$115 million intended for wildfire prevention this summer.

## Sheet 1

Vice President Kamala Harris announced several North Coast projects to strengthen resiliency of the coastline with grants from the federal government. Some projects include Mendocino County, focusing on salmon habitat recovery, abalone breeding and floodplain work. In MendocinoVoice online, the Nature Conservancy in Mendocino County has planned an \$8 million project to help restore California Coast Coho salmon habitats on the coastline. The restoration will focus on three rivers, improving floodplain water storage capacity and increasing in-stream complexity.

Residential real estate sales are increasing, but still down from last year's sales. The Lake County Association of Realtors' latest report shows single family home sales are up from February's numbers. The Lake County News reports a surge of buying at the start of this year, but it is slowing down. Homes are still selling near their asking price. The median sale price for a single family home in the county was about \$330,000, about \$100,000 higher than February, and about the same price from a year ago.

The Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District says that only remnants of California's three-year drought remain after winter's atmospheric rivers pummeled the state. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported that areas of drought cover less than 9 percent of the state, down from about 100 percent at the start of the water year. Areas in the far north and southeast remain dry, at just over a quarter of the state. Lake Mendocino is at about 96 percent full and Lake Sonoma at just over 100 percent. There will be a Russian River Water Forum meeting on May 17th from 10am to 3pm at the Ukiah Conference Center.

A developer and Sonoma Clean Power are buying two solar projects. One of the projects in Ukiah will include energy storage. Both projects will contribute to Sonoma Clean Power local resource plan for its EverGreen service, the first and only one to offer 100% renewable, locally generated energy 24/7 through solar, energy storage, and geothermal power. In MendocinoVoice online, the solar and storage projects will work with energy generated by an existing geothermal power plant, one of the largest in the world. Both projects in Mendocino County will begin construction next spring, and should be finished in early 2025.

Roadwork continues in Lake County this week. Utility work west of Upper Lake near Scotts Valley Road will have one-way traffic from 9am to 4pm. Drivers should expect 15 minute delays there. On Highway 29, emergency work began yesterday from Saint Helena Creek to Spruce Road. One way traffic is in place from 7am to 5:30pm delaying drivers about 20 minutes. Also, emergency work in Lower Lake from C Street to Spruce Road continues this week, with one way traffic during business hours, creating 20 minute delays.

Ukiah Unified School District Trustees are declaring today as School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Last year, Ukiah bus drivers drove more than 1,400 students every day, totaling over 78 thousand miles. The fleet has 16 Type I buses and 8 electric buses. The school district wants to also highlight driver's aids and all transportation staff. There is still a need for more bus drivers in Ukiah, and throughout the state. If you're interested in bus driving locally, stop by in person at 511 South Orchard Avenue in Ukiah and consider joining the team.

The Lake County Weed Management Area has announced its annual invasive weeds tours, this year offering two tours days. Staff from the University of California will discuss how invasive plants have reduced native wildflower populations in Lake County. Areas of the reserve where wildflowers have been restored by removing invasive species will be highlighted. This event is sponsored by the Lake County Department of Agriculture and the Lake County Resource Conservation District.

## Sheet1

Sen. Mike McGuire will host Lake County's Town Hall with guests from Cal Fire Northern California Region. The community is invited, as officials discuss wildfire preparedness and prevention. The virtual town hall will take place at 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday. The conversation will cover how the state is responding to fires, what type of resources are available this summer and fall and what people can better prepare themselves for wildfire season.

Gov. Newsom issued a proclamation yesterday, declaring this week as "California Library Week. In a release he says "There are 1,127 public libraries in California .... Libraries are the heart of our communities. They provide Californians of all ages and all backgrounds with the resources they need to succeed and thrive. During National Library Week, we celebrate the countless ways that libraries enrich our communities."

Rep. Mike Thompson announced Denise Rushing as the 2023 Lake County Climate Crisis Champion for California's Fourth District. Climate Crisis Champions demonstrate efforts to protect the environment in the community to combat the ongoing climate crisis, according to the Record Bee. They advocate for the urgent need for climate action and work to inspire others to get involved. As a Lake County Supervisor, Rushing led two of the largest public solar installations in the western US.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 was admittedly violated by the U.S. Forest Service. The agency admitted yesterday in federal court that fire retardant has been used to fight wildfires. The agency says it's only one of many tools they have, saying the chemical has had minimal impact to waterways. The lawsuit, filed by an Oregon-based environmental group in Montana, argues the retardant, an ammonium phosphate is toxic to aquatic life. An attorney with the DOJ says retardant is only used for about 5 percent of wildfires, and less than 1 percent ends up in waters. The Forest Service has filed about 460 intrusion reports in California, where retardant has been used. There were drops in national forests in Mendocino County, Six Rivers, Lassen and Shasta. Environmental groups would like to see increased buffers around waterways.

A home on Comptche-Ukiah Road east of Mendocino was fully engulfed in flames. The first call came in a little after 1 p.m. yesterday. Firefighters arriving on the scene found a patient with third-degree burns and requested REACH Air Medical Services to respond to transport the victim to a hospital. The fire is under investigation.

04/26/2023

Several hospitals in Mendocino, Sonoma and Lake counties have been recognized in the state for meeting and maintaining standards for patient safety. The hospitals are among 76 tier 2 medical facilities in California, listed on the Cal Hospital Compare 2023 Patient Safety Honor Roll based on dozens of measures. Local hospitals recognized include Adventist Health Mendocino in Fort Bragg, Sutter Lakeside Hospital in Lakeport and Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital. Hospitals on the honor roll had to meet a tight threshold of performance by having at least 60 percent of measure results above the 50th percentile and the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade of "A" for the past three periods.

## Sheet 1

The Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, CAL FIRE, and the Mendocino County Prescribed Burn Association, will be doing a cultural burn on Friday on Nokomis Road in Hopland. Local tribal leaders are working to return the ancient practice of cultural burning to their ancestral lands. This burn will focus on restoring and preserving cultural burning traditions, improving native plants and animal habitat, reducing the risk of a fire harming their community and limiting cultural resources used in tribal traditions. CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit will be on hand to help during this 2.5-acre burn beginning at about 7:00am until around 5:00pm. Smoke will be visible throughout the Hopland and Ukiah areas.

Opponents of Proposition 22 would like the California Supreme Court to review the proposition's standing. Currently, it stands as state law, as of last month's appeals court ruling. It was a win for ride-hailing and food delivery industry. The SEIU of California, with union-supported drivers have filed a petition for review from the California Supreme Court, hoping they'll find the policy unconstitutional, saying in order to enforce a workers compensation program, a constitutional amendment must be made. According to the Lake County Record Bee, the appellate court determined that Prop. 22 did not violate the California Legislature's power over workers' compensation. California's Supreme Court has between 2 and 3 months after a petition is filed to determine whether it will take the case.

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved regulations for thousands of vacation rentals and timeshares outside city limits. In a special meeting Monday, the approval initiates a license program to set standards for vacation rentals and a stronger enforcement tool. According to the Press Democrat, the rules restrict where vacation rentals are located and regulate ownership limits of a property. Unincorporated Sonoma County has an average of more than 2,300 properties, including the coastal zone. The regulations stipulate that rentals must adhere to quiet hours, limits noise, and maintain defensible space against wildfires, and more. They also establish escalating fines for violations, starting at \$1,500 for the first violation, up to \$5,000 for a third violation. Other enforcement measures include license revocation.

Spring has sprung, and temperatures continue to heat up, tempting some to take a dip in rivers throughout NorCal, but think twice. California rivers are expected to rise to levels not seen in years, according to a California Department of Water Resources news release. Low water temperatures, from about 50 to 60 degrees, impede your ability to breathe and move. Cold water can shock your body. Check the status of the park you're planning to visit before you go, as there may be restrictions in place. Another thing to consider is to share your GPS coordinates with a friend in case of an emergency. The Department of Water resources online is a great place for more helpful information to keep you and your family safe. It's best to not go into fast-running, cold water. If you see someone who needs rescuing, toss in something that floats or call 9-1-1 for help. Wearing a life vest is always advised, but wearing one this year may not be enough for hazardous water conditions.

With temps warming up today, this may be the last chance to see the epic Sierra snow pack in its entirety from space. The string of atmospheric rivers and unusually cold temperatures over winter left an enormous snow pack in the mountains, not seen in California for decades. NASA's Terra satellite captured the snow cover early this month. With temperatures ramping up as high as the mid-90s by the end of the week, experts are expecting "the Big Melt." Yesterday, Yosemite National Park announced it will close from Friday through next Wednesday due to flood risk.

## Sheet 1

The South Lake County Fire Protection District will host its ninth annual open house this weekend. The free event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, at Station 60, on Highway 175 in Middletown. Demonstrations will include a hands-only CPR training, an auto extrication demonstration and a live smoke crawl. There will be burger and hot dog meals, fire engine rides, bounce house and face painting, a meet and greet with Sparky, and fire safety education. There will be a REACH helicopter demonstration, free raffles, children's activities and games.

Tickets are on sale for a May 20 benefit dinner for the United Disaster Relief of Northern California, a Ukiah-based nonprofit that helps Californians during and after disasters, like wildfires, floods and evacuations. The benefit dinner will include live music and dinner, to help fund the organization that brings relief to those in need. They are fundraising to buy a 7,200-square-foot warehouse it currently rents, securing the space as a permanent headquarters. Tickets to the event at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center are \$100 per person and are available at The Mendocino Book Company, or online at UDRNC.org.

The Lake County Library's Literacy Program has scheduled an in-person no-cost Tutor Training today, at the Lakeport Library from 11am to 4pm. Training comes from the Lake County Literacy Coalition Board, who will show people how to teach adults to read. Tutors will be paired with adult learners in areas Lake County. On top of teaching literacy, the program offers help with those wanting to get their GED, citizenship application assistance, written driving tests, and more. Visit the Lake County Library Website for more details.

Throughout California, Native Americans are disproportionately represented among the state's homeless population. One third of tribal residents live below the poverty line, and about 9 percent of tribes in California have homes that lack complete plumbing and many lack complete kitchens. Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire and tribal leaders are moving legislation forward to dedicate tribal housing in a housing grant program through the state. Senate Bill 18 would make a tribal specific housing fund for construction and housing rehab. In KymKemp online, the overwhelming majority of tribes have been unable to access current housing program funds because they conflict with tribal sovereignty, are restrictive and some say mismatched to tribal needs.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors approved another 90 day extension for the Emergency Warming Shelter in Lakeport. On Tuesday, the board also discussed the permitting of temporary hoop structures for cannabis cultivation. The board wants to clearly define terms of the regulations for hoop structures with those of other industries like agriculture. After public comment and discussion, the board decided to move the motion of hoop houses to next Tuesday's meeting. In The Record Bee today, the board also approved the 90 day extension of the Lakeport Emergency Warming Shelter with a maximum budget of \$307,000.

Sonoma County Airport is adding flights with Avelo Airlines this summer. The airline will start service between Sonoma County and Redmond Municipal in Bend, Oregon beginning June 23. Avelo made the announcement in a news release today. Bend will become the fourth market out of Sonoma County Airport for Avelo, with routes to Burbank, Las Vegas and Palm Springs. A Boeing Next-Generation 737 aircraft will fly to Oregon Mondays and Fridays.

04/27/2023 The lead suspect in a weeks old murder has been arrested. Lee Anthony Joaquin is in custody. Mendocino County Sheriff's Office was on the lookout for Joaquin for the homicide of Nickolas Whipple last month. Whipple was reportedly beaten badly and shot to death. It was CHP who arrested Joaquin, as he was speeding between Ukiah and Hopland. Joaquin was arrested on charges unrelated to the murder, after giving a different name. It was only when he was at the Mendocino County Jail when they discovered who he really was. Joaquin had 20 pounds of weed and a gun on him when he was arrested. In addition to murder, he faces a false identification charge, possession of marijuana for sale and more.

Lake County experienced a slight improvement in its unemployment rate, While California's jobless rate didn't change last month. The California Employment Development Department's report on joblessness showed that Lake County's unemployment rate was 6.3 percent, down from 6.4 percent in February but up from the rate reported a year ago, at 5.2 percent. At the same time, the statewide rate remained at 4.4 percent, as employers added 8,700 non-farm payroll jobs in March. Lake County's unemployment rate last month earned it the No. 35 ranking statewide among the state's 58 counties.

COVID-19 has been detected for the first time in California wildlife. One mule deer, from El Dorado County, was confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2. The deer was harvested in 2021 and sampled by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, for chronic wasting disease. Initial testing for SARS-CoV-2 was conducted at the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory at UC Davis, and confirmatory testing was conducted by the U.S. Department of Animal Agriculture in Iowa. Hunters are encouraged to take appropriate precautions when handling and dressing game The CDC says although people can spread SARS-CoV-2 to animals the risk of animals spreading the virus to people is low.

Well drillers and farmers gathered at Barra of Mendocino Winery earlier this month, for the second workshop on the new well permitting process. The purpose of the workshop was to go over the draft well permitting review process with a new Executive Order from the Governor. Tomorrow, Newsom will review input from the gathering for possible revisions to the order. The Ukiah Valley Groundwater Basin is in better shape than most, the ground water recharges regularly. Mendocino County does not meter wells. However, municipal wells in the County are metered. The county may qualify for funding in the process.

Lake County Parks and Rec Division recently built an outdoor trail and installed multiple fitness stations at Lucerne Creek Park. New additions to the park along the shores of Lucerne Creek have expanded recreation for North Shore residents. A couple more facilities will soon be set up at Hammond Park in Nice and Kelseyville Community Park. Lake County's Public Services Director says more amenities are planned for the future, with input from the public who have been invested in the vision for the parks' future.

The Clearlake City Council rescinded a contract for a road project, in order to take the funding request to the state. The 18th Avenue Improvement project was contracted for about \$4.6 million. The city manager clarified that funding may be available through the California Transportation Commission, which will consider it next month. The project would connect 18th Avenue to Highway 53, crossing the former airport property. However, there is litigation that may delay the project, with the Koi Nation's objection. The council approved a project at the former airport property that would allow construction of a Marriott Hotel. The tribe says the city's tribal consultation process violates the California Environmental Quality Act.



## Sheet1

A new Senate bill might keep landlords from selling out. Senate Bill 567 hopes to build on existing legislation in the California Tenants Protection act. The Homelessness Prevention Act hopes to reign in landlords and property owners abusing the “Just Cause” provision allowing evictions. If passed, if a “no-fault just cause” is used to evict someone on the basis of selling the property, that property must be taken off the rental market for at least 10 years.

Cal Fire’s new online process for burn permits is up and running. Next Monday, the 1st of May, begins a new year for the permit process. The online program allows people to apply online for residential burns, general burning, which includes agricultural burns, and more in Cal Fire jurisdictions. Once a permit is approved, burn permit holders will still need to ensure that it is a permissive burn day with the local air quality district. More information about the new online application process can be found on the Cal Fire website, [burnpermit.fire.ca.gov](http://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov).

State regulators are aiming to ban sales of new diesel big rigs by 2036 this week, as efforts to move California’s trucking industry to zero emissions by 2042 continue. The state Air Resources Board will hold a public hearing on its proposed regulation tomorrow and may vote on it Friday. With major drawbacks in new technology, the cost of electric trucks, and lack of chargers in the state, trucking companies and some officials say the deadline is not realistic without fundamental changes. In Willits News, air board officials said they are confident that the truck market can adjust in time to speed the transition to electric models. Some organizations are urging the board to delay the deadline and consider using price caps on EVs for the industry to ease the financial burden as they move away from diesel.

California’s Air Resources Board wants to cut emissions produced by locomotives. The agency is voting on a new rule to ban the use of engines more than 23 years old, and not to let them idle when not working. According to California regulators, diesel emissions are responsible for about 70% of cancer risk to Californians’. In a statement The Association of American Railroads said “there is no clear path to zero emissions locomotives.”

The Lake County Probation Department was recently awarded over \$220,000 in a grant to establish a Mobile Probation Service Center. The grant will fund a vehicle to provide homeless probation clients access to services, including court appearances, probation programs, check-ins, and more. The probation team intends to use the mobile center to reduce technical violations and decrease recidivism. The office says about a quarter of those on high-risk probation in Lake county are homeless. Assembly Bill 178 established funding for the Mobile Service Center, and will help the department build telecommunications and other equipment into the mobile probation vehicle.

After a tough year for grape growers, the numbers are in. The 2022 Preliminary Grape Crush Report for Mendocino County says grows crushed it with production up 29% from last year. In the Mendocino Voice online today, grapes worth and estimated 108.5 million dollars could produce around 22,500 bottles of wine, and although most of harvest will be going to wine makes outside of Mendocino County, some will be used by local winemakers.

Ukiah homeless shelter has to do more with less. Funding cuts are leading to staff shortages, with little relief in sight. Emergency relief money from the federal government during the pandemic allowed more staff and resources, now that the emergency is over, so are the benefits. In the Ukiah Daily, Sage Wolf at Building Bridges said they got a lot more money during the pandemic, now all that money has dried up. With tax revenues down, the shelter could see even more funding cuts.

## Sheet1

The number of COVID deaths continues to decline in California and the rest of the country, dropping 65% in the last three months in the state. In the Bay Area News Group, the declining number of deaths, that reflects a decrease in hospital patients comes as the end to California's COVID emergency in May. Pfizer's anti-viral medication, Paxlovid, also helped keep hospital and death numbers lower. Experts warn that COVID is not over. Outbreaks are still being reported, although less so recently. Those who are immunocompromised should still be cautious.

04/28/2023

A body in Willits was identified last week, after over a year passed after his death. The Mendocino County Sheriff's office has corrected the cause of death in the homeless man whose body was found near Underpass Road, named Thaddeus Bradley. At the time, a meth overdose was declared, but the real cause was actually a traumatic injury. Bradley, known as Tad traveled from Humboldt, to Trinity and finally Mendocino County before he passed. The Sheriff's Office is looking for anyone with information about Tad to call the Tip-Line at 707-234-2100.

Mendocino College has been awarded \$2.6 million in a Hispanic Service Institution grant from the US Department of Education. The grant will support student success and retention focusing on supporting Latinx students. The college will use the money to train staff in student retention best practices to increase the number of students who complete a degree or transfer. The competitive grant was given for Mendocino College's demonstrated commitment to serving Latinx students and their success in advancing their academic and career goals.

A group of lawmakers have reintroduced the Secure and Fair Enforcement, or SAFE, Banking Act in congress. According to KymKemp online, the legislation would allow banks to serve cannabis businesses without prosecution. Federal banking regulations currently do not recognize the legal cannabis industry. The SAFE act would create transparency for the industry and government officials tasked with regulating it. It would also help protect businesses that have had to work in cash only, at times leading to targeted robbery and more. The SAFE Banking Act has had many supporters, but efforts to pass it have stalled in the Senate. Industry leaders will head to DC in May to lobby for the passage of the legislation.

Fort Bragg has a couple of markets that will offer CalFresh members a rebate for California grown fruits and vegetables. Harvest Market and Mendosa Market are partnered with the state sponsored program in a pilot project. According to the Mendocino Beacon, Harvest Market was the first retail grocery store in the country to offer a rebate processed through customers' EBT cards. Immediately, the register receipt would flag the purchase of California fruits and vegetables and calculate the total. Then the state would electronically put that dollar amount back onto the customer's card with a cap of \$60 a month. Markets and those in the CalFresh program hope the pilot will pass as AB 605 in the state capitol, to expand the rebate program statewide.

## Sheet1

100+ Women Strong Mendocino Coast will celebrate its first donation to local nonprofits this week. The committee chose three finalists, and during the event one will be awarded up to \$10,000. The funds were raised by members of the group via donations that includes membership to the organization. The three nonprofits are the Action Network in Point Arena, Flockworks in Fort Bragg, and Xa Kako Dile in Casper. The 100+ Women Strong Mendocino is referred to by some, as the ground floor community support for nonprofits on the coast. According to the Fort Bragg Advocate-News, the event will be a celebration, an award and an opportunity for the public to learn about the non-profits and how they help the community from social services, to art, to indigenous culture along the coast.

The City of Fort Bragg held a city council meeting this week, and appointed Richard Neils as the new Planning Commissioner. Former Commissioner Stan Miklose stepped down during the meeting on Monday. The City also approved over \$345,000 for the Police Department Support Services, to finance their youth opioid response program, called Project Right Now. Mendocino County has some of the steepest rates of opioid abuse in the state. The project focuses on young people from 12 to 24 years old who are at-risk, according to the Advocate-News.

California's lawmakers have been debating the fentanyl crisis, with more than 30 bills introduced to the legislature. But a number of those bills have since stalled, caught in a dispute between lawmakers about the best way to address a crisis that is killing roughly 110 people in the state every week. Thursday, at a special hearing the Assembly public safety committee made some progress. They advanced four bills including one that would increase penalties for dealers with at least one kilogram of fentanyl and another that would prohibit people from carrying a gun while also being in possession of the killer drug.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection awarded more than \$142 million in projects to work on carbon storage and restore the health of existing and recently burned forests in the state. Almost \$6 million of the funding will go to the restoration of the Eel River watershed in Mendocino County and more. Fuels reduction and prescribed fire treatments funded under these grants are aimed at reducing excess vegetation and returning forests to more fire, drought, and pest-resilient conditions. The Clear Lake Environmental Research Center North Shore Restoration Fuels Reduction project is getting \$7 million to protect seven communities on the Clear Lake shore.

Five hundred and twelve affordable housing units have been approved in Sonoma County under state Senate Bill 35. The now six year old law made it easier for developers to build below-market rate, multi-unit housing. In the Press Democrat, some say the law that lets developers bypass steps in the process of approval is problematic. The bill was meant to incentivize more affordable housing. The law is to expire in 2026 cuts out the public's opinion over the important land-use decisions. The bill also allows builders to bypass environmental reviews. Developers must meet standards though, including design and zoning requirements for approval. Projects also have to be in an urban or suburban area and not in coastal zones, flood plains or farmland. Native American Tribes in the area also must be given an opportunity to determine if a project site is a cultural resource.

## Sheet 1

The State Senate Education Committee passed SB 767 this week. The bill will make kindergarten mandatory, so that all kids get critical instruction in the earliest years of their learning. In Lake County News today, Senate bill 767 changes the current optional kindergarten placement to mandatory schooling before 1st grade. The bill also includes options for parents to enroll their children in traditional public school, charter school, home-school, private school and allows parents to hold their kid's back until the age of 6, before enrolling in kindergarten. The bill is supported by many school districts, labor partners, parents, and educational advocacy organizations. SB 767 is now headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors may rescind an unpopular ordinance that charged members of the public for staff time to fulfill public records requests. In MendoFever online, the Board went into closed session on Tuesday. In the Supervisors' reports at the end of the day, they announced a proposed action to the Board to repeal Ordinance 4507, the Public Records Act Ordinance. The ordinance was enacted to lower the costs of time-consuming records requests. A free press advocacy organization, urged the Board to follow through on a repeal of the ordinance for many reasons, saying "It violates the PRA (Public Records Act), saying any financial barrier to access is a barrier to full transparency that's guaranteed by California law and the California Constitution. The county still faces legal liability, if the board doesn't follow through on their intention to rescind.

Mendocino Coast Clinics have expanded their Suboxone Program, including a new location to supporting people to overcome their addiction. Funding comes from a \$2.5 million grant by the US Department of HHS. In 2021 Mendocino County had a higher rate of opioid-related overdoses than any other California county, according to the California Department of Public Health. In the Advocate News, across the country, opioid-related deaths have grown more than eight times since 1999, according to the CDC. The Suboxone Program gives patients care from clinical staff, including MAT providers, recovery specialists, nurses, and a licensed clinical social worker. The program allows people receiving treatment to get all the services needed in just one appointment. In addition to a new location, the MCC is hiring more staff, some bilingual and bicultural.

Caltrans has some road projects taking place around the North Coast next week. In Lake County, on Highway 20, one-way traffic will be in effect 9a-4p for utility work west of Upper Lake near Scotts Valley Road. On Highway 29, emergency work continues from 7a-5:30p with 15 minute delays for drivers. Emergency work also continues next week in Lower Lake at Morgan Valley Road to Point Lakeview Road starting Monday. On Highway 53, work will continue from Route 29 in Lower Lake to 40th Avenue in Clearlake. In Mendocino County, Highway 1 will have one-way traffic control as tree work continues in Gualala starting today. On Highway 101, the Irvine Lodge Safety Rest area is closed through May. And work continues on 101 north of Laytonville at Woodruff Road to Bell Springs Road.

There's gold in the hills, and the rapid flows expected in the rivers could expose hidden gold. Local prospecting enthusiasts are looking forward to the runoff, because it takes large amounts of water to erode the gold from its hiding places. River water is cold and fast, officials are warning people not go in for any reason. More preparations are being made to direct the expected flows.

05/01/2023 The Lake County Board of Supervisors will continue to discuss updated guidelines for cannabis-related growing structures and consider appointments to the town hall created to replace the Lucerne Area Town Hall. The board will meet beginning at 9 a.m. tomorrow, and can be watched live on Channel 8. The board will proclaim that May 5 is Lake County Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People. They'll also recognize National Foster Care Awareness Month and Wildfire Preparedness week. According to Lake County News, the board will work on their new Central Region Town Hall, the new group formed to replace the Lucerne Area Town Hall, which the Board of Supervisors chose to halt.

Another mental health bill is before the California Senate, passed by the judiciary committee last week. This bill would make it easier to forcibly treat more people. It comes on the heels of CARE Court, a program rolling out this year that broadened state powers to impose psychiatric care. In the LA Times today, information indicates that involuntary commitments have risen around the country. Studies show that California detains people at a rate even higher than the U.S. average. In 2021, California's three-day detentions, known as 5150 holds were imposed on more than 120,000 people.

Cities in the state are falling short when it comes to providing shelter for homeless communities. But despite reassurances from Gov. Gavin Newsom and lawmakers, there's no state requirement for cities and counties to make sure they have enough housing for the homeless. In CalMatters, a bill working its way through the Legislature could change that, and potentially lead to sanctions against local governments that fail to plan for the needs of homeless Californians. Senate Bill 7 would require municipalities to plan enough beds for everyone living without a home. If the bill passes officials would have to include homeless housing in their plans. At a recent hearing, some bill critics wondered where the money would come from to build all this extra housing.

California 's teachers may be getting a hefty raise. In CBS Sacramento today, there's a new bill in the state legislature designed to close the wage gap between educators by increasing teacher pay 50% over the next seven years. It would use a "local control funding formula" to factor the cost of living into salaries. Supporters of the measure point out that many teachers and other school employees cannot afford to live in the communities where they work. The California Federation of Teachers, California Teachers Association, and the California School Employees Association are supporting the measure.

A Philo man was arrested on charges of domestic violence by the Mendocino Sheriff's Office last week. The female victim was held against her will when the two had an argument Monday night. She was taken to the hospital with injuries sustained from domestic violence. The next day, Acradio Mateo Diego was taken to jail with four felony charges, involving kidnapping and injuring his girlfriend. Diego was booked into jail and is being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

California regulators approved new rules requiring all medium- and heavy-duty vehicles sold in the state be zero-emission by 2036 Friday, a day after the California Air Resources Board adopted reduced emission regulations for locomotives. The rule also requires fleets to transfer to zero-emission vehicles. Big rigs, local delivery and government fleets must transition to zero emission by 2035, and garbage trucks and local buses by 2039. On Thursday, they also adopted new locomotive regulations requiring that by 2030 only those less than 23 years old could operate in the state.

## Sheet1

The Lakeport City Council is set to consider a contract amendment to expand a road study this week. The council will meet at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow. The Public Works Director will seek the council's support for the first amendment to the city's agreement with WMH, the company hired last fall for work on the Lakeport Boulevard at Bevins Street, at a cost of just under \$150,000. The expanded contract will cost the city about \$158,000, according to Lake County News today. Also on the agenda is the receipt and filing of the illegal fireworks operations plan, and more.

There's an update on the dog attack that injured two women in Fort Bragg about 10 days ago. One woman had significant injuries to her arm and a bite to her face. She was taken to a local hospital and has been released. The second woman had significant damage to her fingers and arm, and was airlifted out to a hospital. According to the Fort Bragg Police Department, her fingers were able to be reattached by doctors. The two attacking dogs were euthanized. A third non-aggressive dog was also attacked, is being treated.

The local drought emergency is over, according to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. In Mendocino online, thanks to a rainy winter and spring, the board voted unanimously to approve the end to the drought, last week. The end to the emergency means higher standards in water tank permitting; those with tanks have 30 days to apply for the appropriate permits.

There were two structure fire alerts over the weekend, that are now cancelled.. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office alerted people, via the Nixle program of two fires near the Willits area. At about 7:30pm Saturday night, they called the "all-clear" for the areas. To get alerts, you can check out Nixle online, or text 888777 to opt-in.

Lake County is warning of blue-green algae that may grow in large amounts and can be hazardous. So far though, none have been spotted. The blue-green algae looks like spilled green or blue-green paint with green streaks or globs, and can become a hazardous algal bloom, which can be unhealthy to people and animals. The blooms can produce cyanotoxins, which can cause sickness, especially those who are vulnerable. The drinking water in the surrounding areas is typically treated and safe to drink, but if you're concerned, you can call the county. Every two weeks when it's warm, water quality is tested by Big Valley Rancheria throughout the Clear Lake area. If you see an algal bloom, please call Lake County Water Resources at 707-263-2344.

The California Department of Cannabis Control awarded \$20 million in research grants to 16 universities. Included in the research funding, will be a first-of-its-kind study of California's legacy cannabis genetics. Research will also be conducted on the impact of cannabis on mental health, as well as helpful medicinal uses. In KymKemp online, the Chief Deputy Director at the department hopes the studies will help refine the legal framework around the plant, and the industry.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services is getting ready for Wildfire Preparedness Week, today through the 7th. In a press release, Cal OES is reminding people that due to climate change, the state is experiencing more frequent and intense fires, so it's important that people remain prepared. You can sign up to get alerts at CalAlerts.org and et some safety tips, including making defensible space around your home, and having a plan. As a reminder, as of today, the burn ban goes into effect. For information about burn permitting, try out the new online portal at burnpermit.fire.ca.gov.

## Sheet1

The Lake County Air Quality Management District is announcing new office hours. The district office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10am to 4pm. The new hours, announced at the board meeting last week, will allow staff time to work on permit review applications, processing grant projects and work on inspections.

NASA is helping a project that began on Earth Day last year. The Biden Administration asked the Department of Agriculture and the BLM to define and map forests on federal lands. After a year, a first-ever national inventory of old-growth forests will soon be viewable to the public. The project will be the first formal accounting of the forests. In Lake County News, NASA funded research is helping the Forest Service with a space-based instrument called Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation, or GEDI. From the International Space Station, GEDI's laser imager is able to peer through dense forest canopies to see nearly all of our planet's temperate and tropical forests.

Caltrans is reporting that road work continues around the North Coast. In Lake County, utility work on Highway 20, west of Upper Lake continues this week, with one-way traffic control. On Highway 175, road work west of Mathews Road is ongoing with one way traffic control from 7a to 7p. In Mendocino County, emergency work on Highway 20 is ongoing at Hardy Creek and James Creek with one-way traffic control from 7a to 5:30p. On Highway 187, emergency work begins today near Goodlin Creek with lane closures through 5:30p. More information and details are at QuickMap at dot.ca.gov.

People on the Mendocino Coast woke up to power outages from Westport to Point Arena and throughout Anderson Valley this morning. As of 10 a.m., PG&E reported that over 15,000 customers were still without power. Crews are on the scene of the outage and the cause is under investigation. The outage was first reported just before 8:30 a.m., including over 9,000 customers in the City of Fort Bragg. At about 9:30 a.m. Fort Bragg Schools announced that students were being released early due to the outage. Minutes later, Pacific Community Charter School, Point Arena and Elk also announced an early closure.

05/02/2023

A magnitude 3.6 earthquake shook along the Mendocino County coast. The quake happened at about 4:13 p.m., around 2.5 miles southeast of Point Arena, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. There was no immediate word of damage from the earthquake, which occurred on the San Andreas Fault. The quake struck at a depth of 5 miles and was felt strongly in the Mendocino County cities of Point Arena and Gualala, according to the USGS. In Sonoma County, the quake struck 16 miles north of The Sea Ranch and 23 miles from Annapolis and was felt in both communities, according to responses submitted to the USGS.

A virtual town hall meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. tonight for Northern Californians to discuss wildfire preparation and prevention. The meeting will be hosted by state Sen. Mike McGuire and Cal Fire. According to the senator's office, the discussion will cover how the state responds to large fires, resources available, and what area residents should do to prepare for wildfire season. The meeting is available via the senator's Facebook page and website.

## Sheet1

It appeared to be business as usual Monday at First Republic Bank in Santa Rosa. In the Press Democrat today, one wouldn't expect it had just become the second largest bank failure in the nation's history, and the third bank fail this year. Monday, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. seized the San Francisco-based First Republic, which has five locations around the North Bay and one in Sonoma County. JPMorgan agreed to purchase its assets. About eight weeks earlier, Silicon Valley Bank experienced its own collapse. First Republic could not sustain a sudden rush for cash from depositors. First Republic Bank is the only bank of the three that foundered this year to have a location in Sonoma County. On Monday the bank reopened as a branch of JPMorgan Chase, the FDIC said in a statement. People who banked with First Republic are covered by the FDIC's insurance coverage of up to \$250,000. About 63% of First Republic's deposits were from businesses, and the rest were from individuals.

Wildfire season is upon us, even as record rains this winter may have dampened Northern California, and certain regions will see it sooner than others. Typically, peak Northern California fire season begins in June or July and can run through November, according to the Western Fire Chiefs Association, but the beginning of this season could be delayed by months compared to recent history. Tribune News Services reports that the likelihood of wildfires in an area will depend on the landscape. Areas with more conifer forests and redwood forests may have less fire activity in the summer compared to the last two years. Mid and upper-elevation forest lands, specifically, will take longer to dry out. Researchers say wildfires may reach into the foothills in May and June. Lightning fires continues to be a concern this season.

Social media companies are the target of a new bill making its way through the Legislature. It would hold companies legally responsible for using algorithms and design features that addict kids. Now, legislative activity is growing in the country, with several states passing laws that regulate how social media companies do business. In CalMatters, the bill covers social media companies that earn more than \$100 million in revenue per year and have users in California. Companies that violate the law could get sued by public attorneys, and could face penalties of as much as \$250,000 per violation. Last week the bill was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee and added to a special pile of bills that the committee will analyze.

The fate of an Ukiah winery is in the hands of the court. The wine-tasting entertainment venue, Rivino, in Ukiah Valley sits on the eastside of Highway 101. In MendoFever online, a Mendocino County Superior Court judge is presiding over a complex divorce

between Suzanne Jahnke and Jason McConnell. Judge Mayfield may turn over ownership of the venue site to Suzanne Jahnke, who bought the property from her father's estate after his death in 2013. The judge cites a provision in an agreement that when the winery site became community property in the event of divorce, Suzanne Jahnke would have the first right to possess and own the home.

In recognition of the Mendocino County "Racial Equity and Justice Committee" Mendocino County proclaims May 5th as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Day. In solidarity with the victims and their families of these tragedies, Mendocino County employees and the community are urged to wear red on May 5th, to raise awareness. Also, the community is asked to support the movement by posting to social media using the hashtags #NotInvisible and #MendocinoCounty.



## Sheet1

A mobile buyback pilot project will be in place by the end of May, a Redwood Waste Solutions spokesperson announced this week in the Mendocino Voice. Fort Bragg residents and others have been waiting for the service since the closure of the Pudding Creek transfer station. Last month, a 5th District Supervisor announced that Mendocino County and the City of Fort Bragg had been awarded one of the ten available Beverage Container Recycling Pilot Projects by CalRecycle. Mobile centers will be stationed at the Mendocino K-8 school, the Caspar Community Center, and the Fort Bragg Food Bank. All will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with the Mendocino and Caspar locations open Sunday and Monday. Fort Bragg's dates of operation are yet to be finalized. To begin with, a mobile center will offer RWS time to create a permanent one.

Four Lake County competitors qualified for state finals during the California District 2 High School Rodeo Championships at the Rolling Hills Equestrian Center last month. The top six finishers in each event will represent District 2 during the High School Rodeo State Finals this spring in Bishop. Jace Kelley, a freshman at Upper Lake High School, won the boys All-Around title as well as rookie honors. He qualified for the state finals. In the Record-Bee, Jamie Pullman, a senior at Middletown High School won the girls goat tying championship and qualified for the state finals too. Mazzi McAllister and Casey Huston, both sophomores at Kelseyville and Middletown High Schools, qualified for the state finals as well.

The 32nd annual Lake County Open Golf Championship had some young leaders over the weekend. Matt Wotherspoon shot a 1-under-par 71 to outlast Corey Huber and his round of 73. A collegiate golfer at California State University San Bernardino, Wotherspoon achieved All-Conference status during his playing day at Kelseyville High School. In the Record Bee, it was his second Lake County Open win, his first title coming in 2020. He attributed his win to a game plan that focused on playing safe and smart golf. He also said his short game was solid throughout his round.

In Clearlake Oaks, the East Region Town Hall, or ERT, will meet tomorrow, May 3 at 4pm at the Moose Lodge. The meeting will be available via Zoom. On the agenda will be guest speaker from the Lake County Special Districts administrator, on the proposed Consolidated lighting district and additional streetlights for Clearlake Oaks. Also on the agenda, the Lake County Geothermal Project Watchlist, commercial cannabis cultivation and a cannabis ordinance task force update. In Lake County News, the council will report on proposed commercial and residential project applications, and updates on Spring Valley, the Northshore Fire Protection District, the Oaks Arm and Keys Restoration projects, and the U.S. EPA's Sulphur Bank Mine Superfund site.

California State Parks graduated 30 cadets, including 29 rangers and one lifeguard who will work in the country's largest state park system. In Lake County News today, the cadets spent 32 weeks in the academy, the cadets became State Park Peace Officers. As peace officers, they will serve, protect, and educate visitors to California's 280 state parks, while protecting the state's most significant natural and cultural resources. This year's class of 30 cadets was chosen from a field of more than 400 applicants. Graduates of this class will be stationed in the Northern Buttes Districts, which includes Lake County and more parks in the state. State Parks is currently accepting applications for the 2024 State Parks Peace Officers Cadet Academy exam. The deadline to apply is Saturday, June 10. For more information on the academy check out [Live The Parks Life.com](https://www.parks.ca.gov/)

[Some of the best rhododendrons on the west coast will be featured with the Noyo Cha](#)

## Sheet1

It's that time of year, when North Coast wine grape growers and vintners wait for a sign of how big this year's crop could be. By mid-May, growers will get a look of the potential of the crop. In The Press Democrat today, cool weather may have slowed some growth for the wine grape vines. A later start means the growing season is looking ok and may be closer to the average. In recent history with a hot drought shaping the season, this year will be different. Bud break came early in late March and early April, putting harvest behind about three weeks from last year. Growers and vintners will get a better picture when self-pollination and the start of fruit production happens that will forecast crop size and berry quantity. Chardonnay varieties in Sonoma County are producing three times as many clusters compared to last year, a great sign, as one of the most sought after types right now. A grower in the Russian River Valley told the Press Democrat that bunch counts are looking good, and he expects to see the crop start to bloom the third week of May. Hopefully this year continues to be different than last, as heat waves before harvest could

05/03/2023 negatively impact tonnage.

It's time to smash urchins and help bull kelp. The Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department, a kelp restoration specialist and divers lined the coast in Caspar last weekend, ready to help volunteers balance the oceanic ecosystem. In the MendoVoice online, the Watermen's Alliance group was on hand to help destroy the overpopulated small purple urchins. The spiny organisms threaten bull kelp forests. Since COVID, these kinds of gatherings have been sparse. In 2017, divers witnessed the kelp decline by more than 90 percent. Now, divers can smash purple urchin at a zone in Caspar Cove and in Monterey, under an emergency regulation that will end next year. Small, pointy light tools are used to break the eggs underwater. Instead of smashing, some choose to trap urchin and revive a natural predator, the sea star. On the kelp side of the story, there are local efforts to reseed the salty plant. As of Monday, there were an estimated 70,000 total urchin culled during the project. If you're a diver and would like to get involved, check with the Watermen's Alliance.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it won't grant an emergency endangered species listing to the Clear Lake hitch, however, a listing under the agency's regular process could still happen after an evaluation is complete in two years. Yesterday, the Fish and Wildlife Service said it will continue to invest in projects that support the hitch's recovery while moving forward with its evaluation of the species. Recently, tribes and others have reported a major decline in hitch numbers, a situation that's largely been attributed to climate change, drought years and poor water quality in Clear Lake.

The Lakeport City Council approved changing a contract for a study to look at Lakeport Boulevard, one of the city's busiest commercial corridors in their meeting last night. the council's unanimous approval for the first amendment to the city's agreement with the company WMH, hired to conduct the Lakeport Boulevard at Bevins Street project study at a cost not to exceed about \$147,000. The new contract will cost about \$8,000 more, in Lake County News. Additionally, the city noted the state was moving forward on its courthouse project. The new \$73 million courthouse will be built at 675 Lakeport Blvd. The Judicial Council of California says construction will begin next February and be done by October 2025.

## Sheet1

PG&E plans to reduce Lake Pillsbury's level 10 feet by leaving the spill gates open at Scott Dam. In MendoFever online, a Safety Engineer for the company says the seismic and flood risks helped in the decision. Because Scott Dam is part of a hydroelectric power project, PG&E is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Using new technology, PG&E estimates a 63 percent seismic risk increase at Scott Dam. By leaving the gates open, there will be approximately 25 percent less water stored in the lake, reducing pressure on the dam, lowering seismic risk and dam failure. The water supplied from the hydroelectric project into the Russian River is mainly used by Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife have implemented a 30-fathom depth constraint for Fishing Zones 1 and 2 effective May 15, for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery. The department announced in a press release that electronic monitoring data must be made available to them for the duration of the fishing season. Recreational crab traps will be prohibited in Fishing Zones 3-6 on May 15. Recreational crabbers that take Dungeness crab with hoop nets and crab snares, is still allowed through the close of the season on June 30. These restrictions help limit the entanglement risk for humpback whales as they return to forage off the coast of California. Based on historical migration patterns, they anticipate humpback whales will continue arriving in the coming weeks. Check out the California Department of Fish and Wildlife online for more information.

Nearly 15,000 PG&E customers lost power along the coast yesterday, after a tree fell on a transmission line. Power was restored just after noon, according to the company. It happened when routine maintenance on a line between Willits and Fort Bragg, while another company was logging in the area. During their work, a tree fell on the transmission line, triggering thousands of the power failures at about 8:30am. The Fort Bragg substation was hit hardest with about 8,500 customers without power. Fort Bragg schools sent students home because of the outage. Point Arena was the last area to get their power back on.

California's snow pack is one of the largest in history. The latest state snow survey was Monday. The Department of Water Resources conducted the fifth snow survey of the season at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 59 inches of snow depth with a snow water equivalent of 30 inches, almost 2 and a half times the average.

In the Lake County News, reports show snow surveys used in runoff forecasts let reservoir operators plan for inflows, and thus prepare for flood risks. According to The record-breaking historical snow packs last measured anywhere near California's latest report, are over half a century ago. In April, the department announced a 100% allocation of requested supplies from the State Water Project, serving 27 million in the state and 3 quarters of a million acres of farmland.

## Sheet1

Mendocino County 1st District Supervisor and Chair of the Board, Glenn McGourty has announced he is not running for a second term on the 2024 Board of Supervisors. McGourty has spent 35 years in public service, including 33 years as a UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor and over 2 as a supervisor. In a press release yesterday he said "I will be ready to call it a day when my term is up in 2024." McGourty ran for supervisor in 2020 and won the election, backed by a broad coalition of voters. His term was challenging as the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency declaration happened, and the county appointed a new Chief Executive Officer. He worked with multiple natural resource issues and natural disasters, economic challenges, and redistricting. Three supervisors' seats will be up for reelection in 2024. Candidates will be able to file declarations of their candidacy in December.

Gun advocates are suing California for the second time, to overturn the state's 10-day waiting period for purchasing a firearm. The Firearms Policy Coalition announced the legal action yesterday, along with the California Gun Rights Foundation and the Second Amendment Foundation, according to the Sac Bee this week. In the complaint the group argues the waiting period "...relegates the right to keep and bear arms to second-class status." California has had a gun purchase waiting period for decades; the 10-day version went into effect in 1996. This lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court Southern District of California. The California Attorney General's Office said in an email statement that it has received the complaint and is reviewing it.

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office is holding a Spanish Community Academy where residents can learn about the office's purpose, employees and policies. The program will give participants an understanding of the role authorities have in the community. It will also give the public insight through sessions that are completely taught in Spanish. The Spanish Community Academy will be held on Thursdays in May and on June 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sheriff's Department in Santa Rosa. Residents must be at least 18 years old, live or work in Sonoma County, have a valid form of id, pass a basic background check and more. Immigration status won't be a factor. To find the application, visit the Sheriff's Office website at [sonomasheriff.org](http://sonomasheriff.org).

Law suits continue as PGE customers have trouble paying higher energy bills. After coming out of a second bankruptcy for causing deadly wildfires PGE rates have shot up, making it hard on customers. PGE in a press release announced they plan on burying 2100 miles of power lines by 2026 and adopting new technology to make their systems safer. In an interview with the Press Democrat PGE CEO Patti Poppe said the company can be a force for adaptation, with increasingly resilient infrastructure.

Kelseyville's Joey Gentle and Tyler Bryant of the Lake County High School Fishing Club placed third out of 33 teams during a Major League Fishing tournament at Russo's Marina on Bethel Island in the Delta last weekend. Both the Gentle-Bryant and Lyndall-Navarro teams have now qualified to advance to the Nationals beginning in June at La Crosse, Wisconsin. In the Record Bee, Gentle-Bryant, both multi-sport athletes for the Knights, weighed in a five-fish limit of 16 pounds, 9 ounces in their ninth Student Angler Tournament Trail event of the season. That third-place finish also pushes them into first place for Angler of the Year honors.

## Sheet1

California will no longer allow the sale of new small gas engines, starting next year. You can still keep and use your gas lawnmower. New state will requirements prohibit the sale of gasoline burning equipment, but there are grants available for businesses that rely on small engines to power their work. Other state and federally sponsored incentives will also available thru the California Air Resources Board.

The California Reparations Task Force may have plans to recommend the state apologize for racism and slavery and consider “down payments” of varying amounts to eligible African American residents. In CalMatters online, there isn’t an overall price for reparations, but they do show how much some in the state have lost over the last 73 years. The estimates range from \$2,300 per person per year for the over-policing of Black communities, to \$77,000 for Black-owned business losses over the years. July 1st, is the deadline a state task force faces, to send a letter of recommendation to the capital. The task force also is recommending policy changes to counteract discrimination. The task force documents have two kinds of reparations: those from particular instances and those benefits to all eligible Black Californians for racial harm the entire community experienced. Don’t expect cash anytime soon. The state Legislature and Governor will decide whether any reparations are paid, depending on the recommendations. The task force is scheduled to meet again at 9 a.m. Saturday 05/04/2023 at Northeastern University, in Oakland. The meeting will be live streamed.

Fort Bragg is voyaging into desalination with an innovative pilot project. The aim is to desalt ocean water for the Mendocino Coast. In the Press Democrat, the carbon-free wave action energized project comes from a young Quebec-based company called Oneka Technologies. The company makes floating, raft-like units that draw in water, pressurize and force it back through reverse-osmosis and sends it back to the ocean floor. It’s anchored about a mile off shore of the Noyo Headlands. They’re testing for locations, permits, state regulations and more, which could take up to 8 months to deploy. A \$1.5 million grant through the Department of Water Resources, is helping with the process. The water shortage was so severe in towns like Mendocino that the county and the state had to purchase water in Ukiah and truck it over the hill in 2021 to supply minimal needs there. California has seven active seawater desalination facilities. An eighth has been approved but is not yet operating.

The County of Mendocino has been added to the major disaster declaration and approved for Individual Assistance to support recovery efforts related to damages from the February-March storms. During that time, Mendocino County saw extreme snow in high elevation areas, multiple rescues, and ongoing road closures that presented a real challenge to emergency services. The Presidential Major Disaster Declaration back in April freed up public assistance, which offers funding and manpower for emergency work and repair of facilities. But further assessments have been underway to see which counties qualify for aid directly to impacted residents, according to MendoVoice online. In mid-March, FEMA had provided Mendocino County residents with \$249,692.88 in individual assistance for the first round of storms. Residents impacted in the later storms can now apply for aid for repairs, reimbursement for stays in motels, and other help in recovery. County staff is working closely with FEMA and CalOES to set up Disaster Recovery Centers for residents affected by the February-March storms to sign up for disaster assistance. More information can be found at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov).

## Sheet1

Six people say they were sexually assaulted as kids by the former athletic director at the Boys & Girls Club of Sonoma Valley. They filed three civil suits against Paul “Dwayne” Kilgore, the organization and dozens of employees. An Index-Tribune article writes the most recent suit, filed Feb. 14 in Sonoma County Superior Court, comes after six other accusers filed two civil suits in 2018 against Kilgore and the Boys & Girls Club. Those suits were settled out of court in December 2021. Kilgore worked at the Sonoma Valley club from 2002 to 2013. He was arrested after a teacher witnessed him touching boys in Healdsburg. He was found guilty in March 2018 of six counts of sexual abuse of a minor and is currently serving a 150-year sentence at Mule Creek State Prison. In the latest suit, three accusers are seeking restitution, and the club’s failure to address reports that he was taking boys off site and sexually abusing them. In 2012 the club began an investigation and Kilgore resigned a few months later. A trial date has not been set for the February suit, but it could be up to a year before the case is heard.

The torrents of rain that cascaded across California this winter broke records, flooded fields and washed over hillsides, in the Washington Post today. That water also seeped into underground seed banks, nourishing long-dormant flora. The result: epic, statewide “super blooms.” The sudden transformation of California’s landscape from dry and barren into rainbow fields of flowers has captivated the country and drawn thousands of revelers. The super bloom is under threat. Climate change regularly puts the state into prolonged droughts, depriving the land of necessary rain. And sprawling development has paved over many habitats that used to reliably burst into spectacular shades of yellow, purple and blazing orange. Now the super blooms are a reminder of what the state once looked like, and “they are multicolored beacons of hope for those trying to preserve the natural areas that remain.”

California’s population dropped by roughly 138,000 people, to about 39 million last year. The state’s population peaked at nearly 40 million in January 2020. In the New York Times today, for the first time in more than a century, California’s population shrank. The population slowdown during COVID even cost California a congressional seat. The state’s population dipped again in 2022, for the third year in a row. Even after three years of decline, California remains the nation’s most populous state, home to one in eight U.S. residents. The latest drop is the smallest since the downward trend began in 2020, suggesting a reversal could be in store, according to the California Department of Finance. A higher-than-normal death rate, a falling birthrate, a drop in international migration all contributed to the decline. Californians moving to other states was been the primary driver of population loss, with Californians moving to Texas, Nevada, Idaho or Oregon. Between July 2021 and July 2022, the net movement out of California was a record of over 400,000 people. The growth in remote work has also uprooted more people as they look for affordable housing in other states, attracting high-income and highly educated Californians to join the exodus.

## Sheet 1

In the wake of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service saying it won't grant an emergency Endangered Species Act listing for the Clear Lake hitch, the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians say they are disappointed. Fish and Wildlife announced that it won't give the listing, which the California Fish and Game Commission and Lake County tribes have asked for. The hitch, or "chi," to the Lake County Tribes, has an important cultural role, because it is a primary food source. People have noted a big decline in hitch population. That, along with help from Big Valley and other local tribes, led to the board of supervisors declaring a Clear Lake hitch emergency in February. According to Lake County News today, the hitch has been listed as "threatened" under the California Endangered Species Act since 2014. In 2020, Fish and Wildlife declined to list the fish, which led to a lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity. This week, Fish and Wildlife said it is still in the midst of evaluating the hitch, which could take up to two years, but does have the potential to lead to the federal listing. In some cases, area farmers and leaders from local tribes have worked together as the fish spilled over into fields in the Kelseyville area in April. That work had to be done under a special state permit.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors made a proclamation and attended to business at its meeting this week. In the Record Bee, a proclamation was made in recognition of May 5th as Lake County Day of awareness for missing and murdered indigenous women and people. Crowds were there clad in black and red clothing, in memoriam of their lost loved ones. In addition, the board revisited the draft ordinance on hoop structures for cannabis cultivations; and addressed the issues of agricultural inclusion, materials used to make hoop structures and more. After three weeks of hearings the board approved the first draft of the ordinance and advanced the amended order to be continued at the next board meeting. They also appointed seats to the newly formed Central Regional Town Hall, with one and two year terms.

Middletown High School's golf team closed out a perfect Coastal Mountain Conference South season yesterday afternoon. It's the eighth straight victory over St. Helena at the Valley of the Moon Golf Club in Santa Rosa. Middletown advances to the opening round of the North Coast Section playoffs next Monday at Rooster Run Golf Club. Middletown's CMC South-champion team will be part of the 144 golfers in the sectional field, according to the Record Bee.

Sonoma County residents can learn how to stay safe during fires, earthquakes, floods and other emergencies at a free event in Healdsburg on Saturday. In the Press Democrat today, the Fire & Earthquake Safety Expo will be at the Healdsburg Community Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hosted by the city of Healdsburg and the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club, celebrating its 100th anniversary. They are expecting up to 2,000 people at the event. The expo will feature local first responders and exhibitions, including a helicopter landing with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. The city will be giving out its revised evacuation maps for residents to use in the event of an emergency. County officials will show drone footage of the recent Russian River flows that affected Healdsburg and west Sonoma County during the atmospheric rains over the winter.

[Five Willits area singers are getting together again this Saturday at the Willits Commur](#)

## Sheet1

A prescribed burn sent smoke in the air above Healdsburg, with firefighters working near the Parkland Farms area. This morning, Cal Fire and the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District started burning about 80 piles in the Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve. The prescribed burn was put off last month due to storms. The delay was actually a good thing, making conditions perfect for the burns. The wet ground prevented any stray flames from escaping. In the Press Democrat this afternoon, it was part of the California Vegetation Treatment Program, funded by a California Coastal Conservancy grant.

05/05/2023 A suspect in the stabbings at UC Davis has been apprehended. According to police yesterday, a 21-year-old student, Carlos Dominguez was taken into custody after 15 people called in reports of a matching description of a suspect wanted in three stabbings that killed two students. The AP reports no known motive yet for the stabbings that horrified the Davis area starting almost 2 weeks ago. Area businesses closed early and students were scared of going to the university with multiple stabbings. UC Davis officials say that Dominguez was a third-year student majoring in biology sciences until April 25, when he was "separated for academic reasons." Thursday, police found Dominguez near campus in a home with roommates. When police picked him up, he had a large fixed blade knife in his backpack. He was booked into jail on a weapons violation, but not yet charged with homicide.

Healdsburg city leaders are considering a gun safety ordinance. In the Press Democrat, the issue was brought up at Monday's City Council meeting, and would require gun owners to store firearms in a locked container, and could also require the reporting of missing or stolen firearms to police. The council decided to have staff return to a future meeting with the ordinance.

Governor Newsom with the California Civil Rights Department announced the official launch of California vs Hate, a new multilingual statewide hotline and website that provides anonymous reporting for victims and witnesses of hate acts. CA vs Hate is in direct response to the rise in reported hate crimes in California, which in recent years, reached their highest levels since 2001. Hate crimes jumped almost 33 percent from 2020 to 2021. The hotline and webpage will engage in a campaign to let state residents know about California's efforts to overcome reporting challenges via anonymous tips. For more information visit the new site at CA vs Hate dot org.

A worker collapsed in trails near the Usal campground on the northern Mendocino County coast, according to KymKemp and Mendocino Action News online. Thursday morning a 20-year-old was reportedly down around 9:30am. By 11am, a search and rescue was sent out to find the worker, and within minutes located the hypothermic patient and took them to a medical facility. Just before noon, a California Conservation Crew was able to walk the patient down, while they were in and out of consciousness.



## Sheet1

Cinco de Mayo this year means the first Friday art walks in Ukiah and Fort Bragg. Museums and galleries are opening their doors to the public with live music, beer and wine and community activities. Fort Bragg will show off the newest murals downtown, titled "Join the Band" featuring works by Art Explorers, a nonprofit program serving adults with developmental disabilities. Art Scene Studio, a new art space in the Forrester Building, is hosting large-scale portraits by a Venezuelan-born American artist. Next door, the Mendocino Dance Project will have performances on Redwood Avenue. In MendoVoice online, Ukiah will also celebrate the first Friday of May with familiar faces in the exhibit "Art is Made Here: Painting Local Artists" and will have live music and art activities for the community. The Art Center Ukiah at Corner Gallery is featuring the 14th annual Student Photography Show, created by high school and college students. The large-scale photography art is themed "Written in Light." You can catch live music there as well, on South State Street from 5 – 8pm

Financially troubled hospitals in California can apply for interest-free state loans soon, although the selection process, isn't yet processed. The legislature approved a bill that will give a one-time sum of \$150 million from the general fund to help hospitals facing financial distress and are at risk of closing. In the Ukiah Daily Journal, the loans would have to be paid back in full within six years, though some may be forgiven for those that meet some requirements. The bill approved yesterday, would still need the Governor's signature. The bill was fast-tracked early this year, when a San Joaquin Valley hospital closed, leaving 160,000 people without an emergency department. The California Department of Health Care Access and Information will supervise the program along with the health department and the California Health Facilities Finance Authority. What's not yet clear is how many hospitals will qualify for the loans and how much each would get. Eligibility criteria are still being created. A state report shows that 5 hospitals are at risk of closing, and half of the state's hospitals are losing money.

PG&E's profits jumped during the first three months of 2023, the utility reported Thursday, an increase that coincided with increases in customers' monthly bills. In the Record-Bee, the first quarter of this year, PG&E earned \$623 million, an 18 percent hike in profits up nearly \$100 million from the same quarter last year. PG&E's quarterly report showed the profit in it's filing with the SEC. In February, a PG&E spokesperson said that gas bills would decline by 76 percent in March. Lower market prices and a climate credit were key factors behind the decrease, according to the utility. The company said that its total cost of natural gas soared during the first quarter. The utility says the cost of natural gas went up 63 percent from the same quarter the year before.

Big Tech companies like Google might soon have to pay media sources for using their news content. Under the new proposal at least 70 percent of their revenue go to local news organizations to help pay for reporters' salaries. Big Tech would also be prohibited from retaliation by charging fees or excluding content. All in an effort to keep what local news outlets we have left said one lawmaker.

Trevor Mockel announced he is running for the First District Supervisor of Mendocino County today. In MendoFever online, Mockel says he is focused on a three-part challenge for the First District; a balance between water, fire and agriculture.

## Sheet1

The California Superintendent of the Year has been awarded to Upper Lake Unified Superintendent Dr. Giovanni Annous. The prestigious award was given by the Small School District Association. Dr. Annous is among 730 small school districts superintendents in the state. He was recognized for his successes at the Upper Lake Unified School District at the annual conference in Sacramento. Superintendent Annous' career is three decades in the making, most of those years spent in education leadership. In Lake County News, Dr. Annous has worked to pass two bond measures, solidify two districts as they unified, and increase district attendance. During the pandemic, he built a wellness center for the district, while keeping schools open for in-person learning. The Northshore Youth Club was also founded by the superintendent, and is a successful nonprofit that provides programs that serve about 600 Lake County kids yearly.

The Mendocino Historical Review Board met on Monday with community members urging the expansion of tents at local restaurants. An Urgency Ordinance was passed during the pandemic, with temporary business modifications that were approved by the board of supervisors. In the Mendocino Beacon, residents and business owners spoke in support of keeping the tents on a longer-term basis. The group hopes at least, a one-year extension will allow the County to measure the impact and viability of keeping them. Supporters talked about the benefits of the tents, including taxes, employment, safety and additional space for restaurants with limited expansion options. Ultimately, it's a decision for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The historical review board says it will send a memo to the board for next month's meeting, and give more information and detail as to the legal status and possibilities for extended use.

Congratulations to the Ukiah Daily Journal's annual fund drive for the Boys & Girls Club, the Daily Journal raised \$65,000 this year. Community supporters were focused on funding the club's Summer Camp program. Funding will help expansion for the Boys & Girls Club of Ukiah with extra space at the Alex Rorabaugh Recreation Center and Gym, as well as additional staff.

The Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake tribe has given \$80,000 to the Northshore Fire District, to support emergency response efforts. In Lake County News today, the contribution from the tribe will help with staffing and maintaining firefighting equipment. The funds are part of the tribe in Upper Lake's continued support to the community and hard-working civil servants.

PG&E is now accepting applications for their Better Together Nature Positive Innovation and Resilience Hubs grant programs totaling \$900,000 this year for projects dedicated to environmental stewardship and climate resilience. This is year two of a three-year commitment to fund up to \$1.5 million in projects supporting environmental stewardship in communities PG&E serves across Northern and Central California. Priority for both grant programs will be given to projects that address the needs of disadvantaged communities. Strategies and solutions from the grant awardees will be made available to the public to help all encourage local and regional partnerships. Applicants must be a governmental or tribal organization, educational institution, or a nonprofit organization. The deadline to apply for both grant programs is June 30.

## Sheet1

Two tobacco companies are being warned by the California attorney general that their new cigarettes may violate a state ban on flavored tobacco products that was upheld by voters last year. In KFF Health News, AG Rob Bonta sent letters to RJ Reynolds and ITG Brands LLC, late last month, warning nine new versions of Camel, Newport and Kool cigarettes are likely against the law. Menthol-flavored cigarettes are banned in California. The state determined that the products are “presumptively flavored” under the California flavor ban law, and gave the companies until June 23 to respond. The federal government announced plans last year to ban menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars, and is watching tobacco companies’ response to the California law as they decide how to proceed with a national ban.

California’s reparations task force voted to approve recommendations on how they can compensate and apologize to Black residents for generations of discriminatory policies. On Saturday, the task force approved proposals that will now go to state lawmakers to consider legislation. The panel acknowledged and apologized for historical discrimination against Black Californians in voting, housing, education, policing and more. Other recommendations ranged from the creation of an agency to help descendants of enslaved people to calculations on what the state owes them, according to the Associated Press.

05/08/2023

Power outages were reported overnight at both ends of Clear Lake over the weekend. The outages in Clearlake and Lakeport were reported about 15 minutes apart. Early Saturday morning at about 4:16am. Over 2,800 customers in Clearlake were impacted according to PG&E. Minutes later in Lakeport multiple transformers were seen malfunctioning causing electrical fires. In Lake County news, fire radio traffic reported a big part of the city was dark. The incident was narrowed down to a power pole at the corner of Armstrong and Main Streets, firefighters reported. PG&E said power was restored by 5a.m.

Mendocino County is included in the Small Business Administration disaster assistance loan program for the second set of winter storms that began in late February. Residents who went through the winds, flooding, landslides and more from the severe winter storms of late February through March can apply up until June 2nd. The up to \$2 million dollar loans apply to businesses that were damaged in the emergency. Additional resources may be available to upgrade properties so that they are more resilient to climate change. To apply and get the requirements and information about additional resources, go to [disasterloanassistance.sba.gov](https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov).

The Ukiah Planning Commission will meet to consider a new Redwood Credit Union branch at the corner of East Perkins and South Main streets at its meeting on Wednesday. The project calls for demolishing the two buildings at the former home of Dragon’s Lair to build a 4,500 square-foot facility at 101 S. Main Street. The property plan will also include lot space for parking and EV charging stations. Opponents to the planned work say the project isn’t right for the city, saying the four-way stop near the location will further congest traffic. They also say it sets a danger precedent for developers on single-use buildings rather than mixed use developments that would better walk-in traffic and maximize public access, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal.

## Sheet1

May is Military Appreciation Month, and will be proclaimed so at the Lake County Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow morning at 9am. The board will also get updates about the library and community visioning forum. The agenda, in Lake County News today, includes plans to amend the county code to exempt agricultural building permits for temporary hoop structures for cannabis cultivation. When the board meets tomorrow, they plan to address the 9th of May as Fentanyl Awareness Day in the county. The meeting will be streamed and can be seen live on Channel 8.

The recent murders in the community of Covelo prompted the Round Valley Indian Tribe to call a state of emergency. The homicides of Nicholas Whipple and teenager Ruby Montelongo have shaken the area in Mendocino County. In the LA Times today, missing information makes it difficult to number Native people who've gone missing or been killed, but federal officials estimate some 4,200 cases have gone unsolved across the country. The emergency declaration aimed to raise awareness on the violence plaguing the state's tribes, especially those in Northern California. The calls for help reached the state Capitol, where lawmakers participated in events last week to learn about the crisis and solutions they can pass into law. The effort was led by Assemblymember James Ramos, former chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Tribal leaders urged lawmakers to pass bills to improve public safety on tribal lands and dedicate \$200 million to prevent more violence. They also asked for changes to the state's foster-care system and an overhaul to a federal policy that stripped tribes of prosecutorial authority over crimes that occur on their reservations.

Redwood Waste Solutions (RWS) will start a new Mobile CRV Redemption Facility next week. In a Mendocino Press Release, the pilot project is 1 of 10 allotted in the state. In addition to the new mobile operation, the search continues for a permanent location in the Fort Bragg area. RWS will also be looking to expand the operational days and locations of the mobile service. Starting on May 14th, the Mendocino K-8 School will have a center open each Sunday from 8:30am to 5:30pm. The Caspar Community Center will have the mobile CRV center open each Monday starting next week, from 8:30am to 5:30pm. Residents are asked to be patient with the new service that may be busy at first.

Hall of Fame Horse Seabiscuit will be permanently memorialized in Mendocino County, according to the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation. The non-profit created nearly twenty years ago was made to preserve the legacy and home of the legendary racehorse. The memorial will be in the original barn from the 1930s, a National Historic Site, and home to Seabiscuit. The opening will be May 27, from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Ridgewood Ranch in Mendocino County. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will kick off the event. According to James Patrick in Newsbreak, organizers have restored the 5,000 ranch and announced that their Carriage House will now be open for weekend stays. There will be photos and paintings and films celebrating Seabiscuit's history during the memorial.

## Sheet 1

The Center for Biological Diversity and other organizations petitioned the California Court of Appeal to review the state's new rooftop solar policy. Last Wednesday, the group's petition says a new policy, that took effect April 15, slashes the credit to new solar users. In MendoFever online, the action comes after a request to delay the start date was ignored. Filers of the petition say the new rooftop solar policy will hurt working class Californians. The new policy cuts credits up to 80 percent. State law requires the policy be more competitive, according to supporters. Opposition to the policy cites more power will be given to utilities like PG&E, also named in a lawsuit. PG&E, along with two other southern California utilities have 30 days to respond to the petition with the 1st District Court of Appeal in San Francisco.

A new assembly bill may help young Californians in extended foster care with relief from rising housing costs. In The Record-Bee today, the new bill seeks to create a housing supplement that would increase the monthly amount of financial assistance youth in extended foster care can get. The increased amount would add the base rate of just over \$1,000 regardless of where they live. Extended foster care coverage was set up a decade ago to help independent foster kids get into housing. There are some requirements to the new policy, if enacted. Lack of sufficient funding for basic needs is a long-established barrier for low-income youth, sometimes eliminating the chance to go to college or work towards higher education possibilities. AB 525 would include fair market rate housing allotments to be paid monthly.

Over 11,000 of pounds of garbage were gathered at the Lake County Spring Community Cleanup Day. The Lakeport Public Works Department recognized and thanked the volunteers who helped in the community cleanup on the last Saturday of April. Lakeport Disposal reported many residents volunteered to help clear out unwanted trash. The Community Cleanup Day began about 6 years ago, and has continued the semi-annual event that includes the community working to beautify the area. Since its inception, 15,000 pounds of recyclables have been diverted away from the county landfill. The next Community Cleanup Day will be autumn, according to Lake County News.

The 2nd Annual California State Fair Cannabis Awards are on the horizon, and there's only about 10 days left to enter. Licensed cultivators have until Friday, May 19th to enter. The competition has a variety of categories for indoor, mixed light, and outdoor grown cannabis. In a press release for the competition, organizers say it's an opportunity to bring the cannabis industry a seat at the ag table with the state's prized wine, olive oil, craft cheese and craft beer. Entry cost is \$715, but discounts will be given for multiple entries.

The Mendocino Board of Supervisors has another candidate for next year's election in March. Carrie Shattuck announced her candidacy in MendoFever online, as one focused on streamlining the budget, repairing roads and focusing business development.

The 16th Annual Mendocino Film Festival has just announced this year's schedule of films and events for June 1st through the 4th. The lineup includes 60 films, live music, panels, and visiting filmmakers. Mendocino Film Festival members can catch a special preview screening on Thursday, June 1, of this year's "Feel Good Shorts" program with stories from around the world. According to the organization's press release, the festival's Gala Jazz Night follows on Friday, June 2nd. That event will feature local chefs, beer, wine, and craft cocktails, followed by live music. For more information, including this year's complete program and how to buy tickets, visit [mendofilm.org](http://mendofilm.org).

## Sheet1

The Navarro estuary received \$8 million in grant money by The Nature Conservancy recently, to reconnect the floodplain and restore habitats for threatened salmon at sites throughout Mendocino County. In MendoVoice online today, a new project will expand its program to start work in the Navarro in a project expected to last about four years. The Department of Commerce recommended funding approval for the project, in addition to another \$52 million for Northern California climate resiliency efforts. The aim of the project is to better control and retain water to minimize flood impacts, and restore salmon habitats.

In Sonoma County, the Joe Rodota Trail reopened on April 21st, after about \$200,000 was spent on cleanup and upgrades. Stretches along the trail were repaired and fenced to ward off homeless encampments. The 8.5 mile paved path has new security measures as officials try to keep the trail clear. In March, the county closed a 2.5-mile stretch and cleared a camp with roughly 90 tents. In the Press Democrat today, the county relocated dozens of people to a county administrative campus. A new county ordinance restricts overnight camping on public property. Sonoma County Regional Parks also added boulders to the trail, after reaching out to the Oregon Department of Transportation, among other agencies across the country. County officials say the large rocks are cheaper and a low maintenance alternative to hardscaping or fencing the landscape.

A Willits man has been found guilty of grisly murders in Mendocino County Superior Court this week. After a two-week trial, Christopher Gamble was found guilty of shooting and killing Ulises Andrade Ayala and Anwar Ayala Rodriguez at a marijuana grow on Sherwood Road. According to the district attorney, the victim's headless bodies were found in a burn pile, along with abused chickens. Animal abuse was also a crime he was found guilty of. The heads of the human victims were not found.

05/09/2023 Gamble was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Ukiah Police discovered a woman defrauding her dead mother in Ukiah. The department was contacted by a man reporting suspicious circumstances following the recent death of his 58-year-old sister. The brother went to Ukiah to look after her and the estate she shared with their mother. He told police their mother died about 10 years ago, and his sister was living in her home. At the time, his sister said their mother's remains were delivered to a medical research facility, but when he got to their home, he found recent bank papers in his mother's name. Police then learned that his sister didn't report her death, kept her body around, and accessed their mother's finances. Authorities found that the mother died naturally, and with the sister now passed on, the case was closed.

Mendocino County's Round Valley High School confirmed an investigation into a threat to the school last Wednesday, in a social media post. The following day, the high school announced that it would cancel its 'Big Time' event, scheduled for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person's Day on the following Friday, saying it was cancelled due to the threat. In KRCR the school with the county sheriff's office is investigating. Officials say there is no threat to the public at this time. The school believes multiple students were involved in the threat. Anyone with information should contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

## Sheet1

Just when the COVID emergency declaration ended recently, a new strain has a new symptom. In the Record Bee today, pink eye is the latest symptom, dubbed Arcturus. The newest subvariant of omicron seems to be the most infectious strain yet, according to medical authorities. Arcturus hasn't become the dominant strain of COVID in the U.S. yet, but it is growing. Pink eye, a lead indicator of the new variant, is usually caused by bacterial or viral infections, and during a time of year when pollen and allergies are at their highest, may be a confusing season. Even though pink eye symptoms are more common in the new variant, coughing and sore throat are still the most common symptoms. If you have any COVID-like symptoms, you should get tested, he said. The good news is that Arcturus isn't likely to be more severe in COVID illness patients, and that a continued decline is expected to continue.

The fire district board is proposing to send a no confidence letter to the Health Service Director at their meeting today at 5pm. Health Services Director Jonathan Portney has argued with the sheriff's office, fire districts and his own employees over his management of the department. Nine Health Services Department employees signed a December 5th letter that faulted Portney for leadership failures with civic partners. The controversy surrounding Director Portney began in March, when agencies learned of a letter sent by Portney, they say was inaccurate. The letter implied the fire district was not responding to emergency calls. According to Lake County News, the health services director had been evaluated for his performance eight times within his 16 month appointment.

The California Department of Corrections is adding a third visiting day each weekend for inmates and is offering free bus rides for families. Correction officials say its prisons statewide will move to three days visiting starting on July 7. The expansion comes as video weekend visits come to an end at most of the facilities. In the Press Democrat today, the California Legislature approved over \$20 million to expand in-person visits to three days. The Corrections Department is working with TransMETRO for free busing to state prisons, once visitors have been approved. The Northern California bus schedule shows departures from Sacramento, Stockton, Chico and Redding. CDCR also is launching a new Facility Status page online, that will provide the latest visiting status for each prison with hours of visitation, along with updates and holiday postings. Conservation camps will continue hybrid video and in-person visits on weekends, since those facilities won't have three days of visiting.

California's travel industry is returning with a bang, according to a new report from Visit California. Tourism is projected to surpass a pre-pandemic milestone as the industry heads toward full recovery. In the Press Enterprise today, travel-related spending in the state grew to over \$134 billion last year, a 32 percent increase from 2021. The most recent peak was nearly \$145 billion in 2019. In Mendocino County, travel related spending was about \$469 million. In Lake County last year brought in \$176 million, and in Sonoma, travel spending returned to over \$2 billion, close to the highest levels seen in 2019. Tourism related employment has also grown, with the addition of 157,000 jobs last year. State and local tax revenue from travel is also returning. It increased about 22 percent last year, just 3 percentage points short of pre-pandemic levels. In their report, Visit California lists beaches, hiking trails, mountains and theme parks among the state's top attractions.

## Sheet 1

The Middletown Area Town Hall will meet this week to discuss general topics and plan upcoming presentations. In Lake County News today, the town hall will begin at 7pm on Thursday, May 11th in the Middletown Community Meeting Room at the Library. The group will make plans for upcoming meetings. Next month, they will hear from the Lake County Sheriff and get an update on the Maha Guenoc resort plan in July. Middletown Area's next town hall meeting will be June 8.

California Water Service submitted a filing with the California Public Utilities Commission yesterday, to rescind Stage 2 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan because of improved drought conditions and increased water supply. California Water service says it's been one of the wettest years on record following three of the driest years in history. Cal Water says they will continue to build long-term conservation efforts as they prepare for the weather pendulum that has swung back and forth. The agency says customers must continue to follow city or county irrigation ordinances. Some outdoor water-use restrictions remain in place, including watering only between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. and there is no watering driveways or sidewalks unless for health and safety purposes. Cal Water's conservation rebates and programs will also continue, including a \$3-per-square-foot rebate for lawn-to-garden conversions and its popular Smart Landscape Tune-Up Program. For more information visit [calwater.com](http://calwater.com)

The Lakeport Economic Development Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting this Wednesday, May 10th, at 7:30am at Lakeport City Hall. Agenda items include updates on city projects and City Council priorities. There also will be discussion of the city action plan for fiscal year 2023-24, member reports, citizen input and more, according to Lake County News. The committee's next meeting will be in July.

Cal Fire will be testing use of German environmental start-up Dryad Networks' "ultra-early" wildfire detection technology to increase fire detection speeds, according to the Mountain Democrat. 400 sensors will be deployed in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County. In a press release from the company, the pilot project is expected to begin this month, and aims to show how the AI technology can detect wildfires faster, helping firefighting efforts. The sensor model is being tested, hanging from trees at about 10 feet high with over a 300 foot radius between sensors. The sensor then transmits wireless data to resources and researchers. The "ultra-early" detection technology can reduce wildfire detection times from several hours to minutes, allowing firefighters to get to a fire in its earliest stages, according to the company. The sensors can also detect which fuels get ignited. The company is ramping up manufacturing, moving from 10,000 units last year, to producing 230,000 by the end of this year to deploy worldwide.

Governor Newsom is expected to introduce a revised budget proposal on Friday, which will identify how to fill a multi-billion-dollar budget deficit. In the Sacramento Bee, his options include cuts to programs, borrowing money or closing prisons. Some lawmakers are also pushing a plan to raise corporate taxes, but the governor says he won't support that. He released his \$297 billion budget for the next fiscal year, with a projected \$22.5 billion deficit. It could be worse, as state revenue hasn't met forecasts. Financial issues like interest rate hikes and banking instability could affect California's budget. Newsom's original 2023-24 budget proposal called for cuts in transportation and climate initiatives, capital improvements and a series of reductions that could be restored if conditions improve. He's unlikely to propose drastic cuts to social services.



## Sheet1

Medi-Cal will reach out to recipients within the next year, to verify eligibility, as the emergency declaration has ended. Kaiser Health Foundation urges residents to look for a yellow envelope with about a 20 page form. Officials are warning that criminals may try to scam some people into paying a fee to confirm eligibility. Medi-Cal has started a 14-month effort to reexamine the eligibility of its nearly 16 million members. Because of the end of the pandemic, restrictions will be enforced, booting an estimated 2 million to 3 million in California. California's Department of Health Care Services, which runs Medi-Cal, has launched a \$25 million advertising campaign to let people know, and hopefully decrease the number of those dropped from the program. Those who are worried about being dropped should call your local Medi-Cal office to update your information and get help.

Monthly nature walks continue to be hosted on the second Saturday of each month at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. The next guided walk will be held this coming Saturday, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The two hour May nature walk will be led by Henry Bornstein, a certified California Naturalist and volunteer State Parks Docent, according to Lake County News today. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot at 8:15am for time to wake up with wildlife in the Ranch House and Barn complex yard. There is no charge for the guided nature walk and parking is free for those attending.

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein returned to the Senate today after a two-and-a-half-month absence due to a bad case of shingles. Her return is giving majority Democrats a much-needed final vote as they seek to confirm the president's nominees and raise the debt ceiling in the coming weeks. Feinstein looked a bit frail, and is using a wheelchair to get around the Capitol. She missed the Senate's first votes this morning but arrived outside the Senate for an afternoon vote. In her statement, Feinstein said that the "most pressing" issue facing the Senate is to raise the debt ceiling and avoid default.

05/10/2023

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to repeal Ordinance No. 4507, which authorized the county to charge for public information. The fee was up to \$150/hour charged for staff to gather public information under the California Public Records Act. The law, passed last July, received widespread condemnation from the public, journalists, and more. One local media organization, the Mendocino Voice, has been assessed fees in excess of \$76,000 since the law was passed, according to a group called the First Amendment Coalition. A Senior Staff Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California said "It's good to see that Mendocino finally did the right thing after starting off in the wrong direction."

The Clearlake Police Department is looking for a missing man. Colten Grauman was last seen at Adventist Health Clear Lake Hospital. He is a 29 year-old white man with dark hair and blue eyes. Grauman is about 5 feet 7 inches tall, and is around 145 pounds. If you have any information regarding his whereabouts, please contact Clearlake Police Department.

## Sheet1

A man has been arrested in Mendocino County for possession of illicit drugs and more. Tommy Lee Taylor Junior had a warrant for possession of meth and is wanted in another county for attempted murder. In MendoFever online, Taylor has a criminal record that reaches across the state. The 45-year-old was recently arrested by Manteca Police for suspected retail and identity theft at a local Kohl's this week. Taylor allegedly gave a false name to authorities to hide his identity. Records from the Mendocino Superior Court Case show Taylor was charged in Mendocino County in February with possession of methamphetamine. After being let out on bail he failed to return to court, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Taylor and a woman with him were booked in the Stanislaus County Jail for identity theft, retail theft, and possession of fentanyl and drug paraphernalia.

Anti-Semitism is on the rise across the nation and in the state. In the Associated Press today, more than 500 anti-Semitic acts, including assault, vandalism and harassment, were committed in California last year, an increase of more than 40% from 2021. California saw at least six murders by members of extremist groups in 2021 and 2022, the most in the nation. In an ADL report at least 518 anti-Semitic acts were committed last year, second only to New York with 580 incidents. The civil rights organization's report, called "Hate in the Golden State", shows groups like the Proud Boys continue to target local LGBTQ+ events. Last year, the Anti-Defamation League recorded 296 instances of white supremacist propaganda being distributed in California, a jump of 91 percent in 2021. Lawmakers are attempting to address the trend. Last week, the Civil Rights Department unveiled a statewide non-emergency hate crime hotline. There is a new bill lawmakers are working on, that would create a hate crime intervention unit.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors announced an end to a couple of emergency ordinances that were adopted during the COVID and drought emergencies. Ordinance No. 4472 allowing temporary tents, expanded outdoor seating areas, covered patios. Businesses have 3 months to apply for the proper permitting if they want to keep those modifications. Ordinance No. 4494 allowed temporary water storage tanks. Residents who want to keep the tanks have one month to remove them or apply for permits if they'd like to hang on to them.

The Lakeport Fire Protection District Board was going to consider a no confidence letter against Lake County's Health Services director, but the item was pulled from the agenda at the Tuesday evening meeting. The Fire Chief said he wanted to pull the letter, saying he wasn't fully ready to bring it forward. He told Lake County News that he may bring it back in the future. The health services director was said to have issue with the fire district's work, but says public reports were not totally accurate.

This weekend is the debut of Mendocino County's new mobile buyback facility, county recycling and waste collector. Redwood Waste Solutions (RWS) announced that collection at the mobile facility will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday in Mendocino at the K-8 School, and for those same hours on Monday in Caspar, at the Community Center. Fort Bragg and Mendocino County's new initiative is one of only 10 pilot projects in mobile buyback allotted in California, according to MendoVoice online today. It is a pilot project that things may change as they look for a permanent CRV center and the mobile centers continue.

## Sheet 1

Lake County announced that E Center WIC is the first organization the County that has achieved designation as Blue Zones Project Approved. The organization worked with a Blue Zones Project team to curate best practices for health and well-being. The approval happened at the end of March, with local Blue Zones Project celebrating the first approved in the county. They can seek to become fully certified in about three years. The project began with help from Adventist Health as a community improvement initiative made to help residents live longer, fuller lives with lower rates of chronic disease.

The governor responded to the California reparations task force yesterday after it recommended how the state compensate and apologize to Black residents after decades of discrimination. In a statement to KCRA 3, Newsom said many of the recommendations are things the state has already been addressing. "Dealing with that legacy is about much more than cash payments," Newsom said in the statement. He said that the task force and legislators need to continue to advance systemic changes for an equitable future for all Californians. Parts of the recommendations include payments to Black Californians that some estimate nearly \$800 billion in payments. The task force voted to limit reparations to descendants of enslaved or free Black people who were in the country by the end of the 19th century.

The Mendocino County city was named to Trips to Discover's list of "16 Best Small Beach Towns in the U.S. for Summer." In the Press Democrat, the city is one of three California beach towns to make the list posted early this month. Fort Bragg's beaches with tide pools and sea lions lounging on the rocks dotting the coastline were some reasons why the city topped Trips to Discover's list. The list also emphasizes Fort Bragg's location, with nearby outdoor attractions like the Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden and the Skunk Train, which carries tourists to nearby redwoods.

The Clearlake Oaks Catfish Derby is returning to Lake County this year. Large crowds are expected for the family-oriented fishing derby known as the biggest derby of its kind west of the Mississippi. In Lake County News, Derby Committee Chair Dennis Locke says "There's still time to sign up online," saying if you apply by the 18th, you can get a discounted ticket. Derby fishing starts at noon on Saturday, May 19 and ends at noon on Sunday, May 21 with awards up to \$10,000. Onsite registration and fish weigh-ins will again be at the Northshore Fire District Station on East Highway 20 in Clearlake Oaks. The fundraiser is sponsored by the Clearlake Oaks-Glenhaven Business Association. All proceeds go back into the community, supporting education and in Lake County and more.

CHP Garberville is inviting the public to have coffee and talk this Friday. All community members are invited to attend. Coffee with local highway patrol begins at 11:00 am at the Walnut Grove Café in Covelo. Troopers are hoping to interact with the community in a relaxing atmosphere to get to know officers in one-on-one interactions. Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by the US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the country.

The Lake County First Responder Memorial Ceremony is this Friday at the lake County Museum Park beginning at 5:30pm. Local leaders will honor Lake County's fallen heroes, Sheriff George Kemp, Deputy Henry Valentine Snowbelt, Deputy William Hoyt, Sgt. Richard Helbush, Deputy Robert Rumpfelt, and firefighters Michael Mattioda and Matthew Black.

## Sheet1

Bank failure concerns continue in California. Shares of PacWest plummeted more than 20% in early trading today after the lender said it faced a large withdrawal of deposits last week. ABC News is reporting that the bank lost 9.5% of deposits last week. PacWest said on Wednesday it retained \$15 billion in immediately-available cash if needed to fulfill continued withdrawals. In the statement last week, they rejected concern about a run on deposits, saying deposit withdrawals weren't out of the ordinary after the sale of First Republic days before. PacWest stock has fallen more than 80% this year, erasing hundreds of millions of dollars in value.

05/11/2023

There was a fatal accident early this morning near Navarro. Around 1am, Tim Marino drove his box truck off of SR-128 and crashed into a tree. Ukiah CHP responded to the scene, with the truck's front end completely smashed. A passenger in the truck was pronounced dead at the scene. Marino suffered major injuries. As of today, it doesn't appear that alcohol or drugs were a factor in this collision. The Mendocino County Sheriff is alerting the next of kin and will announce the name of the passenger. Anyone with information is asked to call CHP in Ukiah.

The Fort Bragg City Council adopted a new policy on ADA accommodations, and made changes to the budget. The council approved a budget amendment Monday to continue its contract with SHN Consulting to finish the Parents and Friends Cypress Street Residential Care Facility for the Elderly Project. In the Advocate News, construction on the building was supposed to finish in January but due to the winter storms, was delayed. The city also approved the budget adjustment for a Caltrans project that will move part of the sewer on the Pudding Creek Bridge. Fort Bragg City Council also adopted a new policy for the Americans with Disabilities Act, creating accessibility to public meetings.

Ukiah Unified School District is announcing a new principal of Big Picture Ukiah at South Valley High School. Kita Grinberg will begin July 1. Grinberg is currently a Teacher Advisor at Big Picture Ukiah. She has served as a teacher at the Mendocino County Jail through the Ukiah Adult School and at Mendocino College. Grinberg holds a B.A. in Latin American History from Brown University. She earned her teaching credentials in Social Studies and English in a Master's at Mills College.

Fire managers at the Upper Lake Ranger District prepped space at Howard Mill burn for today. They may treat anywhere from 40 to 136 acres, depending on where it is ideal to burn. The Howard Mill unit is near Penny Pines Campground on the Upper Lake Ranger District. The M1 Road and Upper Deer Valley Road may be impacted by smoke. Fire officials will start up the burn this morning and clean up tomorrow while patrols monitor the burn. People are asked to avoid the area. Some smoke may be visible from communities around the lake, but smoke impacts aren't expected.

A public/private partnership has joined to plant trees on school campuses to shade kids from extreme heat and improve the learning environment. Some seasons, school kids have dealt with extremely hot asphalt and playground equipment, so organizers have a plan to grow some shade. CAL FIRE says the state has allocated \$150 million to fund the program. The California Schoolyard Forest System is a partnership with nonprofits Green School Yards America and Ten Strands, along with the California Department of Education and CAL FIRE. It aims to plant enough trees to achieve 30 percent shade cover at the state's 86-hundred K through 12 schools.

## Sheet 1

The City of Ukiah will use drones to inspect power lines. City officials announced in a press release that Ukiah Electric Utility staff will be using drones to inspect the city's distribution lines, transmission lines and substation equipment across the city. The drone inspections will start this month and continue throughout the year, weather permitting. In the Ukiah Daily Journal today, city officials say it will be an ongoing program. Drones will fly between 8am and 4pm when conditions allow. The drones, or unmanned vehicles, will allow officials to get a close look at the lines to detect potential hazards. They say you may catch a glimpse of the new drones, and residents are asked not to mess with them.

The Clearlake City Council approved updates to a contract with Adventist Health for the operation of the Hope Center last week. The center works to transition people out of homelessness. In Lake County News, the 21-bed facility opened in November 2020. The City of Clearlake contributed \$500,000 for the center to operate for 15 years. Stipulations to the funding included that within 15 years, Adventist won't use the property for anything other than a facility for homeless resources. Adventist officials asked to change that, as the state Medi-Cal program is looking to get involved and help fund services there like recuperative care. Changing the city's language in their funding agreement would allow the state to work with Adventist. Council members want to make sure the center remains a place for homeless and not turn into a medical facility. The council unanimously approved the contract amendment.

The state Senate has approved legislation that would improve broadband internet connectivity across the state. The bill would let the state lease property to providers for the new infrastructure. In Lake County News yesterday, under existing law, the state is limited in its ability to lease property. Organizers of the Senate Bill 387, including Senator Dodd say development would support digital equity, especially in underserved communities. The legislation was approved Monday by the full Senate on a 35-0 vote. It heads next to the Assembly.

A new trail broke ground in Covelo. According to Mendocino Supervisor John Haschak, ground was broken on the Highway 162 trail. The trail will provide a safe walking/biking pathway to town. In MendoFever online today, there's more news for Mendocino County. A 171 unit housing development was approved for the south side of Ukiah. 39 of the units will be for senior housing and 13 will be moderate income. With housing in short supply throughout, it is needed. After approval by the Board, the developer is interested in working in Willits. Supervisor Haschak spoke with the City of Willits for approval.

We're getting a picture of what this year's fire season will look like. In MendoVoice online, a theme in fire safety this year is getting to know your neighbors. State Senator Mike McGuire held a town hall online to share insights from Cal Fire Northern Assistant Region Chief Jake Hess. There is \$500 million in new funding from the feds, aimed at wildfire prevention on U.S. Forest Service lands in the state. By June 19, Mendocino's Cal Fire Unit will have three battalion chiefs, one prevention officer, 16 engines, four dozers, and air attack vehicles, bringing Cal Fire MEU to full capacity with about 458 employees and incarcerated firefighters. Cal Fire has begun conducting more prescribed burns in Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Cal Fire also hopes to burn around 900 acres at Covelo Road. Residents are urged to clear defensible space around their homes and are asked to watch if the Sheriff's Office or police departments call for an evacuation.

## Sheet1

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein returned to the Senate yesterday after two-and-a-half-months off, due to a bad case of shingles. Her return is giving majority Democrats a much-needed final vote as they seek to confirm the president's nominees and raise the debt ceiling in the coming weeks. Feinstein looked a bit frail, and is using a wheelchair to get around the Capitol. She missed the Senate's first votes yesterday morning but arrived outside the Senate for an afternoon vote. In her statement, Feinstein said that the "most pressing" issue facing the Senate is to raise the debt ceiling and avoid default.

A group of in-home supportive service workers took to the steps of the Lake County Courthouse to advocate for better wages and benefits this week. In the Record Bee, the rally was in support of Assembly Bill 1672. The legislation dubbed the "Our Care Counts" bill would allow providers and employees to negotiate their contracts and wages at a state level instead of the county level. IHSS providers work in residential homes, caring for those who need assistance. According to the California Department of Social Services the workers serve over 700,000 people statewide. There are 23 counties in the state that pay IHSS providers less than \$1 above minimum wage, including Lake County. Some rallied for a bump up to \$20 an hour. Rally goers also marched for benefits like health insurance and paid time off. A caravan began on Sunday in the Bay Area and traveled to the capitol building in Sacramento yesterday.

Tourism in Sonoma flourished in the last several years, in the Sonoma Chamber of Commerce meeting yesterday the group had some insight into California's efforts to get tourism going. Sonoma County was the only county featured in all of Visit California's campaigns in the last several years. California's tourism campaign got \$95 million tax dollars in 2021-22 to attract tourists as the state reopened after pandemic closures. Sonoma County rebounded to pre-pandemic tourism rates last year, with visitor spending up to about \$2.3 billion, up from \$2.2 billion pre-pandemic, according to the Index-Tribune.

Tick-borne illnesses continue to rise in the state. Cal Poly Humboldt faculty and students are studying potential diseases surrounding the little suckers. In KymKemp online, a report from the school announced a research team is investigating bacteria from ticks, and their ability to treat and reduce infections. The National Institute of Health's Support for Research Excellence awarded the Cal Poly lab nearly \$600,000 for the study. Some studies show that Lyme disease increased by more than 300% since 2016. Research shows that tick-borne illnesses, which peak in summer months, have increased by 60% in rural areas. Researchers are working to understand tick biology and controlling populations in an effort to prevent, diagnose and treat tick-borne illnesses.

A 5.5-magnitude earthquake below Lake Almanor shook Plumas County followed by 20 aftershocks yesterday. The initial quake happened about 4:20pm. Then early this morning around 3am another quake registered at 5.2 magnitudes. People felt the shaking from Reno to San Francisco. The aftershocks continued with several 3.0 magnitudes after 5am. There were no injuries or damages as of yet. The epicenter of the earthquake was near Canyon Dam, which is operated by PG&E. USGS reported the quake was about 3.5 miles deep in the lake. PG&E's Plumas County hydro control center showed no damage, and the utility will inspect the dam for more

05/12/2023 information.

## Sheet1

A man in Fort Bragg was arrested for sexually assaulting a child, for the second time. Robert Hrbac was taken into custody Tuesday, after Mendocino County Sheriffs investigated child sexual abuse reported earlier this month on Oklahoma Lane. A 6-year-old child was taken into protective services. When police arrested Hrbac, they also seized electronic data from his home that may have evidence of the crime. Hrbac is a convicted sex offender, with a 2006 conviction of a sex crime with a child under 14. He was taken to jail and is being held in lieu of a \$200,000 bail.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies arrested a man for assault with a deadly weapon. A woman called around midnight saying a man had threatened her with a gun in the Boonville area. Pedro Saldana allegedly threatened to shoot her, then shot a gun just over her shoulder. Police arrived and discovered the man hiding nearby and arrested him for assault with a deadly weapon, violation of probation and more. Saldana was booked into jail and held on a no bond status.

A FEMA Disaster Recovery Center is opening in Willits for those impacted by the February thru March storms next week. The center will be open starting Monday at 1pm and then daily from 9am to 6pm Mondays through Saturdays through June 2nd. Residents affected by the storm disaster can register and update FEMA applications and get help with resources at the Willits Community Center. Help will be available from the national disaster relief declaration through the emergency management agency, the Small Business Association and more. Additional centers will be open in Laytonville, Leggett and Piercy as well.

Mendocino County Sheriffs have updated information on a fatal crash this week. A 41-year-old passenger with ties to Ukiah died in an accident in the Navarro area early Thursday morning around 1a.m. A box truck driven by Tim Marino of Ukiah was driving on Highway 128, when it veered off the road and crashed into a tree. Christa Brodsky was the passenger and was pronounced dead at the scene. Marino was injured and taken to a Santa Rosa hospital. Both people were wearing seat belts, and police say alcohol and drugs don't appear to have been a factor in the crash. CHP in Ukiah is investigating.

The Mendocino Cannabis Department has created a procedure for cannabis cultivation sites with potential tree removal procedures based on the Board of Supervisors ordinance. The county website has information on tree removal on grow sites. True Oak and Tan Oaks are not allowed to be cut down, unless an affidavit is filled out and approved by the county. Satellite imagery, site approval official photos and more will direct officials when enforcing the ordinance. Check out the county website and go to cannabis policies and procedures for the updated information.

A new law will help people get their criminal records expunged, starting today. The first people to petition for expungement will go before a judge in Central California. In the past, only people whose conviction did not result in incarceration could petition for expungement. The Alliance for Safety and Justice is helping more people get their record cleared with Senate Bill 731. If you didn't do time, and meet some criteria the state will automatically expunge your record. Sexual offenders won't be able to apply for expungement and in some cases authorities, government, schools and some other agencies can still see people's criminal records.

## Sheet 1

Governor Newsom announced his revised budget that includes nearly \$500 million in funding for flood impacts throughout the state. In Lake County News, the money will help at-risk communities get through recent floods and go to help withstand future floods. Yesterday Newsom said "California is facing unprecedented weather whiplash...We're committing even more resources to support communities up and down the state as they continue responding to the impacts of this year's storms." The budget revision will be announced today and includes millions in new flood preparedness and response. The provisions include help for farmers, and investments in levee upgrades. Safe flood water diversion and groundwater recharging are also included in legislation.

The Mendocino County Museum got a half million dollar donation from the Trust of William L. Bittenbender. In MendoFever online, the museum had been notified they were named in a trust, but didn't realize the sum. They reserved \$10,000 for their budget this year and put the rest into the Community Foundation Endowment to make some interest. The museum badly needed the funds, to help their mission of strengthening the community and being a vibrant social, cultural and educational center of Mendocino County. Bittenbender donated to the museum in the past, with artifacts and materials from the historical lumber industry in the area and more.

Local residents encouraged the Fort Bragg Planning Commission to approve the Grocery Outlet Store on the south end of Franklin Street. Some residents argued over it on social media before the meeting, but everybody was polite at Wednesday's meeting, according to MendoVoice online. Ultimately the Planning Commission certified Grocery Outlet's requests, and will pass the final decision to the Fort Bragg City Council. After years of opposition to the store, most speakers at the meeting said low-priced food is needed in Fort Bragg, where the average adult annual income is about \$30,000. According to the Mendocino Voice, the store will hire about 20 people and will be open from 9am to 10pm seven days a week when it's built. The decision now moves to the City Council and possibly to the California Coastal Commission.

The Judge's Breakfast forum in Lake County yesterday focused on an educational non-profit. The organization called 10,000 Degrees gives scholarships to students, and is focused on helping kids from low income backgrounds go to college. So far, 10,000 Degrees has awarded over \$6 million dollars in scholarships, supporting over 12,000 students. Its programming covers seven counties in the bay area including Lake County, according to the Record-Bee. During the forum, a presentation by the organization helped clarify how it can help in Lake County, with scholarship applications and workshops to guide kids. One program manager pointed out that 92 percent of students assisted are the firsts in their family to attend college.

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has approved \$7.14 million in grant funding for projects aimed at affordable housing and child care. In the Press Democrat, the board unanimously approved grants Tuesday. The grants will support projects to help Sonoma County residents who are very low income, moderate income or homeless. The grants, funded by US Department of Housing will help fund around 20 organizations including housing in Healdsburg. Half a million will go to the Sonoma County Community Development Commission for housing rehab and earthquake bracing systems.



## Sheet1

El Niño is returning after four years, and the event will effect California's seasons. As of yesterday, NOAA reports an 82 percent chance that the warming waters will arrive by July. El Nino often means a wetter year for an already drenched state. The opposite of El Nino, La Nina has been in effect for the last three years, with cooling waters. El Niño years tend to be hotter than other years and with climate change, it could mean higher temperatures. That could increase the risk of droughts, heat waves, forest fires and more.

The California Department of Public Health has issued a Mussel Quarantine now through October. The annual quarantine prohibits people from harvesting mussels because of potentially dangerous levels of biotoxins in the shellfish up and down the California coast. Other types of shellfish like oysters and clams that are harvested from certified companies aren't included in the ban. The state monitored mussels and found dangerous levels of domoic acid that is toxic to people.

Dozens of new oil and gas well permits may get blocked by an environmental groups lawsuit. The group says the state administration did not consider how the drilling would affect the environment. The suit, filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, says state officials used a 50 year old environmental impact report that didn't account for climate change or health effects on people. Most of the wells were within 3,200 feet of homes and communities, despite a law that bans such permits. That law was put on hold in February because the oil industry qualified a referendum for the 2024 election asking voters to overturn it.

And Congratulations are in order for the new Lake County Teacher of the Year, Anna Sabalone. She is an art and humanities teacher at Upper Lake High School, according to Lake County News.

California's population slowed a trend of decline last year. Stable births, fewer deaths and an increase in immigration slowed the state's loss of people, according to the California Department of Finance. The state's population is estimated at about 40 million as of the first of the year. Housing grew to it's highest level in 15 years, at almost 1 percent. Nearby, Lake County lost about 1 percent of its population, one of the biggest losses per county in the state, according to Lake County News. Immigration nearly tripled last year compared to 2021, gaining about 90,300 people in 2022. Forty-six of the state's fifty-eight counties lost population; some of the largest losses include Lake County.

05/15/2023

Records have been released after an ACLU lawsuit against Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster. The civil suit was filed about a year ago, for the DAs refusal to respond to their public records requests. It demanded the release of the documents and expenses charged to the ACLU in their efforts. The records were finally turned over to the organization last month, according to MendoFever online. However, expense requests are still being sought. Recently, Mendocino County rescinded an ordinance charging fees for public records. The suit aimed at the DA involves the "Brady List" or records of officers who aren't honest in court. Those officers on the list are not able to testify in a case. Eyster's policies surrounding that list have been a contentious issue with some saying he misused it, in cases in Fort Bragg and Ukiah.

This week is National Women's Health Week. Medical experts are reminding women to pay attention to their bodies. Several California health organizations and the CDC are urging women on prevention. Medical experts are urging women to know their risk for heart disease, the nation's number one killer of women. Experts also urge women to make appointments for any screenings they may have put off during COVID, like mammograms or screenings for cervical and colon cancer.

## Sheet1

A man accused of sexual assault was sentenced. Last week Antonio Magalhaes of Nice, was sentenced to 6 years in prison, after serving about 3 years already. Magalhaes was convicted of sexual assault in March. In the Record-Bee, Magalhaes was initially charged with a list of assaults including burglary, rape, false imprisonment and more. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Department along with the Lake County Sheriff and Lake County District Attorney investigated the charges stemmed from crimes in 2018 and 2019, involving two victims. A jury determined that he sexually assaulted and beat one victim many times, while the other victim was raped.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow at 9am in the Lake County Courthouse. In a request from the Registrar of Voters, the board will discuss not participating in a new law that requires ballots list supporters and opponents of measures being listed for voters to see on their ballots. In Lake County News, California law AB 1416 passed last summer, and began in January. The registrar says it will increase the cost of ballots and more. They also say promotion of candidates and interference may happen if they follow the new law. They can opt out due to an Elections Code section that gives them the choice.

Programs to help the disabled, homeless, mentally ill, and addicts opened recently, with a funding from the state. Federal grants have also been made available. County officials recently checked a new four-bed Residential Care Facility for the Elderly. The site is near the Adventist Hospital's Urgent Care Center. In MendoVoice there will be a ribbon cutting and official opening this week. The old Mendo Realty/Advocate News office is being run by Mendocino Coast Clinics for programs for addiction. A new facility, Parents and Friends will provide Alzheimer's care. The new building going up on Cypress Street will focus on helping those with the disease and dementia.

Today, the recreational groundfish "offshore-only" season will open in the Mendocino Groundfish Management Areas. For the first time in over twenty years, anglers can fish for groundfish in deeper offshore waters. This year, fishers can access healthy deeper water shelf and slope for rockfish species and lingcod. Nearshore rockfish, greenlings and more will remain prohibited, among other types of fish. The announcement by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife encourages anglers to check out their website for details. The recreational groundfish "all-depth" season will be open through Oct.

A controlled burn got out of hand on this weekend east of Laytonville. Firefighters are converging on an escaped burn around 3pm on Saturday. MendoFever reported the fire burned on property near Laytonville and Dos Rios Road. Within a few minutes, the Fire Incident Commander reported that the blaze was put out. It took another couple of hours for firefighters to mop up the burn.

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will consider a sewer rate increase at their meeting tomorrow. In the Press Democrat, the board will consider an increase in rates up to 9 percent, or from about \$38 to \$172 annually. The increase is aimed at maintaining and replacing infrastructure. The Russian River area would see the highest rate hike. Sonoma County expects revenue to increase by about \$2.5 million dollars over this fiscal year. Grants and Sonoma Water General Funds will also help cover the costs. Sonoma Water will offer a Low-Income Program for those who need help paying their bill.

## Sheet 1

The earthquakes that struck parts of NorCal last Thursday were felt by some nearby, but not all. In an update on the quake in the Sacramento Bee, not everyone felt the same thing. Seismologists say it depends on where you are, if you're in a building, and what you're doing at the time. A Cal State professor noted that wooden framed buildings flex more than concrete, and the underlying geology, or ground beneath you can be different. If you live near a river may feel a quake more because of wet ground that amplifies the shaking. The 5.5 magnitude quake in Plumas County shook Thursday afternoon, with many aftershocks. It was then followed up early Friday morning with a 5.2 quake.

The Willits City Council updated the community on repairs on buildings damaged by a fallen tree. The damages from the storms of February and March caused the annual event Frontier Days to invest in public facilities because of the damaged infrastructure at the airport. In Willits News, the Community Development Director brought up a proposal to increase housing with updated land use zoning. The city is considering rezoning to add more unincorporated areas into their purview.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved a five-year strategic plan for the Mendocino County Museum. In MendoFever online, the museum used public comment to help focus plans to expand exhibits and programs. Seven community forums were held and reported to the planning committee. Just last week, the museum received a half million dollar donation that will help fund their plan. More information on the plan and those who helped get it in place is on the county museum's website.

The Lakeport City Council consider a contract to replace hundreds of city signs and ask for state funding for city roads this week. The Public Works Director will ask for about \$85,000 to replace 574 signs, at the direction of the Lake Area Planning Council. The director will also propose funding for the South Main Rehab Project for work on curbs and sidewalks to meet ADA standards. The council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, in the Lakeport City Hall. The council plans to present proclamations for Police Week, the 50th Anniversary of Menocino College and more, according to Lake County News.

Caltrans has some roadwork this week, in Lake County Route 20 work continues west of Upper Lake near Scotts Valley Road. One-way traffic control will be in effect from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and work continues north of Spruce Grove road. On Route 175 west of Mathews Road roadwork continues. In Mendocino County, Route 1 bridge work is still in progress in Fort Bragg from Manzanita Street to Pudding Creek. On Route 20 work near Three Chop Road is ongoing. On US 101 emergency work south of Willits will continue with lane closures in effect.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services would like public comment on the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update by May 26, before final submission to Cal OES in June. You can submit comments on the Lake County website, or at the Lake County OES Facebook page. Those who would like to comment can also do so in person at Lake County. The Lake County Library will have a copy on hand for you to see in person.

## Sheet1

An 18-year-old Kelseyville man is facing attempted murder charges and attempted robbery. There was a prelim hearing on Friday at the Lake County Superior Court. Jesse Gonzalez has retained a new counsel during the hearing. A new hearing is set for Wednesday. Gonzales is facing attempted murder charges, assault with a firearm, attempted robbery and carjacking. In the Record Bee, the charges were for a March incident, when Lake County Sheriffs Deputies responded to the Sentry Market in Nice for where they found a man with a gunshot wound to the arm. Police searched a home on Red Feather Lane in Lakeport and arrested Gonzales. He was booked into jail and is in custody with bail set at over \$2 million.

[The City of Ukiah is announcing \\$500,000 in grants and loans for homeowners and lar](#)

05/16/23 A man was found with Fentanyl and a gun in Ukiah yesterday. Police spotted the suspicious man in a parked car near South State Street at about 9:30am on Monday. Ukiah Police began talking with 29-year-old Tobias Wood as pulled out a tin foil packet with the illegal powder inside of it. Police searched the car and found a rifle and a bullet proof vest. Wood has a list of prior arrests, including felony convictions that prohibit him from having a gun. He was booked into Mendocino County Jail.

A man arrested for a hit and run earlier this year appeared at Lake County Superior Court. Al S. James entered a not guilty plea. James is charged with a hit and run that injured a woman on North Main Street in Lakeport last January. The woman was seriously injured and was air lifted to a hospital out of Lake County, according to the Record Bee.

PG&E helicopters will patrol power lines in parts of Sonoma County as part of a company-wide drill today. The Press Democrat reports the aerial patrols are part of a public safety power shutoff preparedness exercise. The drill today will not actually effect the power. During actual public safety shutoffs, power lines are de-energized to reduce the risk of wildfires during severe weather. Crews inspect the lines to identify and repair the damage before the company restores power to the effected areas. The drills help crews in response timing, helping them prepare for real emergencies.

A coalition of cannabis firms, who represent almost half the sales in California started an effort to address credit problems in the state's cannabis market. Cannabis operators issued a public letter in support of Assembly Bill 766, or "The Cannabis Credit Protection Act" The legislation would establish regulatory safeguards around cannabis sales made on credit. Because marijuana remains federally illegal, banks don't service cannabis companies. Businesses have been forced to work with cash only, which increases the likelihood of being robbed. The bill would allow cannabis companies to access supply chains with credit terms. According to Reuters, the bill will go to the California's Assembly Appropriations Committee on Wednesday.

Robert Sedlar, called a predatory lender has been convicted of 100 felony counts for operating a mortgage fraud scheme in Mendocino County and throughout California, in an announcement from California Attorney General Rob Bonta. Between 2015 and 2019, Sedlar ran Grand View Financial LLC, and conspired to steal money and homes from distressed homeowners. Sedlar was found guilty of conspiracy and multiple counts of Filing False Documents, Grand Theft, Elder Abuse, and of Prohibited Acts by a Foreclosure Consultant. Grand View Financial LLC operated in Mendocino County and the scheme resulted in a combined loss of over \$7 million to elderly Californians. He goes back to court July 21st for sentencing.

## Sheet 1

Mendocino National Forest officials have lifted the off-highway vehicle and Deer Valley campground closure order on the Upper Lake Ranger District, effective at 9 a.m. today. Crews have been clearing trails after severe storm damage this winter. Visitors and riders should use the park with caution, as fire-injured trees may continue to fall. Road access is still limited across the forest due to storm damage with some temporary fixes in place for emergency vehicles. To access the OHV trail system or Deer Valley Campground people will need to take the longer alternate route via Potter Valley. The gate above Middle Creek Campground will remain closed. A permanent repair to Elk Mountain Road is still under construction. Officials are asking everyone to obey all posted signs and use caution.

An ATV rider died over the weekend. California Highway Patrol reports that E. Rodriguez Vizcarra was riding an ATV on Mexico Ridge Road south of Mendocino Pass Road when he lost control Sunday afternoon. The ATV threw him off and down a steep embankment. The CHP, Cal Fire and Covelo police all responded, but the rider died at the scene. An investigation showed the rider misjudged his speed and condition, and crashed down a hill, throwing him down a steep hillside where he was found dead by first responders. The investigation into the crash continues.

The May revision to Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget proposal is garnering praise from the higher-education community – but also some criticisms on what it would cut. The higher ed budget is stable, despite a projected budget deficit of 35-point-1 billion dollars. Officials with the Campaign for College Opportunity says the revise fully funds promises made to the U-C, C-S-U and community college systems. By law, the core budget must be balanced and passed by June 15th so lawmakers and interest groups will be busy hammering out a final package over the next few weeks. The governor's plan puts money toward a program that would require UCLA to set aside slots to guarantee admission for students transferring from a community college. Lawmakers are also currently considering Assembly Bill 1749, which would require the U-C Schools to develop a guaranteed system-wide community college transfer pathway.

The Clearlake City Council is set to meet this Thursday. At this week's meeting, the council will consider a \$4.6 million contract with Argonaut Constructors for the 18th Avenue Improvement Project. The work will connect 18th Avenue to Highway 53, crossing the city's former Pearce field airport property. They will reconsider the contract after delayed funding from the California Transportation Commission. In Lake County News, the council will also discuss litigation for the Clearlake Middle Management Association, the Koi Nation of Northern California v. City of Clearlake. The council will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 18, at Clearlake City Hall.

The nonprofit Mendocino Study Club which created and originally staffed the Mendocino Community Library, will be ending after over a century. The club meets for the last time this Friday, May 19th. The scholarship fund will now be handled by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. In MendoVoice online, the group that awarded scholarships to girls from Mendocino High School Women's clubs is dissolving. Members say times have changed and with increased opportunities for females have grown. The Study Club, founded in 1908 was the oldest civic organization on the Mendocino Coast. Other clubs aimed at improving women's lives are around, and the scholarship opportunities will continue.

## Sheet1

Title 42 ended, immigration is as confusing as ever. In the Sacramento Bee today, advocacy groups are pressing U.S. Customs and Border Protection into creating better conditions in encampments as more people seek to enter the U.S. The COVID-related migration rule authorized officials to quickly expel migrants ended Thursday. The Biden administration has introduced a new policy that will make it harder for migrants seeking political asylum. Those who arrive seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border must prove that they unsuccessfully sought asylum in one of the countries they traveled through. The American Civil Liberties Union sued the Biden administration in a federal court in Northern California over its new policy last week. Migrants can schedule asylum appointments through the CBP One smartphone application. But technical issues, poor service, have slowed the process.

Monkeypox may be on the rise again in the state. Health officials are renewing a push to vaccinate those who may be vulnerable, including the LGBTQ+ community ahead of Pride month. MPox, as its called, is rarely fatal but can cause rashes and flu-like symptoms. It is spread skin to skin, and via sex. As of last Friday, nearly 250 Californians were hospitalized with about 30,000 cases across the country and 42 deaths. Numbers have fallen since last summer, but more recently have been found on the rise. Public health officials in San Francisco are renewing their mpox vaccination efforts, according to the LA Times.

The California Office of Traffic Safety is launching the “Go Safely Movement” campaign today. The campaign hopes to build a strong safety culture in the state by raising awareness. The office has sent out a survey, in an effort to reduce traffic fatalities across the state and includes questions about texting and driving, DUI, street racing, and speeding. The Community Call to Action Survey results will help officials in planning for safety and community involvement traffic safety initiatives. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2022, twelve people were killed in crashes in California every day.

More than half of the country's voting-age population voted in 2022, the second highest turnout for a congressional election in twenty years, according to Lake County News today. Despite lower turnout in 2022 than in 2018, the number of voting-age Americans registered to vote was just over 69 percent. Newly released data based on a Voting and Registration Supplement survey shows voting and registration behavior in the 2022 congressional elections. In the survey, some people say they were too busy with work or school to vote. More registered voters say they forgot to vote last year, up a couple of points from 2018. Of the many that did choose to vote, about half voted early or by mail.

This winter's heavy storms have made California's rivers ripe with chances to pan for gold. The atmospheric rivers caused lots of erosion, with rain pounding the ground and rinsing gold downstream. In the Record Bee, the heavy spring flows are churning up river bottoms, causing gold to be dredged up. Rivers are shifting gravel bars and stirred up easier access for miners. The news is increasing the numbers of amateur prospectors, as the price of gold rises and hit a near-record of more than \$2,000 an ounce this week, up from \$1,700 last November. However, officials are urging caution, with fast and cold running rivers it's not safe for panning yet. Gold pan enthusiasts are headed for the smaller streams and creeks for now.

## Sheet1

A new study links emissions from the world's major fossil fuel producers to 37% of acres burned by wildfire in the west between 1986 and 2021. The report released today by the Union of Concerned Scientists, they say those emissions are also responsible for drying out California forests. Researchers hope these findings translate into corporate accountability for damages wrought by past and future disasters. This is the first study in the world that attributes wildfire impacts from climate change to specific fossil fuel producers, according to a scientist and author of the study. The group wants to see hope a shift in the narrative for the public and policymakers in California toward one in which we broadens corporate responsibility.

The Mendocino County Planning Commission is set to consider rezoning part of the Redwood Valley as a Cannabis Prohibition Zone tomorrow. The county will discuss banning cannabis cultivation in the area after a group of residents came together during drought conditions in 2021 with complaints on large grows. During the drought and pandemic, residents dealt with water restrictions and what they said was an atmosphere of crime. Now that the drought has ended and the price of marijuana has dropped illegal grows have been slowed, and the county has enforced cannabis codes. Authorities say illegal growers are leaving Mendocino County. In Mendocino Voice online, the calls for the cannabis free zone have quieted, and the issue will be brought up for a third time during the Planning Commission meeting tomorrow

05/17/2023 morning at 9am.

Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire, Chair of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Lake County's representative in the state Senate, is holding a hearing today on California's offshore wind industry. In Lake County News today, the hearing in Sacramento will discuss how to deploy wind technology off shore, while protecting the state's fishing fleet and the coastal environment. Along with local and state agencies and representatives, tribal leaders, and offshore wind industry representatives, representatives from the fishing fleet, and more will gather to look at the whole picture. Senator McGuire says it's a first-of-its-kind hearing bringing all sides of the discussion together. The hearing begins at 2 p.m.

Five organizations filed a lawsuit against PG&E in the Northern District of California. The suit says the utility violated and continues to violate the Endangered Species Act through the unauthorized "take" of Chinook salmon and steelheads. In Courthouse News Service this week, the Potter Valley Project is under scrutiny as PG&E remains in control. Although the two dams on the Eel River, owned by PG&E are slated to be decommissioned, they're currently preventing salmon from returning to their spawning grounds. According to the lawsuit, the National Marine Fisheries Services warned PG&E that immediate changes were required at the Potter Valley District to protect the fish. The group says Scott Dam is at higher risk of failure in an earthquake than was previously understood, making the issue even more urgent. The environmental groups in the suit hope PG&E will be forced to face the issue and move forward with their decommissioning plans immediately.

A man was stabbed to death in Lakeport. Yesterday afternoon around 4:40pm, police responded to Red Feather Lane and found Christopher Burrows on the ground with a knife wound. Police and paramedics tried to help him, but he died of his injuries. Lake County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Melinda Fred for murder. She was booked into the Lake County Jail and charged with first degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon. Anyone with information about the attack is asked to contact Lake County Sheriffs Office.

## Sheet1

A new study links emissions from the world's major fossil fuel producers to 37% of acres burned by wildfire in the west between 1986 and 2021. The report released this week by the Union of Concerned Scientists, says those emissions are also responsible for drying out California forests. Researchers hope these findings translate into corporate accountability for damages wrought by past and future disasters. This is the first study in the world that attributes wildfire impacts from climate change to specific fossil fuel producers, according to a scientist and author of the study. The group wants to see hope a shift in the narrative for the public and policymakers in California toward one with greater corporate responsibility.

The Mendocino Cannabis Department is announcing a new regulatory process. The department will start using an online page called Accela Cannabis Regulation Portal. Starting June 1, applicants and permit holders can sign in and create an account. The new method will increase transparency and make a more efficient process for those in the cannabis industry. The cannabis department will send out a Canna Note with links to businesses in the county. The app has all existing permits to date, and will be the place to apply for any new ones. The IT department will be switching to Accela from May 26th through May 31st. They ask that users not access the new program until it begins on June 1st.

Families in Mendocino County who were financially impacted by severe weather in February and March may be eligible for disaster food benefits from CalFresh. Families that lost money or work due to the storms can apply, as well as households that had to make storm related repairs or lost food because of power outages or evacuations may also be eligible. The benefits may be up to over \$900. In MendoVoice online, the deadline to apply is Friday, May 19th. Residents are encouraged to contact the county social services office or apply online. Residents of Mendocino and Lake Counties, who are currently getting SNAP benefits are able to purchase hot foods from any store that accepts them due to a temporary waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This waiver applies through the end of May.

Mendocino Transit Authority with LSC Transportation Consultants want Ukiah residents to discuss the future of the Ukiah Transit Center. The group plans to look at six different locations and go over initial designs. In MendoVoice online, residents are asked to check out the project website and give some input as they work on moving people around in Ukiah and Mendocino County by connecting Ukiah to the Mendocino Transit Authority bus routes. The webpage with the survey is at Mendocino.org.

Sonoma County Supervisors have formally ended the COVID emergency declaration. The board met yesterday to announce the end of a proclamation that was in place for over three years. In the Press Democrat, local health officials say infections from the virus are still happening but not at the rate before. The county has rearranged some COVID related information to the health services department, and continues to offer vaccines and testing. Federal officials still recommend people get the latest vaccine.



## Sheet1

California condors will receive a vaccine for a deadly strain of avian flu that threatens to wipe out the already critically endangered vulture species. Federal officials reported yesterday that emergency approval was granted for a vaccine after more than a dozen of the huge raptors died of the bird flu. There are fewer than 350 California condors in the wild, in flocks that span from the Pacific Northwest to Baja California. AP is reporting a pilot safety study will begin this month in North American vultures, a similar species, to check for any adverse effects before they give vaccines to the endangered condors, according to an agriculture department statement. The US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service reports over the last 18 months, millions of birds have passed from the bird flu including more than 430 bald eagles and millions of poultry.

Cannabis businesses can legally begin operating in the City of Healdsburg today, joining a list of cannabis friendly cities in Sonoma County. The city council approved commercial cannabis business tax rates this month after voters passed Measure M last fall. The new rates are 4 percent for sales, 2 percent for manufacturing and testing with a medical cannabis exemption, according to the Press Democrat. The anticipated revenue the city expects could up be to half a million dollars. The city says it may be spend on police, fire and emergency services, parks, affordable housing and street maintenance.

The Red and White Store has remained open, despite a car crashing into it last weekend. The store on Highway 20 in Clearlake Oaks was the scene of a crash around 1:30am Saturday morning. In Lake County News, manager Christopher Hallsted said they were able to stay open despite damage. CHP reported a SUV hit the building at Acorn Street, where the driver was found on the ground near the scene, with minor injuries. It did not appear that alcohol or drugs were factors. The Northshore Fire Protection District firefighters checked the damage to the building. The manager says they were lucky there wasn't more damage to the 90 year-old store, and they were able to put up a temporary wall.

Research on THC potency and recommendations for harm-reducing policies will be the topic of the Cannabis Advisory Committee's Public Health and Community Impact meeting next week. The virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, at 9:00 a.m. The subcommittee will also hear a presentation from the California Department of Public Health THC think tank. The committee advised the Department of Cannabis Control as the state sets standards for commercial cannabis business. In a release today, the department plans to develop the framework for cannabis industry regulations that they say will benefit all Californians.

Californians are facing sudden insurance cancellations, refusal of coverage and significantly increased premium costs. As wildfires become more intense and unpredictable storms hit the state, people living in higher risk areas are feeling the pain of finding affordable coverage, if any is available at all. Northern Californians are being especially hit with an insurance blockage. After the devastating fires in 2017 and 2018 insurance companies have been confronted with massive policy payouts and have pulled back coverage and increased costs. In the Press Democrat today, president of the Personal Insurance Federation of California says profits industry-wide were wiped out in those two years. Last October, the Department of Insurance finished "wildfire safety regulation" that requires insurance providers to offer discounts to residents who work to mitigate fire risks on their properties. They had until last month to submit plans to comply with the new regulation.

## Sheet 1

Sonoma County has launched a regional initiative to protect the Russian River and surrounding watershed. The Russian River Confluence will bring together government agencies, tribal partners, and more to promote collaboration along the 110-mile river that runs through Sonoma and Mendocino counties. In California Municipal online, the Confluence launched "Respect Russian River," a campaign to create awareness about the river and engage the community in taking care of the river and watershed. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and other partners will consider adopting the agreement in the coming weeks. The confluence has plans for updated mapping and workshops next summer in the communities surrounding the area.

Memorial Day is less than two weeks away, and the Avenue of Flags is prepping to honor the memories of Lake County's veterans. The Lake County News reports they are looking for volunteers for the annual event. Flags will be placed at the Lower Lake, Kelseyville and Lakeport Cemeteries. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Lower Lake Cemetery 7am on Memorial Day to help place the flags in all three cemeteries. The flags will be taken down at 3pm later that day. President of the Avenue of Flags, William Asher says volunteers can call him at 707-900-1652.

The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Task Force will meet next Monday at the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Bragg. The group will have updates on roads, trails, parks and campgrounds. They'll discuss illegal trail development and maintenance of trails and address forest history, Manly Gulch and the Camp 1 Loop Trail. The meeting starts at 12:30pm and will wrap up with a field tour by about 5pm.

Mendocino County Public Health is holding a Media Day Presentation this Friday at 2pm. A guest speaker will present information on childhood vaccines. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. For more details contact the health department at 707-472-8410.

A planning group for the Russian River Water Forum met for the first time yesterday in Ukiah. In KymKemp and the Mendo Voice online, that initiative of Sonoma Water met to plan how to maintain a diversion from the Eel River into the Russian River after PG&E decommissions the hydroelectric dam site. The utility will submit a draft on how they'll do that this coming November. The utility plans to remove the dams unless someone comes up with a plan they will consider. The forum has used most of a \$400,000 grant from the California Division of Water resources in their work on the governance of the Upper Russian River Watershed. Sonoma Water is applying for a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation for continued diversion plans. Members of county, tribal and environmental groups that make up the forum hope to have viable choices as they figure out how to proceed. Four working groups have been put together to focus on water supply, fisheries, finance and water rights.

In an effort to protect the Clear Lake hitch the Bureau of Land Management Field Office in Ukiah will be closed the Scott's Creek gate near Lakeport through the end of the month. In MendoFever today, the South Cow Mountain OHV area is remaining open with access to it at the Westside Staging area near the city. BLM says closing the Scott's Creek entrance will help protect water quality as young fish migrate back to Clear Lake from Scott's Creek. The threatened fish are found only in the Clear Lake basin and have been declining in numbers for the last several years. The hitch are under review to be listed on the Endangered Species Act. Thanks to a very wet spring, the Scott's Creek habitat is helping the hitch with a replenished breeding ground. The agency will work with local tribes and governments to continue to protect the species.

## Sheet1

The old Kmart on Main Street in Lakeport is being built into new stores. Construction began yesterday as the over 90,000 square foot building is converted. An Arizona architecture firm is busy subdividing the space into three retail leases. Two of the new tenants will be Marshalls and Tractor Supply on either end. The middle space has yet to be leased. Lake County News reports demolition and remodeling in underway, and includes improvements to the outside with sidewalk work. The Lakeport Planning Commission will discuss plans for a sign at its June 14th meeting.

Congressman Mike Thompson hosted a town hall this week on gun violence prevention. Thompson mentioned that there have been more than 225 mass shootings this year alone, costing taxpayers \$280 billion dollars. In the Record Bee today, the congressman talked about legislation that could help including expanded background checks and rules on ghost guns. During the virtual meeting, a medical expert said that the pandemic years saw the largest ever increase in firearm homicide in 100 years. Thompson said there had been bipartisan support for community violence intervention programs and mental health and work continues on that front.

California will get support to reduce homelessness with federal support. The White House announced they will send a federal official to help cut red tape and access programs in a plan that the Biden administration plans to unveil today. The new initiative they're calling "ALL Inside" aims to boost local efforts to shelter people. Biden has a goal to reduce homelessness by 25 percent by 2025. The initiative will help communities take advantage of federal programs to fight homelessness through health care, drug abuse, transportation and employment.

The price of gas is going and that's good news for area tourism. With the holiday weekend coming fast the AAA says 20% more tourists will be hitting the road this year. Mendocino's tourism industry sees a majority of visitors during the summer months, and local tourism officials say this year is expected to be a good one. Over the pandemic area attractions had to close down, but now the official end if the pandemic has arrived, so are the expectations for lots of visitors to town this year.

The state is closing three more prisons and has plans to downsize several others. In CalMatters today, inmate are worries about their education. Community colleges in California that developed special programs to help prisoners earn degrees are worried. The colleges stand may lose 10 percent of their enrollment and millions in state funding. The Department of Corrections says they're trying to help inmates continue their education, but say there is no coordinated system.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources announced the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act with unanimous support. Lake County News reports the bill expands public lands on the monuments eastern edge. The legislation establishes tribal co-management of the monument with a name change. The Patwin name for Condor Ridge, Molok Luyuk is replacing Walker Ridge. A regional conservation organization called Tuleyome marks the area as a cultural heritage site with diverse flora and fauna and recreational activities. The area hosts a diverse landscape including rare plants, mountain lions and black bears. People have enjoyed hiking, mountain biking and more at the national monument. The proposed expansion is part of Governor Newsom and President Biden's shared goal to protect lands and waters in historically marginalized communities.

## Sheet1

Sonoma County roads will get much needed work done this summer. The Press Democrat reports construction crews will target 50 miles of county roads as part of a \$29 million program. The Sonoma County Department of Public Infrastructure plans to resurface many roads next year and in 2025. Funding comes from the Pavement Preservation Program, the Fire Damage Recovery Paving Act and from the county budget. Parts of those funds come from a PG&E settlement over the 2017 firestorm. They need to invest about \$48 million per year to improve roads in the county, according to the Sonoma County Long-Term Road Plan. They're off to a start, but it may not be enough.

A group in Mendocino County is working to boost economic development locally. The organization called "Keep it Local" met for its second meeting on Tuesday. During the group's first meeting, they discussed incorporating Mendocino as a city and working with the Mendocino Historical Review Board. In MendoVoice online, "Keep it Local" aims to focus local control of businesses, instead of far off investors. This weeks meeting included speakers involved with the Grocery Outlet in Fort Bragg. The group also discussed working with county officials. The group hopes to see upgrades to services for the people who live there as well as tourists who visit. The effort to preserve local ownership continues as the group works through high costs and the long-term economic outlook for Mendocino County.

The cost of insulin is the target of work in California to help those who need it, get it. In the last two decades, the price of insulin has increased by 600 percent. California lawmakers have introduced bills targeting the out of pocket costs for all drugs. The Attorney General is suing the largest insulin manufacturer and pharmaceutical managers alleging unfair business practices. Governor Newsom has announced a state contract with a generic drug company to help diabetic residents. Around 37 million in the US, and about 3 million people in the state need insulin to live, according to CalMatters. The federal government has imposed price caps that prompted the drug manufacturers to drop prices to \$35, but in a Senate hearing last week, some pharmaceutical companies say they can't commit to keeping those prices.

The Mendocino County's annual Mendo Pride event is happening this weekend. This year is the first time the event will take place in Hopland, according to MendoVoice online. The LGBTQ + community event will happen on Saturday, May 20th. The vendor fair starts at 1pm, and at 6pm Hopland Tap will host performers in a contest. Proceeds from Mendo Pride will benefit the Ford Street Project Community Food Bank. The food bank, based in Ukiah, distributes thousands of pounds of food, five days a week, to community members needing support.

The California Speedboat Association will host the Buckingham Test and Tune this weekend. The Lake County news reports classic cars and custom boats are returning for the event after a COVID hiatus. It all starts Saturday at 9am with vintage and historic speedboats. There will be an award ceremony with handcrafted trophies at the Buckingham Golf Club and Community Center for the event.

The Jackson Demonstration State Forest has listed roads closed for the summer. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection announced that starting next week Road 240 will close for logging, maintenance and repairs. There are multiple roads and campsites that may be temporarily closed due to hazardous conditions and timber operations in the forest. Officials are asking residents to check the JDSF website for the closures, permits and more.

## Sheet1

Governor Newsom sent a letter to House Speaker McCarthy warning of dangerous flooding as the state's snowpack begins melting down the mountains. The governor said immediate action is needed. Last week, the governor's budget proposal marked funds for infrastructure, but more is needed. Newsom used terms of urgency saying people are in a path of destruction. He said House Republicans refused to act on their request from a month ago and instead pushed for cuts to local infrastructure projects. According to the Hill, the governor says the state has spent millions to try to reduce the likelihood of disaster.

California's weather continues to surprise. The driest years happened from 2020 to 2022, breaking records, according to the Bay Area News Group. After a parade of atmospheric rivers, reservoirs are full and wildfire risk is lower, for now. The Sierra snowpack is at its highest level in 4 decades. In December, 80 percent of the state was in severe drought. By April the state ended the drought emergency. And as residents recover from weather whiplash, people in the Bay area may see smoke from the Canadian wildfires as a high pressure system approaches Northern California.

A quarter of kids in child care centers are drinking dangerously high levels of lead. The information, released by the California Department of Social Services reveals thousands of the California's youngest are exposed to the brain damaging metal. In the LA Times today, lead was found in 1,700 child care centers licensed by the state. It is the first time that the facilities have been required to test for lead with the worst levels exceeded 2,000 times the limit. Lead damages brains and nervous systems and impairs development. According to the state, facilities must immediately stop using the tainted water. The latest tests happened after a bill was passed in 2018 requiring state licensed centers to monitor for lead. New legislation is aimed at helping schools and child care centers to clean up their drinking water systems. Assembly Bill 249 would also require the state to allocate \$5 million annually to pay for water efficient facets and fixture fixes.

A woman from Ukiah has been charged with domestic violence, after she allegedly stabbed her boyfriend many times. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene last week, where a man was assaulted and cut with a knife by his ex-girlfriend. Gabrelle Miller was arrested with felony domestic violence and assault with a deadly weapon and more. She is in jail and is being held in lieu of a 05/19/2023 \$30,000 bail.

A vehicle crashed and rollover several times on Highway 1 today. In KymKemp online, it landed on its side about 100 yard down a hill. There were many passengers in the car, one needing Life Flight. The medical transport copter landed just after 12:30pm this afternoon, while crews worked to get the patient out of the wreck to fly to a nearby hospital.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue has a planned mock search in the Deerwood Park and Extension, El Dorado Estates and the Redemeyer Road subdivisions tomorrow from 9am to 2:00pm. Search Teams will be simulating real life urban search and rescue techniques, radio communications and will be interacting with people in the Ukiah area directly. Search and Rescue is asking people to keep an eye out for a missing person in the neighborhood. An actor will knock on your door to practice finding a real missing person.

## Sheet1

A California company is offering free 55 inch TVs, and yes there is a catch. California based Telly will be sending out the new TVs this summer to people who register on their website now. The sets feature a main screen on top where viewers watch like always and a smaller second screen below that displays a nonstop stream of advertising. The online reservation portal has already seen 100,000 of the TV reserved. The trade off is that for the free 55 inch TV you have to agree to make your primary TV and the company gets to advertise to you on the small screen all the time. To reserve yours go to [freetelly.com](http://freetelly.com)

There will be a multi-agency training event with Adventist Health Ukiah Valley today. Beginning at 8am, the hospital is welcoming CalFire, Ukiah Valley Fire, and other first responders to coordinate trauma training. At noon, a Black Hawk helicopter will simulate trauma exercises. There will be actor victims as the hospital and area agencies simulate emergency situations and work together. The event will include pediatric burn care, trauma care and fire command information sessions. Local emergency responders will give rig tours and train with several area organizations. The Annual Trauma Expo will wrap up about 4:30pm.

The Environmental Protection Information Center announced it will sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service for violating the Endangered Species Act for threatening the spotted owl. The lawsuit is focused on a permit for the Sierra Pacific Industries to harm the owl. In the final years of the Trump administration, California's largest landowner received the permit with lower standards of habitat protections. The Western Environmental Law Center is representing the Environmental Protection Information Center and says that it's not too late for the northern spotted owl, but the federal and state government need to act soon to save them, according to KymKemp online. In the announcement, the center is giving the US Fish and Wildlife Service to change the way that industry treats the owls, if nothing changes then the lawsuit will follow within 2 months.

Governor Newsom released his revised budget and restored \$40 million to the state's foster care system. In a press release from the organization that supports foster kids, a California CASA spokesperson says they are grateful the governor made the change. The state was set to invest \$20 million per year for the next 3 years in the foster care system. In trying to balance the budget, Newsom announced he'd cut the funding. In response, CASA campaigned for foster kids and sought support from lawmakers, leading the governor to reverse his decision. California CASA advocates for 78,000 kids in the states foster care system.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 08-08 of Lake County will be giving life jackets to kids this weekend. From 10am till 3pm, the group will hand out life jackets at the Library Park in Lakeport. As the state's snowpack begins to melt, rivers throughout California will be running fast and cold. Already, several deaths have been blamed on rushing rivers in Placer County, and it's just the start of the warm season. The Konocti Women's Service Club is helping the Auxiliary in the event this weekend. The groups will also have safe boating information to hand out as they make sure life jackets are sized correctly to each child.

## Sheet 1

The California Natural Resources Agency announced efforts to conserve 30 percent of California's land by 2030 are showing significant progress. In Sonoma County, 174 acres were acquired by the Sonoma Land Trust. The property connects habitats from Sonoma Mountain to the Mayacamas. The project is part of an effort to secure 575 acres in a wildlife protection and recreation corridor. The \$3.5 million project was funded in part by the State Coastal Conservancy, the California Natural Resources Agency and others. Their strategy includes a 30 by 30 campaign and Outdoors for All, to make sure everyone in the state has access to the outdoors. In one year, California added around 1,000 square miles to conserve since the agency began.

A Ukiah man was sentenced for felony assault with a chain. 61-year-old Timothy Cooper got 33 years to life after a jury deliberated for less than half an hour yesterday. Cooper had 4 prior convictions for robbery charges in LA and a bank robbery with a deadly weapon in Central California, according to MendoFever. Because of those Strike convictions, his charges were also considered serious and violent.

PG&E has been ordered to pay \$150 million for starting the deadly 2020 Zogg Fire. The blaze in Shasta and Tehama counties began when a pine fell onto the utility's line according to Cal Fire. Investigators say PG&E failed to remove the tree on time because of poor records. The fire burned more than 56,000 acres and led to 4 deaths. In the Press Democrat it's the latest in a stream of lawsuits PG&E has faced and is facing. In February, a judge ruled that the utility must face trial for involuntary manslaughter in the Zogg Fire.

Organizers for the state's electrical grid were approved for over \$88 million in upgrades to transmission lines in Sonoma and Napa counties to prevent overloads. The North Bay Business Journal reports that the California Independent System Operator board of governors approved the North Bay projects Thursday in a host of upgrades statewide totaling over \$7 billion. The projects are part of California 2022-2023 transmission plans that was updated earlier this month. Every year, the operator looks at the high-voltage lines where power is distributed and weighs line stability. Late last year, the utilities commission aimed to refocus lines for transportation and in buildings.

Caltrans has released some roadwork information that will be happening next week. In Mendocino County, Iversen Road paving work continues and is slated to end next Friday. Bridge work in Fort Bragg continues from Manzanita Street to Pudding Creek. On Highway 101, emergency work south of Willits is ongoing and the Irvine Lodge Safety Rest Area will be closed thru the end of the month. Emergency work between Piercy and Benbow continues. On highway 162 work south of Dos Rios is ongoing with minor delays. In Lake County, Highway 20 west of Upper Lake continues with about 15 minute delays. Highway 29 work continues with sign work north of the Putah Creek Bridge, and slight delays continue on the highway north of Spruce Grove Road.

A Cobb man charged with attempted murder and torture for the beating of his father appeared remotely for a hearing at the Lake County Superior Court. In the Record Bee, Peter Guerrero was in custody of the Conditional Release Program, which works with mentally ill offenders and parolees. Guerrero was charged with attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon and more, for the beating of his own father in Clearlake last March. The attack happened just outside the garden department at the Walmart in Clearlake, when Guerrero beat his father with a hammer. His father was seriously injured and taken to a hospital outside of Lake County. The 29-year-old is set for a review hearing to be committed to the Department of State Hospitals. Guerrero is in Lake County Jail and a bail set at \$50,000. The hospital will appear before the court June 13th.

## Sheet1

An invasive plant pulling party is planned in the Usal Redwood Forest tomorrow. According to a press release, the Redwood Forest Foundation is hosting the volunteer event to get rid of the French Broom plant from 10am to 2pm on Saturday. The access point at WRP Road on Highway 1 is about 5 miles west of Leggett. Volunteers will also visit a previous site they worked on to see how the area looks a year later.

And congratulations are in order for Lakeport Police Sergeant Andrew Welter and K9 Olin as they graduated this week. In Lake County News today, the pair graduated from a 7 week program at Golden Gate K9 training. K9 Olin is a German Shepherd who joined the Lakeport Police two years ago. Training focused on patrol work and tracking and apprehending suspects. Part of the pair's training has the K9 searching inside and outside and Olin knows how to be called off and return without biting. The department says Olin would only apprehend suspects in serious violent crimes. Olin is also trained on sniffing out drugs. The dog can smell meth, cocaine, heroin and fentanyl. During the Tuesday City Council Meeting, Sergeant Welter put Olin's badge on his collar.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein returned to Washington D.C., and appeared shockingly diminished. The Senator returned in a wheelchair, with the left side of her face frozen and one eye nearly shut, according to the New York Times. Her health deteriorated after complications with shingles in February. The virus caused her to get Ramsay Hunt syndrome and encephalitis, a rare complication of shingles. Swelling of the brain, post-shingles encephalitis can leave patients with lasting memory or language problems, confusion, headaches and difficulties walking. With Feinstein's return, Senate Democrats were able to advance three of Biden's judicial nominees whose approval by had been delayed. Feinstein announced she will retire when her term ends next year. If she leaves early, Governor Newsom has committed to appointing a Black woman to the seat.

Sonoma County Regional Parks was recently recognized for excellence with an award for its Youth Exploring Sonoma Parks program that connects teens with nature. In the Press Democrat, the program earned the Best of the Best, Creating Community award of excellence from the California Parks and Recreation Society. The YES Parks program has had more than 200 kids participate in it. Local teens from 13 to 18 years old got to take advantage environmental education, stewardship activities, community building and career exploration.

And Mendocino County released a report about a new behavioral health initiative. The campaign began with making locking medication bags, gun locks, fentanyl test strips and naloxone free to residents on request. SafeRx Mendocino Coalition aims to facilitate prevention education and reduce overdose deaths in the county. Last month, the department trained 49 people in opioid overdose reversal response in Fort Bragg, Willits, Ukiah and Anderson Valley.

The Fort Bragg Animal Shelter has announced plans to close. In a social media post, the shelter announced that the remaining animals, 8 dogs and 3 cats are up for adoption, and they'll be the last ones to go. They are waiving adoption fees and accepting adoption applications now. The community will now rely on the shelter in Ukiah with the Fort Bragg Shelter closing up. Residents have reacted to the news

05/22/2023 with surprise, and alarm.



## Sheet1

A Covelo man has been convicted of murder. A Mendocino County jury announced Dino Lincoln, also known as Dino Blackbear was found guilty of murder in the second degree as well as a special allegation he used a gun, reckless evading and assault with a motor vehicle. Because Dino had two past felonies, the Mendocino County Probation Department will make sentencing recommendations as he'll return to prison. His sentencing is scheduled for July 27th.

A motorcycle rider died in a crash in Clear Lake on Friday night. CHP released information on the accident that also sent the motorcycle passenger to the hospital with serious injuries. A 60 year old man pulling a boat in his truck turned in front of the bike, striking the two on it. He wasn't injured in the accident. Authorities say drugs or alcohol haven't been ruled in their investigation.

There was a fire in Covelo near Hopper Road and Crawford lane on Saturday. Thankfully within half an hour, firefighters were able to knock it down. In MendoFever online, there's no word yet if anyone was injured. Fire and law officials are investigating the cause.

A man was seriously hurt when his leg got pinned under an overturned tractor in Geyserville. It happened Friday afternoon around 2:40pm off Nutter Road in the Northern Sonoma County Fire District. The Press Democrat reports the district and Dry Creek Rancheria along with Healdsburg firefighters were on scene. The man was airlifted to a Santa Rosa Hospital, and was last reported to be in non-life threatening but serious condition.

A prescribed burn is scheduled for tomorrow. Cal Fire is conducting the burn north of the Chamberlain Creek Fire Center off of Highway 20 east of Fort Bragg. In a release in MendoVoice online, Cal Fire hopes to improve wildlife habitat with the burn, to help introduce new growth and reduce fire fuels. You may see smoke tomorrow and Wednesday with the burn planned from 11am to 5pm each day. Cal Fire will cover about 100 acres in burn plots, and leave islands of unburned areas for small animals.

The Lake County Tribal Health Consortium celebrated a grand opening Friday. Tribal leadership and community leaders joined in the ribbon cutting at the Southshore Clinic on Olympic Drive. The new 25,000 square foot outpatient clinic is now fully open and employs around 60 people. In Lake County News, the ground breaking for the facility happened 3 years ago. Since then, the price grew to \$25 million, as plans had to change with COVID. With a soft opening last summer, the clinic already has seen thousands of new patients. The clinic hosts tribal artifacts and a serene setting, among the medical offices and labs.

A motorcyclist is in critical condition after a crash near Hopland. A helicopter was called in to take the injured rider to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. It happened yesterday just before 5pm, when the biker veered off Old River just south of the Fetzer Winery.

Fort Bragg Police are advising residents about scam callers wanting their information about Medicare account details. Police are urging people to not provide any information about you to anyone other than your medical care provider, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. If anyone got a suspicious call, reach out to the Fort Bragg Police at 707-961-2800.

There was a magnitude-5.6 earthquake off the coast of Humboldt County yesterday. The Record-Bee was on the Mendocino Fault about 87 miles west of Ferndale. People felt the quake from Trinidad to Southern Humboldt.

## Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors plans to meet tomorrow morning at 9am and may create a public defender program. In Lake County News, the board talked about making the public defender services program earlier in the year. Lake County hired Jose Varela, a retired Marin County public defender. He will make the program presentation and phased steps. The Board will also consider the shelter crisis urgency proclamation, as well as a Clear Lake Hitch emergency and a pervasive tree mortality emergency among other topics.

A Lake County man charged with a lewd act on a child appeared in court and made a release request. A judge denied the waiver to Andy Hopper, after his lawyer made the request to release him on his own recognizance. He is set to be sentenced May 30. The sex crimes against the man were for an incident last February when Lake County Sheriff's Deputies got a report of a man inappropriately touching at 13 year old girl at a store in Lakeport. In the Record Bee, Hopper is staying in jail with bail set at \$1,000.

Hundreds of farm workers and supporters marched in Healdsburg to demand hazard pay for working during natural disasters and wildfires. Saturday, the group marched to the Healdsburg Food and Wine Experience, and event celebrating local vintners and chefs. The Press Democrat reports that marchers want to be treated fairly, and the event aimed to put their concerns out there for the community to be aware. Organizers of the march said this weekend was just the beginning, and that hopefully the community can engage in their concerns to make the area more equitable.

Governor Newsom made an announcement to speed up construction of billions in infrastructure Friday. The Fort Bragg Advocate reports Newsom hopes to move \$180 billion of work in transportation, water, energy and broadband internet service more quickly through red tape that can slow projects. He said the investment would help make more than 400,000 new jobs and help California State to meet its climate protection goals. The governor signed an executive order creating an inter-agency "infrastructure strike team" aimed at maximizing funding for the infrastructure investment. Included in proposed project is the Sites Reservoir northeast of Clear Lake. Potential federal funding comes from the Inflation Reduction Act the CHIPS act and more.

California and the Bay Area had strong job growth in April, despite massive layoffs in the tech industry. In the Mendocino Beacon, the state added 67,000 new jobs since December, when the state saw a 20,000 job decline. It's not all good news though, as California's unemployment rate increased from 4.4 percent to 4.5 percent.

This week is National Safe Boating week through the 26th. In Lake County news, California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways is kicking off the season with resources and information, as well as life jackets. On Saturday, the US Coast Guard local Auxiliary measured kids for lifejackets and helped divvy out resources on boating information and safety. The organization reports that 833 percent of drowning deaths in 2021 were people who weren't wearing life jackets. This season, it's more important than ever with the state's snowpack melting into rushing fast and cold rivers. California's Division on Boating and Waterways wants everyone to know that it's state law for kids under 13 to wear a life jacket in boats, and that there are not only giveaways locally, but there are loaner life jacket stations throughout the state.

## Sheet1

The Cobb Area Council met to plan for the Blackberry Festival and updating area plans last week. The council also discussed community development. The council went over the 1,600 building permits and 4,000 inspections in the last year. Cannabis grants fund code enforcement officers who removed 25,000 illegal plants. California awarded Lake County nearly \$3million to keep the code enforcement team. The council is working on updating plans including in Lower Lake, Kelseyville Upper Lake and more. The Community Development Director said they need the community to engage in planning, according to the Record Bee. Friends of Bogg Forest got approval and support to repair 10 more miles of trail. The group has applied for a \$100,000 grant to continue that work. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 15.

Ukiah firefighters are warning people to get ready for fire season. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority tells the Ukiah Daily Journal that residents should trim trees and clear your yard of extra vegetation that will dry up and fuel any wildfires. The rain helped delay the fire season, but it may burn hotter and faster with the extra growth. An engineer and fire inspector says keeping your grass and weeds mowed and your trees trimmed you can reduce fire danger to your property. Notices to those who don't keep up their lawns will go out after the state bans burning. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority does spring and fall inspections to make sure codes are enforced. They say to mow in the mornings, before it gets hot and dry. Tree branches should be 6 feet from the ground and get ride of brush piles. You can check out the Fire Safety tab online on the city's website.

A reminder that there is a prescribed burn is scheduled for today and tomorrow. Cal Fire is conducting the burn north of the Chamberlain Creek Fire Center off of Highway 20 east of Fort Bragg. In MendoVoice online, Cal Fire hopes to improve wildlife habitat with the burn, to help introduce new growth and reduce fire fuels. You may see smoke with the burn planned through 5pm tonight and on Wednesday. Cal Fire will cover about 100 acres in burn plots, and leave islands of unburned areas for small animals.

The Mendocino National Forest has limited access to recreation areas after some damage after this winters storms. During Memorial Day Weekend, a forest supervisor says crews are working on downed trees, plugged culverts and washouts after fire damage and storm hazards continue. Some roads have lingering snow pack, so these paths should only be driven on by four wheel drive vehicles, trailers and RVs are not advised. While crews continue working on roads and debris, visitors should not camp under dead trees or hanging limbs. Forest officials say to stay alert, know where you're going and carry emergency supplies. Cell service is not the best in the area, so be sure to check ahead of time for closures and conditions.

PG&E is warning people of scammers who call people wanting money. The utility reports in KymKemp Online that up and down the coast, in the first few months of this year there were more than 600 scamming attempts. If you get a call from someone threatening to disconnect you, hang up and call PG&E or log into your account and have customer service confirm where you are in the billing process. Reports show customers lost over \$340,000 from January through April this year. PG&E will never demand immediate payment, accept prepaid cards or ask for your personal financial information for a rebate over the phone. Anyone who has been a victim of fraud should contact local police.

## Sheet1

Fort Bragg Police investigated a home on Digger Creek Drive after reports of drug sales. Last Friday, Fort Bragg and Mendocino County Sheriff's found 12,000 pills ready to sell. Valium, Xanax, Klonopin, Ambien, Adderall and suboxone strips were just some of the illegal pills they had ready to distribute, according to a report released on MendoFever online. Brian Grizzle and Elias Rutherford were arrested on the scene for felonies including possession, conspiracy, intent to sell and more. Police think some of the pills may contain fentanyl. The suspected dealer had just received narcotics in the mail, and had an estimated street value of \$50 to \$60 thousand dollars.

Geiger's Long Valley Market in Laytonville has been listed for sale at a price of over \$3.5 million. In MendoVoice, the market has ten years left on its lease of the 14,500 square foot building. The store was founded in 1945 as a small general store. The market in Laytonville is the only full service grocer within a 25 mile range. Geiger's plans to open a new market in Hopland. An owner of the business says they expect the Hopland location to be bigger and more popular, and will continue to carry organic and local produce.

The Ukiah Recovery Center Expansion Groundbreaking took place last Friday. The Recovery Center is part of the Ford Street Project, and recently got over \$3 million from the state for the project on Brush Street. In Mendocino County there were 2 and half times the amount of fentanyl related overdose deaths than the rest of the state. The new center will grow their classes on anger management, relapse prevention, dealing with shame and more. During the groundbreaking, some planted flowers and trees for a love one lost to addiction. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the expansion of the Ukiah Recovery Center will begin Phase I to build a Treatment Pavilion, followed by Phase II projected to build a 24-bed sober living environment. The department will send out a Canna Note with links to the Citizen Access Portal.

old sister were swept away by the current almost 2 miles from where the kids went into the water. Kings River has been closed to recreation due to the high water levels. It happened Sunday afternoon, and it took about an hour and a lot of law enforcement, search and rescue to discover the bodies of the children, who were not wearing life jackets. Authorities say waterway conditions are getting worse as the snow pack melts into the valleys. It's best to stay away from larger rivers now, and stay near smaller creeks and waterways. Always have a life jacket and make a plan to stay safe.

Journal, hundred of thousands of jobs in the state could be lost if the federal government defaults. A Moody's Analytics report shows the state unemployment rate increasing from 4.5 percent, reported last month, to 6.2 percent this summer and maybe even 8.7 percent next year if the federal debt limit isn't successfully increased. California could lose over \$840,000 jobs. President Biden and Speaker McCarthy continue in the debt limit negotiations now, and most recently seemed optimistic. Federal employees and businesses that rely on government spending could see the worst of the problem if an agreement isn't reached soon.

dedicated to an epidemic that continues to change in powerfully harmful ways. California even called on the National Guard to help find drug traffickers. In KFF Health News, the crisis increasingly flooded with fentanyl and is getting worse. Drug overdoses in the state now kill more than 2 times as many people in car crashes.

Information from the CDC shows 12,000 people died in California. Public health experts are asking the state to divert offenders from prison into treatment and increased anti-addiction meds.

Sheet1

The University of California Cooperative Extension received \$1.5 million in funding from the USDA and matching contributions from local government, nonprofits and foundations. In the next three years they plan create a California North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership across six counties including Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.

communities get food assistance during disasters and generally strengthens community food resources. In a press release on KymKemp online, NorCal has experienced wildfires, floods, drought, earthquakes and landslides, and the local and regional food programs saw increased pressure to feed more people. Grant money will help the group with projects to assess needs and resources to help the communities in the region access different food supply channels.

Russian River Water Update this week. In a press release yesterday, water infrastructure projects are getting streamlined. Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order that aims to speed up construction, permitting and court review to maximize funds and projects to help the state's waterways.

A new study just released by UCLA says pot smokers are not at risk of COPD. The new findings come as health officials warn of other health problems possibly associated with smoking weed. Advocates say it's a victory over false information and that cannabis users suffer from the same sickness cause by tobacco. Opponents say all smoking is bad.

release that his disability made it hard to speak and walk. After going through the foster care system, and working through his disability, he is now able to use his voice and communicate to the community around him. The forum will have virtual and in session programs in mid-July at California State University in Sacramento.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released a new report today and it predicts a hot summer for California. NOAA reports NorCal will be hotter-than-average. Data shows that while heavy downpours lifted the state out of urgently dry conditions about 6 percent of the state is dry enough again to be considered in a drought. Researchers say that number will go up. There's an 80 percent chance that El Nino will hit the state before the end of July. The tidal event may increase the chances for hurricanes.

release that his disability made it hard to speak and walk. After going through the foster care system, and working through his disability, he is now able to use his voice and communicate to the community around him. The forum will have virtual and in session programs in mid-July at California State University in Sacramento.

The annual Bottlerock Festival is gearing up for this weekend in Napa. The three-day festival includes 20 California artists as well as chart-toppers across the country. In total there are 75 bands that will perform on five stages.

A homeless woman in Ukiah was confronted by police yesterday, after erratic behavior. It happened near W. Perkins and South School Streets, when Rachael Seivertson seemed to be high on meth. While police were talking to her, she picked up a rock and threw it at an officer. The 8 pound rock hit his face while Seivertson began punching him. He was able to wrestle the woman to the ground and get her cuffed. The officer was taken by ambulance to the ER where he got six stitches on his face, according to a Ukiah Police Department press release. Seivertson was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and violating parole. She was taken to Mendocino County Jail. Ukiah Police thanked the Mendocino County Sheriff Deputy

05/24/2023

who helped get Seivertson under control. the Potter Valley Project decommissioning process, as PG&E makes plans to eliminate the two dams that are part of the hydroelectric project that affects two watersheds. The forum met to discuss diversion from the Eel to the Russian River. According to MendoFever online, a quarter of the forum represents the Eel River that had been diverted to the Russian River for PG&Es project. Now, the group must balance the needs of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties with the need to restore the Eel River, tribal fishing rights, and salmon habitat. The four working groups have until January of 2025 to find a solution that fits all interests, when PG&E submits its final surrender plan.

## Sheet1

weekend. In Lake County News, the three-day event had visitors from all over the country converge in the competition and fun. The Derby Committee Chair said the large crowd helped boost the local economy. This year's first place winner, Jeremy Cain, caught an almost 26 pound catfish. He took home a \$5,000 cash prize. The Catfish Derby was sponsored by the Clearlake Oaks Glenhaven Business Association who said they raised about \$25,000 that will be used in Lake County to support academic and sports programs and more.

Newlyweds from Ukiah were in the spotlight last Sunday as they celebrated their wedding at a Giants game. During the seventh inning, a couple exchanged their wedding vows and had their first kiss. San Francisco won 7-5, to add to the pair's delight. In KymKemp online, the couple, Ben and Heidi Waterman are from Mendocino County. They had planned to get married in Ukiah or on Lake Mendocino, but changed their minds when Heidi had the idea to bring their wedding to Oracle Park. The night before, they got to celebrate with some Giants at their hotel's rooftop lounge. The baseball wedding has gotten national attention from NBC and CBS sports.

California State Parks is announcing that they will honor veterans, active and reserve military members with free admission to 130 state parks on Memorial Day. In Lake County News, Anderson Marsh State Historic Park in Lower Lake and Clear Lake State Park in Kelseyville will participate. A decade ago, then Governor Brown signed a bill that lets the state park system offer military personnel a reduced or free day use at most state parks. Other free admission is being offered to California fourth graders and their families through the California State Park Adventure Pass through a pilot program as well, that is good through the end of August.

A mountain lion was spotted near Cloverdale yesterday. A visitor to the River Park Trail saw the large cat around 8:30am, according to a Nixle alert from police. Police and the North Bay Animal Services are investigating the sighting, according to the Press Democrat. Officials are urging people to use caution when on the trail that runs west of the river between Cloverdale River Park and Cloverdale Cemetery. Authorities say if you do see a mountain lion, not to approach it. Pick up kids, leash pets and appear as large as possible. Open your jacket, raise your arms yell and maintain eye contact. Never run away from a mountain lion. Slowly distance yourself and give the big feline time to move away.

California has asked the Biden administration to approve its plan to ban gasoline only vehicle sales by 2035 in the state. In Reuters, the plan was approved by the California Air Resources Board and was passed on to the Environmental Protection Agency Monday. It's part of a waiver under the Clean Air Act to set zero emission vehicle rules beginning 3 years from now and end sales of gas guzzlers by 2035. In the past, the White House has refused to endorse a set date. Only 6 percent of vehicles sold last year were electric. An EPA proposal last month shows automakers are forecasting to produce 60 percent of electric vehicles by 2030. More states are adopting California's EV rules with Rhode Island, Washington, Virginia, Vermont and New York among others.

California Highway Patrol is putting a warning out to Memorial Day partiers with the announcement of a Maximum Enforcement Period beginning on Friday. That means all available officers will be on the lookout for traffic violations, seat belt use and driving under the influence. KSBW in Monterey reports last year forty-five people were killed in Memorial Day weekend crashes, a 30 percent increase from the year before. There were 900 DUI arrests as well. Maximum Enforcement will end on Memorial Day at midnight.

## Sheet1

Walmart will pay half a million dollars to California for illegal online sales of brass knuckles, according to the Bay Area News Group. Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the settlement Tuesday. He says 250 brass knuckles were sold through Walmart. Their website allows for e-commerce and third-party buyers and sellers. Bonta said "online retailers are responsible for what they are allowing to be offered for sale in our state." The state is among 20 other states that outlaw many kinds of brass knuckles or "fist load weapons." They are considered a deadly weapon under California law.

The UC Davis student accused of murdering two men and wounding a woman appeared in court on Monday. Carlos Dominguez appeared in Yolo County Superior Court and said "I don't want an attorney," saying he wants to represent himself. The series of brutal attacks at the university began late last month. Dominguez is charged with two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder, according to SFGate. The only survivor of the attacks was a homeless woman who was stabbed in her tent, and is expected to make a full recovery. His public defender maintained that the defendant is mentally unstable. A psychiatric evaluation will now be done on the 21-year-old. His next appearance at court is set for June 6th.

California's Attorney General, Rob Bonta has joined in 49 other states Attorneys General in suing a company for robocalls. The lawsuit filed against Avid Telecom says the company initiated billions of illegal calls in California and nationwide. The robocalls allegedly included Social Security Scams, Medicare scams and employment scams. AG Bonta helped launch a Anti-Robocall Litigation Task Force last year, to litigate communications companies that ad to robocall traffic. In a release from the Attorney General in KymKemp online, from late 2018 through the beginning of this year, Avid Telecom sent over 24.5 billion calls to customers. The company also sent over 7.5 billion calls to numbers in the National Do Not Call Registry with over 550,000,000 to people in California.

May is CalFresh Awareness Month, a time for the program that provides SNAP food benefits to raise awareness. In Lake County News, there are over 16,500 people getting CalFresh benefits or about \$4.7 million per month in the county. Every \$1 in CalFresh makes nearly \$2 for the local economy. Officials say many people who need food may not know they qualify for those benefits. A family of four making about \$3,000 per month could qualify for over \$900 in CalFresh benefits. The state program has a Market Match benefit, where recipients can double their CalFresh spending at local farmers markets. You can apply online and confidentially and should hear back within 30 days.

Volunteers helped remove invasive plants from the Usal Forest in Mendocino County. Last weekend, the Redwood Forest Foundation held an invasive plant removal event, to get rid of the French Broom. It was the first time since COVID that the foundation was able to hold the event. According to Willits News, the Mendocino Fire Safe Council let volunteers use six weed wrenches for the event. Saturday's mission was to rid the forest of the Mediterranean weed, which can grow as high as 8 feet. The plant can make about 6,000 seeds that can grow for up to 60 years. Fire increases its germination rate and acts as a ladder for wildfires to go from ground level into the trees. The Redwood Forest Foundation will hold another event on June 11 to talk about Sudden Oak Death in bay area trees, and teach residents to identify the disease in the Usal Forest.

## Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors met yesterday and approved a continuation of the local emergency surrounding the weather in late winter. The board also voted to approve the continuation of emergency conditions due to drought, homelessness, tree mortality and the Clear Lake hitch emergency. Lake County will divvy out \$50,000 to each of the several area senior centers in grants from the Senior Center Grant Awards. A service agreement was made on the Burns Valley Development Project as well as mainline sewer repair between Lake County and the City of Clearlake. The board also approved the Bridge Replacement Project on First Street, and work on Chalk Mountain Road. A draft Public Defender Services Program was considered and will stay on the agenda for next week.

With the warm weather headed into the region, plenty of Northern Californians will be on the road for the Memorial Day weekend. AAA predicts 37.1 million travelers will hop in their cars to take advantage of the three day weekend. That's more than 2 million people or 6% more than last year, according to the Press Democrat. Forecasts show national travel has rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. Gas prices will definitely factor into travelers plans. In California, the price of gas is around \$4.80 per gallon. Nationwide, the average is only \$3.50, according to AAA. Sonoma County prices are higher than most other counties in California at just below the \$5 a gallon mark. Last year though, people paid over \$6 a gallon on average. A drop in crude oil costs and shifting demand are helping to lower the price at the pump. If you're planning to join the crowd and traveling this weekend, AAA says leave before noon on Friday.

Adventist Health and the Pacific Union College are teaming up to help students in Lake and Mendocino counties. The goal is to grow the nursing program to meet the demand for health professionals. In Lake County News, last Friday the president of the North coast Network for Adventist Health said the nursing workforce is on of their top priorities. The new nursing education centers are the result of a collaboration to help educate future nurses to work in the area. In forming the collaboration, they are also making a path to become a Medical Assistant with a Masters Degree in Nursing. Pacific Union College set out with a mission in 2021 to add online programs and education centers.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors met yesterday and adopted a resolution to widen a bridge over the Navarro River near Philo. The board introduced an ordinance to increase fees charged for carry conceal license renewals and modifications. California Indian Days Parade in Covelo was approved as was the Hog Farm Hideaway Festival in Laytonville.

A case of salmonella has been reported in California. The CDC has linked a salmonella outbreak to Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza, according to the Sacramento Bee. The company has temporarily stopped selling its raw dough products like their cookie dough and s'mores dough. Consumers are urged to throw out any Papa Murphy's dough and to wipe down surfaces it may have touched. So far, there have been 18 reported cases in 6 states, with at least 2 hospitalizations.



## Sheet 1

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved nearly \$2 million for behavioral health and recovery services in the county at their meeting on Tuesday. On Cannabis the board approved revisions to a \$17.5 million state grant to help cultivators get to state licensure, according to KymKemp online. A board member reported that they expect 500-700 applications anticipated to fall within the grant program. An additional nearly \$5 million is available to help growers fit into compliance with environmental requirements. Some say the grants and work by the Cannabis Department indicate the county is supporting local licensed cannabis operators. They now can focus on market access development and state policies.

05/25/2023

The Mendocino Board of Supervisors also approved a grant application to the California Coastal Commission this week, and it was awarded \$3 million to help the county to update planning in sea level rise. On Wednesday, the Grass Roots Institute held a meeting with representatives from the commission, the county, and the cities of Point Arena and Fort Bragg. In the Mendocino Beacon today, planning for sea level rise has been organized into Local Coastal Programs. The programs help set policies to protect coastal resources and prioritize land and water use. The City of Fort Bragg got \$900,000 and Point Arena was allotted about \$100,000 for their parts of the program.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors had a busy meeting this week. The California Department of Insurance was at the meeting, to present a Safer from Wildfires framework. The department reminded the board that residents can get insurance discounts with wildfire prevention. They urged people to make that defensible space, use fire rated roofing and using fire resistant vents. They reminded people that some buildings, like sheds are highly combustible and should be at least 30 feet from your home. In the Record Bee, the Department of Insurance discussed the "Fair Plan" that gives people a 10 percent discount in fire wise communities. You can check out the Department of Insurance online for more details.

The Lake County Office of Education is looking for applicants for the board. The open seat is for the Board of Education Trustee Area 5 for the Kelseyville area. Sadly, Anna Ravenwoode, the previous board member passed away late last month. The term on the board is for about a year and a half, through December of next year. After that, to hold on to the seat, you must run for election in November of 2024 for a term that will last through December of 2026. In Lake County News, the board member must live in the Kelseyville area, be a registered voter and qualified to hold office. If you want to fill the position, you have until June 2, just over a week from now, to apply.

A new bar is headed to Fort Bragg. The Tall Guy Taproom and Brewery had been delayed a few months, but when it opens the owner, Patrick Broderick hopes an early summer start will be enthusiastically welcomed. It is located on North Franklin and East Laurel Streets in the former Sears building. The brew equipment being installed includes crafting and aging containers that will fit in with the tall ceilings. Customers can bring in their own food as well, as there won't be any servers, but instead patrons can belly up to the bar for service. Broderick has a long resume of craft brews and needs six weeks for his first batches to be ready for the public. In Fort Bragg Advocate News, Broderick's opening lineup may include a Mexican lager, a Belgian white, an English porter and some IPAs.

There was a car versus pedestrian accident in Fort Bragg last night. No one was injured in the incident. At around 9:30pm, MendoFever reports a 23-year-old man was hit by a car in front of Nello's Market and Deli on North Main Street. The man who was hit had no serious injuries and waived medical assistance.

## Sheet1

Fort Bragg authorities are warning of scam callers. In the Advocate News today, Fort Bragg Police say mock Medicare calls are being made. They urge people to not give out any personal information, especially financial details. In a social media post, FBPD say to treat your Medicare information like you would your credit cards. The agency will not call and ask for payment over the phone. Call police if a scammer calls you or report the fraudulent call at [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov)

The Adventist Hospital Ukiah Valley had successful and eye opening trauma experiences last week, with the annual trauma drill and exercises. The hospital was the scene of mock emergencies, including crash victims. The event brought area emergency responders together in trauma field exercises so they could learn from what happens out in the field, in the ER and in cases of mass casualties. In The Ukiah Daily Journal, community members acted as victims, and got to experience how triage happens when emergencies occur. Event sessions included pediatric trauma care that helped illustrate the challenges first responders have in treating kids. The fire engines, ambulances and even a helicopter were on hand for the public and fellow first responders to get acquainted with during the event.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is urging people to stay aware of bears and their cubs. In a release Wednesday, the department says it's the time of year for last year's cubs to move away from their mother and become independent. They say if a bear cub is the size of a cat, it is a new cub and the mother is most certainly nearby. There is some concern about young cubs acting odd, and the department is looking into cases of encephalitis in young bears. Officials are asking people to stay away, do not feed the bears, and call them if you see a bear behaving erratically.

Retired Military personnel may get tax exemptions for their pensions. A bill was approved this week that would halt veterans' income tax. Assemblyman James Ramos introduced the bill early this year. In Lake County News, Ramos explained California is the only state to tax military pensions. The bill, he hopes, will bring some financial relief to the state residents who've served. The state is home to the most active-duty military personnel in the country, but that population is on the decline. AB 46, if passed, would take effect at the start of 2024.

California has seen 31 atmospheric rivers so far this year, the heaviest rainfall in decades. That means plants will do a good deal of growing more than ever this year. When the summer heat dries the abundant vegetation wildfires will have plenty of fuel to burn. In the North Bay Business Journal this week, grazing livestock demand is on the rise. Sheep and goats can help literally eat up that extra growth. Grazing operations are on the increase, with customers wanting their lawns and fields pruned down. Local companies who provide the grazers are getting booked through fall, already. It is something to consider as people plan to make fire safe space around their homes.

A state Senate bill has been sent to the Assembly that would increase workers' compensation benefits for California first responders. Cal Fire officials are worried about the many workers who experience post traumatic stress. The legislation is aimed to ease first responders as they get medical care through state-run insurance. It would extend PTSD as an occupational illness through 2032, rather than letting the provision expire in 2025. It also broadens who can claim the mental illness to include police officers, dispatchers and more. In Cal Matters, the bill addresses what many are calling a crisis among emergency responders.

## Sheet1

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is hosting a Beaver Restoration Informational Meeting today from 2 to 3 pm virtually. It's a first in a series of meetings to let the public know about their beaver management efforts. The department's Beaver Restoration Program will address beaver translocation projects, a coexistence toolkit and policy updates. To join in the meeting this afternoon, check out the CDFW's beaver page and click on the Beaver assisted Restoration tab.

A bill passed the state Senate that would decriminalize psychedelics including magic mushrooms and mescaline. The sponsor of SB 58, Senator Scott Wiener, said in *MendoFever* that the passage is helpful for veterans and those who suffer with PTSD, anxiety and depression. Psychedelics show promise in treating mental health and substance use issues. Studies have shown psilocybin, found in magic mushrooms, helps reduce symptoms of medication resistant depression. Also included in the legislation is the use of ayahuasca as a potential treatment for substance abuse and smoking cessation. The bill is sponsored by Heroic Hearts Project, a veteran organization.

California is putting a two decade moratorium on new card rooms. Monday, Governor Newsom signed AB 341 pauses new card room licenses for the next 20 years. In the *Mendocino Beacon*, the bill author Assemblyman James Ramos says the bill helps support the existing gaming industry. The Gambling Control Act of 1997 had been extended over the years and finally expired the 1st of this year. AB 341 continues measured growth without overexpansion, according to Ramos. Card rooms with less than 20 gaming tables can add up to 10 new ones, in a staggered timeline. California's tribes supported the bill that passed the senate earlier this month.

The Mendocino District Attorney acquitted a man of battery. Kenneth Carlile of Ukiah had been charged with misdemeanor battery on his nephew last September. Carlile testified that his actions were in self-defense. In claiming self-defense, the burden of proof shifts to the plaintiff. In this case, the jury found Carlile not guilty.

The Noyo Harbor District in Fort Bragg was awarded a \$3.2 million grant for revitalization. Organizers of the application said in *KymKemp* online, that Mendocino County has a significant role to play in the California Blue Economy. The Noyo Harbor District adopted a Community Sustainability Plan four years ago with a roadmap to support commercial fishing and harbor-related interests with three goals. The first goal was an energy efficient ice house to benefit commercial fishing. The second goal was to make a marine-based training program to build up local businesses. The third goal is to continue the Community Fish market Incubator, to open up markets to the coastal industry.

Healdsburg will be kicking off the 74th annual Future Farmers Country Fair tonight. The Healdsburg Twilight Parade begins at 6pm. It will be the first in-person event since 2019. There are livestock shows and sales, live music and contests in the event with this year's theme "2023 Red, White and Blue Animal Jamboree." In *The Press Democrat* today, the event is put on by kids in 7th thru 12th grades who raised livestock with FFA and 4-H organizations. Last year, livestock sales were nearly \$1 million dollars that went toward exhibitors and scholarships. After the parade tonight, there will be live music at Recreation Park.

## Sheet1

State Route 175 was reduced to one way traffic this afternoon after a box truck collided with a Tesla between Hopland and Lake County. In MendoFever online, the crash was reported right around noon from CHP. Thankfully no injuries were reported. And as the three-day weekend begins keep in mind some roadwork in the area. Caltrans posted updates for traffic changes. Bridge work continues south of Willits on US 101. Route 162 has delays with road work south of Dos Rios. Check the Caltrans Quickmap if you plan to travel this weekend.

05/26/2023

It is graduation season and in California, some Native American students continue to face bans on native regalia during their ceremonies. In a press release from Assemblyman James Ramos, some local cases of school districts are setting unnecessary conditions on students' rights to wear tribal garb, like eagle feathers, during graduation ceremonies. In a news briefing yesterday Ramos reminded Californians of Assembly Bill 1248, passed in 2018. The bill says a student may wear traditional adornments at school graduation ceremonies. Ramos said "Eagle feathers and other symbols of Native American significance are often presented by a proud community to the student as a way to recognize personal achievement."

The California Air Resources Board approved a landmark ban on a toxic chemical used for chrome plating. Hexavalent chromium, has been shown to be 500 times more carcinogenic than diesel exhaust. In the Ukiah Daily Journal, it only took about two hours of debate and public comment. An air board member compared the ban to a rule passed over 45 years ago when lead was phased out of gasoline. The ruling makes California the first state to ban the substance also known as chromium 6. Less-toxic trivalent chromium could be used as an alternative. The legislature set aside \$10 million to help the chrome industry change over to the less hazardous material.

The Unified Cannabis Enforcement Taskforce announced it seized over \$52 million in illegal cannabis in the first quarter this year. The take was a 43 percent increase in the number of plants pulled. In a press release, the Department of Cannabis Control says they targeted larger cultivations with 30 percent fewer search warrants. The organization says they focused to eliminate unlicensed grows, manufacturing, distribution and retail operations that undercut the licensed and legal cannabis market in the state. In a press release in KymKemp online, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration helped the task force take the actions to combat illegal activities and deter tax evaders.

We announced earlier that the Fort Bragg Animal Shelter will close. There is new information that may help those who are worried. The Mendocino Coast Humane Society issued a press release saying the shelter is closing immediately. In MendoFever, the local Humane Society says the closure of the animal shelter will strain an already tight budget and limited space, but they'll continue to work with plans to expand their services including veterinary care. The organization says they are in dire need of community support through donations, volunteering or spreading awareness.

Caltrans will host a virtual open house for the Pudding Creek Bridge Widening and Rail Upgrade Project next week. The meeting will happen next Wednesday, May 31st from 5:30 to 6:30 pm and discuss the work on State Route 1 north of Fort Bragg in Mendocino County. They'll talk about the traffic impacts they plan on this summer. The project aims to improve safety for everyone on the road. The plan is to widen the bridge to 2 lanes with a pair of 8 foot wide shoulders. It will include new sidewalks on SR1 from the bridge south to Elm Street and north to Pudding Creek Drive. To join the meeting next Wednesday, call 408-418-9388.

## Sheet1

The Ukiah High School Fashion Show is going on today. It was put off for several years, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal, but this year it's on again. Today's show will feature fashion created using conventional materials and will also feature upcycled materials. One student is upcycling from local thrift stores and will display a skirt made of men's ties. Other students are upcycling jeans into new pieces. The show is from 7-9pm tonight at Ukiah High, admission is only \$5. They'll have some merchandise they created for sale.

Tuition hikes may be needed as California State University finds itself in a budget deficit. In a new report CSU's revenue accounted for only 86 percent of the total costs, with a gap of nearly \$1.5 million last year. On top of that gap, there is about \$6 billion backlog in maintenance projects. In the Record Bee, the school plans to raise tuition for only the 3rd time in 12 years that would begin in September of 2024. During a Board of Trustees meeting this week, revenues from tuition and state support will only cover about 30 to 40 percent of what it needs to operate. One analysis makes clear that Cal State will fall \$1 million short of its costs next year. In addition to a tuition increase, the unionized workers at the school want a 12 percent raise. With the state working out its own budget, CSU will have to consider more options to stay afloat.

A new poll shows 2 out of 3 voting Californians think it's time for Senator Dianne Feinstein to step down. In the Mendocino Beacon, the poll finds 42 percent of voters think the senior Senator should resign now, and let Governor Newsom appoint a successor. The primary election is less than a year away, and the poll shows Democrats should hold the seat with a 2 to 1 party registration advantage. Representative Adam Schiff follows at about 14 percent, according to the poll. Feinstein's term has been plagued with health concerns as she dealt with complications from shingles. She returned to the Senate earlier this month, and cast votes that were delayed because of her absence.

A Lakeport woman has pled not guilty this week, in the murder of her boyfriend. Melinda Fred was in Lake County Superior Court on Tuesday after being arrested for stabbing her boyfriend, Christopher Burrows last week. Fred was charged with murder, assault with a deadly weapon and domestic abuse, according to Lake County News. The District Attorney says her bail was set at \$1 million at her arraignment last Thursday. She will return to court June 13 for a bail review hearing to ask for a reduced bail.

Governor Newsom announced a plan to increase the state's clean energy capacity to 100 percent by 2045. In California Insights today, Newsom's plan is called "Building the Electricity Grid of the Future: California's Clean Energy Transition Plan." The roadmap outlines the state's challenges and how they plan to tackle them. This week, one bill aimed to reduce gasoline only vehicle sales significantly. This month, bills were introduced to lower rail road and big rig emissions.

Mendocino County Museum will honor Memorial Day with extended hours and free admission on Sunday May 28, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Museum invites the public to visit the 2023 Car Show and Community Festival, at Recreation Grove Park from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., where a special entry from our education collection will be on display. For more information, check out the Mendocino County Museum online.

## Sheet1

California utility regulators say electricity shortages and rolling blackouts are unlikely to happen this summer. In the Press Democrat, two new power sources have been secured and the state's reservoirs are full enough to restart hydroelectric power plants that were dormant during the drought. Also an added 8,500 megawatts of power from wind, solar and battery storage will come online this September. The vice chair of the California Energy Commission says they are relieved to be in a much better position that they were last year. Flex alerts may be issued in the case of wildfire threats to transmission lines.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife reported two new packs of wolves have been spotted in Northern California. They may become the fifth and sixth confirmed wolf groups in the state in the last century. In Lake County News, the department will monitor the groups to see if either had pups this year and if they are related to the state's known packs. California has three existing wolf families in Lassen County, Siskiyou County and in eastern Plumas County. When the Lassen pack began from an Oregon litter the state decided to protect wolves under the California Endangered Species Act.

The Bureau of Land Management is reminding people to play in NorCal's waters with caution. Water-related accidents are some of the most common cause of death in parks, forests and waterways. Streams are especially cold and fast this year with the heavy snowpack and epic rains. People going into the water should be wary of the cold currents and go in groups. Life jackets are essential for kids in boats, and really for everyone wanting some water fun this weekend. Officials are urging people to know about closures and warnings. They also say stay hydrated and watch out for rattlesnakes.

The Lower Lake Community Action Group is getting ready for its Lower Lake Daze & Street Fair on Sunday from 10am to 3pm. This year's theme is "Then & Now." The parade takes place at 11 a.m. For more information visit the Lower Lake Community Action Group's website.

The Lake County Public Services Department announced that the Middletown Pool will open tomorrow. The pool on Big Canyon Road will be open from noon to 5pm daily from Wednesday through Sunday. In Lake County News, season passes for families are \$84. Daily pool fees will be \$2 or less.

Lakeport will hold their annual Memorial Day celebration tomorrow beginning with a pancake breakfast at the Lakeport Community Center, hosted by the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of Lakeport. The Lakeport Memorial Parade begins at 11am.

The Konocti Bay Sailing Club will have a sailing swap meet at Braito's Marina in Kelseyville tomorrow from 9 to 11am. The club is cleaning out old inventory including regatta shirts and other club merchandise. Members can bring used but working sailing gear and hardware to swap, sell, trade or donate. In Lake County News today, community members say it's a good time to get advice from club members. They are asking people to not bring boats to the marina to sell, due to space issues. There will be a boat race slated to start at 1pm, and there may be crew opportunities to join.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced a more than \$20 million dollar grant for 15 projects to support salmon habitat and support wetlands restoration. It's the third round of grants made this year bringing the total funding awarded to nearly \$80 million. In KymKemp online, the department says strategies for new projects must adapt as challenges to the state's biodiversity continually changes. The department has streamlined the grant process as projects awarded in the past few months have already begun. .

## Sheet1

The "Castle" property in Lucerne is on the market again, after the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians released the property to its owner several weeks ago. In the Record-Bee, Andrew Beath is looking for a buyer and is listing the 68,000 square foot property. A tribal administrator confirmed Thursday had planned to use the property with a \$5.2 million grant from the California Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency for a youth homeless facility. But, area residents and changes within the tribal administration have stalled the project. They are looking for a different site and will continue trying to find the best spot for the program. Now, "Castle" owner Mr. Beath is looking into rehabbing the property after settling a tax dispute with Lake County.

05/30/2023 Clearlake Police will be temporarily closing Lakeshore Drive tomorrow morning. It will be around Olympic Drive to Pomo Drive for an hour starting at 9am. Pomo Road from Lakeshore to Arrowhead will also be closed until 10am.

Caltrans is hosting a virtual open house for the Pudding Creek Bridge upgrade tomorrow from 5:30 to 6:30. The agency will give information on the project at the north end of Fort Bragg. In MendoVoice online, the cost of the project for the new bridge is about \$8.5 million. The 65 year old bridge is getting rehabbed to be wider and more pedestrian friendly. Caltrans expects backups throughout the summer there.

A fight that erupted at the Lake County Fairgrounds left one person with serious injuries, and authorities are asking for help finding the people responsible for the assault. It happened Sunday, at the second night of the Memorial Weekend Opener for the Lakeport Speedway. Lake County News is reporting just before 10pm, a brawl broke out during the boat races. Joseph Simpson of Ukiah was injured and airlifted to Kaiser in Vacaville. Nelson was beat up by several people. Organizers say the crowd size contributed to the disruption. If anyone knows anything about the battery, please call CHP Clear Lake.

At least two people were injured in a crash near the Mendocino and Humboldt County lines. It happened Saturday when a truck rolled off of Highway 101 and landed on its side. Grace and Bobby Hill were driving home when the truck veered off the road.

Grace had just gone through surgery for a broken arm. According to information on KymKemp online, a GoFundMe has been set up for the couple, who only had liability insurance. First responders sent for a helicopter to take the two injured to the hospital.

A tourist from Argentina was sentenced to five years in state prison for robbery. Matias Vietto was sentenced Friday for robbery with a gun last December. Vietto robbed Mi Esperanza Market in Boonville and took \$17,000 in cash then fled. Vietto went to San Francisco then flew to New York City, where he was arrested by the New York Port Authority. According to MendoFever online, Vietto's parents wired the stolen cash amount in restitution to Mendocino County. Vietto says a cocaine addiction that triggered his behavior.

State Farm Insurance has announced it will stop covering property and casualty insurance in the state. The company said Friday that rising construction costs and catastrophe exposure are too much to handle in California. In the Press Democrat, they will stop accepting applications for coverage on Saturday for personal and business lines. State Farm said it will work with the California Department of Insurance to restore its coverage in the state. The company has the largest share of property and casualty insurance in the US and controls over 8 percent of California's market. Friday evening, a spokesperson said there are factors beyond their control including climate change and global inflation that prompted the company to stop issuing new policies.

## Sheet1

California's own Vice President Kamala Harris became the first woman to deliver a commencement at West Point on Saturday. The AP is reporting that Harris congratulated about 950 graduates but warned of an unsettled world with Russian aggression and threats from China. The visit is her first to the academy, as she joined the Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth who just 2 years ago became the first woman to hold the top civilian post.

Ukiah Police arrested a man for choking a woman last week. In a release in the Ukiah Daily Journal, Andru Campbel had a restraining order filed against him by the victim and has a history of domestic violence charges. Campbell was found and arrested on Thomas Street, at what some sources say was a relative's home. He is charged with suspicion of domestic battery, and violating probation and a protective order and more. He is in the Mendocino County Jail under a \$130 thousand bond.

US Representative Jared Huffman announced he is reintroducing the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation and Working Forests Act. Huffman said Thursday that the act would include nearly 260,000 acres of national forest in Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties as federal wilderness. That would include about 480 miles of river under the nation's strictest environmental protections for waterways, according to the Press Democrat. The bill would include wildfire mitigation work in the 2020 August Complex wildfire footprint. It's a package of 3 bills lawmakers call the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California, an acronym PUBLIC.

The US Forest Service can continue to use fire retardant while fighting wildfires. A US District Court in Montana ruled in favor of the department to use the firefighting tool, and was a loss for an environmental case against the stuff. Plaintiffs argue the retardant chemical violates the Clean Water Act. In Lake County News, the case for tool helps prevent wildfire from spreading and causing more harm outweighs the fact that some parts of retardant may harm water tables.

A Mendocino County worker is in jail charged with having hundreds of images of child pornography. Brian Kloviski works for the county in sensitive data about the local homeless community. In KymKemp online, the 43 year old is facing two felony counts, and includes imaging of kids under 12 years old. Kloviski works for the social services department as the county's Homeless Management Information System Administrator according to his social media information. He was hired in 2016. Kloviski was taken to jail last Friday with bail set at \$50,000.

The Clearlake Police Department is looking for a missing teenager. The 13 year old is a white kid with short brown hair and brown eyes. His name is Dominick Berwick. Dominick is 5 foot 6 and weighs about 160 pounds. He was last seen wearing a brown jacket and black pants with white tennis shoes in the Clearlake area. If you've seen Dominick or have any information, call Clearlake Police at 707-994-8251, extension 1.

In a ruling that angered environmentalists, the US Supreme Court ruled last week to decrease protections for wetlands. However, the state of California will still work to protect the waterways despite the federal ruling. Thursday, the Supreme Court ordered that the Clean Water Act only applies to wetlands connected to bodies of water. In the court's order, five justices implied that if they don't limit federal authority, many landowners would be at risk of criminal prosecution.



## Sheet 1

Teachers unions in districts nationally and in California are demanding better pay, benefits and class sizes among other demands as they renew their contracts. In the Record Bee, the unions are bargaining in the common good, a process that updates facilities, increases medical staff and more. The common good labor practice is not the norm in the state, according to a spokesman for the California School Boards Association. A report on the budget outlook shows California is unlikely to afford spending levels as they sit now. Unions want to see thousands of new schools in California over the next eight years.

California legislators pushed bills forward just before the holiday weekend. They include increased requirements to get a Carry Conceal Permit in the state. Another bill allows legislative staffers the right to unionize. A bill on the way would divest state pension funds in fossil fuel companies. Another bill is proposing increased protections for California abortion providers. And finally, the Senate approved a bill to decriminalize hallucinogens like magic mushrooms.

The Regional Parks River Shuttle is running again, taking people to two beaches along the Russian River. The bus will run now through Labor Day 10am to 6pm on weekends. Every half hour the bus will take people from Forestville to Steelhead Beach Regional Park and Sunset Beach River Park. In the Press Democrat, tickets are \$5 and kids under 18 are free.

Fort Bragg's City Council will gather next Monday for a special meeting on the proposed Grocery Outlet. In MendoVoice, it's part of the latest planning for the company to build a franchise in Fort Bragg. The old county building at the south end of Franklin Street will be demolished if Grocery Outlet builds a store there as planned. Sometimes, the franchise rehabs a site to build on, but the site in Fort Bragg is too old and moldy. The meeting on June 5th is a one item agenda that includes certification of Grocery Outlet's environmental impact report. Lindy Peters, a member of the city council said the Mayor will recuse himself from the vote, as he owns property near the site. The 4-member council will vote next Tuesday.

Sea otters may be reintroduced to the North Coast, according to reporting on a summit last week organized by Sonoma County officials. The Press Democrat reports that a study by the US Fish and Wildlife Service analyzed the potential for the sea otter's return could help stabilize the northern kelp forest and help the ecology of the near shore habitat. The otters could help get the sea urchin population under control. Studies show that not only do otters have the potential to balance ecosystems near shore, but also could help grow eelgrass, that has recently decreased significantly near coastal rivers. The sea otters also play a cultural and ceremonial role for local tribes. There may be community open houses this summer on sea otter reintroduction if the proposal is approved.

Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Calso Camp is closed for this season. In Lake County New, the announcement from Cal Fire Sonoma-Lake-Napa says State Forest staff will be making repairs to trails, roads and buildings after last winter's storms wreaked damages across the area. Day-use will be allowed with firewood and rock gathering permits. If you plan to visit, staff ask that people to check area closures and signs as they continue their work.

Lake County will begin their summer reading program this week. Thursday, the library will start the challenge for young children to teens and even adults in the "Find Your Voice" themed program. Starting June 1, you can register for the summer reading challenge on the Library's website or in person at the Lake County Library. This Saturday, June 3, starting at 10:30 am, the library will host a Super Sign Up event with sidewalk chalk and activities for the kids. If you reach 1,000 points in the program you will also have a book donated to the library in your name by the Friends of the Lake County Library.

## Sheet1

A new state law may make it harder for livestock grazing companies to help mitigate fire risk. In the AP today, a law is making its way through the legislature that requires goat and sheep herders to get overtime pay for herding the animals. New state labor regulations could raise the monthly salary of herders from about \$4,000 to \$14,000, according to the California Farm Bureau. Labor advocates say the state should investigate their work and living conditions especially since the state is funding goat grazing to reduce wildfire risk. A Northern California company that uses goat grazers says demand has grown a lot this year. But in January, if new laws take effect, prices will have to rise if herders become farm workers and get the same protections in labor laws.

05/31/2023 The Lake County Public Services Department announced a few parking lot closures. The Lakeside County Park lot will be closed through June 1. The Alpine County Park lot will be closed on Saturday, June 3rd. The department will be making repairs and improvements and maintenance work.

Lake County High Schools are celebrating their graduations this week. In Lake County News, seniors from Loconoma Valley High, Carle High, Natural High and Richard H. Lewis Alternative schools will graduate tonight. Other high schools in the county will celebrate graduation tomorrow and Friday evening.

A Northern California judge dismissed criminal charges against PG&E, in connection to the Zogg Fire of 2020. The wildfire killed four people and burned about 88 square miles, destroying more than 200 structures in its path. Yesterday PG&E faced 11 charges, including seven felony counts of involuntary manslaughter and more.

Shasta Superior Court Judge Daniel Flynn ruled that prosecutors did not put forth sufficient evidence that PG&E engaged in criminal conduct. The utility settled with the California Public Utilities Commission late last year and this month paid \$150 million, when they found that poor record keeping prevented PG&E from removing the tree that touched a power line starting the fire.

A good part of California's coast could be eroded in 73 years, in a new US Geological Survey study revealed. In the Bay Area News Group, Rising global warming is making the sea levels rise, and wash away anywhere from 25% to 70% of the state's beaches. A lead researcher says management efforts should be done immediately to prevent the loss of one of California's natural resources. And without coastline, more damages are likely to happen to infrastructure and buildings. Using 20 years worth of satellite images, the report forecast sea levels to rise from about 2 feet to 10 feet along California's coast. Stretches of Mendocino's coast including Point Arena could be at a higher risk.

People have been leaving California for other states. The problem is, they're taking their tax dollars away. The IRS found that California lost about \$29 billion in 2021. The Golden State went from a budget surplus, to a deficit. In Yahoo Finance, migration from the state represents a trend that rose during the COVID emergency as high-income workers and businesses looked for lower-tax areas. A lot of Californians are moving to the Lone Star State. Texas has seen an extra \$5 billion in increased tax revenue from migrating Californians.

The Clearlake City Council is meeting this week to hear an investigation into the North Bay Animal Services shelter. Clearlake Police Chief Tim Hobbs will present a report to the council on Thursday, detailing numerous allegations and concerns that the shelter is improperly handling animals and more. In Lake County News, there have been complaints about overcrowding, cleaning protocols, donation distribution and veterinary care. The meeting Thursday will also cover labor negotiations with the Clearlake Middle Management Association, road improvement and a proclamation of June as LGBTQ+ month.

## Sheet1

The Redwood Valley County Water District Board met earlier this month to talk water. A well has been discovered with a significant amount of water at the Masonite site. Proposed housing development in the Millview County Water District would pull water from one of their wells, representatives from Redwood Valley are going to make a second test pump to see if water rights could be acquired. Redwood Valley has been given permission to divert water from Lake Mendocino, the water will be pumped to the treatment plant. In MendoFever online, the District is planning to have a special meeting to approve lifting the 55-gallon per day limit. They also discussed the first meeting of the Russian River Water Forum and agreed more information needs to be heard from all interested parties as PG&E plans to decommission the hydroelectric dam site.

A California appeals court said yesterday that Leslie Van Houten, a follower and killer for Charles Manson, should be let out on parole. The appellate court is reversing an earlier decision by Governor Newsom. Van Houten has been recommended for parole five times in the past 7 years, all were rejected by former Governor Brown and Newsom. The state's Attorney General has asked the California Supreme Court to stop her release. AP is reporting that Van Houten is now in her '70s, serving a life sentence or helping kill Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. The court said she has shown extraordinary rehabilitative efforts, insight, remorse and support from family and friends. AG Bonta may request a stay of the ruling.

Small California businesses, especially those owned by women and people of color, can now apply for a program that offers business advice, mentorship and a chance at seed money. The ICA Fund offers a 12-week program called "The Accelerator at ICA" that focuses on strategy for growth, personnel, capital, and investment readiness. Once participants complete the program they are eligible for seed money. ICA's business accelerator accepts applications four times a year and the next one is open now. The program is funded by philanthropy and by the feds and is one of ten nonprofit venture capital Certified Development Financial Institutions in the U-S, and the only one in California.

The California Highway Patrol has issued a Feather Alert for Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity and Sacramento counties for an at-risk missing woman. Cassandra Miller is missing, and was last seen in the city of Loleta in Humboldt County. Authorities say she is on foot and wearing a black Bear River Tribal hooded sweatshirt. The Feather Alert is used by law enforcement to investigate the suspicious or unexplainable disappearance of an indigenous person. Miller is 33 years old, five foot 4 and weighs about 210 pounds with blonde hair and blue eyes. She is a tribal affiliate of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria. Call police if you see her or have any information.

Art Center Ukiah is hosting an art show about cannabis with 30 pieces by artists from the Ukiah Valley, the North County and the Coast. In Willits news, the ACU with the Willits Center for the Arts and the Gualala Center for the Arts called on artists of all types for a competition to be showcased this Friday in Ukiah. The show opened earlier this month at the Willits Center for the Arts. The show includes photographs, statues and more all involving cannabis. The Arts Council of Mendocino helped guide and support the show, sponsored by Sparetime Supply in Willits.

## Sheet1

There will be a special event this weekend to honor Skunk Train singer Greg Schindel who faces cancer. The train will leave Willits at 1:30 Saturday. The event will raise funds for the locally famous singer who's been performing on the Skunk Train since 1988. The benefit train will take a two hour, 16-mile trip through the redwoods to the Noyo River Canyon and back. In MendoVoice, Schindel helped develop the "Northern California Transcendental Folk Jazz" sound and has worked in Willits' schools for decades.

Over the holiday weekend, gas prices were higher in reaction to demand. In the Press Democrat, nationally a gallon of gas was about \$3.57 on average. In California, current prices are averaging about \$4.83, up about 6 percent recently, but lower than last year when gas was well over \$6. California has the most expensive gas in the nation, followed by Hawaii and Washington. Bay Area gas is about \$5 right now, with Sacramento at about \$4.71 according to Stacker statistics.

One week from today, the East Region will hold their Town Hall at the Moose Lodge at 4pm in Clearlake Oaks. The group will introduce new sheriff Rob Howe who will share his goals and talk about his department, according to Lake County News. The meeting will also include a discussion on Lake County's 10-year road rehab project. An update on the Catfish Derby will be presented. Commercial cannabis projects and task force will have updates along with the Northshore Fire protection District.

As schools close up for the summer, some kids will have to find other ways to get lunch. The Redwood Empire Food Bank is returning to make sure kids have food. The program for kids under 18 will begin next Monday at sites including in Cloverdale and Healdsburg. The Press Democrat reports the food bank is federally funded and supported by the Sonoma County Library, Boys and Girls Clubs and more. After COVID era policies, this year the bank is offering sit-down meals. Dial 211 for more information.

The Mendocino National Forest is hiring for a lot of positions. The forest offices in Willows and in Upper Lake have positions they hope to fill by mid-June. In a press release, the Mendocino National Forest lists tribal liaison, information and administrative support, archaeologist, biologist and forester as just some of the jobs they need to fill soon. Check with the local offices for more information.

Short-term rentals like those used in Airbnb and Vrbo could get taxed to support affordable housing in the state. In Cal Matters, lawmakers are considering a measure to help increase housing with Senate Bill 584. The bill would charge a fifteen percent tax on short-term rentals for places that rent out less than 30 days, starting in 2025. It could generate about \$150 million annually, with local occupancy taxes. The senate is set to vote on the bill today, but it has to pass by the end of the week to continue in this year's session. Proponents of the bill say the rental tax could help fund housing projects through new construction and rehab. Opponents, like the California Chamber of Commerce have concerns that larger hotels would have an unfair advantage over local rental owners.

## Sheet1

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife have announced the expansion of its Wolf-Livestock Compensation Pilot Program. The program has three parts to it. Ranchers throughout the state have been able to apply for compensation for livestock loss due to wolf attacks. The department is also helping fund non-lethal deterrent. In a press release from the department today, ranchers with livestock in known wolf pack territories may now be eligible for indirect economic impacts. Reduced calf weight and lower pregnancy rates associated in wolf territories can be compensated. The Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program is one of many strategies the state is using to mitigate conflict in the state. The Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program website has more information and ways to apply.

Noyo Beach wants people to come get driftwood. In the past, City Public Works crews removed driftwood, or by people who got permits. This year the City of Fort Bragg says the beach west of the Noyo Bridge is open for people to take all the driftwood they can get. Collecting driftwood is not legal in state parks. The free driftwood offer is only for Noyo Beach though June. In MendoVoice online, there are some conditions. Wood can only be removed during daylight hours. People must follow all park rules and make sure to be cautious of people and pets on the beach. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the beach, and must park in paved lots. Officials do warn that you shouldn't use driftwood as firewood; sea salt in the wood can release toxins when burned.

On Wednesday, Lake County's Representative Mike Thompson joined the majority of House members in voting for a bill to avoid a government default. He voted to pass H.R. 3746, the Bipartisan Budget Agreement according to Lake County News. Thompson emphasized that while the bill isn't perfect, it achieves two key points: It prevents default, averting an economic disaster, and it preserves not only Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, but also protects climate provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act and more. The bill moves to the Senate now.

06/01/2023

Today, the City of Ukiah's Zoning Administrator will consider a new firefighting training tower, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. A nearly 40 foot tall training tower would be used by the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority to train firefighters on roof operations, interior firefighting, confined space rescues and more. The location they will consider is on the southwest side of the Civic Center, south of another training tower. The tower will be fenced in to restrict public access. The money for the tower will come from Mendocino County from the PG&E settlement from 2017 wildfires. \$1 million of a \$22 million settlement to the county was set aside for the towers. The 2pm meeting at the Ukiah Civic Center today will also include a permit renewal request from Vibe Ukiah, a cannabis business on State Street.

Fort Bragg Police and Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies found thousands of prescription pills and distribution materials. In mid-May, authorities were investigating a suspect who purchased narcotics online and was reselling them. In a search on Digger Creek Drive, Bryan Grizzle was arrested for several felony charges. Elias Rutherford was also at the scene and was arrested as both were taken to jail. In The Fort Bragg Advocate News today, the search revealed about \$60,000 worth of just received drugs, some possibly counterfeit and may have contained fentanyl.

## Sheet1

Facebook's parent company, Meta, said it will remove news content in California, if legislation is passed that forces tech companies to pay publishers. In Reuters yesterday, the social media company reacted to the proposed California Journalism Preservation Act that requires online platforms to pay a journalism usage fee to providers. Meta tweeted a statement saying the bill would benefit bigger out of state media companies under the guise of the state's publishers. The company made the same threat to the US Congress last December, saying it will pull news from its platform altogether.

A bill going through the legislature in California may help renters afford a down payment. AB 12 passed the Assembly last week. It would limit security deposits to one month's rent. If the bill passes and the governor signs it California could be the 12th state to limit security deposits. In the LA Times, supporters of AB 12 say it could help fight homelessness. Opponents say they are against regulation that hurts small businesses. A spokeswoman for the California Apartment Association says they are disappointed there are no alternatives. Some hope amendments to the bill would include insurance or bond programs to cover potential damages.

This Saturday, June 3rd, thousands of Californians will be among several hundred thousand Americans heading into the great outdoors to celebrate National Trails Day. Thousands of events are planned nationwide, from hikes to cleanup events and more. Alanna Smith with the Save the Redwoods League notes that most trails cross the unceded ancestral homelands of native nations, adding that the holiday is a good time to give back.

PG&E will be conducting an internal inspection of natural gas pipelines in the Willits and Redwood Valley areas. The work will take place near Baechtel Road and East Hill Road in Willits, and south of the intersection of West Road and East Road in Redwood Valley. We do not expect any disruption to natural gas service for customers while the work is conducted. In a press release issued today, PG&E says the process uses a tool known as a Pipeline Inspection Gauge (PIG) that travels through the pipeline looking for potential issues that can occur over time, such as dents and corrosion. It minimizes impacts to traffic. Beginning now through September, PG&E will be in the area conducting these safety inspections.

Two Sonoma County charter members of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club have been found guilty of murder and racketeering conspiracy and more in a federal jury. Raymond Foakes and Christopher Ranieri were part of a criminal enterprise that tried to intimidate the community through fear according to FBI Special Agent Robert Tripp. In Mendofever online, the trial of the two is the second one in 6 years in Sonoma County, where the Hells Angels were branded as outlaws and were involved in numerous offenses from drug distribution to murder. In all, five former Presidents of three Hells Angels charters have been found guilty in the federal probe. Ranieri faces a maximum life prison sentence, while Foakes faces a maximum of 60 years.

## Sheet 1

The Fort Bragg City Council is considering letting outdoor dining rules continue as the county returns to pre-pandemic rules. In May, outdoor dining tents were recommended by the Fort Bragg City Council Community Development committee for a long-term basis. In Mendocino, Fort Bragg leaders will consider letting some businesses in the community keep tents and other outdoor spaces open. Increased tourist revenue helped ease the financial troubles that all restaurants had during the COVID emergency. The council heard the recommendation on Monday, but won't formally be on the agenda until next month. The council may allow the outdoor spaces to remain for another six months, while the council works on a permanent plan. In Mendocino County businesses have been given until August to apply for the appropriate permits. The City of Ukiah is following suit.

Governor Newsom announced a tribal-state gaming compact between the state and the Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria, the Manchester Band of Pomo Indians of the Manchester Rancheria, and the Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California. In Mendocino online, the governor issued a press release and copies of the compacts that ensures the state supports the tribe's sovereign authority over the regulation of its gaming facilities.

A couple of North Bay area beaches are among the best "secret beaches" in the US according to Family Destinations Guide. In the Press Democrat, Wildcat Beach in Point Reyes was ranked 8th on the list, with its nearly 3 mile stretch along the Point Reyes National Seashore. Bowling Ball Beach was 22nd on the list. The beach is part of the Schooner gulch State Beach is known for its bowling ball shaped sandstone cavities that fill the shore during low tide. The "most secret beach" on the list is in Hawaii. The list is based on a survey of 3,000 families in the US who were asked where they would go this summer.

California is sending \$95 million is to flood victims this month. The state's Department of Social Services will make funds available to undocumented residents who suffered from the February and March storms. It's been two months since Governor Newsom made the announcement to help flood victims from the state's Rapid Response Fund. According to Cal Matters, officials were trying to ensure the program would be accessible to the population while protecting taxpayer funds from fraud. Households could qualify for up to \$4,500. The money is designated for those living or working in counties that are in the major disaster areas. To minimize risk of fraud, nonprofit organizations will interview applicants in person. Those who were unable to qualify for FEMA funds because of their immigration status could get some help. The state has yet to name the organizations.

PG&E held an open public meeting Tuesday on wildfire safety in the region. In the Record Bee, the utility also discussed community resources available to help in mitigating wildfire threats. PG&E officials are encouraging everyone to prepare for emergencies with a disaster supply kit for your family or business. They offered an update on improvements to the electric system and discussed multiple layers of protection. PG&E built and installed a network of high-def cameras and weather stations. Last year, they reached a goal of 600 cameras installed throughout the North Coast area that they say allows them to see more than 90 percent of high fire risk areas. Leaders from the utility also talked about cutting down and pruning trees that are close to power lines. Strengthening power poles and prioritizing underground lines were discussed, with an additional 153 miles forecasted to be set up in the next two years.

## Sheet 1

Carbon monoxide poisoning killed two men during the storms of January in Sea Ranch. The two men died of asphyxiation according to the Sonoma County Sheriff. The two brothers-in-law were found January 11 by a Mendocino County tree service who were there to remove a fallen tree. In the Press Democrat, it appears the cause of the carbon monoxide was from a generator the men set up to power the house. Hundreds of homes in the Sea Ranch area were without power due to the storms that rolled through in atmospheric rivers from late December to mid January. Other deaths have been linked to the storms, including a toddler who died when a tree fell on a home in Occidental.

Californians who are on Medi-Cal may have problems finding an eye doctor. In the Sacramento Bee, some optometrists in the state say the reimbursement rates for eye care are not enough to cover expenses. The California Optometric Association says California's rates of reimbursement are the third lowest in the country and haven't been adjusted in more than two decades. Earlier this month, Governor Newsom called for adjustments saying increasing the reimbursement rates was critical to the health of Medi-Cal patients. However, there are no adjustments in the latest budget. Some say the Department of Health Care Services may include rate adjustments in next year's budget. Optometric Association members in the state say 9 out of 10 patients say they had a difficult time finding a Medi-Cal provider near them.

A new mobile food trailer was donated to the Mendocino Unified School Enrichment group last week. The custom vehicle has a motorized roof and is valued at around \$50,000. The van was donated by a nonprofit organization run by Bon Appetit Management Company, who has donated to the school district in many ways in recent years. In the Mendocino Beacon today, the mobile food trailer looks like a VW and may be the only one of its kind. The organization says the food trailer will be available for any school fundraiser or event.

The Mendocino Cannabis Department has rolled out its new system in the Accela App. As of yesterday, applicants and licensees could sign on to the Accela Citizen Access Portal and create their account. The IT team set up the portal and it includes all current permit holders' information and more. The department converted records from the old system and gathered all Cannabis Cultivation Business Licenses, formerly called permits. The licenses will begin with a C for cultivators or N for nursery licenses. The resource will help increase efficiency in the department, and will make cannabis business in the county smoothly interact with cannabis procedures and policies.

06/02/2023

There are two new deputies in Mendocino County. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office swore in two new officers and both are local. On Tuesday Deputy Isaac Sanchez and Deputy Sierra Rogina were sworn in as deputies of Mendocino County Sheriff-Coroner Matt Kendall. Deputy Rogina was raised in the Ukiah area, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. Deputy Sanchez was raised in the Anderson Valley community. Both officers were graduates of the Santa Rosa Junior College Basic Police Academy, and graduated last week. They begin their 18-week training program that will have them on patrol throughout the county.



## Sheet1

Next Crop Inc, Noble Vineyards management Inc and Pebble Ridge Vineyards and Vine Estates LLC were fined by the US Department of Labor for migrant violations. Next Crop Inc illegally transported workers while intoxicated in one case. In another, the company had a 14 year old working during school hours and charged workers for transportation costs and more. They paid about \$36 thousand in back wages and about a \$100,000 in penalties. Noble Vineyards management Inc in Ukiah violated agricultural regulations by not paying the contract rate and actually retaliated against employees who asked about their wages. The Department of Labor had them pay around \$92,000 in back wages owed to 148 workers and penalized the company for about \$67,000. Pebble Ridge Vineyards were found to have unlicensed and uninsured transport workers also involved in a DUI incident. They paid about \$66,000 in penalties.

Homes in the Habemotolel Pomo of Upper Lake Rancheria will soon get high quality, high speed broadband services. A half a million dollar grant was given to the Rancheria through a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. In Lake County News today, the tribe was one of only nine to get the funding. The tribal Chairwoman told the news "it is much harder to get corporate third parties to invest funding into infrastructure for smaller, remote populations, making the need for this type of funding much greater for smaller tribes." The wireless network given through the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program is part of the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

An unknown substance at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley made multiple people sick yesterday. According to KymKemp, firemen, hazardous material specialists and more worked for hours searching the hospital for contamination of any kind that made six people feel dizzy, lightheaded with a scratchy throat. Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Battalion Chief Singleton said they got to the hospital grounds around 4pm and immediately isolated two suites on Hospital Drive and a portion of the ER where two patients went feeling ill. The crew, along with hazmat technicians looked for biohazards, chemicals or gasses, but didn't find anything. Officials said the substance must have off-gassed before they arrived. Officials said the envelope that was in question was delivered by hand to medical offices. A hospital administrator said the facilities were decontaminated and cleared, with HEPA filters installed. The group effort included area fire crews, Cal Fire and Mendocino County's hazmat team.

A fire was extinguished near Covelo yesterday afternoon, according to MendoFever. Firefighters were dispatched around 4:30pm to Round Valley for a fire that was about a half acre in size near Oak Lane and Biggar Lane. Around 5pm, a fire commander said the fire was burning slowly along a road. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office sent out an alert asking people to use caution near Rifle Range Road. Last night, there was another fire that engulfed a home in Mendocino County. A Fort Bragg home burned in a kitchen fire that got out of control last night. It happened on Old Coast Highway around 9:30pm where a home was fully engulfed. The home was deemed a total loss.

## Sheet1

Adventist Ukiah Valley and Howard Memorial are now geriatric accredited. With about a quarter of residents in Mendocino County 65 years or older the accreditation from the American College of Emergency Physicians means the hospitals worked to better their protocol driven approach to treating older patients, ensuring the best care. In a press release, the hospitals announced the accreditation saying “senior who visit their emergency departments can be assured we have the necessary training, expertise, equipment and staffing to provide well coordinated care to this important population.” The hospitals had to meet specific criteria and have geriatric specialists on staff with quality of care programs.

The California Journalism Preservation Act passed the Assembly floor yesterday. The bill would make companies like Google and Meta pay for news and content from local publishers. The bill is backed by journalism unions and the California Labor Federation saying the bill would protect jobs by leveling the playing field between publishers and social media websites, according to the Press Democrat. This week, Facebook’s parent company Meta threatened to pull news content in the state. The bill’s author, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks said it’s an empty threat, and that the bill will give support for news outlets and journalists when the stakes could not be higher yesterday. Today is the last day a bill can pass out of its chamber and get a chance to become law this year. It now heads to the senate.

Ukiah’s North State and Standley streets were closed down at the intersection when a Mendocino Transit Authority bus hit a truck in downtown yesterday. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority reported it happened just before 1pm. In the Ukiah Daily Journal, there was one passenger injured when the bus collided with a Chevy pickup. The man’s injury was minor. No other injuries were reported. Ukiah Police are investigating the crash.

Governor Newsom, Attorney General Bonta and State Superintendent Thurmond sent a joint letter to all schools in the state urging caution in book bans. The letter emphasized educational civil rights and mandates that school administrators are required to follow to preserve freedom and ensure access to diverse perspectives, according to the Record Bee. The letter sent yesterday cited laws that restrict removal of books from libraries and schools and more. The letter warned educational agencies that if they do remove or ban books they might be asked to talk to the Attorney General’s Office.

The 16th Annual Mendocino Film Festival began yesterday and will run through this weekend. Local filmmakers and panelists will be on-hand throughout the event. In the Mendocino Beacon, local experts will also be on hand following screenings of films about whales, weed and wine, wild life and more. The film festival has a reputation for presenting thought-provoking and award winning films bringing in worldwide visitors while highlighting the local community. The film festival will have 60 films from 15 countries including documentaries, animated films and children’s programs. More information can be found at [MendoFilm.org](http://MendoFilm.org).

## Sheet1

The Governor's Office announced an \$8 million grant to support communities, include Lake County, to address climate risks. The funding is through the Adaptation Planning Grant and was established in last year's Climate Budget to strengthen resilience in the state as climate change increases catastrophic events like floods and wildfires. The funds will support local governments, community organizations and tribes to build community driven plans. Part of the project work will help communities find more state and federal funding in what the Governor's office calls "cross-sector collaboration and equity." In Lake County News, the announcement yesterday includes a project called Equitable, Climate Safe Lake to reduce risk and include adaptation planning in Lake County. About \$650,000 of the total grant will support implementing actions from the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Clearlake City Council met last night to discuss a police report on complaints about the North Bay Animal Services. Early this year, the city received many complaints about the shelter operations. Overcrowding, lack of communication and response as well as animal care and welfare were just some of the concerns brought to the city. Lt. Ryan Peterson investigated and found 10 specific allegations and more findings of concerns. He determined that the shelter is over capacity and animals are kept in small crates. The shelter does not provide adequate veterinary services to the animals, and has a giardia outbreak. More findings included expired food, lack of supplies and cleaning guidelines that are not being followed. Many of the shelter's problems may be resolved when the shelter space is relocated at the Burns Valley Development. The meeting ended with acknowledgement that it will take time and cooperation to begin to fix the myriad of problems.

Moving on from the furry animals to the scaled, there are some major tournaments scheduled for Clear Lake. Tomorrow NewJen will hold a team event expected to include about 50 teams. Next week, WONBASS will hold the California Open with an expected 150 boats. The good news is the lake is full, so boaters will be able to get back in and work the shoreline for not only bass, but crappie, catfish and bluegill. In the Record Bee, fishing throughout Lake and Mendocino Counties looks better this year from trout on the Russian River to small mouth bass at Lake Mendocino and large-mouth bass in Lake Pillsbury.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed multiple sightings of a wolverine in the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. In Lake County News, some spotted the rare animal in Mono and Inyo Counties, as well as in Yosemite. Previously a solo wolverine was spotted in the state between 2008 and 2018 in the Tahoe National Forest, before that, only one more was spotted 100 years ago. Wolverines are the largest member of the weasel family and look like a small bear. The animal is fully protected in California and is listed as a threatened species. The department plans to get genetic samples of the wolverine through hair, scat or saliva at feeding sites. If you see what you think could be a wolverine, the department asks that you report it through the Wildlife Incident reporting system.

## Sheet1

The Fort Bragg Police Department has received a \$345,000 grant from the Youth Opioid Response program. The department developed a Project Right Now operation that focuses on rehabilitation rather than repetitive arrests. The program works under the police department's Care Response Unit to address the needs of at-risk community residents. Through the program arrests of homeless were reduced by nearly 50 percent. Organizers and leaders of the program work continuously to provide help before, during and after rehabilitation to help a patient through challenges like placement, treatment and returning home. Work with Fort Bragg Middle School and High School students, staff and parents began last fall to help prevent opioid addiction.

There is roadwork scheduled today through next week. Caltrans has a list of roadwork in the Ukiah Daily Journal today. On Route 20, tree work will begin on Monday east of Wildwood Campground and west of Three Chop Road with one-way traffic from 7am to 3pm with slight delays. On Route 253, utility work is scheduled to begin Monday west of Boonville Road from 8am to 4pm with slight delays for drivers. Bridge work continues on Route 1 in Fort Bragg from Manzanita Street to Pudding Creek Road Pudding Creek Road. On US 101, bridge work south of Willits and from the Lowell Allen Memorial Bridge to Route 271 continues with slight delays.

06/05/2023 It was a shaky weekend. There were hundreds of shakes reported after a 4.5 magnitude earthquake rattled Sonoma and Lake Counties early Saturday morning. Just after 5am, about 3.5 miles southwest of Cobb a shallow quake hit the area with several people in Kelseyville feeling the rocking. USGS received about 224 reports of shaking between 5am and 10am Saturday morning. In the minutes after 5am, the 4.5 was followed by a 2.6, and a couple of 2.8 magnitude aftershocks. The epicenter was in Sonoma County, according to Lake County News. The quakes were near the Geysers geothermal steamfield.

Caltrans is planning a ribbon cutting for the completion of the first phase in the Konocti Corridor Project on Wednesday. The ceremony will be in Kelseyville off of Hwy 29 at Konocti Rock Company Road, according to a release on KymKemp. The \$85 million project between Lower Lake and Kelseyville widened State Route 29 into a four lane expressway. The cooperative project was funded by Caltrans, the Lake County Area Planning Council and the Federal Highway Administration. Ribbon cutting will happen on June 7th, Wednesday at 7am.

A woman swinging a pole in a blackberry thicket in Covelo was held at gunpoint by police and pepper sprayed. It happened Saturday evening around 11pm near Mendocino Pass Road. After a chase on foot, officers surrounded the reportedly aggressive woman, in a blackberry thicket when they surrounded and pepper sprayed her. According to KymKemp online, emergency personnel were called in to help the woman after she was sprayed.

Highway 20 was blocked off Friday night, after a car hit a guard rail near Lake Mendocino. The crash blocked the eastbound lane just before 10pm, when the car flew over the guard rail just east of Marina Drive along the Russian River. The crash halted traffic as police and first responders closed the highway down to one lane using flares to warn oncoming drivers. 185 feet of the guard rail was damaged, with debris from the crash strewn across the road. In Mendofever online, no one was injured in the accident that had traffic back-up through about 11pm.

## Sheet1

The City of Fort Bragg announced some street repairs this summer. They will also ask voters to renew a half-cent tax for another decade. The tax has already helped fix badly needed road repairs, and the city hopes the continuation of the tax will put them in an even better spot to upkeep road infrastructure. In *MendoVoice*, the work parts that remain among the area roads are alleys. This summer, road renovation crews will work north of Fort Bragg to finish a project on North Franklin Street and Stewart Street. The half-cent tax proposal will be heard by the City Council this month. The project fund of \$3 million dollars for street repair was matched by state grant funds. Once the city approves a project contract, road work may begin next month.

People who have religious or cultural head coverings don't have to wear helmets on their motorcycles, thanks to a bill that just passed the California state Senate. The *LA Times* is reporting that the bill was introduced by a state senator who was asked by Sikh riders to allow them to continue to wear their faith-driven head-dresses. According to Sikhism, men must wear a turban as a symbol of humanity. In California, there are over \$200,000 Sikhs according to US Census data. In the *Press Democrat*, the bill is headed to the assembly now. Automobile clubs and health organizations oppose the law, citing that helmets reduce the risk of head injuries by nearly 70 percent. California would become the first state to allow Sikhs to wear turbans instead of helmets. The UK, India, and in provinces in Canada do allow for the Sikh population to ride without fear of motorcycle helmet law enforcement.

Brookside Elementary School will change to a full day of class this upcoming school year. In the *Willits News*, the transitional kindergarten had been a half day class. According to teachers there, it will help young students build social skills, reading, math and other things to better prepare them for kindergarten. You can enroll eligible tots if they are 5 years old by September of this year and April of next year. For registration and more information, the school has details at [willitsunified.com](http://willitsunified.com).

The Clearlake City Council met Thursday and approved extending the temporary road closures in Clearlake for another year and a half. In the *Lake County Record Bee*, officials say the aim is to stop illegal dumping while protecting the public and environment. The Public Works Director for Clearlake authorized closing roads to stop people from dumping there. The area, also known as the Gobi Desert is west of Acacia, north of Sonoma. So far, officials say the project is working and that more time is needed to continue. The closures are from Oleander Street from Eastlake and Mint Street to Sonoma Avenue. Also, Peony and Toyon Streets from Eastlake south to Oregon Avenue will remain closed.

PG&E gave an update on the progress of their under grounding project at Blue Lakes on Thursday. In the *Record-Bee*, the program manager of underground regional delivery toured the construction and discussed how the project is expected to proceed. It began in January in Clearlake Oaks and in the Irvine neighborhood of Blue Lakes. In Blue Lakes, the project runs nearly 2 miles and should be done by July 7th. It took longer than expected due to the late winter storms. PG&E says the work will reduce wildfire risk by 99 percent. The goal for Lake County this year is to finish nearly 70 miles and another 21 next year. PG&E crews will restore roads after they underground the power lines.

## Sheet 1

There was a house fire in Cleaklake yesterday afternoon. According to reports on KymKemp, a fire took hold of a home and residents were evacuated as it grew near 4th Street and Sonoma Avenue about 2:30pm. There were multiple spot fires reported from what they called the Sonoma Fire. Within an hour firefighters contained the blaze. A different fire closed down Highway 101 north of Leggett on the west side of the highway at about 7:20pm Sunday. By 8:30pm, the highway reopened, but emergency vehicles remained there until about 10:30. The blaze burned about a quarter of an acre.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow morning and honor LGTQIA+ month and raise a pride flag at the courthouse. The board will also hear from a Cobb advisory group. The board is expected to adopt a resolution to support the "At Home" plan to address homelessness. In Lake County News, they are slated to consider authorizing Prop 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program with the Board of State and Community Corrections for about \$3 million for cannabis code enforcement. The board will meet tomorrow, June 6th at 9am in the courthouse.

Sonoma Water is returning its rubber dam to the Russian River. The agency begins installing the dam today and may take up to two weeks near Forestville, downstream of Wohler Bridge. In The Press Democrat, they use the dam to recharge groundwater. The dam would've been installed sooner in dryer years, but a wet spring returned the timing to what it used to be before drought conditions prevailed. Boaters will have to portage around the dam, and fishing is prohibited within 250 up and down stream. There is a fish ladder that allows migrating salmon and steelhead, monitored by an underwater video system.

California's Attorney General says Florida arranged for a group of migrants who arrived in Texas to be flown to Sacramento. The migrants were left on a Catholic Church doorstep. The governor and attorney general met with the group of 16, and said they are working with Sacramento's mayor to help the refugees. The migrants had no idea where they were and had little on them, but paperwork from the state of Florida, according to several media outlets. All the migrants have pending court appearances. Attorney General Bonta tweeted a statement saying "State-sanctioned kidnapping is not a public policy choice, it is immoral and disgusting.

Charles Nickerman, of Ukiah, was found guilty of assault by force inflicting great bodily injury, a felony. A Mendocino County Superior Court jury convened and decided the guilty verdict Thursday. They also decided that it was a special allegation because it was the second time Nickerman violently injured a person, making the latest charge a strike conviction. Nickerman's latest victim was a 67 year old man. In 2011, he seriously injured a 68 year old woman. The judge who presided over the three day trial will also hear the Strike conviction hearing, which may effect his sentencing.

The Mendocino County Public Health Department as issued a release on updates to the virus known as Monkeypox. While the Monkeypox emergency was controlled last year, the CDC as reported the virus' return in clusters. The department is urging those who are at-risk to get vaccinated. The virus is spread by close skin-to-skin contact, usually with sex and can be shared by handled clothing or bedding. The department is urging people to see a medical provider if you develop a rash or bumps in your mouth or anywhere else. The two-dose vaccine is available at the Rite-Aid in Ukiah on State Street.

## Sheet1

A bill is moving through the legislature that would become part of California's curriculum. AB 873 would incorporate media literacy into K-12 education in English, math, science, social studies and more. It would address misinformation and social media. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction would survey schools to measure media literacy education in the state and devise a model program statewide. Analyzing information online and in print would be the aim of the bill that passed the assembly and is headed to the senate. The bill would help students do informed research, plagiarism and copyright law. It would also give the students tools to find credible, accurate information and make them wary of their own privacy.

This week is Invasive Species Week. Through this Saturday, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has made the first week in June a time to inform the public on helping prevent harmful impacts to California's natural resources by non-native plants and animals. The department has been recognizing Invasive Species week for a decade, with nonprofits and volunteer organizations hosting events this week, according to a release in the Lake County News. This year, there will be virtual event and activities like webinars from the University of California Cooperative Extension that will address efforts to stop invasive insects from entering the state. Other topics covered this week include landscaping with native plants, reporting invasive species and more.

06/06/2023 Eight dogs are said to have died after a mobile home burned down Saturday in Ukiah. Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Captain Ryan Nelson tells Mendocino County News the Saturday night fire at the Deep Valley Mobile Home Park also brought firefighters from Redwood Valley-Calpella, Potter Valley, and Hopland. While there were initial reports that a person was trapped inside Nelson said when firefighters arrived they learned there was no one inside but there were three adult dogs and five puppies that perished as fire fighters could not get to them in time. The woman and two children who were renting the home are staying with family. The cause of the fire is still under investigation although Nelson told the news site it may have been related to an air conditioner.

Community public policy advocate Madeline Cline says she is running for the 1st District Mendocino County Supervisor seat of Glenn McGourty who recently announced he will not be running for re-election. In a public statement Cline said she was born and raised in Mendocino County and has spent much of her adult life working on public policy issues facing the community. She previously worked in the California State Assembly advising a member of the legislature on policy and budget but in recent years has done her own state and local advocacy work specializing in business and farming. The Mendocino County 1st District includes Redwood Valley, Potter Valley and Hopland.

If you own a business in Lake County, officials want to know how satisfied you are with your Internet / Broadband services. Lake County says they are working on a Broadband Master Plan Update and Broadband Implementation Plan, to expand broadband Internet availability to help local businesses grow, but first they need a fuller understanding of how businesses in the County are using, or would like to use, broadband, and what are your obstacles to getting it. The County has developed a Business Internet / Broadband Survey that you can find on the Lake County Economic Development Corporation Facebook Page. They would like the survey done by June 15.

## Sheet 1

Emergency communication in Cloverdale has gotten a boost thanks to a team of volunteers. Tubbs Fire survivor Tony Goodwin initially set up a two-way radio system and helped his neighbors join in on it. The Press Democrat reports as it grew over time, Goodwin worked with Sonoma County public infrastructure director Johannes Hoevertsz and the Northern Sonoma County Community Emergency Response Team to build a full communications tower on Schellenger Road with fire cameras, radio service, a digital communications network and a weather station. The solar-powered tower cost about \$250,000 which was funded by the county and some community partners.

The Clearlake City Council is reportedly set to discuss the Koi Nation's appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of the Burns Valley Development Project. Lake County News reports on Wednesday afternoon the council is holding a special meeting to consider the tribe's appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of the environmental analysis of the development along Burns Valley Road. In their appeal document the Koi Nation of Northern California claims the Planning Commission's environmental impact report did not fully address the impact of the development on tribal cultural resources and wants the City to overrule it and to do their own full environmental impact report.

The opening celebration for the new California Welcome Center at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center is set for Tuesday, July 11. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports that thanks to a partnership between the Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance and Visit California, which is the non-profit that works to develop tourism – Ukiah has been designated as one of 23 California Welcome Centers which provide resources for visitors to explore the greater region. While the main entrance to the Conference Center has been getting a facelift, officials with the City of Ukiah and the Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance have been attending strategy meetings around the state to get ready.

Clearlake Police are asking for your help in finding a missing man. Police say Justin Lewis was last seen in Clearlake on Monday. They did not specify where he was last seen or who was the last to see him. Lewis' age was not reported but he is described as white with short brown hair and green eyes, 5 feet 8 inches tall and 180 pounds. Police did not have a description available of the clothing he was last seen wearing. You can see his picture on the Lake County News Website and if you have any information on his whereabouts, you are asked to contact the Clearlake Police Department.

The prizes have been awarded in a Fort Bragg essay contest that reportedly generated some controversy. The non-profit group Change Our Name put on the contest for High School students to write an essay either for or against changing the name of the city to eliminate the name of Confederate General Braxton Bragg. The Mendocino Voice reports on Saturday two Fort Bragg High School students won the first and second prizes, \$1000 and \$500 at a ceremony held at the Pacific Textile Arts patio. The Fort Bragg City Council spent a year studying the issue but opted for no change. Last week the US Army Base Fort Bragg was renamed Fort Liberty.

The state Senate has approved a bill to protect homeowners and businesses that need to rebuild after a wildfire. Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire created the legislation that would force mortgage companies to honor the terms of a rebuilding contract, even when the contract is purchased from another mortgage company, after hundreds of wildfire victims were thrown into financial and emotional disarray while mid-rebuild. McGuire says SB 455 would make it illegal to do "this kind of hoodwink" by making the contracts ironclad even when sold, which is common mortgage industry practice. SB 455 passed the Senate with bipartisan support and now heads to the Assembly.



A potent animal sedative called xylazine, commonly referred to as 'tranq' is making a harmful impact in the state. In a KFF article, California's overdose epidemic has evolved to include tranq. California's Department of Public Health is coordinating with medical clinics and first responders to share information, and regularly text for xylazine. The appeal of the drug to addicts extends the effects of a fentanyl high. Tranq is powerful enough to knock someone out of consciousness for up to 18 hours and leaves behind rotted skin that can lead to infection and even amputation. Even worse news, it does not respond to naloxone. California lawmakers introduced a bill to classify xylazine as a controlled substance in March with some saying it has a good chance of passing.

06/07/2023

There was a fatal fire in Redwood Valley yesterday afternoon. Firefighters scrambled to a home on Colony Drive just after 3:30pm to a house in flames. In a report from the incident commander, according to KymKemp, firefighters said the home was engulfed, and have called for a coroner.

A Lake County man was sentenced to three years in prison in a felony charge of a lewd act on a child under 14 years old. Andy Hopper's charges were from a report of inappropriate touching of a 13 year old girl at a store in Lakeport last February, according to the Lake County Sheriff. In The Record Bee, Hopper was charged with the lewd act and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Yesterday, we reported on a missing Lake County man. Jack Daniel Inong has been found dead in LA, according to the Press Democrat. Inong was last seen May 15th at his home in south Lakeport. He was reported missing about two weeks later according to the Lake County Sheriff. Inong's family reported his death. The cause of his death is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Lake County has begun an action plan to address extreme heat events and harmful algal blooms in a project dubbed The Climate Health Adaptation and Resilience Mobilizing program or CHARM. The project involves Clear Lake that provides drinking water to about 60 percent of the county's residents, and is a cultural and natural resource for local tribes, including the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, according to Lake County News. Additionally, with increased heat due to climate change, there is a need for cooling centers in the area to help those vulnerable. The CHARM Project establishes a working group of people from tribes, county government and community organizations to help in putting out an emergency response. The two-year project, funded by the National Institutes of Health's Climate and Health Initiative will analyze data and review emergency response plans and incorporate information from residents.

Federal agents arrested an 'Orgasmic Meditation' leader in Mendocino County Tuesday. The so-called 'sexual wellness' company OneTaste was the target of an FBI investigation into abuses of employees and others, including economic, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse. Head of Sales for OneTaste, Rachel Chewitz was arrested on charges of forced labor conspiracy. The co-defendant, Nicole Daedone remains at large, according to KymKemp. Cherwitz was in a San Francisco court Tuesday and will be indicted in New York soon, as their dealings were nationwide. The group also operated a program in Mendocino County Jail and Juvenile Hall called "Unconditional Freedom" and was involved in a retreat center in Anderson Valley called "The Land" where Cherwitz was arrested Tuesday morning. Each defendant is facing up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

## Sheet 1

There was a crash in Covelo yesterday afternoon involving a group of motorcycles near Tabor and Henderson Lanes. Little is known about the outcome yet, but just before 6:30pm, CHP reported a group of bikers driving recklessly crashed into a truck. Scanner traffic reported on MendoFever says a woman had been assaulted by the riders and threatened with death if they called police. Fire, medical, and law enforcement officers were staged and reported to the accident scene to secure the area. At around 7pm a Round Valley Tribal Police officer reported the crowd formed around the collision and were hostile. At about 8:30, CHP reported one of the bikes hit the truck, with a 14-year-old boy on a motorcycle injured in the crash.

The Mendocino Board of Supervisors met Tuesday and passed a \$421 million budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024. MendoVoice reports it was a long public hearing that involved cost-cutting measures and revenue discussions. Local Union Number 1021 of the SEIU was there to push for a cost of living adjustment in their next labor contract. The county has agreements with eight unions, all of which expire this year. Ideas submitted for cutting costs and increasing revenue included selling up to 80 properties owned by the county as well as their over 300 vehicle fleet. The board discussed increasing tax revenues on short-term rentals and buildings not registered with the county. The board also considered merging the Air Quality Management District with Lake or Sonoma Counties to save money and help in hiring capacities.

The Fort Bragg City Council approved the Grocery Outlet store to be built on South Franklin Street. It was approved in a unanimous vote Monday. The company's Environmental Impact Report was also approved at the meeting. Dozens of conditions were recommended for the approval including traffic, tree-planting among others were discussed. In MendoVoice, speakers at the meeting discussed including a bus stop and bike racks. City staff suggested the new Grocery Outlet include a generator on hand for power outages, shared parking and traffic signals. Some wanted limits on automated checkers in favor of providing employment. The store promises 15 to 25 jobs. Grocery Outlet said the store would be somewhat locally owned.

The Healdsburg City Council approved applications for one of the city's two cannabis dispensaries on Monday. Those interested can apply starting June 15th through July. City staff will decide on eligibility followed by a rigorous evaluation and interviews. In the Press Democrat, those who qualify would then meet with the council for a public hearing later this year. The dispensaries would then be subject to Measure M, a voter approved city business tax on cannabis businesses. The City Council announced its cannabis business tax rates last month. Commercial grows won't be allowed, although residents can grow up to six plants indoors or 3 outdoor plants for medical use.

A Mendocino County man who won an eminent domain case against owners of the Skunk Train will be paid for his legal fees and court costs. In the Press Democrat, John Meyer estimated his attorney fees and court costs were around a quarter of a million dollars. His 20-acre property was the target of the Mendocino Railway eminent domain pursuit that ultimately failed due to the railroad being a tourist attraction rather than a common carrier railroad. A Mendocino County judge also denied the railways request to air objections over the April decision.

## Sheet1

The state of Florida yesterday confirmed it flew two private planes of migrants to California. Multiple sources are confirming the migrants were coerced under false pretenses. Governor Newsom and California's Attorney General Rob Bonta have threatened kidnapping charges against Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. The flights arrived in Sacramento on the 2nd, and 5th of this month carrying asylum seekers who were pick up in El Paso Texas. The DeSantis administration confirmed it coordinated the flights with a spokeswoman for the Florida Division of Emergency management saying the migrants signed consent forms to travel here.

Unions, environmental groups and other progressive organizations are leading the charge to reform California's referendum process, which allows voters to repeal laws passed by the legislature. Assembly Bill 421 came about after the oil industry gathered signatures to repeal a law that would block new drilling in neighborhoods. Under the proposed bill, voters would simply decide whether to keep or repeal the law. The California Chamber of Commerce opposes A-B 421, arguing that it would make signature gathering more expensive and should require a constitutional amendment.

The Redwood Forest Foundation wants the community to participate in the Usal Redwood Forest in a Sudden Oak Death Blitz next Sunday. In The Willits News, the forest west of Leggett may have a fungal pathogen as the syndrome has been spotted in the state. The goal of the blitz on June 11th, is to gather samples to determine if there are signs of the disease. There will be a webinar today at 4pm on Sudden Oak Death and more information from Berkeley's Sudden Oak Death Blitz Program. For more information, call the foundation at 707-813-1704.

\$500 in monthly payments will continue within the next two weeks in Sonoma County. The Pathway to Income Equity pilot program chose about 300 families who have at least one child under 6 who've been affected by the COVID pandemic and low household income according to a report in The Washington Examiner. The Executive Director for First 5 Sonoma County confirmed that payments will be sent out on the third Wednesday of each month. In a study by the United Ways of California, just over half of Sonoma County households struggled to cover basic needs and that single moms were the group struggling the most.

The three-day Hog Farm Hideaway festival in Laytonville begins this week, with over 30 bands. The festival will have three stages of music with camping, food and craft vendors, cocktails, performers and kids activities at Black Oak Ranch. The weekly Caspar Beach Summer Concert Series also begins this Saturday. Sunday in the Park Free Concert Series is slated to begin in Ukiah on the 11th.

Mendocino County's 3rd District Supervisor John Haschak has released his monthly newsletter in MendoFever. In it, he talks about the upcoming Frontier Days. The history of Mendocino County through the Museum is celebrated starting on July 1st with activities and the E. Commercial Street Art Walk. Haschak says that cannabis revenues are coming in higher than expected as the county continues to work with cultivators and the state with better policies for annual license renewals. He writes that the county budget is balanced, but in balancing it, used about \$7 million of one time only funds. Haschak cites rising inflation as the cause. There are proposals to increase revenues and cut costs. His next monthly table talk will be tomorrow, June 8th at 10am at the Brickhouse Coffee in Willits.

## Sheet1

Disneyland is bringing back discounted tickets for California residents this summer. As of yesterday, residents can buy multi-day tickets at about a 15-20 percent discount. The Press Democrat reports that local residents were offered discounts for slower winter months before the pandemic. After the COVID emergency Disney began offering peak season discounts to all Californians to build back volumes lost during the pandemic. The discount tickets are available through reservation only, with weekday tickets good Mondays through Thursdays. The discount will be available through the end of September, with proof of California residency.

The 11th annual WON BASS California Open pro-am bass tournament opened today and will run through Friday in Lakeport. The prize is a new 2023 Bass Cat Sabre FTD boat plus \$30,000 in cash in a 200-boat competition. In the Record Bee, each morning boats are inspected then lined up to launch at 6:30am. This morning, 148 boats began the competition. Each boat has a two-person team and can weigh in five fish per day with a pro and an amateur. Weigh-ins are open to the public daily with an awards ceremony Friday at 6:30 at Library Park

There was a crash Monday night on Highway 101. A passenger van drove into a broken down truck in the middle of the road. The crash sent the truck rolling, injuring it's driver. CHP reported the accident around 10:40pm. In KymKemp online, it happened between Willits and Laytonville south of Underpass Road. The Chevy truck stopped running in the north lane. The driver and passenger were out of the truck when a Ford Transit van in the same lane hit the truck, forcing it into the driver on the side of the road. All four lanes of Highway 101 were covered with vehicle parts and the road was temporarily closed down. The driver of the van also had injuries; both drivers were taken to the hospital. CHP is investigating.

06/08/2023

Caregivers in the state can apply for \$6,000 in financial incentives in a new program. The California Department of Aging is launching a workforce training and development program called CalGrows. The program began this year with nearly \$90 million awarded to nearly 80 organizations across the state. Through it, hundreds of courses will be available to caregivers to support paths to a career in health care while helping California keep qualified health care workers. In Lake County News, direct care jobs can open advancement opportunities with training providers in virtual and in-person courses for caregivers. Courses range from dementia and infection control to food safety and cultural diversity classes. Training is available and free for paid direct care workers, home and community-based caregivers and unpaid family and friend caregivers. For more information head to [calgrows.org](http://calgrows.org).

Mendocino County cannabis enforcement pulled 17,000 plants and confiscated a dozen guns at illegal grows this week. In KymKemp, Sheriff Matt Kendall said that yesterday they assisted California Fish and Wildlife in the cannabis enforcement operation near Bell Springs Road. While there they discovered polluted waterways that were diverted illegally. One man was detained and three fled the grow on foot. Earlier in the week, the department and sheriff's office went to three grows in Redwood Valley off of West Road where they pulled over 12,000 plants and found a dozen guns and four people. All the people who were detained were not processed into jail, as they face misdemeanors. The Sheriff said the cannabis sites they were at this week were most likely drug trafficking organizations.

## Sheet1

The existence and harm of PFAS was suppressed by DuPont and 3M according to researchers at UC San Francisco. In Lake County news, a publication in the Annals of Global Health investigated documents and looked at the chemical industry's delayed public response and regulations of the harmful 'forever' substances. It is the first time the PFAS industry documents have been analyzed by scientists using methods designed to expose other industry tactics of silence in harmful impacts. There has not been a lot of information about the toxicity of PFAS for the first 50 years of their use when the "industry had multiple studies showing adverse health effects at least 21 years before they were reported in public findings" according to the report. Enlarged organs, deadly animal testing, birth defects and more were not publicly reported by companies like DuPont and 3M in order to protect their products.

The fatal fire in Redwood Valley is being investigated. The house fire on Tuesday began around 3:40 in the afternoon on Colony Drive. Firefighters found a one story wooden home consumed with the blaze. There was a person at the residence who had received care from firefighters recently and was not able to move on their own. Within minutes, the resident was found dead and a coroner was called in. Fire investigators are looking into the start of the blaze, according to KymKemp. Hopland Fire, Ukiah Valley Fire and Mendocino County Fire, Cal Fire and more united mobilized to the scene.

California is the worst state for dog bites with 675 bites last year. The Postal Service announced this week is the annual National Dog Bit Awareness Week thru the 10th. In Lake County News, the USPS is sponsoring this week's public service campaign with safety tips and awareness of how owners can prevent dog attacks. Nationally, over 5,300 mail carriers were bit in 2022. A San Francisco Post Master says that unsecured dogs are a real threat to postmen and women. The post office asks that you keep your dog secured behind a fence or inside when your mail is delivered. Mail carriers are trained to be alert and not startle any dog. They know to keep their eyes on dogs and never assume a dog won't bite and more.

State Farm and AllState Insurance Companies have announced they won't offer new home and property policies in California. The decision is forcing homeowners to the state's FAIR plan, the insurer of last resort. In Mendocino, insurers pulled back and stopped renewing policies for properties in high fire risk areas after the wildfires of 2017. An insurance broker in Ukiah says they are quoting policies through the FAIR state plan, a co-op of insurers that write basic property insurance for California residents. FAIR plans tend to be up to four times as expensive as policies from individual insurance companies. There is a real fear even more companies will choose to not cover people in the state. Officials say if you're currently covered, hold on to that coverage. The FAIR plan is not only much more expensive, but it doesn't cover personal property or liability.

And it's been a shockingly electric week in the sky. Tuesday night, there were 137 lightning strikes around Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties according to the National Weather Service. In the Press Democrat, some of those strikes caused fires in the north. Thankfully, the heavy rains of late winter are still keeping the extra vegetation green, so fire fuels aren't so easily caught up in flames. The accompanying rain this week helped keep fire danger down too.

## Sheet 1

The Ukiah City Council will hold a special meeting tomorrow to go over the budget and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. According to the Ukiah Daily Journal, the meeting is scheduled for 3pm at the City Council Chambers. In the posted agenda is Riverside Park with over \$760,000 in grant money to do flood surveys, debris removal, grading and planting slated to begin this summer. The Ukiah Skate Park is on the agenda with a request for a quarter million dollars to add a band stand, install lighting and more. The city will consider a park for the Wagenseller Neighborhood and request up to \$5 million next year, working with the Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation. And the council will discuss funding for Oak Manor Park to install a bathroom.

Rental relief may still be available to California residents. More than 100,000 people in the state applied for the COVID-era rental assistance and were delayed or denied by the housing department, according to the Record Bee. Those renters have another chance to get some help after a legal settlement between anti-poverty and tenant rights groups and the state. The suit, settled at the end of May alleged California rejected applications without adequate explanations. Now, California's Housing and Community Development Department will audit its denials and improve access for tenants to don't speak English as their first language. The department also said it would help applicants with more detailed instructions and explanations. They agreed to clear up the pending applicant pool within six months.

Taxpayers in the state are getting notices from the IRS for balances due, even those who were allowed an extension in disaster effected counties. Forbes is reporting the notices demand payment within 3 weeks or face fines. California tax professionals say the problem seems to be with returns filed during that extension period. Usually, extensions give taxpayers extra time to file returns and delay paying any taxes due. But, the IRS is processing the state's returns despite the disaster relief extensions. The notices do have some fine print that says taxpayers in areas of granted disaster relief the extension dates apply rather than the notice dates. Yesterday the IRS issued a statement reassuring taxpayers that they have an automatic extension thru later this year to pay their taxes in those disaster declaration zones.

The Lake County Library Literacy Program has rebuilt one-on-one tutoring to increase literacy in adults, and those who are learning English as a second language. IN a press release, the Lake County Library has a Family Literacy Program helping families of adult learners with kids. Children will receive free books for their home libraries. The group has announced that Clear Lake State Park has partnered with the Family Literacy Program with monthly StoryWalk and Crafting Parties on the second Saturday of each month from 11am to 2pm, including this Saturday. During the Saturday programs, parking and day use fees will be waived. A new StoryTime in the Park program began today and will continue on Wednesdays through August at 10:15am at the Clear Lake State Park in Kelseyville.

## Sheet1

The Mendocino County Cannabis department is changing their processing after the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance. In a Canna Note sent out yesterday, the department says the amendment streamlines the cannabis application and review process. Documents required for a Cannabis Cultivation Business License have been consolidated, with requirements varying depending on the site and license phase. The department will continue to do sensitive species habitat reviews and might require additional documents that include management plans and permits. The department announced the Treasurer-Tax Collector and the board created a cannabis tax amnesty and payment plan. The department is working to process licenses faster and to streamline the paper-trail.

The House Ways and Means Committee passed the Employer Reporting Improvement Act yesterday. In Lake County News, the bill helps businesses comply with the Affordable Care Act. Representative Mike Thompson says the bill makes reporting easier so companies can grow. The bill protects privacy by stopping the requirement for employers to get social security numbers of employees and their dependants. It gives the IRS more time to enforce ACA obligations and gives employers a notice before the IRS enforces penalties. The bill is now headed to the House floor.

The Mendocino Railway is asking Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Nadel to set aside her judgment this month saying their case was filed prematurely. In the Press Democrat today, the owner of the Skunk Train wants the judge to reopen its case against John Meyer in the eminent domain situation. The company says there is new evidence to support their claim that the railway is a public utility with the right to condemn property. The evidence is apparently a letter from the US Railroad Retirement Board that confirms the company's status as a common carrier. The judge disputed their right to eminent domain because the California Public Utilities Commission said the railroad was not a public utility. They asked Judge Nadel for a hearing on June 30.

06/09/2023 Virtual Adventurer, a new mobile app has been launched by California State Parks. The app will connect park visitors to interactive information of the history, cultural and natural landscapes. In a release in Lake County News today, the program supports the department's Reexamining Our Past Initiative with compelling content and history of people and places. The Virtual Adventurer app for augmented reality helps tell the stories of parks with holograms and 3D imaging. Adventures will be continually added as parks are uploaded into the programming. So far there are nine parks participating in the app, including the Jack London State Historic Park.

There's continuing road work in Mendocino County this weekend thru next week. Caltrans says the Hog Farm Hideaway event north of Laytonville has lane closures on Highway 101 in effect from 5a to 5p today through Sunday. In the Ukiah Daily Journal, on Highway 101, tree work is happening today with one way traffic in effect until 4pm south of the Dora Creek Bridge. New bridge work will begin Monday on Route 162 at Crawford Creek, with one way traffic from 7a to 7p with slight delays for drivers.

## Sheet 1

California's retail price for electricity is almost double the national average, a new law may lower your bill by about 30 percent. Electric bills could soon be based on your income. A new state law passed last year requires the California Public Utilities Commission to approve pricing on a flat fee and sliding scale based on income, according to CNET. The state currently helps low-income residents pay per-kilowatt-hour prices. The new law would change the system to income-graduated fixed charges. The commission is considering about a dozen proposals with groups like The Utility Reform Network proposing a flat fee for all customers. The commission hopes to have a new structure in place by 2025, with a decision on proposals early next year.

A controlled burn became uncontrolled yesterday south of Ukiah. It happened just before 3pm around Oak Knoll Road and Fircrest Drive. Firefighters reported the fire as slow spreading and under 2 acres. Firefighting aircraft was deployed, but canceled as ground resources controlled the perimeter, according to reports in KymKemp. A helicopter was on scene observing the fire from the air. About an hour later firefighters stopped the spread and encircled the flames.

A dirt biker experienced a major head injury when they fell down an embankment on Low Gap Road west of Ukiah yesterday. MendoFever reports a medevac was requested just after 4pm as first responders began pulling the patient from when they'd fallen down 30 feet from the road on the Ukiah Valley floor. An air ambulance was headed to the scene. The incident is being investigated.

The City Council of Lakeport projects a budget of \$18.4 million for fiscal year 2023-2024 this week. Expenditures for the city total about \$30 million, according to the Record Bee. 84 percent of the general fund revenue comes from local taxes and is slated to have around \$800,000 in the general fund. The council will meet again on June 20th to adopt the budget. The city manager says the city is being conservative and isn't adding any new projects. Some projects are being carried over from the previous budget, including the Carnegie Library improvements, police vehicles and more. Officials say this year's budget cycle has been challenging.

A couple of Clear Lake Hitch projects in Lake County have received funding from the state. \$71 million has been dedicated to address drinking water shortages, species protection and populations impacted by drought. A half a million dollars will go to stream gages and well transducers for use in Clear Lake to measure streamflow, well pumping and water use. Another half million dollar project will measure groundwater and stream water interactions in the Clear Lake Region. In total \$1 million to support the Clear Lake hitch, deemed an emergency last February by the Board of Supervisor. Statewide, \$10 million is dedicated for immediate and near-term financial support for small communities whose water supplies were impacted by drought. \$55 million will address dry wells with repair, replacement and more, and \$5 million in direct relief grants for small-scale farmers.

The Fort Bragg City Council set their agenda for next Monday's meeting; in it, a resolution to approve animal services with the Mendocino Coast Humane Society. There is also a resolution to authorize a grant application with the State Water Resources Control Board for a construction study of a Recycled Water Facility. In the public hearing agenda items is a hearing on the eminent domain proceedings for an easement, and discuss a project to build a primary water transmission line. The Elm Street Lift Station is on the docket as well as a special tax measure for street maintenance and improvements. Their meeting is set for Monday at 6pm in Town Hall.



## Sheet1

The Lake County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday and proclaimed June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month. They also heard from the community development director and code enforcement manager to consider cannabis code enforcement project that will cost around \$3 million. Officials say the money will help Lake County combat illegal grows at a high level, according to the Record Bee. The program puts policies in place to enforce codes. Another program called WRAP, designed to keep kids from using marijuana will be funded by the Lake County Office of Education. Also at the meeting, the Cobb Municipal Advisory Council presented an update with a budget of \$70,000. The council also talked about small business loan programs aimed at helping businesses re-grow after catastrophic events.

The WON BASS Tournament in Lakeport has a Cobb fisherman in the lead. Nathan Phillips is more than 9 pounds ahead in the 11th Annual California Open Pro-am bass competition. In the Record Bee today's final round weigh-in begins at 2pm in Library Park with an award ceremony to follow. Phillips took the lead Wednesday and then improved on it yesterday with an almost 18 pounds of fish.

EBT theft in Lake County is on the rise, with dozens of victims. In Lake County News, thousands of dollars has reportedly been stolen from their cards. The Director of Lake County Social Services told the news that they can't reimburse victims more than one month's allotment. The department is tracking and reporting the EBT thefts to the state. This month there were 49 cases with about \$45,000 stolen, most of that has been replaced. The cases involved CalWorks and SNAP program recipients. Client awareness of EBT security has been rolled out in social media, texts and directly to people affected. The Department of Social Services says if you have an EBT card, keep your PIN safe and secret, cover your hand when entering your PIN and change it often. The state has plans to update the cards to include smart chips next year.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration confirmed an El Nino advisory yesterday. The event has formed early and is likely to be strong according to the AP. NOAA announced that it may add some extra heat this summer. Coming months early, this El Nino has room to grow. Usually, El Nino slows hurricane activity in the Atlantic and may increase cyclones in the Pacific. Scientists have said that next year is more likely to set a heat record, but this El Nino came earlier, putting this year in the running for the warmest year on record. This summer, the event will impact the Southern Hemisphere. El Nino hits hardest December through February with heavy rains forecasted along the west coast.

The Fort Bragg Animal Shelter will close on the 1st of July. There have been reports of the imminent closure, but officially, the Mendocino County Animal Services formally announced the closure, according to the Advocate News. The Humane Society Shelter will stay open. The closure is part of the county's cost cutting efforts. The Director of Animal Care Services say the closure will save the county about \$125,000 annually. The Humane Society has changed to accept strays and surrenders from anywhere in Mendocino County in 2020. They are a no-kill shelter. The Humane Society helps provide low-cost spay and neuter services, euthanasia and vaccines in the midst of a veterinarian shortage on the coast.

## Sheet1

The Ukiah City Council will hold a special meeting today to go over the budget and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. According to the Ukiah Daily Journal, the meeting is scheduled for 3pm at the City Council Chambers. In the posted agenda is Riverside Park with over \$760,000 in grant money to do flood surveys, and rehab. The Ukiah Skate Park is on the agenda with a request for a quarter million dollars to add a band stand, install lighting and more. The city will consider a park for the Wagenseller Neighborhood and request up to \$5 million next year, working with the Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation. And the council will discuss funding for Oak Manor Park to install a bathroom.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service will host public open houses this month along the west coast to talk about sea otter reintroduction. The public will have the opportunity to engage with the department and ask questions about the next steps in recovery efforts. In MendoFever, the southern sea otter is threatened under the Endangered Species Act. An assessment done last year found that reintroduction of the otter would help the species recover. The open houses will work to inform residents along the coast and help craft proposals. An open house is planned in Fort Bragg on June 26 from noon to 3pm at the Noyo Center. There will be an open house at Point Reyes Station on June 27th from 5 to 7:30pm at the Bear Valley Visitor Center.

California lawmakers are working on bills that would triple the penalties for violating emergency water orders. One bill would give enforcement more muscle to penalize anyone who violates state orders by pumping water from rivers and streams. Work for AB460 began last November when ranchers continued pumping water from the Shasta River after being told to stop, and got what CalMatters is reporting as minimal fines. The bill adds the authority to issue stop orders to address potential harms. If orders are ignored, the fines could go up to \$10,000 per day versus \$500 per day under existing law. There's an additional bill would investigate legitimacy of senior water rights claims. The bills have cleared the Assembly and are headed to the Senate.

The Governor's announcement of his proposed 28th Amendment to the US Constitution would not change the Second Amendment. In KCRA news, there has never been a US Constitutional amendment proposed by a state that passed. To add an amendment, a simple majority, or 34 states would have to come to a joint resolution in a constitutional convention. If a convention is triggered, 75 percent would have to vote yes for the amendment to pass. Yesterday lawmakers said there were starting to put the resolution together. Some republicans in the state say Newsom's proposal is a political stunt. The governor quoted the state's death rate as 73 percent lower than Texas.

The Willits Police Department found a pipe-bomb at the scene of a domestic violence encounter yesterday morning. In a news release early today, it happened in a home in Brooktrails. Police found a man named Kristoff Suba who allegedly attacked a woman Sunday morning. The woman also told officers she was able to keep Suba at bay with a stun gun. She said she thought Suba had a pipe-bomb as well. Willits Police along with Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies and Humboldt Sheriff's Bomb Squad confirmed the improvised explosive device in a family member's car. Suba  
06/12/2023 was arrested for domestic battery and possession of a destructive device.

## Sheet1

California's Department of Cannabis Control seized over \$52 million worth of illegal cannabis plants in the first three months of this year. In a release in Mendocino, the department increased plants eradicated by 43 percent. They targeted large grows to serve a third less warrants. Since its inception last year, the task force has seized nearly \$85 million in illegal cannabis plants and seized over a dozen firearms. The force is made up of officials from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Cannabis Control and is coordinated by the Homeland Security Division of Cal OES. Their work aims to eradicate the illegal grows and stop criminal organizations to protect consumer and public safety and safeguard the environment.

Over the weekend, Mendocino County Search and Rescue was looking for a missing person that reportedly fell from a cliff. The authorities are looking up and down the coast for about a 35 mile stretch. A witness reported seeing a man floating face down in the water along the coast near Mendocino headlands State Park. According to Mendocino, the man was apparently drunk and stumbled down the cliffs and washed into the waves Saturday. The search continued yesterday until about 3pm with no sign of the missing man. Authorities say a body usually floats for about 24 hours before it sinks. Authorities said they'll continue searching nearby coves and shorelines. If anyone sees the missing man, call Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Clearlake Police are looking for a 14 year old girl who is missing. Naedean Parker was last seen in Clearlake and is a black girl with short black hair and brown eyes. She is 5 foot 3 and weighs around 130 pounds. Call Clearlake Police if you've seen her or have any information on Naedean Parker.

A man involved in the September 2020 armed robbery and kidnapping of money couriers was sentenced to 30 years in prison last week. Roy Ha of Las Vegas was sentenced in Mendocino County for the attempted murder that happened two and a half years ago around Highway 162 and Highway 101. Ha and another man were involved in a high speed chase with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department. CHP joined in the pursuit of two trucks, when police were able to get the suspects after heated road and off road chase. Two men were found bound together with their heads covered, having been kidnapped. It was connected to a pair of marijuana couriers. Roy Ha settled his case last month and was sentenced a day before his 30th birthday on Wednesday.

A man has been sentenced for two murders. Christopher Gamble of Willits was convicted early last month for the murders of Ulises Ayala and Anwar Rodriguez at a grow site on Sherwood Road. He will serve life in prison without parole for the crimes. The Mendocino County District Attorney sent a release about the sentencing last week. Gamble was convicted of murdering the two men as well as animal cruelty for torturing chickens. The remains were found in a fire pit, with the human heads of the two victims were never recovered.

The Konocti Corridor is complete. Caltrans and Lake County officials were at State Route 29 at Konocti Rock Company Road last Wednesday to celebrate the \$85 million dollar project is the first phase of a safety project to widen Route 29. The Konocti Corridor Project will make travel between Lakeport, Kelseyville, Lower Lake, and Middletown safer. The project has taken 23 years to come to fruition, with funding by Caltrans, Lake County and the Federal Highway Administration, according to Lake County News. 8 miles Route 29 is one of three projects to improve transportation safety.

## Sheet1

There will be a prescribed burn at the Coyote Valley Dam tomorrow. The US Army Corps of Engineers with Cal Fire will begin tomorrow evening at 5pm until about 9pm. Smoke will be visible through the Ukiah and Redwood Valley Areas, according to a press release from CalFire. The aim is to reduce vegetation on the face of the dam for an inspection. Coyote Dam and the Fish Hatchery will be closed to the public tomorrow.

Senate Bill 553 has passed that would establish new workplace violence prevention standards. The bill would prohibit employers from "maintaining policies that require employees to confront active shooters or suspected shoplifters." The legislation is intended to reduce workplace violence and protect employees from thieves. The law is not targeted at trained security guards and would not prevent them from confronting criminals or active shooters.

There will be a Mobile CRV Buy Back Recycling Pop-Up Event on Wednesday at the Redemption Center on Airport Road in Fort Bragg. It will be a drive-thru beginning at 8:30am through 5pm with a lunch closure from 12-12:30pm for lunch. There are daily limits of 100 pounds of aluminum and plastic and 1,000 pounds of glass. All items must be empty, clean and dry. A valid state ID is required.

An illegal and dangerous grow site was raided last week. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife released a statement over the weekend, on a grow in Laytonville. The Department with Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies with the State water Resources Control Board investigated an illegal grow in the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed. They found not only un-permitted plants but environmental violations including moving streams and land. The team killed nearly 6,000 illegal cannabis plants, according to MendoFever.

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors are slated to discuss their \$2 billion budget. Tuesday morning the board will meet to cut some COVID emergency spending. In the Press Democrat next years budgets is just over 2 percent lower than last year's that ends this month. Officials urged efforts to keep core county services in tact. Inflation, slow property sales and decreased tax revenue are part of the problems. While the board may pause some projects, interest continues in funding law enforcement and road infrastructure. The job vacancy rate among the county has remained at about 12 percent. The board will consider costs associated with increased hiring and retention, and with one time funds of about \$44 million.

The Fort Bragg Police have their first fully electric police vehicle. It's the first of four expected of the Ford F150 Lightning Special Service truck. The first two arrived in April but needed some additional upgrades like graphics and police equipment added before going into service. In a release last week from the department, the move to an EV fleet will help on energy and maintenance costs. The trucks are expected to last longer than the standard ones of the past and offer more utility to serve the community. There will be an introduction to the first of the fleet today at 5:15 near Town Hall in Fort Bragg.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow morning to present proclamations and funding for projects. In Lake County News, the board will present a proclamation recognizing June 19th as Juneteenth National Freedom Day. The board will also honor Record Bee Sports Editor Brian Sumpter for 4 decades of service. They are expected to approve a project between Lake County's Office of Education for the Safe Schools Healthy Students Program mental health services for about half a million dollars for the next fiscal year. Several emergencies are expected to be continued as well as some projects.

## Sheet 1

This week the Ukiah Planning Commission will continue a hearing on a Redwood Credit Union branch proposed for the city on Wednesday. In the Ukiah Daily Journal, the new location at the corner of East Perkins and Main Streets may get denied. City Staff members have reasons for their opposition of the project that would demolish two buildings at 101 South Main Street. The meeting is planned for Wednesday, where staff will argue the new branch would conflict with future development of Ukiah under the general plan. They say it doesn't fit in their zoning code and has no site specific traffic analysis. The project was approved by Ukiah's Design Review Board last month, with the meeting continued to June 14th.

Caltrans posted reports of road construction on the North Coast. In Lake County News, utility work on Highway 20 continues west of Upper Lake near Scotts Valley Road with one way traffic from 9am to 4pm. IN Fort Bragg, the Pudding Creek Bridge project work continues. On Highway 101 in Mendocino County, emergency work between Piercy and Benbow near Milkyway Loop Road is ongoing. On Highway 162, Crawford Creek Bridge work will begin today with one way traffic from 7a to 7p.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to reconsider if West Coast fishers in NorCal warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. The animal is a relative of the otter and lives in old-growth forests. The Service has until August to decide if they should be protected. In a release in KymKemp, lack of resources kept the service from listing the mammal as endangered back in 2004. While confirming the fisher's threat for more than a decade in 2016 it reversed course. In 2020 the Service granted protections to fishers in the southern Sierra Nevada alone. Authorities say logging, fires and more have pushed fishers to the brink. The consideration today is what some say is the last best chance to prevent extinction.

The deadline to pass the state budget is coming this Thursday, June 15. Anti-hunger advocates are making a last ditch push to include \$35 million for the Market Match program. The program helps low-income residents buy fruits and vegetables from local farmers markets using CalFresh EBT cards to spend up to 15 dollars a day on fresh produce. The Market Match Program is part of the California Nutrition Incentives Program. If it is not funded in this weeks budget approval benefits would come to an end after next year.

The search for a man who reportedly fell of the cliffs on the coast near Big River Beach continues. The Press Democrat reports that family members, rangers at Mendocino Headlands State Park and lifeguards were combing coves around the beach and searched north and south of the area. Yesterday was the third day of the search that began Saturday evening when a witness said they saw a man floating face down in the water, after tripping and falling in. Park officials have said the man was a local who visited the park weekly. Officials on Jet Skis, a helicopter and a drone were used to search over the past few days. Headlands State Park Officials say it's a recovery mission at this point.

06/13/2023

The Lakeport Planning Commission will talk about several projects including signage at the former Kmart store. Tomorrow at 5:30 several applications will be discussed. The design review will go over the exemption by Lake County Contractors to allow a 7 foot tall chain link fence on Industrial Avenue where a new group, including Tractor Supply and Marshalls will replace the old Kmart building, a third lease is still open, according to Lake County News. The architects who are renovating it are also applying for an exemption to build a 35 foot tall sign and a 6 foot sign for the shopping center. And a parcel map for a 15 acre subdivision will be considered for Waterstone Residential at Craig Avenue.

## Sheet1

A logging truck was on fire yesterday on Highway 101 in Laytonville. Traffic was stopped in the northbound lane starting just after 10pm. A semi-truck load of wood planks was on fire as someone exited the cab. In Mendocino, the semi was engulfed in flame, but within 15 minutes, the fire was reported to be mostly extinguished.

The Willits Police Department found a pipe-bomb at the scene of a domestic violence encounter Sunday morning. In a news release yesterday, it happened in a home in Brooktrails. Police found a man named Kristoff Suba who allegedly attacked a woman Sunday morning. The woman told officers she was able to keep Suba at bay with a stun gun. She said she thought Suba had a pipe-bomb as well. Willits Police along with Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies and Humboldt Sheriff's Bomb Squad confirmed the improvised explosive device in a family member's car. Suba was arrested for domestic battery and possession of a destructive device.

A boat leaking gas and oil into Clear Lake temporarily closed the boat ramp at Lakeside County Park near Kelseyville yesterday morning. In The Record Bee, the spill happened on Sunday near the ramp. The boat owner called the Lake County Sheriff's Boat Patrol. An oil slick could be seen floating on the surface and was still visible yesterday as cleanup crews worked. About 35 gallons of gas and oil leaked into the lake they estimate. Boat officials don't have a timeline of reopening, as they worked to clear it Monday, Lakeside Park is open for all other activities.

There will be a prescribed burn at the Coyote Valley Dam today. The US Army Corps of Engineers with Cal Fire will begin tonight at 5pm until about 9pm. Smoke will be visible through the Ukiah and Redwood Valley Areas, according to a press release from CalFire. The aim is to reduce vegetation on the face of the dam for an inspection. Coyote Dam and the Fish Hatchery will be closed to the public.

The Clearlake City Council will meet on Thursday evening to go over an appeal for a city project and more. June 15th at 5pm before the meeting there will be a budget workshop in the council chambers. At the 6pm meeting, council members will consider an appeal by the Koi Nation of Northern California on the environmental analysis of the Burns Valley Development Project, according to Lake County News. The matter has been continued from the April 25th meeting and discussion from meetings earlier this month. The council will also hold a public hearing on the 2023-24 budget. The council will consider an understanding between the city and the Clearlake Middle Management Association between July of this year and next. They'll discuss the abatement for properties on Sixth and Cottonwood Streets, Clement and Woodland Drives, and Johnson, 19th and 32nd Avenues.

Fire Victim Trust administrators will mediate this week with AT&T over money tied up in an account to go to wildfire victims. When PG&E filed for bankruptcy in 2019 under the burden of soaring liabilities for wildfire damages, AT&T says the utility owed more than \$238 million in equipment, lines and revenue lost to the 2017 North Bay wildfires and the 2018 Camp Fire. In The Press Democrat, AT&T is the third company in the bankruptcy filing along with Adventist and Comcast whose claims were put in the Fire Victim Trust. Individuals received about 65 percent of damages awarded, and were maddened when the trust funds were limited. As the last company to get paid, the trust has slowed its payout process for tens of thousands of fire victims. Victims are waiting for the AT&T payout, after Comcast was settled last month.

## Sheet1

Cal Fire will be doing a prescribed burn at Sonoma Land Trusts Laufenburg Ranch Preserve in the northeast part of Sonoma County on Thursday. In the Press Democrat, officials hope the burn helps to restore natural habitat and reduces the risk of wildfires on the nearly 180 acre preserve at the base of Mount St. Helena. Cal Fire made the announcement over the weekend. Fire officials say the fire season may get a later start this year following a wet winter. But they do worry about the extra vegetation the water helped grow. The burn will be from 9am to 5pm Thursday in two different areas of the ranch preserve off of Spencer Lane in Knights Valley.

Food banks are seeing a significant increase in recipients as COVID emergency benefits expired last month. Benefits were reduced to over 5 million Californians, according to Cal Matters. Food banks say there may be a catastrophic hunger crisis this year as more residents use food banks regularly. CalFresh benefits dropped from about \$280 per month to about \$23 at the end of March. The surge in demand has doubled in the capital. There are lawmakers working to introduce bills that would increase the CalFresh benefits by 100 percent. But, at a cost of nearly a billion dollars is a high cost amid California's \$31 billion budget deficit. Bills that would increase benefits have passed the house, but face obstacles to becoming law with the state tightening its belt.

Wine grapes have been researched by Oregon State University, as they found a new class of compounds that contributes to ashy or smokey flavors of wine exposed to wildfire smoke. In Mendocino, persistent exposure to smoke compromised the quality of wine grapes and adversely affects wines, in the findings. Volatile phenols have been attributed to the class of compounds created when grapes are exposed to wildfire smoke. Researchers believe there are more unnamed compounds that cause smoke taint in wine. Sulfur-containing compounds, called thiophenols are a new culprit. The discovery could help vintners find the chemical marker that could help ways to identify and eliminate during the winemaking process.

Safeway grocery stores are being sued for illegal price gouging in the state. The suit claims about a million residents were harmed by the alleged deceptive promotional pricing practices. In The Bay Area News Group the lawsuit in Northern California US District Court claims Safeway's practices of false advertising goes against the state's unfair-competition laws. The suit comes after the plaintiff, Caleb Haley said a BOGO sale on ice cream and other items were priced up before the promotion. The class-action lawsuit alleges more than 800,000 Californians paid more than the retail price. Earlier this year, Safeway in Oregon agreed to pay over \$100 million in a class-action lawsuit that made similar claims of price hiking. Haley is looking for unspecified damages and a court order barring Safeway from price inflation on similar promotions.

Residents who were affected by the late winter severe storms can get information on disaster assistance today at a Disaster Recovery Center in Willits. EI News reports recovery specialists will be there in person to help people apply for FEMA help. Information on rental assistance and help in other resources are available at the Willits Community Center from 9am to 6pm Monday thru Saturday. US Small Business Administration officials will also be on hand for business owners to learn about low-interest disaster loans. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation specialists are also on hand to share home-improvement help and more.

## Sheet1

A mass shooting in Northern California left an 18 year old woman dead and six wounded. The AP is reporting the shooting happened early Sunday at a birthday party in Antioch. The shooter or shooters showed up uninvited and armed. They fled before police arrived on scene, and remain at large. Police say multiple calls were made just before 1am with some victims driving to hospitals themselves. Four other women and two men were injured as well, though authorities say they have not life-threatening injuries.

The new state budget agreement released by the Senate and Assembly includes funding for transportation operations and cuts transit capital projects. In Axios San Francisco today, BART and Muni bus lines are warning of service cuts without support. The two largest systems in the state are projected to face deficits by 2025. The new budget agreement would put over \$1 billion in mostly cap-and-trade funds to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to transit operations. Both transit agencies say service cuts could start as early as this autumn. A spokesman for the governor says he is optimistic they can work out a deal to support transportation statewide

The Sonoma County Water Agency began inflating a dam last week on the Russian River in Forestville. The seasonal dam is part of the region's water supply system, according to the Press Democrat. Once inflated, the dam deepens water for diversion into nearby ponds, recharges aquifers and increases capacity at nearby wells. The dam backs water up for miles to recharge the deep aquifer upstream for wells too. In all, the water is used by 600,000 people in Sonoma and Marin Counties. The flow downstream of Healdsburg is now below 300 cubic feet per second and on the decline. The inflation began last Monday and was completed Thursday, according to the water agency. There is a fish ladder at the site with video monitoring of salmon and steelhead.

The first woman to serve for California's Department of Veterans Affairs is a Navy Veteran. Secretary Lindsey Sin worked in military intel overseas, specializing in Arabic language. She supported operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. She has worked with CalVet and served a Deputy Secretary for Women Veteran Affairs for about a decade before moving to the Deputy Secretary for Communications in 2020. According to KCRA, of California's 1.6 million veterans, only about 10 percent are women.

Authorities have identified the man who stumbled off of a cliff on the shore near Headlands State Park as Quinn Thomas Green. The search began on Saturday when a witness saw Green fall from the cliff and land in the Pacific. He was last seen floating face down in the water. A search and rescue team was called that night with a boat from the Coast Guard, a drone, and multiple agencies on the ground, until dark. Sunday afternoon at about 3pm, after searching coves up and down the beach, 06/14/2023 efforts were suspended.

A man was hurt in a fire yesterday morning, according to the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority. The house fire that began around 7:40am was on Zephyr Court. When firefighters got there two people had gotten out of the house. The homeowner tried to put out the fire, but was injured and taken to Adventist. Fire authorities say it was an accident, after the homeowner had done some work on the home early that morning. Some of the equipment used for a home improvement project was left on, and caught the porch on fire, according to the Battalion Chief. The two-story house was significantly damaged, but they were able to contain the fire and prevent nearby homes from burning, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal.



## Sheet1

at the end of this month. The family-owned European elevated camping brand is known for its luxury camping concepts. The Lower Lake location will be the sixth spot in North America and will open June 30th. Huttopia wine Country will have fully solar-powered facilities with a swimming pool, main lodge and more on the 4,300 acre Six Sigma Ranch and Winery, according to Lake County News. The location will have 63 solar-powered canvas and wood tents in varying sizes from two to five guests. Brand manager for Huttopia's Lower Lake location says it was a natural fit at Six Sigma Ranch with shared values and a family-run business. Lake County News. The nation's average temperature for the fifth month of the year was over 64 degrees. Temperatures were a little below average on the East Coast, and above average across the west. The average rain for May was about 2.5 inches, ranking the driest third of the record. Rain for the first five months of this year was half an inch above average at just under 13 inches. Drought conditions improved about 44 percent over the last seven months, the fastest decline in drought coverage since May, 2020.

A Gun Violence Prevention Task Force announced a legislative strategy yesterday. Representatives Mike Thompson and Lucy McBath with Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries are part of the task force that are championing the Bipartisan Background Checks & Enhanced Background Checks Acts and the Assault Weapons Ban. In Lake County News, members of the task force have been appealing to House Republicans to find common ground over the last several months. In a live Facebook post, Task Force Chair Representative Mike Thompson said that daily, 100 people die due to gun violence. He mentioned that there have been more mass shootings than days this year. He said their common sense bills would make the community safer. Once petitions receive 218 signatures, a motion to discharge the bills can be offered on the Floor and put to a vote.

The Pudding Creek Bridge in Fort Bragg will undergo continued work with 24-hour one-way traffic on Route 1 beginning next Monday. The work is expected to last the summer through the end of August. Up to half hour delays for drivers are expected on weekends. The project will widen the bridge to a couple of 12 foot lanes and 8 foot wide shoulders and include two 6 foot walkways and railings, according to Lake County News. Street improvements will be worked on from Pudding Creek Bridge south to Elm Street and north to Pudding Creek Drive. There will also be work on drainage improvements and the city's waterline will be moved from the Pudding Creek Dam to Route 1.

This weekend is Middletown Days and begins with a rodeo on Friday. The Middletown Parade is Saturday at 10am. Tournaments, vendors and dances will continue on Sunday. This year Jack Barker will receive the Pioneer Award at the Middletown Days Parade. Barker is known as the "Mayor of Middletown" according to the Record Bee. A lifelong resident, Barker is involved in all of the town's events from helping Santa Claus to volunteering and helping put out wildfires. He celebrated his 80th birthday a month ago and says he's still busy with local high school sports and throughout the community as a volunteer. He has volunteered for the local fire department since age 16. Barker will be feature on a float during the parade, as the Middletown community cheers him on.

## Sheet1

Founder of a sexual wellness company called One Taste, Nicole Daedone turned herself into a New York federal courthouse yesterday after being indicted on forced labor charges. The court released her on a \$1 million bond after she pled not guilty according to the AP. Federal prosecutors allege the “orgasmic meditation” company manipulated traumatized people into debt and abused them sexually. One Taste’s former head of sales, Rachel Cherwitz was indicted a week ago on the same charges. Cherwitz lives in Philo where the company has a retreat center. She was released on \$100,000 bail after appearing in federal court in San Francisco last Tuesday. She’s headed to the New York court next week. Defense attorneys for the two women say the charges stem from a Bloomberg Businessweek article that was riddled with errors.

A bill advanced yesterday, aimed at protecting LGBTQ+ youth. AB 957 encourages parents to affirm their child’s gender identity, according to ABC News. The bill says courts deciding custody cases must consider if each parent affirmed the child’s gender. It encourages parents to support their kids gender identity. Plenty of opponents voice their opposition in Sacramento, saying the bill weaponizes a trend that is unhealthy. The bill would classify parents as abusive they don’t affirm their child’s gender. AB 957 is now headed to the Senate for a vote.

Boonville is hosting the Sierra Nevada World Music Festival after a five year hiatus due to illness, the founder’s death and COVID pauses. This year’s festival is dedicated to its founder, Warren Smith after his passing. Ska, rocksteady and reggae music and the music of the world will be on display for the three day festival this weekend. Smith’s wife, Gretchen Franz calls this years festival bittersweet saying it’s the best tribute he could have, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. It’s a family affair with kids activities and lots of dancing. Tickets are \$90 for the entire 3-day event, but single day tickets are also available at the Mendocino County Fairgrounds.

The Middletown Art Center announced that next Monday, Juneteenth will be celebrated with a speech by Social Activist, Minister and musician Clovice Lewis, according to the Record Bee. The Gospel band Joyful Noise will perform starting at 5:30 with a speech by Lewis at 6:15. Lewis will talk about misinformation and propaganda and violence but will also commemorate the emancipation of slaves in the US and their continued struggle for racial justice. Tickets are available online at [MACLake.org](http://MACLake.org) and will also be available at the door.

Ukiah Unified Trustees voted to approve intent to sell the Redwood Valley Elementary School property. In a release today, the Ukiah Unified School District says they will put the 12 acre property on School Street up for sale in a two phased bidding process. The minimum bid begins at \$900,000. Sealed bids will be accepted before the board meets on August 10th. The District accepted the 7-11 Committee’s recommendation to close the school back in 2009. The Board deemed the property to be Exempt Surplus Land and began trying to sell it. For bidding details check the Ukiah Unified School District website.

## Sheet1

The California Legislature settled on a compromise plan for the budget last weekend and will ask members to pass their proposal for a \$312 billion state General Fund tomorrow, to meet the deadline. In the Record Bee, if passed Thursday, they will have two more weeks to work out the details with the governor on critical education and transit funding. The Legislature left Newsom's priorities in the budget which covers school districts' basic expenses and an over 8 percent cost of living increase. They are leaving \$80 for county office of education and \$300 million that addresses needs in high poverty area schools. Still on the table, is taking back educational grants and delaying funds for projects approved last year.

California families are paying way too much for child care, according to the 2023 Kids Count Report out today from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The new data shows that single mothers in California pay 31-percent of the average median income for family-based child care, and couples pay 10 percent, the third-highest rates in the country. Kelly Hardy with the nonprofit Children Now says hundreds of thousands of California families need subsidized child care, but can't find it. She hopes the new state budget, being finalized this week, will address this issue. The research ranks the Golden State 35th for children's overall well-being and 43rd for economic well-being. Those issues are linked to the high cost of housing, according to the California News Service.

A two-year streak of rising rent seems to be over as empty units hit a two-year high. In the last six years, rent in the state rocketed up a whopping 22 percent. Last month, rent averaged nearly \$2,000 a drop of less than 1 percent from last year, the first decrease since spring of 2021. Rent went up 15 percent annually a year ago. Vacancies are returning to pre-pandemic levels, helping renters with options. Last month over 5 percent of units were vacant in California, the highest percentage in two years. In the Orange County Register, landlords are being force to compete for renters for the first time in a couple of years as life returns to close to normal.

There was a fire near Clearlake Oaks late yesterday afternoon. The Lake County News is reporting Cal Fire responded to Henderson and Terrace Drives around 4:40pm Wednesday. Cal Fire reported that the Henderson Fire threatened nearby buildings and power lines and said spotting was a concern. 60 firefighters, a helicopter, 15 engines and more responded to the scene. At 9pm the fire's forward rate of spread was stopped, but still remained a threat. By 10pm, firefighters had contained 20 percent of the fire after 25 acres were burnt. Some overnight crews were released and others scheduled to return this morning.

06/15/2023

After a mass migration away from the Bay Area during COVID, artificial intelligence is now bringing tech workers back. The tech industry is over a year into the worst slump in 10 years with layoffs and vast swaths of empty office space. The New York Times is reporting there is a growing group of what they call boomerang entrepreneurs who see opportunity again in the city by the bay. The latest wave of generative AI technology offers opportunities tech workers don't want to miss out on. Over \$10 billion in funding AI startups was announced in the first quarter this year, 13 times more than last year, according to startup tracker Pitchbook. The AI boom is bringing back more than tech industry professionals with finance workers wanting in on the surge.

## Sheet1

The South Cow Mountain Off-highway Vehicle Management Area is open again. The Bureau of Land Management announced in a release in Mendocino that their Ukiah staff finished the job to reopen to the public and continue protecting habitat for the Clear Lake hitch. They are asking visitors to respect the barriers. As pools become more defined and disconnected the hitch will be protected until the baby fish have matured. Larger fish will be easier to rescue. The BLM will continue to work with local tribes, organizations and agencies to promote the protection of the species. Work at Scott's Creek will help ensure the survival of the species.

Lake County announced a \$650,000 grant to prioritize future climate resiliency actions. In a release yesterday afternoon, the County confirmed the money in Round 1 funding from the state to develop a Climate Adaptation Plan. Actions include enhancing public awareness, disaster prep, a countywide evacuation plan and working on the county's Community Risk Reduction Authority. Lake County will collaborate with advisory councils, town halls and community groups in cementing plans and policies in place to plan for the future. The Chair of the County Board of Supervisors says the Risk Reduction Authority has become a vital point of connection for co management of climate related threats like wildfire and floods.

Cal Fire will be doing a prescribed burn at Sonoma Land Trusts Laufenburg Ranch Preserve in the northeast part of Sonoma County today. In the Press Democrat, officials hope the burn helps to restore natural habitat and reduces the risk of wildfires on the nearly 180 acre preserve at the base of Mount St. Helena. Fire officials say the fire season may get a later start this year following a wet winter. But they do worry about the extra vegetation the water helped grow. The burn will be from 9am to 5pm Thursday in two different areas of the ranch preserve off of Spencer Lane in Knights Valley.

The Habemotolel Pomo of Upper Lake have been included in funds through the Department of Water Resources for a Small Community Drought Relief Program. The board announced its 10th round of funds for projects like pipeline replacement, well rehab and infrastructure upgrades. In Lake County News, the tribe on Upper Lake Rancheria will get \$100,000 to build a new well after the existing well was compromised in the drought. Launched 2 years ago, the Small Community Drought Relief Program has divvied out over a quarter million dollars for 138 projects statewide. The projects focus on water infrastructure repairs, water conservation and fish and wildlife protection.

Last week fire departments were sent to a home on fire in Redwood Valley, with one fatality. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the home was on Colony Drive where a fire was called in at around 3:40pm, June 6th. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority says they are still investigating the fire and could not comment on the cause. As the summer fire season begins, people at the Air Attack Base in Ukiah have confirmed Cal Fire tankers have arrived to be on-hand.

## Sheet1

A former Willits Police officer filed a civil lawsuit against the Willits Police Department, the City of Willits and former Lieutenant Derek Hendry in the wake of sexual harassment and hostility. In KymKemp, the suit claims former officer Natalie Higley reported Hendry to her superior officer the Willits Police Chief and was asked to turn over her badge and gun. It is the third public accusation that Derek Hendry was inappropriate and sexually abusive. Higley's experience began in July of 2020, when Hendry recruited her to enroll in the Police Academy. In the year after she began working she experienced sexual harassment and insults along with threats. Higley says she faced retaliation from Hendry as well as from the department. The suit is scheduled to begin in Mendocino County Superior Court December 1st.

In an unemployment report, Mendocino County's rates 31st in the state, with 5.3 percent in March, up about a point from last year, with just under 2,000 unemployed. Lake County was #24 on the list, with a rate of 6.3 percent in March, up a point from last year. Nationally, the unemployment rate is at 3.4 percent. In a list of counties in the Press Democrat, data shows rates in California range from the highest rate in Colusa County at over 19 percent, to the lowest in Placer County at 3.7 percent. Sonoma County was not listed.

California has approved a raise in homeowner insurance premiums of 4 percent for the company AllState. Allstate has filed plans for another rate hike of about 40 percent, that will cost homeowners nearly \$200 million. Even with the hikes, the company has no plans to write new policies. In the Ukiah Daily Journal, Allstate's existing customers will see higher bills. AllState applied for their increase in April of 2021 before inflation hit. In a statement, AllState said the cost to insure new homeowners is far higher than the price they would pay for policies due to wildfires, high home repair costs and higher reinsurance premiums. Insurance industry leaders say the state's market could improve by allowing insurers to bill customers for reinsurance and base premiums on loss projections. The insurance commissioner's office says that can't happen because the state can't regulate it.

The annual Farmers Convergence is happening next Tuesday at Ridgewood Ranch. In the Willits News, the program will include panels on farming and sustainability issues. The aim of the meeting is to build community networks of small farms in Mendocino and Lake Counties. The program on June 20th begins at 8:30am and runs through 4pm. The North Coast Opportunities, MendoLake Food Hub, Farm to School and Good Farm fund are some of the sponsors of the event. Tickets are \$10 and include food, though everyone is welcome regardless of their ability to pay or not.

A bill has been proposed and was introduced by Representatives Mike Thompson and Doug LaMalfa that would exempt homeowners from taxes for hardening their homes against natural disasters. In Lake County News, California, North Carolina and Louisiana are the only states to provide rebates for homeowners to take steps to protect their homes. Improvements include tree removal, strengthening foundations and installing fortified roofs. The bill would put disaster mitigation in the same category as energy conservation. Thompson said exemption from federal taxes ensure communities can make the investments in disaster resilience.

## Sheet1

There is an update on the Henderson Fire in Lake County. Cal Fire reports that as of 8am this morning they have contained about 35 percent of the roughly 30 acre blaze. Officials say the threat to buildings and power lines has decreased. The fire that began on Henderson Drive in Clearlake Oaks traveled uphill. No evacuations have been ordered for the 2,100 residents on Clear Lake's east shore, according to the Press Democrat. Fire activity significantly decreased just before sunset last night. Crews remain on scene as they bring the fire under control with 60 firefighters, one chopper and 15 engines. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The Supreme Court preserved a law that give preference to Native American families in foster care and adoptions. The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act was left in place by the court in today's ruling. The act addresses concerns that Native kids were being separated from their families and tribes. Tribal leaders say the law is necessary to preserve families, traditions and cultures, according to the Press Democrat. A majority of the America's 574 federally recognized tribes and over 20 state attorneys general voiced support to uphold the 45-year-old law. Before 1978, between 25 to 35 percent of Native American children were taken and placed outside of their tribe, most settled with white families or in boarding schools.

The Fort Bragg City Council approved funding for the Mendocino Coast Humane Society this week. The council granted a one-time cash infusion of \$18,000, according to the Mendocino Beacon. The Human Society has the only vet clinic on the coast that provides low-cost spay and neutering. The clinic has assistance for those who need it through their Second Chance fund and more. Most of the Humane Society funds come from the Ark Thrift Store, donations, fees and a small amount from the city. The vet clinic at the Humane Society has limited space so they are working towards getting a bigger space.

Lake County administrators are asking for the public to participate in a short survey from the state. California has put out a brief Digital Equity Survey hoping residents involvement will maximize funds from the feds. In a release today, Lake County Legislative Coordinator Matthew Rothstein says at least 250 Lake County residents must complete the survey by the end of this month to meet statewide goals. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Act has earmarked \$62 billion to improve nationwide broadband availability. Increased involvement in the survey will help the state's counties get the maximum available funds to help increase internet access. The survey is available in both English and in Spanish and has been distributed to media outlets.

Kelseyville High School students Joey Gentle and fishing partner Tyler Bryant will be going to the Student Angler Tournament Trail National Championships next Wednesday in Wisconsin. The two are part of the Lake County Fishing Club and just won Angler of the Year for the California Student Angler Tournament. Jason Gentle, Joey's brother will be their boat captain for the team next week.

A fire broke out around noon today, on Bowers Avenue in Clearlake. In KymKemp, the incident commander had begun to control the blaze, but winds are causing spotting concerns. The blaze, dubbed the Bowers Fire is only a half acre and forward progress has been halted.

06/16/2023

## Sheet1

As of about 7:30 this morning, Cal Fire reports the blaze west of Clearlake Oaks is now 80 percent contained and is about 21 acres in size. Firefighters are still working on hot spots with work anticipated to continue today, with an update after 7pm tonight.

Nova Maye Deperno was sentenced to 35 years to life for the murder of his employer Ronald Meluso of Lucerne. Yesterday morning during the delayed sentencing Deperno again claimed it was the victims fault and that he had a difficult childhood. The prosecutor told Lake County News that Deperno was manipulative and a dangerous psychopath. Meluso met Deperno when he offered him a place to stay and a job. Deperno was allegedly part of a 7-month crime spree from the summer of 2020 to early 2021. Deperno had been charged with assault with a firearm, vandalism and shooting into a home. He was arrested in Occidental over a year ago after a manhunt. A person with the Lake County Victim Witness read impact statements, remembering Ronald Meluso as a compassionate and kind man.

Thursday was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. In California, the State Attorney General teamed up with AARP California to warn people about the rising numbers of scams. In 2022, an FBI report says California topped the list of states with older residents who were fraud victims. Each year, older adults lose nearly \$3 billion in financial fraud, call-centered fraud, investment and romance scams, identity theft and more.

According to the F-B-I, just last year more than 11,500 Californians over age 60 were victims of fraud, losing a total of almost 625-million dollars. Some scammers develop friendships with an older person, over the phone or online, for weeks or months before claiming an emergency and pressuring them for money. Others impersonate a family member or government representative according to the California News Service.

Representative Jared Huffman and others sent a letter to the US EPA urging tightened air quality standards. Early this year, the EPA proposed strengthening an ambient air quality standard for fine particle pollution. Huffman with members of the California delegation want stronger public health protections, especially for communities in the state who are more significantly affected by air pollution from catastrophic wildfires. In KymKemp, the group also urged allowance for prescribed fires. Despite laws and acts to clear up California's air, wildfires have negatively affected the state's clear air progress. The last five years in California saw some of the largest fires in history.

Pride month decorations were stolen from the Ukiah branch of the Mendocino County Library this week. In MendoVoice, the librarian reported the theft Tuesday. Dozens of books about gender identity and same sex parents were found hidden throughout the library. The burglar also focused on removing anti-racism titles and left a very disturbing note behind. The Ukiah Police Department is investigating the crime. The branch librarian said that libraries were built on the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, saying they stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community. In a Facebook post, the Mendocino County Library said that their goal is to facility freedom of access to information.

## Sheet1

There was a ceremonial groundbreaking for a billion dollar expansion of the Graton Casino. The project would make it one of the state's three largest gaming facilities. The casino is owned by the Graton Rancheria and would build on the decade old casino, nearly doubling the gaming floor and add over 200 additional hotel rooms. The tribe has been expanding the casino since it's beginning in 2013. According to the Press Democrat, the plans include a six story hotel wing that would make it the largest hotel in Sonoma County. Also a 3,500 seat theatre and five story parking lot are in the works. The casino resort officials say promises were made to the community like environmental stewardship, job creation and cooperation with other tribes. The Graton Tribe has given more than \$200 million to Sonoma County for impacts on public services.

There will be fireworks tonight after the Kelseyville High School graduation ceremony. The class of 2023 will celebrate with fireworks ad the end of the ceremony tonight. You can see the display as it begins around 9:20pm from the high school stadium. The sunset fireworks show has been a tradition in the community since 2000, according to Lake County News. The show will be over five minutes long and will be monitored by local police and fire agencies. Area residents are urged to make sure pets are in a safe spot incase the fireworks spook them.

Several bills that reduce property rights for water owners have passed the house in California. The Record Bee reports one bill would make water diversion a trespassing violation. Another would give the State Water Board greater authority to enforce water law. And the third bill would give the State Water Board more weight in water policy. The bills will increase California residents' water bills. According to the Southern California News Group California's messy water laws largely protect property rights, preserve local control. The news group is urging the senate to reject the bills, or if they do pass, for the governor to veto them.

A law that shields California renters from double digit rent hikes was passed four years ago. According to the Press Democrat, the governor has announced its first enforcement against a landlord under the California rent control law. Attorney General Bonta yesterday announced Green Valley Corporation increased rent be over 151 percent. In a settlement, the AG said the company also unlawfully evicted six tenants without just cause. The company will be fined nearly \$400,000, over two-thirds of which will be given back to renters who overpaid. The 2019 law was co-authored by then-Assemblymember Bonta and capped rent hikes to 5 percent plus inflation allowing landlords to increase rent by 10 percent in recent years. It also requires landlords to have a just cause fore eviction. Now AG Bonta is enforcing the law after over a year of investigation in the Bay Area.

There's a call out for people to teach poetry in Lake County. The Lake County Arts Council is looking for experienced poet teachers for 10 on-hour sessions for 11th graders. In Lake County News, they are looking to inspire students to participate in the County'

S Arts Council that programs Poetry Out Loud and Youth Poet Laureate events. Teachers of poetry should have historical lessons as well as composition theory to help kids add to their portfolio. The Lake County Arts Council will have guidance and payment for a future poetry teacher who must also pass a background check. They are looking to fill the position soon, with applications due by the end of this month.



## Sheet1

And Clear Lake is hosting another bass tournament this weekend. The Best Bass Tournament is set to host at least 60 boats Saturday and Sunday, according to the Record Bee. The Department of Fish and Wildlife announced a new regulation now in effect through September. All bass tournaments must not go over six hours in duration. The regulation aims to protect fish in hot weather. When temperatures hit 95 degrees, bass can die in waters of livewells.

The Oakland A's are headed to Vegas. Nevada's Governor Joe Lombardo signed into law a financing package to build a Major League Baseball stadium for the Oakland Athletics. Yesterday, Lombardo approved a \$380 million package to build the stadium on the Vegas strip. The Associated Press is reporting the \$1.5 billion stadium will have a retractable roof and more and will be located near the Vegas Raiders who also left Oakland three years ago. On the heels of the NHL Stanley Cup win from the Golden Knights the governor says Las Vegas' position as a global sports destination is growing.

Lake County Behavioral Health has released the new Three-year Mental Health Services Act for this fiscal year through 2026. The Lake County News is reporting the department worked months on community engagement and planning and has the act available for the public to see. There will be a 30-day posting followed by a public hearing on the plan hosted by the Mental Health Advisory board next month. Physical copies are available at mental health service centers throughout the county.

There is a new state hotline and online portal called the California vs Hate network. The Bay Area News group is reporting that the program has received 180 incident calls in its first month of operation. State officials say the most reported motivations during the month of May were race and ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation. The confidential program started in the beginning of May and was created in response to the recent surge in hate crimes. In 2021 reported hate crimes rocketed up about 33 percent that year, reaching the highest recorded levels of hate crimes in twenty years. The free, non-emergency program also has a phone number, manned from 9a to 6pm weekdays at 833-8-No-Hate.

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council announced awards of their micro-grants with 16 local organizations. The current round of grants totals over \$100,000 with PG&E matching \$50,000. Fire departments, Fire Safe Councils are some of the organizations receiving the money. Each organization will get between \$2,000 and \$8,000 to continue prioritizing risks and solutions to improve community fire safety, according to MendoVoice. The Hopland Fire Prevention District and Navarro Fire Safe Councils will install water tanks. Other fire prevention organizations will use award funds to rehab and upgrade equipment, campaign for public awareness, work on defensible spaces and more.

California's governor and lawmakers are working on the budget for the fiscal year beginning in just over two weeks. The Record Bee is reporting that because of the unprecedented six month delay for filing taxes, legislators don't know exactly how much money they have. Governor Newsom said last month that California has a \$31.5 billion deficit to close. A legislative budget analyst said revenues will fall short and raise the deficit several billion dollars more. This week legislators published a joint version of the budget to move the process forward, but won't adopt a final budget for months. Still on the table is funding for local transit systems and homelessness programs. Analysts say there will be budget deficits for years with no agreement on billions projected to be spent.

## Sheet1

06/19/2023 Clearlake Police are looking for a missing girl. 12-year-old Kianii Hill was last seen in Clearlake. She has black skin with long black hair and brown eyes. Kianii is 5 foot 4 inches tall, and weighs around 140 pounds. She was last seen wearing a black shirt, black shorts and multi-colored Crocs, according to Lake County News. If you have any information about Kianii Hill, please call the Clearlake Police Department.

The Lakeport City Council will consider the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget at its meeting at 6pm tomorrow evening. Lake County News reports the bottom line is about \$30 million. Public hearings are scheduled for a resolution on revised personnel rules in an ordinance of the Lakeport Municipal Code. The council will hear a report on delinquent water, sewer and waste use charges and set up a public hearing before collection on the tax begins. The council will hear recommendations for the Dickens' Faire and more.

There was a 4.4 magnitude earthquake Saturday night in Mendocino County. The US Geological Survey reported the quake over 7 miles from Ukiah at about 8:44pm. The Lake County News reports people felt it all in the central valley. There were over 400 shake reports by early Sunday morning. Residents in Lake County felt the shaking, with no damage reported yet. Multiple outlets report the epicenter was in the hills east of Highway 101 between Ukiah and Hopland.

The Henderson Fire was totally contained Friday evening. Cal Fire reports the blaze west of Clearlake Oaks took two days and 60 personnel to contain the fire. The Snell Fire is burning over a hundred acres in Napa county and was last reported that 90 percent was contained as of last night. The fire southeast of Middletown has 18 engines and two copters responding. Sunday, Cal Fire reported that forward progress was stopped and crews are mopping up.

Today is Juneteenth National Freedom Day. The governor issued a proclamation Saturday as the state celebrates Juneteenth as a state holiday for the first time under a new law this year. The day marks the slaves in Texas were the last to know President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The Bay City News reports Governor Newsom said the announcement in 1865 called for 'absolute equality' saying "Let us celebrate how far we have come and take stock of how far we must go to truly realize our nation's founding ideals."

There will be a procession for Cal Fire Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Captain Ronnie Boyd tomorrow. Captain Boyd died in an off-duty motorcycle crash on June 11th. Boyd and his wife Dena, who passed from the crash as well, were from Clearlake, according to Lake County News. The procession is tomorrow morning starting at 9:30 at the Napa County Coroners Office and will proceed on Highway 29 to the Twin Pine Casino, through Middletown to Lower Lake. Boyd worked with Cal Fire for the last two decades. He was promoted to fire captain in 2016. Memorial service information will be released at a later date. Traffic will be affected tomorrow morning on Highway 29.

The Planning Group of the Russian River Water Forum held a meeting last week. The group of stakeholders in the Eel and Russian River watersheds is looking for ways to go forward when PG&E surrenders its license to operate the Potter Valley Project. MendoFever reports that the Planning Group added three new members, including the Lake Pillsbury Alliance; Save California Salmon, and the Robinson Rancheria Tribe in Lake County. The group made initial categories of interest, including Collaboration and Process, Economic Development, Tribal Interests and more. PG&E provided clarity on their surrender, but were not at the meeting itself. Briefings are planned for this week. The Working group involved with Water Supply and Fisheries will meet Wednesday morning from 9 to 10:30am. The Water Rights and Water Management working group will meet this Thursday from 10:30am to noon.

## Sheet1

The Ukiah Planning Commission denied a permit for the Redwood Credit Union to build a branch downtown. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports during the public hearing, residents expressed strong opposition to the new branch location. Commission members listed reasons for denial including the zoning code deviations. Another issue of contention was the lack of a site-specific traffic analysis. The project had been approved by the Design Review Board, but the Planning Commission voted to deny the request.

Caltrans announced some road work this week. As reported in the Lake County News, Highway 20 work continues near Scotts Valley Road. Utility work on Highway 1 near Little River Airport Road began Friday with one-way traffic control. The Pudding Creek Road project continues in Fort Bragg with moderate delays and one-way traffic. Friday, work will begin in Westport at the Wages Creek Bridge and north of Hardy Creek, both with one-way traffic delays. As the Sierra Nevada World Music Festival in Boonville wraps up today with one way traffic until late tonight.

Road work begins on Highway 20 today west of Road 300. Friday utility work begins at Broadus Creek. Highway 101 work began yesterday at Reeves Canyon Road with slight delays. Emergency work in Willits from Water Plant Road to the East Hill Undercrossing begins today with minor slowdowns. Also work at the Cumming Road Undercrossing begins today with a full ramp closure on Highway 101, drivers are asked to take a different route. There will be electrical work on Highway 101 between Smith River and Fred D Haight Drive today with delays until 5pm. Pavement work began on Highway 197 Friday.

The first dedicated tribal housing grant program in the state has cleared the Senate. In a release from Senator Mike McGuire SB 18 would create a tribal specific housing fund to build and rehab homes for rent and sale. According to McGuire in KymKemp, only 13 of 109 tribes in the state have been funded in recent history. The bill would create a separate housing program for tribal governments. McGuire named the Middletown Rancheria, the Round Valley Indian Housing Authority and other tribes supporting the legislation.

The Round Valley Indian Health Center is providing free medical, dental and even veterinary services through Thursday. The center is holding a training event in Covelo with the Department of Defense. MendoVoice posted the announcement over the weekend. The department's Innovative Readiness Training Program will provide 70 service members to support the medical centers this week. The program aims to train military members in civil-military relationships to keep them ready to deploy.

California has a new performance assessment for literacy standards in education. The state got rid of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment for a new standard that includes support for students who struggle. New state legislation also incorporates the California Dyslexia Guidelines for the first time, according to the Record Bee. The new standards will be implemented next year in Senate bill 488. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing presented the new standards during its meeting on Thursday. Phonics are returning as the state changes literacy methodology. The commission is developing the certification process for teachers starting in the 2024-2025 school year.

## Sheet1

The fight between Governor Newsom and Fox News continues. Newsom accused the broadcaster of airing a “doom loop about California” during an interview with host Sean Hannity. The Press Democrat reports the two went back and forth over taxes, guns and migration out of the state. This year, Newsom began a political action committee dedicated to helping Democrats and President Biden’s presidential candidacy. Hannity and Newsom discussed California’s efforts to restrict gun use. This month, the governor called for a 28th Amendment to the US Constitution that would reform gun control in the nation.

Florida Governor DeSantis is headed to California today, with a fundraiser this morning in the capital. Tickets to the event are \$3,300 per person for the roundtable breakfast. DeSantis’ stop in Sacramento will be his first time in the state after admittedly sending a couple of flights full of migrants to California. California’s Attorney General Bonta has said the California Department of Justice is determining whether to charge the Florida governor for criminal or civil action. While DeSantis starts off in Sacramento, President Biden will begin in the Bay Area for a \$6,600 per person reception, then head to Marin County to meet Governor Newsom on Tuesday. President Biden is in NorCal through mid-week.

The Mendocino Voice launched a survey last month, asking Mendocino County residents about their emergency preparedness. Over the last five years residents saw two the five largest wildfires in California’s history. 230 people asked questions and responded with information. Over 80 percent are signed up for Nixle and other emergency notifications. Their top concerns include wildfires, power outages, earthquakes and seasonal events. Residents would like to see better communication in the area’s emergency notifications. There is a list of questions and answers as well as emergency resources in MendoVoice.com

A truck hauling beer overturned yesterday on Highway 101 between Leggett and Laytonville, according to KymKemp. Police say the big rig went over sideways 15 feet from the road. CHP reported the incident just after 8am Monday morning near Rattlesnake Summit. Thankfully no injuries were reported, and traffic seemed to be clear within an hour.

06/20/2023

The Pudding Creek Bridge work continues, and will be closed for two 10-night stretches starting next month. Now thru August the project will have a 24/7 traffic light for one lane in each direction at a time. MendoVoice reports backups are expected throughout the summer. The light at Elm Street will be off, helping the traffic flow easier. There will be two 10 night closures in July and in September. The construction on Highway 1 north of the last light in Fort Bragg will be closed to all traffic north of Pudding Creek Bridge from 10pm to 4am during those closures. Caltrans hopes to be complete with the project by mid October, but could be delayed.

The Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council met last week and discussed the county budget update, cannabis busts, water use and more. A tenant for the Revival Ranch spoke up to ask for events to be held at the property for the Flow Kana business. Also at the meeting, the county passed a balanced budget. The County Supervisor Board Chair Glenn McGourty discussed keeping water from the Eel River from coning into the Russian River. An update from Matt Kendall was presented with news of marijuana busts, the fatal fire on Colony Drive and escaped burn piles. There were updates from the Water Education Standing Subcommittee with the Potter Valley Project transition. The group discussed the Cannabis Prohibition Zone in Redwood Valley, that is next scheduled for a July 25 meeting. The next meeting for the Advisory Council will be in early August.

## Sheet 1

As the snow melts from this winter's mega-storms, California expects to face significant flooding in some areas. It is prompting experts to call for revitalizing the state's wetlands and floodplains, according to the California News Service. Snowmelt from this winter's heavy storms threatens significant flooding and conservation groups are calling for large-scale restoration of wetlands to help absorb excess water. In April, the Biden administration recommended more than 60-million dollars go to projects in Northern California. It's estimated that 90-percent of the state's wetlands have been lost but efforts are underway to restore them, both along the coast and in traditional floodplains, like seasonally wet meadows in the Sierra foothills.

Governor Newsom welcomed President Biden to the state yesterday in what some call a good working relationship. The two went together to the Bay Area touting climate change policies and economic support. Newsom in the spotlight lately as Florida Governor DeSantis also visits NorCal goading Newsom to run for president. Newsom is actively supporting Biden's reelection and in a series of fundraisers in NorCal is touting the Inflation Reduction Act and \$600 million in federal funds for climate projects. Biden announced that California will get \$67 million in federal funds to rebuild the state's electrical grid and transmission.

New protections for prescribed fire and cultural burning were rolled out yesterday in California. \$20 million is marked for the "Prescribed fire Liability Claims Fund Pilot" is set to cover losses in instances of escaped prescribed or cultural burns. Lake County News is reporting Senate Bill 926 supports mitigation of wildfire risks by making sure controlled burns and cultural burns continue to help make communities safer. Historically, lack of liability insurance had been a barrier for firefighters and community leaders. The bill supports carefully planned and implemented land management to reduce larger more severe wildfires. California has also begun a state-certified burn program and other efforts to lessen the risk of wildfire damage.

Graduating seniors received nearly \$300,000 in scholarships at Anderson Valley High School. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports 42 students applied for scholarships from community organizations and the Anderson-Miner Foundation and the AV Education Foundation. Anderson Valley Superintendent Louise Simson told the Journal the scholarship applications were meticulously reviewed and awards were given during their Senior Seminar courses. Members of the Anderson Valley Fire Department, the American Legion, Lions Club, AV Teachers Association, the Grange Dusenberry Memorial and more were among the organizations that chipped in to the scholarships.

CalFresh EBT recipients get matching funds from the Market Match Program in the state, helping low income families get fresh produce. The Market Match, part of the California Nutrition Incentive Program has about nearly \$20 million in fresh fruit and vegetable benefits that helped farmers' markets statewide last year. The program is on the line now, as legislators and the governor negotiate the final state budget with it's \$31.5 billion deficit. CalMatters reports the Market Match program may have to transition from state funds if a budget cut is called for. As pandemic-era CalFresh benefits ended the number of those who face food shortages is expected to rise this year.

## Sheet1

The 103 acre Snell Fire was contained by Monday. There were no reported injuries or buildings effected by the blaze that burned, according to the Press Democrat. The Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Chief said portions of Snell Valley Road and Butts Canyon Road were closed Friday night. The Chief said Cal Fire is sending more resources to fires earlier as Cal Fire gears up for this wildfire season. The Cal Fire Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit was able to increase staffing, enabling them to be more aggressive early into a blaze. Firefighters are performing controlled burns and cutting back vegetation that grew during the late winter storms. Cal Fire recommends that residents cut down that additional vegetation now, while humidity is still relatively high.

Yesterday was the first time California recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday in recent legislation. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will meet today and discuss making Juneteenth a county holiday. The Mendocino County Racial Equity and Justice Committee is sponsoring the agenda item for the meeting today. In a proclamation, the committee says Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the US and is observed nationally. The committee hopes to increase knowledge of the holiday to all Mendocino County Residents, according to MendoVoice. The Governor's proclamation over the weekend marks this year as the first Juneteenth National Freedom Day: A Day of Observance. The state holiday will honor the centuries of struggles and triumphs that have brought us to this moment. The governor called on all Californians to reflect on the ongoing cause of freedom for Black Americans.

The State Bar of California is asking to revoke John Eastman's license to practice law. NBC is reporting the Trump lawyer who wrote a memo that argued Vice President Pence could overturn the 2020 election is facing disciplinary hearings today in the state. Prosecutors allege Eastman made false and misleading statements including remarks at the rally on the Ellipse just before the January 6th Capitol attack. The court will decide if Eastman's conduct qualifies for suspension or revocation of his California law license from the California Supreme Court. The lawyer faces multiple charges of violating the state's business and professions code with statements of quote moral turpitude, dishonesty and corruption.

The California Fish and Game Commission posted a release in KymKemp after their June meeting. The Commission discussed adding the Greater sage-grouse as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. They will hold a one-year status review to make the decision. The Commission approved a couple of experimental fishing permits for Sustainable Seas Technology to test systems of exploratory fishing for brown box and king crab, and for the National marine Sanctuary Foundation to test fishing gear innovations and systems for the California commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

President Biden is in Northern California today and is with Governor Newsom. The two are discussions on climate change impacts and the dangers of AI today. As Biden campaigns for a second term Newsom is hosted the President in Silicon Valley yesterday. Today, Biden will meet with big technology's critics as many call for regulation of the burgeoning AI industry. Last year, Biden's administration created a Blueprint for An AI Bill of Rights and is working with industry leaders on AI risks and advantages. California lawmakers have ideas on legislation to establish regulation, according to the LA Times. AI's threat to workers is also a topic the two Democratic leaders are exploring. Political propaganda and disinformation are also top concerns as the leaders focus on putting guard rails in place.

## Sheet1

California and Oregon are being sued by the Center for Biological Diversity, for failing to consider fatal impacts to salmon from toxic pollution. The California Department of Transportation is one defendant as the suit claims road-maintenance projects in salmon habitat released deadly chemicals. In a release in Mendocino the suit urges transportation departments for both California and Oregon to get chemicals off the roads and out of waterways. The toxin, 6PPD was responsible for storm-related salmon die-offs in urban areas, according to a study in 2021. The pollutant rubs off tires through normal wear and tear, and during rain storms washes into streams and leads to coho salmon death. The National Marine Fisheries Service with CalTrans must reconsider the effects, under the Endangered Species Act, according to the suit.

A study released today out of the University of California brings a comprehensive view of how people become homeless in the state. The AP reports in a survey of over 3,000 homeless people, the average income was less than \$1,000. With rent in the state averaging about \$1,400 per month, a main reason is clear. California hosts one third of the nation's homeless population. Researchers say they hope to strengthen policies that offer housing and rental assistance, rather than policies of punishment. People in the survey say substance abuse and mental health issues are often the reasons for homelessness. The study was requested by Governor Newsom, who has made homelessness a priority issue.

The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority will be doing a controlled training burn this Saturday. The south end of the airport will be the place where live fire exercises will commence, beginning at 8:30am.

A Lakeport woman who was arrested in a murder case appeared at Lake County Superior Court for a bail review hearing. Melinda Fred was represented by defense counsel who presented letters in her support as well as her registration under Megan's Law. The law requires authorities to make registered sex offenders information public. Ms. Fred has been charged with murder, assault with a deadly weapon and corporal injury, according to the Record Bee. Last month, Lake County Sheriff's deputies responded to a stabbing on Red Feather Lane in Lakeport. There, they found Christopher Burrows on the ground with a knife wound. Burrows died from his injuries. Fred was arrested after an investigation. Bail was denied, but the court said it could be revisited after a prelim hearing in July.

06/21/2023

The Lakeport City Council got a report on crime statistics during their regular meeting yesterday. The Record Bee reports response times, incidents, types of crimes and use of force were included in the information. The Lakeport Police Chief said the numbers are similar to 2021's numbers. One exception was that response times decreased from 3 minutes to 4 for Priority 1 crimes. During 2022, there were over 300 arrests, 70 of those were felonies. The good news is that there were 0 homicides in the city. The police department is working with Lake County Behavior Health to work with them on issues in the community. Staffing is down about one third of where they were last year, but that training is daily and ongoing.

## Sheet1

The funeral procession for local Cal Fire Captain Ronnie Boyd yesterday wound from Napa to Lake County. Boyd died June 11th in an off-duty motorcycle crash. His wife, Dena also passed due to injuries from the crash that happened east of Butts Canyon Road in Napa County. It began at the Napa County Coroner's Office and traveled to the Twin Pine Casino through Middletown to a funeral home in Lower Lake. Engines from Humboldt County, Napa County, the South Lake Fire Protection District and more lined the way. The Press Democrat reports that Boyd began his career in 2003 as a firefighter for the Sonoma-Lake-Napa of Cal Fire. His most recent position was as the Humboldt-Del Norte Fire Captain. Boyd was known for his contagious smile and willingness to serve the public.

Cadet exams applications are open in California State Parks. The academy teaches how to serve California as rangers, lifeguards and more for visitors in the 280 state parks. The minimum age to be a peace officer is 21 and candidates must have 60 units of college credits. The Lake County News reports applications will be accepted through the end of July. The selection process and academy take about 15 months. Cadets will be testes physically, mentally and emotionally before entering the state park workforce. The academy instructs on investigations, physical arrests, firearms use and emergency response. Candidates may be in college and have at least 21 units of gen ed credits. They are looking for degrees in park administration, natural sciences, social sciences, law enforcement or a related field. Monthly salaries begin at around \$4,000.

There will be a Point Arena City Council Study Session on Housing next Tuesday. The city issues a press release in MendoFever announcing the monthly meeting session for both in-person and via zoom. They will focus on the housing crisis and ways to solve it. Topics will include changes to commercial and multi-family zoning districts, requirements for the Hay Annexation area, standards for single room occupancy and more. The meeting is next Tuesday, June 27th, 6pm at the Point Arena City Hall. Residents are encouraged to come and bring their insights into the city's affordable housing.

The Department of Cannabis Control announced awards to 18 local communities to establish retail licensing pathways. 14 communities were chosen to support licensure of cannabis equity in the legal cannabis market, according to a release in MendoFever. The Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grants are the first of a kind, awarding \$4 million in regions throughout the state to improve customer access to the plant. The grants are designed to meet demand in areas where retail access is limited if any at all. Recipients can use the funds to develop retailer licensing programs in issuing licenses. The grants will help with codifying ordinances, hiring staff and holding community outreach and engagement. Economic and environmental studies would also be developed as well as application and online portals for processing and regulating licenses.

Representative Mike Thompson spoke about the \$600 million investment from the Inflation Reduction Act and infrastructure Law rolling out in California communities for climate resilience projects. Thompson said "we are seeing the direct impact of these laws through investments in California and across our country. The successes of the last Congress are just a first step..." The funds, announced by President Biden and Governor Newsom are part of a Climate Resilience Regional Challenge to help coastal communities, including tribes ready for extreme weather and impacts of the climate crisis, according to the Lake County News. California will get over \$67 million initially to modernize the electric grid and ensure the reliability of the power sector.



## Sheet1

And it's time to ready for wildfire season. Officials and wildfire mitigation professionals say to focus on the zero to five foot zone around your home. It's important to be wary of flammable material like mulch, chair cushions and recycling bins especially on red flag warning days, according to the Press Democrat. Using gravel or cement in the five foot range around your home is ideal. Low growing plants that don't shed are good options and keeping plants watered helps mitigate fire risks. From 5 to 30 feet areas around your home experts say to stay lean, clean and green. Roofs should be metal and should be kept clear of leaves and other vegetation. Covering vent openings with metal mesh is another way to help fortify your space.

Mendocino College announced it has the highest percentage of Native American students throughout the 116 community colleges in the state. In a release and in the MendoVoice, the school reported for Spring semester this year over 5 percent of its students identified as Native American. The college says ongoing efforts for a more diverse and inclusive learning space helped them reach the achievement, serving students from historically marginalized communities.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced an agreement to crack down on organized theft rings yesterday. The agreement calls for retailers and online marketplaces to work with the state to find stolen goods and those behind the sales. Bonta announced an portal for online sellers to report suspected theft activity. The Press Democrat reports Bonta's announcement is aimed at groups of people in organized thefts. Large scale theft and fraud from groups who resell online have hit California hard in recent years. Companies like CVS, Walgreens, Home Depot, Target and Amazon have signed on to join the effort. The agreement is directed by legislation passed to report and collaborate on organized crime. The California Retailers Association is pushing for changes to fix Prop 47 to punish repeat offenders.

A study comparing public school students to charter schools in the state was released this month. In it, charter school students outperformed public school students in reading and math. The report shows test scores for charter school students translate into the schools having 40 percent more learning in a year. The Record Bee reports charter schools run by non profit boards aren't as regulated as public schools but are held to teacher credential codes and testing mandates. Over the last 14 years, charter schools have grown to outpace public schools, especially with minority progress in math and reading.

California is not the state with the highest gas prices anymore. CNN reports Washington has the nation's most expensive fuel. The state saw a 32 cent increase over the last month to just under \$5 per gallon, 7 cents ahead of the Golden State. It's the first time Washington has eclipsed California in gas prices, according to GasBuddy. Washington's average gas price is about \$2 a gallon more than the rest of the country. Nationally, the average price of gas is about \$3.58 per gallon, down \$1.40 from last year.

The state's reservoirs have made a historic comeback since last winter's storms. A new study of satellite data from NASA found that last winter brought the greatest net gain of water in the state's lakes in the 22 years since it's been tracked. Between fall of last year and spring this year California's lakes, rivers, soil and underground waters increased twice the average gain. The LA Times reports groundwater levels remain depleted and could stay that way for a while, according to experts. In the latest Russian River Water update, Lake Mendocino was at about 89 percent capacity and Lake Sonoma levels were at about 97 percent capacity.

## Sheet1

And in Mendocino County, the once dormant Pier Chowder House in Point Arena has reopened serving California Coastal Cuisine, according to the MendoVoice. It's hours are only listed as open Friday through Monday, with hopes to expand hours later this month. The Noyo River Grill in Fort Bragg has relocated to a new location at the former Cliff House. The Medina family moved the popular spot to a place with stunning views of the ocean and a great place to watch boats come in and out of the harbor. The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas reopened on the site once inhabited by the first major Buddhist monastic community in the US. And sadly, the Company Kitchen in Philo announced it will close at the end of this month.

An acre burned this afternoon in Redwood Valley. The blaze was first reported just before 1:30pm with initial reports saying a trailer caught fire on west Road and spread into nearby brush. KymKemp reports the fire burned through grass and trees and was threatening a mobile home. Around 2pm fire air resources claimed the fire was getting contained and crews plan to be mopping up for several hours. The Mendocino County Sheriff sent out an alert on Nixle.

There will be prescribed burns in Sonoma County including one that is closing Shiloh Ranch Regional Park today. The Press Democrat reports smoke may be visible from Highway 12 through the weekend. Over 6 acres of grassland on the east side of Shiloh Ranch Park will be in a controlled burn with the Audubon Canyon Ranch's Fire Forward program. Friday, the group along with the Sonoma Land Trust will burn about 35 acres of oak savanna next to Glen Ranch Preserve in Glen Alley.

A neighborhood brawl led to the arrest of an Ukiah man. In a release Wednesday afternoon, police say Jesse Reynolds shot gun at a group of kids in a dispute that led to a car chase. Reynolds' stepson and another young man were in an argument, with a group kids encircling Reynolds' home. The group allegedly made threats to his wife and step-kids. After his stepdaughter chased off the group with a baseball bat, Reynolds got in his car and chased them west on Clara Avenue. The kids' vehicle turned around and acted aggressively towards Reynolds car. Reynolds says he thought one person had a gun on them, so he pulled his out and shot towards the group's car, hitting it. Reynolds was arrested for assault with a firearm and for shooting into a vehicle. Anyone with information on the incident is asked to call Ukiah

06/22/2023 Police.

The Ukiah Zoning Administrator is deciding on whether to allow an ambulance service on North State Street. At their meeting next Tuesday Medstar/Ukiah Ambulance will apply for a permit for ambulance services in two buildings. There is one main building and a smaller one developed with an existing parking lot at the property. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports the smaller building would become an ambulance station, and the larger structure would be for administrative office. The company would like to use one ambulance with two crew members for non emergency basic life support, and will not be taking emergency calls. Taking those calls may be an option in the future. There will be a public hearing next Tuesday morning at 10am in the Ukiah Civic Center.

A man from Upper Lake was sentenced to life in prison for a serious domestic violence charges. Arturo Gutierrez violently assaulted his girlfriend and was sentenced last week to life in prison after being convicted of felonies including spousal abuse, assault, false imprisonment and causing great bodily injury. Gutierrez had two prior "strike" convictions for attempted murder and for kidnapping. He had spent 20 years in prison. In April a jury convicted him guilty and his crimes considered his third "strike." He was formally sentenced to 40 years to life, according to Lake County News.

## Sheet 1

The former Willits Police Lieutenant is under investigation by California's Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. According to Kym Kemp today, his law enforcement credentials have been suspended while the agency looks into the claims of abuse of power and bias. Raymond Hendry was accused of multiple charges against women he worked with at the Willits Police Department as well as alleged sexual acts on a civilian woman while in uniform. In August of last year, Hendry was the target in a criminal investigation by the Lake County Sheriff Office Major Crimes Unit. Last December, Willits Police Chief said charges were recommended to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office.

The Avenue of the Giants will be closed for replacement of a fish barrier culvert with a bridge south of Phillipsville. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports that Cal Trans will get rid of the fish-barrier, install a bridge and restore a natural streambed. The new bridge will be 32 feet wide and 42 feet long and will create 2.5 miles of fish habitat near the South Fork Eel River. Cal Trans says it is a high priority to remove the barrier so that habitat for spawning fish will be recreated and protected and also act as a cold water refuge for young fish year-round. The scenic road will be closed at mile post 4.81 until the project is finished in September.

Federal assistance applications have been extended to July 20 for Mendocino residents. The extension allows those who went through the February and March storms to register for federal aid with FEMA. The North County Mobile Registration Intake Centers have closed but residents can still apply at the Disaster Recovery Center in Willits or online at [Disaster Assistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov).

There was a prescribed burn in Sonoma County that closed Shiloh Ranch Regional Park yesterday. The Press Democrat reports smoke may be visible from Highway 12 through the weekend in other controlled burns. Over 6 acres of grassland on the east side of Shiloh Ranch Park will be in a controlled burn with the Audubon Canyon Ranch's Fire Forward program. Friday, the group along with the Sonoma Land Trust will burn about 35 acres of oak savanna next to Glen Ranch Preserve in Glen Alley.

The Cal Fire Wood Products and Bioenergy Team is giving away \$16 million in grants this week. The funds are for projects that create healthy, resilient forests across the state. Non-profits, small businesses and manufacturing facilities across California will be offered 14 grants. The aim is to reduce roadside hazards and other forest fuels to help mitigate wildfires. Forestree Collective in Sonoma County is one of the awardees and will expand their capacity to mill lumber. In the last year, the Wood Products and Bioenergy Team has given \$67 million to businesses and projects that help with California's climate mitigation and economic development goals. The department is accepting grant applications. More information can be found at Cal Fire's Wood Products and Bioenergy webpage.

California companies Upside Foods and Good Meat were granted permission to sell their products. Cells of animals grown in steel tanks, called cultivated meats include a variety of chicken, beef, pork and lamb. People can expect these lab grown proteins in restaurants and a small amount of retail stores in the next five years, and in grocery stores within 10 years, according to the Associated Press. The cell-based meat is made from a fertilized egg and put in a mixture of nutrients so the cells can grow and divide. Skeletal muscle, fat and connective tissues grow and in weeks the tissues are shaped into products like nuggets. Research into how the public will respond shows about half of people will try the new food.

## Sheet1

Voters in the state may decide on support the use of state funds for programs to improve health, education and economic well-being of racial, ethnic and sexual or gender groups, according to the Press Democrat. Three years ago, Californians voted to ban using race, sex, ethnicity and more as factors in public university admissions. New legislation, Assembly Constitutional Amendment 7 would let state agencies request a waiver to avoid the country's first ban on affirmative action. The amendment will show up as a proposition in the November ballot next year. The amendment is aimed to compensate for historical prejudice on groups of people like housing discrimination and police profiling. CalMatters reports the measure is expected to pass and get on next year's ballot as opposition to Prop 16 grows. There are predictions that the US Supreme Court will strike down affirmative action this month.

A Californian was sentenced to over 12 years in prison for his role in the January 6th Capitol riot. CBS reports Daniel Rodriguez admitted he attacked former DC police officer Michael Fanone with a taser. The officer lost consciousness as he worked to protect Congress that day as rioters attacked to stop the certification of results from the 2020 presidential election. Rodriguez must also pay almost \$100,000 to cover medical treatment of the officer and in restitution for the destruction on January 6th. Rodriguez was remorseful, according to his defense council, and wrote an apology letter to Fanone. However, when he was sentenced yesterday, Rodriguez yelled to the court "Trump won." His attorney said the blame rests with former President Trump, leading Rodriguez to believe he was there on behalf of the President to support the United States.

The California Department of Insurance is inviting the public to a workshop on how insurance companies use of risk assessment. In a release in Lake County News, the department wants to get input as they think about future regulations that may help consumers with increased insurance coverage options, pricing and recognition of federal, state, and local wildfire safety and mitigation investments. The virtual workshop is scheduled for July 13 and is part of an effort of their campaign "Safer from Wildfires" that began 3 years ago. The Insurance Commissioner is looking at several actions in response to an increased wildfire risk due to climate change. The campaign includes regulations to mandate discounts to policy holders who work to mitigate effects from fires in homes and businesses. The Commissioner said the workshop will help consumers with more coverage choices and resiliency in California's marketplace.

Friday, work will begin in Westport at the Wages Creek Bridge and north of Hardy Creek, both with one-way traffic delays. Tomorrow, utility work begins at Broaddus Creek. Highway 101 work began this week at Reeves Canyon Road with slight delays. Pavement work began on Highway 197 Friday.

State Senators Padilla and Thompson are leading new legislation to protect the wine industry from wildfire smoke. Wildfire taint has ruined wine grape harvests in recent years costing growers hundreds of millions of dollars. The Press Democrat reports a pair of bills will be introduced today would invest in more research into smoke taint, and order federal regulators to create insurance policies against smoke damage. The fire season of 2020 created around \$600 million in lost grapes. The representatives want over \$32 million dedicated to smoke taint research, ways to screen for impacted grapes and even solutions to get rid of taint from wine. The Smoke Exposure Crop Insurance Act would also focus the US Department of Agriculture to create insurance policies for growers that includes removing smoke taint from crops before seeking insurance payouts.

## Sheet1

The Mendocino Unified School District Board of Trustees met last week and discussed incendiary language at the Mendocino Community Network. Prior to the meeting, the District Superintendent met with the network Advisory Committee to consider removing the network from the district. In one comment about the issue, threats, slander, taunt and other strong language was reported. While the board talked of supporting free speech others pointed out the hateful comments on the network contradict the schools values, according to the Mendocino Beacon. Solutions brought up include blocking offensive language and restrictions to who can participate. The student representative for the board asked why hateful language can't be blocked. The board voted to table the issue for a future meeting.

The California Department of Education is working to continue offering books and lessons on diversity and inclusively in schools. The LA Times reports the Superintendent of Public Instruction met with legislators yesterday as part of a new task force to commit to materials that are "free from discrimination and inclusive of the diverse narratives that reflect the student body of California." Textbook publishers in the state were part of the meeting on Wednesday and say they are committed to diversity and inclusion. California approved "social content" standards 10 years ago that require schools to accurately portray the cultural and racial diversity of the population. The task force talked about potential laws that would hold school boards accountable as school boards want to maintain local control.

06/23/2023 Two people were killed and a toddler injured in a car crash earlier this week. Devin Hendry of Ukiah died when he crashed into another head-on. A woman from Wilton also died in the accident, and her two year old daughter is hospitalized with major injuries. It happened south of Sacramento Tuesday night. CHP reports a preliminary investigation shows Hendry may have been drinking. The collision happened just before 9:30pm on Dillard Road east of 99. Hendry was apparently driving erratically when he veered to the left while the woman maneuvered right around a crash, both cars hit head-on. While the mother was wearing her seatbelt, Hendry was likely not, according to a release in KymKemp.

The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority will be doing a controlled training burn tomorrow. The south end of the airport will be the place where live fire exercises will commence, beginning at 8:30am.

Friday, roadwork will begin in Westport at the Wages Creek Bridge and north of Hardy Creek, both with one-way traffic delays. Tomorrow, utility work begins at Broaddus Creek. Highway 101 work began this week at Reeves Canyon Road with slight delays.

There was a fire on Scotts Valley Road northwest of Clear Lake last night. Just before 6pm fire attack air resources were called from the Ukiah Airport. In a report in KymKemp, the incident commander indicated a building was in danger. Firefighters were working to get to the blaze, as the bridge nearby could not support their engines. The three acre fire burned slowly through oak woodland. Within an hour Air Attack resources reported nearby buildings were no longer threatened. Just before 7pm, the fire was controlled, as reported by the Incident Commander

## Sheet1

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The Lake County Library is offering free resources to individuals with low vision. The Lakeport Library is inviting the public to an event next Tuesday from 1 to 3pm where the resources will be explained. Large type books, mp3 players, eAudiobooks and more will be available for those with vision issues. The Lake County Libraries will have a Tech Tuesday every week from 10am to 4:30pm and invites people to bring in devices Tuesday afternoons where library staff will provide guidance on the technology.

The Mendocino County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services will hold their Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee hearing next Wednesday. The 1pm meeting at the Behavioral Health Regional Training Center is looking for public input. In the released agenda, the committee will be discussing Measure B related items and projects. The Board of Supervisors approved the \$9.6 million dollars grant in April for a Regional Training Center. The group request approval for funds to create a Long-Term Financial Plan. They plan to review information and schedule a meeting date for Fort Bragg. The group will also set up an Ad Hoc Committee for Substance Use Services.

The California State Fair announced winners in the second annual cannabis awards. MendocinoVoice reports that Mendocino County farms excelled in outdoor cultivation winning three of the "golden bear" awards. Mendocino County grows also won six out of ten gold medals in outdoor cultivation and a unique gold award. Wood Wide Farms, a Mendocino County grower also won a gold medal for indoor cultivation. There were two gold medal winners in the mixed light competition. The winners will be showcased at the California State Fair in Sacramento next month with an awards ceremony on July 15. Growers hope the winners in the county will help energize Mendocino County's market.

The nation's median age went up to about 39 years last year. Birth rates have declined over the last twenty years as baby boomers age and young adults are waiting to have kids longer. Lake County is one in five counties in the state to show a decrease of .5 percent in median age, according to Lake County News. The median age in the county went from 39 to nearly 43 years. In the nation, Hawaii had the largest increase up about half a year to nearly 41 years for median age. Last year in California the state had the largest White population. The Golden State also had the largest Asian population with the largest Asian population gain. California also had the largest American Indian and Alaska Native as well as Hispanic population in the nation.

## Sheet1

The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit yesterday against the US Fish and Wildlife Service for not finalizing protections for the foothill yellow-legged frogs in California under the Endangered Species Act. In a release in MendoFever, the Center said protections for the frogs have been stalled for over 10 years. Their habitat is along the coast and in the Sierra foothills. The Endangered Species Act is protecting only 11 species per year under the Biden administration, compared to 65 species under Clinton and 36 annually under Obama, despite a backlog of about 400 species. The yellow-legged frogs are threatened by dams, water diversions, logging, mining, urban development and more. The Center's lawsuit also includes 12 other species including the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl, Humboldt marten and other species in Texas and Washington.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a new hotline to report sexual assault or harassment at VA facilities. The number, 1-800-my VA 411 is open for people to confidentially report incidents 24/7. In a release in Lake County News, the VA says follow-up healthcare and support will also be available. The number is part of the department's "no wrong door" reporting policy for sexual assault and harassment. The VA has a zero-tolerance policy and says they are actively working to create a culture free of those incidents. In addition to the hotline, the VA reports other steps in supporting victims. The department reportedly has points of contact to accept reports and is providing bystander intervention training. They are urging employees and veterans to take the White Ribbon VA Pledge to never commit sexual harassment, assault, domestic violence or to stay silent.

California pension officials say personal information of nearly 770,000 retired employees and beneficiaries was stolen by Russian cyber-criminals. The breach in a popular file-transfer application called MOVEit was discovered last month with hundreds of organizations hit globally. The cyber criminal gang called Clop, is extorting victims, threatening to share their data online if they don't pay, according to the Associated Press. The California Public Employees' Retirement System said that a third-party vendor was breached, using the file transfer program to inform people of deaths and validate payment eligibility. The information includes names, birth dates, and Social Security numbers and may include family members' information. The organization says it was notified on June 6th.

Attorneys in the Golden State must report misconduct by their peers beginning August 1st. The state Supreme Court announced the new rule yesterday that obligates lawyers to notify the State bar if they have evidence that another attorney has committed a criminal act and more. The LA Times reports it is another major reform to come from the Tom Girardi scandal that was highlighted in the reality show Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. Those who don't report misconduct could face up to a three year suspension of their licenses.

## Sheet1

CalTrans reports that Route 1 in Westport at the Wages Creek Bridge and north of Hardy Creek will undergo work today with one way traffic until 4pm. Tree work is happening today on Route 20 west of Little Lake Road and east of Three Chop Road until 3pm. And utility work at Broaddus Creek will slow traffic until 3pm. Starting Monday on Route 20 tree work will begin west of Three Chop Road until 4pm Monday afternoon. On US 101 road work from Comminsky Station Road to the Pieta Creek Bridge begins today with lane closures thru 5pm. Emergency work in Willits at 101 and Route 20 begins Monday. Utility work near the Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area will begin on Monday as will work at the Dora Creek Bridge with lane closures thru 4pm. On Route 253 utility work at Singley Cattlepass will start Monday. Culvert work on Route 271 near the 101 Cummings Road Undercrossing begins today with one way traffic through 6pm.

The Mendocino Council of Governments is almost done with a study of transportation needs and solutions for Covelo, Laytonville, Brooktrails, Potter Valley and Hopland. Next Tuesday at 5pm there will be a virtual public meeting with an update for residents with a public comment period. The study illustrates innovative and low cost programs for life line transportation in the communities, with ideas to fund the services.

Cal Fire is suspending burn permits for outdoor residential burning in Colusa, Napa, Solano and Yolo Counties as of next Monday. Cal Fire is also suspending all residential burning in Sonoma County effective on July 3. The Press Democrat has an interactive map of wildfire risk in Sonoma County. This year, Cal Fire and agencies across California have already reported nearly 2,000 wildfires, according to Lake County News. As warming temperatures and winds dry out vegetation that grew abundantly after last winter and early spring's storms, now is the time to enhance your defensible spaces. Cal Fire recommends clearing dead or dying brush 100 feet around buildings. They also urge people to landscape with fire resistant plants and nonflammable ground cover instead of mulch. Check Ready For Wildfire.org for more tips and information.

A body was found near Portuguese Beach in Mendocino yesterday. There was a multi-agency response Thursday afternoon and authorities arrived to recover the body. The discovery came 12 days after Quinn Green of Mendocino tragically fell down the bluffs and was washed out to sea, according to MendoFever. The Public Information Officer for the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department urged people not to jump to conclusions and to wait for confirmation from the Sheriff's Office. Just after 1:30 yesterday, the body was found between two big rocks off the bluffs.

Mendocino County Search and Rescue posted tips in case you get lost or become stranded. The group said if your cell has low battery power, to change your voicemail message to include your location, time and date so that if people are looking for you, your information will be there.



## Sheet1

There was a carjacking last week according to the Ukiah Police Department. June 16th just before 2:30pm police were called to Honey Fluff Donuts on North State Street. An officer with the California Fish and Wildlife had a suspect in cuffs. Apparently Travis Alvarez jumped into a truck that had stopped for a break by KFC. A shipping company was using U-Haul trucks when they stopped to rest. One of the shipping employees jumped into his truck and followed Alvarez and performed a maneuver to stop the stolen truck near Ford Road. Alvarez rammed the truck then put it in reverse then ramming vehicles behind him. The employee who got rammed got out and grabbed Alvarez out of the stolen truck and began fighting him. A Ukiah Police Officer helped the Fish and Wildlife warden as the two were nearby.

Congratulations are in order to the Ukiah Daily Journal in their help raising funds for the Ukiah Boys and Girls Club. The group has reached \$60,000 out of their \$65,000 goal for the organization. The Journal reports that relationships with youth forges supportive, meaningful and healthy connections, to foster a sense of belonging and purpose with opportunities to lead.

06/26/2023 Clearlake Police are searching for a missing teenage girl. 17-year old Jade Monger is a white girl with short curly blonde, blue and red hair with brown eyes. Jade is five foot 6 and weighs around 200 pounds. She was last seen in Clearlake wearing a black shirt, blue shorts and white shoes, according to Lake County News. If you have any information about Jade please call the Clearlake Police Department.

An alleged stalker in Cloverdale has been arrested. Cloverdale Police issued a release in MendoFever saying Margarito "Tito" Segobiano was taken into custody yesterday after a violent confrontation that happened last Wednesday. He had been stalking a family and apparently broken into a property by breaking a gate. The Cordova family found him in a building on their property with meth. Father and husband Max Cordova and Segobiano physically fought until police arrived. He was injured and taken to a local ICU, then arrested. Segobiano is charged with felony stalking, burglary and possession of an illegal knife. He is also charged with trespassing, vandalism and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The Mendocino Council of Governments is almost done with a study of transportation needs and solutions for Covelo, Laytonville, Brooktrails, Potter Valley and Hopland. Tomorrow (Tuesday June 27) at 5pm there will be a virtual public meeting with an update for residents with a public comment period. The study illustrates innovative and low cost programs for life line transportation in the communities, with ideas to fund the services.

Lake County announced the Registrar of Voters will be at the Lakeport Farmer's Market to help residents register to vote. County staff will have information and forms at the Farmer's Market tomorrow. Voters who are 16 and 17 can pre-register at the Farmer's Market as well.

Mendocino County's largest union, part of the SEIU has filed a complaint against the Board of Supervisors and their CEO. MendoVoice reports the formal labor complaint was filed last Tuesday with the California Public Employee Relations Board alleging the Board and CEO Darcie Antie engaged in bad faith negotiations with more than 700 workers. Members also say they were barred from attending the board's meetings. The charges include threats of retaliation after one person was nearly reclassified and transferred into a different union unit. Allegations of executive misconduct come when the negotiations over the union's contract are set to begin as it expires within days.

## Sheet1

CalTrans has projects that begin today, including Route 20 tree work east of Three Chop Road with one way traffic from 7am to 4pm. On uS 101 emergency work will begin in Willits at Route 20 with minor slowdowns. Utility work begins near the Standish Hickey State Recreation Area with lane closure thru 4pm. Also on US 101 there will be lane closures starting today at the Dora Creek Bridge with slight delays. On Route 253 utility work will begin today at Singley Cattlepass with one way traffic thru 5pm with moderate delays. And tomorrow on Route 271 utility work begins in Piercy north of Old Mill Road with one way traffic thru 4pm.

In what may be the largest environmental measure ever placed on a state ballot in California, lawmakers in Sacramento are drafting a \$15 billion "climate bond" for next year's elections, according to the Mercury News. The bills will test whether voters are willing to pay to harden the state's defenses against wildfire, heat waves, floods and historic climactic events. Two bills are moving forward, with support from the Governor Newsom and democrats. The bills would a lot significant new funding to thin forests, boost flood control, expand renewable energy, and more to deal with a world that scientists say will continue to warm for generations to come.

A man has been sentenced to up to 25 years in prison after his part in a plot to kidnap marijuana couriers carrying \$700,000 in cash. Nathan Vargas of Vegas, tried to kill himself with a gun to his head but failed and must face consequences. The mugshot is telling of the skull and brain injury he did to himself. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office arrested Vargas after he and others disguised themselves as law enforcement and kidnapped a couple of couriers on Highway 162 in the fall of 2020. The couriers were going to Covelo when Vargas and his cohorts ambushed them just east of Highway 101. The Mendocino County Multi-Agency SWAT team with CHP arrested Vargas after they heard gunshots. He was taken into emergency medical care and arrested. Vargas will be held in a state medical facility for his term due to his botched suicide.

Fort Bragg will hold a City Council Meeting at 6pm tonight. A new water transmission line is on the agenda that will bring water from Waterfall Gulch, Newman Reservoir and Summers Lane Reservoir to the City's water treatment plant. Also during the meeting a resolution to call for a Special Municipal Election November 7th is on the agenda that will include an extension of the city's infrastructure tax and other improvements. The council will also consider future zoning changes to allow outdoor dining, as was permitted during the COVID emergency.

A Laytonville man was hurt after a horse riding accident. The rider fell off the horse and fell on his head and neck. An air ambulance was called in to take him to the hospital with the serious injury, according to KymKemp. Medical personnel braced his neck, and he was reportedly having a hard time breathing when it happened Saturday afternoon near Shamrock Ranch. Within an hour of his injury, he was lifted out. The property owner reported to KymKemp that it happened on a working ranch.

There were two small fires Sunday in Ukiah near the North State Street overcrossing near Highway 101. MendoFever is reporting that authorities suspect arson. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Battalion Chief said one of the fires was started under the overpass. The two fires burned less than a quarter acre. There are no suspects as of yesterday. The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority is investigating.

## Sheet1

The US Fish and Wildlife Service will have a public meeting from noon to 3pm today at the Discovery Center at Noyo Center for Marine Science. Information on the federal process of reintroducing sea otters to the area will be available. Challenges to the offshore ecosystem, related species and more will be discussed. MendoVoice reports today's meeting is one of 16 open houses this month to study impacts of the sea otter's reintroduction. Other species will be included in the meeting's topics like the Pacific Fisher cat, Point Arena beavers and the endangered Humboldt Martens. A plan to return otters to NorCal and Oregon was passed into law by Congress last year. Impacts to the fishing industry will be discussed at the meeting as well including crab fishing, abalone and sea urchin numbers and the kelp forests.

The body of Quinn Green was identified late last week. MendoVoice reports within hours of the discovery, family and friends set up a tribute to him on the bluff overlooking the coast. Greene's body was found near Portuguese Beach where a witness saw him fall from the bluffs about 2 weeks ago. Family thinks his body was buried under the cliff in the sand when area resources were searching up and down the coast for him. Sadly, Greene had just lost his fiancé, Allie Green a few months ago. The two had been homeless and were known in Fort Bragg and Mendocino.

California awarded nearly \$1.5 billion in grants to address the behavioral health crisis. The funds will assist people with mental health and substance use disorders according to the Record Bee. They will get help with housing resources, and treatment. The announcement Friday coincides with the governor's wife speech in Greece on the state's behavioral health investments. Funds include over \$900 million for behavioral health bridge housing to treat and house homeless people with behavioral health conditions. \$430 million is set for a Continuum Infrastructure Program to increase mental and substance use disorder treatment facilities. The funding is part of the governor's proposal to house those with severe mental illnesses. Voters will decide next spring whether pass his reforms including over \$4.5 billion aimed at increasing treatment beds.

Meanwhile in Sonoma County, a grand jury found that the county did not do enough to help the homeless warm up during cold weather. The Press Democrat reports the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury released a report last week saying the county didn't have a clear policy for opening warming centers. The jury found during the severe cold weather emergencies during the winter of 2021 through this year the county failed to protect the homeless. The Board of Supervisors approved a plan on opening heating centers during freeze warning and cooling centers during heat advisories. The plan, called the Extreme Temperature Response Annex sets up policies for when the county will declare heat and cold warnings.

There were power outages Saturday morning on the south coast and in Anderson Valley. PG&E reported that power was restored after about 4 hours at 2pm Saturday afternoon. MendoVoice reported over 6,000 were without power in the Point Arena, Gualala, Sea Ranch and south. The Press Democrat reports the utility was investigating the outage yesterday. Customers in two clusters were affected, with most in Mendocino County

## Sheet1

The Biden Administration announced \$97 billion in federal funds for California in the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program. The California Department of Technology will award the funds to help advance the development of California's state-wide middle-mile network to connect high speed internet to rural communities in the state. The Golden State Connect Authority issued a release in Lake County News that they are helping to deploy last-mile infrastructure. The project to connect everyone will use an Open-Access municipal broadband model. More information can be found at the [goldenstateconnect.org](https://goldenstateconnect.org) website.

Mendocino County is sending out bills to unassessed properties as its revenue has slowed. KymKemp reports Supervisor Ted Williams is urging the board to tax the one third of properties in the county that are not on the books. People who've paid taxes but haven't been recently reassessed may be shocked when they get this year's bill. The county has sent out six thousand supplemental tax bills asking people to pay taxes on their increased property values. If the reassessed bills aren't sent within four years of the property value increase, the county loses it. Residents have until the end of this week to make a payment plan with the tax collector. Williams is setting a goal to bring the county up to date on property assessments wanting to halve the amount within two years.

A crash on Highway 101 in Oregon involved a man from Fort Bragg. Ravi Polini was driving north in his Ford-250 when he crossed over a turn lane and veered off the highway, crashing into a Chevy Bolt at a stop sign. Jacob Scott in the Chevy died at the scene, according to an Oregon State Police release in KymKemp. Authorities are  
06/27/2023 investigating

With summer officially here, Cal Fire is staffing up for the holiday weekend and increased temperatures. Cal Fire notes the extra vegetation that grew during last winter's atmospheric rivers is now drying out and burning. On Monday, CalFire marked the end of residential burning and began increasing staffing levels, saying "The full scope of ground, heavy equipment and aviation resources are fully deployed and ready to respond." KCRA reports hot weather is forecast beginning this weekend that will further dry grass, brush and timber. An article in the Ukiah Daily Journal last week reported at least two fires have begun the summer in Mendocino County. The two were contained and relatively small. Last Saturday, the Ukiah Valley firefighters held a prescribed burn at the airport to reduce fuels and train firefighters.

Lake County has sent out information on the harmful algal blooms in Clear Lake. They appear as blue green paint streaks and are a cyanobacteria. Information was released in late April from the County of Lake Health Services and Water Resources Departments and the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians. As temperatures increase, the cyanobacteria grow rapidly in to the larger algal blooms that may affect the health of kids, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems. The most common types of exposure can produce rashes on your skin, vomiting, coughing and more. People are advised to keep pets and livestock away from waters where you see the blue green organisms. If you are exposed to the cyanotoxic algae you should call your doctor or the County of Lake Health Services.

## Sheet1

CalRecycle is looking for public input on new rules of packaging and plastic food service waste. They're holding a meeting tomorrow and Thursday morning at 10am in the capital. The state's new law SB 54 aims to cut plastic production 25 percent by 2032, 65 percent of single-use packaging recycled by then and more. In Lake County News, CalRecycle issued a release looking for industry partners to participate in California's efforts to reduce pollution and protect human health. They also want to hear from local governments, recyclers, nonprofits and community groups during the two day workshop. Remote attendance is possible for the meeting in the Byron Sher Auditorium in Sacramento. They'll include input through August as well.

The first Elwood Fund Scholarship went to Mendocino College's Jordan Wegner. The Mendocino College Foundation awarded the student \$1,000 to help continue his education. Wegner has an Associate's Degree in Theatre Arts and a certificate in Technical Theatre from the school's new CTE program, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal. The new scholarship aims to help the Theatre Arts department enhance students education and to support graduates of the Theatre Arts Department at the college. The Elwood Scholarship Fund is named for a character in the play "Harvey" who encourages people to gather together and share their life stories.

The Healdsburg City Council approved a gun safety ordinance that makes gun owners safely secure their weapons at home. The Press Democrat reports the council this year began discussions in May after a cluster of mass shootings in the state and across the nation. The new ordinance mandates that a firearm be stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock. It also requires that if the gun is lost or stolen, they report to the Healdsburg Police Department. The city's public information officer will reach out to the community with more information on the new ordinance. It goes into effect July 20th.

Bay Area commuters may see increased bridge tolls. The Willits News reports lawmakers announced the plan to increase tolls by \$1.50 yesterday. The increased tolls would go from \$7 to \$8.50 and help BART that has seen revenue fall since COVID. The transportation authority said without state funds they'll have to cut down scheduled stops on trains, cut service during the weekends and even shut down some lines. Governor Newsom's proposed budget calls for a \$2 billion transportation infrastructure cut as his administration deals with the \$31.5 billion deficit. A proposed budget bailout restores the \$2 billion. Lawmakers say that even if that deal is approved it only covers half of the transit agencies operational funds.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office will present a military equipment report in their meeting next week for the community. Lake County News reports they'll meet on Thursday, the 6th of July to present their AB 481 military equipment annual report and address concerns by the community from 4 to 5pm in the Board of Supervisors chambers in Lakeport. The meeting will be available online as well via Zoom. AB 481 mandates equipment possessed and used by the Sheriff's Office identified as "military equipment" be made public.

The Biden Administration announced \$97 billion in federal funds for California in the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program. The California Department of Technology will award the funds to help advance the development of California's state-wide middle-mile network to connect high speed internet to rural communities in the state. The Golden State Connect Authority issued a release in Lake County News that they are helping to deploy last-mile infrastructure. The project to connect everyone will use an Open-Access municipal broadband model. More information can be found at the [goldenstateconnect.org](https://goldenstateconnect.org) website.

## Sheet1

The Konocti Fire Safe Council is reaching out to the community with resources and information along the Soda Bay Road corridor as another fire season emerges. The council already has signed residents up for LakeCoAlerts, the Lake County Sheriff's online app for evacuations, according to Lake County News. The council's president says knowing your zone number is very important in an evacuation, noting the Konocti Fire Safe Council is part of 8 zones. The group has resources and information and will continue distributing fire mitigation and evacuation details. Head to the council's website for more.

California residents who are called to jury duty, could soon earn \$100 per day if legislation passes. The increase came from a pilot program in San Francisco that increased the diversity of the county's jury pools with \$100 daily stipends to low and moderate income jurors, according to the NY Times. In the Bay Area, over 30 percent of residents say serving on a jury is an economic burden. Many lower income jurors were excused for financial hardship, making juries predominantly wealthy and white. After excusing low income jurors, the San Francisco's public defender noted the jury pool went from half people of color to less than 40 percent, giving higher earning white people the majority.

The Auditor of the State performed an audit of the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board. In the latest Russian River Water Forum Update the auditor found the Department of Water Resources had only made limited progress in accounting for effects of climate change in its forecasts and planning of the state's water supply. The auditor reports the department could be more prepared to effectively manage California's water resources as extreme climate events occur. In the forum update, Lake Mendocino is currently at about 88 percent of water storage, with a decline of about 660 acre feet. Lake Sonoma lost over 1,200 acre feet of water and is at about 97 percent storage.

In an effort to consolidate federal land ownership the Forest Service is proposing an exchange of land about 2 miles west of Mendocino Pass for four tracts of land in the area in the Mclsaac Ranch Land Exchange. The department wants to consolidate land within the Mendocino National Forest to improve efficiency, wildlife and recreational resources. The Forest Service is looking for public input in the proposal. You can mail your input to the Mendocino National Forest in Willows. They will accept public comment and review the project through July 25. You can email questions or comments on the Mclsaac Ranch Land Exchange to [Hilda.Kwan@usda.gov](mailto:Hilda.Kwan@usda.gov)

The Mendocino County Unit of Cal Fire is urging everyone to be safe for the upcoming holiday. They are reminding people that fireworks are illegal in Mendocino County. Cal Fire is working with local law enforcement in their zero tolerance policy and will seize illegal fireworks and prosecute those who have them. In addition, if the use of fireworks creates a fire, those who lit them up could be held responsible for any property damage costs. To get alerts and more information, sign up at [ReadyForWildfire.com](http://ReadyForWildfire.com).

A couple of bills have been proposed to make California the first state to mandate corporations disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and report their risks from climate change. Cal Matters reports one bill, so far approved by the Senate, would force over 5,000 corporations who earn more than \$1 billion in the state to report their emissions. Another bill also approved in the Senate would require over 10,000 companies with revenues over \$500 million to list how climate change poses financial risks to them not only in the state, but throughout the world. California's Chamber of Commerce and others oppose the bills saying estimates could generate misinformation. Advocates say there are international standards that would help. The bills are headed to the Assembly.

## Sheet1

06/28/2023 There was a car accident this morning near Boonville leaving one with a head injury. MendoFever reports it happened around 6am. CHP reports the one vehicle crash happened on State Route 253 east of State Route 128. A sedan had veered off the road, down a 40 foot embankment and crashed into a creek. A patient with a head injury was taken to a nearby hospital. Authorities are investigating.

The Lakeport Fire Protection District is getting new equipment to help water rescue operations. The Lake County News is reporting the board of supervisors approved the purchase of two Jet Skis and a trailer for the water rescue program. The district is getting two Yamaha VX Cruiser WaveRunners. The two watercraft and trailer were purchased for \$22,000 and were part of the last purchases in the 2022-2023 fiscal budget year.

Mendocino County's Family and Children's Services was investigated by a Grand Jury that reports not enough staff with experience and education is contributing to an environment that is hostile and toxic. KymKemp reports the investigation began eight years ago as one of the lowest scoring child protective service agencies in the state. Staffing issues go back over a decade when salaries were cut in 2011. Further, education requirements aren't being met. Employees say it takes years to train, with a turnover rate of up to one third annually, low morale remains among those who stay. The Grand Jury's final recommendation this year includes protocols, training and mentoring, recruitment and retention.

Representative Jared Huffman is headed to Gualala tomorrow for a town hall event at 4:30pm at the Gualala Arts Center. He plans to take questions and update the community on his work in DC. Constituents are encouraged to email questions to [HuffmanQ&A@mail.house.gov](mailto:HuffmanQ&A@mail.house.gov) and are asking those who plan to attend to RSVP by 5pm today. In a release issued by Huffman's office the meeting will last until 5:30pm tomorrow evening. There is no guarantee for admittance, and large bags and signs won't be allowed.

The Ukiah Planning Commission will meet today and decide on whether to demolish an abandoned car wash to build a new one on Talmage Road. The Ukiah Daily Journal reports an application by the Santa Rosa Avenue Partners to demolish then build a new car wash facility that will be automated. The Old Redwood Plaza Car Wash has been empty for years and fenced off. Plans for the "Splash Express Carwash" propose the modern car wash will use reclaimed water in an 85 foot long tunnel with nine vacuum stations. The Planning Commission is meeting tonight at 6pm in the Ukiah City Council Chambers, and the public is welcome to attend.

The California state reparations task force will make a final proposal to the Legislature in Sacramento tomorrow. Governor Newsom signed a bill three years ago urging the task force publicly meet and create recommendations for slavery in a report that will be sent to the California Department of Justice. The Press Democrat reports the task force chair is confident they'll give lawmakers a road map for a first of a kind bill to give monetary compensation to Black Californians. The group says 95 recommendations have been identified and include an apology for historical atrocities. Another is the creation of a California American Freedmen Affairs Agency to cover reparations. The recommendations will head to the legislature and the Governor.

## Sheet1

California State University is improving on dismal graduation numbers. The Bay Area News Group reports 35 percent of the class that began in 2018 graduated by last year. That's an improvement from 19 percent a decade ago. CSU has about 460,000 students and is the largest university system in the country. But it trails behind the national average for graduation of about 44 percent. Graduating within 4 years can be hard for low-income students. The school has begun to see numbers shift with recent programs and laws.

Governor Newsom and lawmakers agreed late Monday on the budget, including covering over \$31 billion in a budget deficit. Spending cuts and delayed spending will shift some funds, and the plan would borrow over \$6 billion and set aside about \$38 billion in reserves. The AP reports it would be the largest reserve in history. California's state gas tax is set to increase this weekend as an automatic adjustment tied to inflation. The budget includes funding for public transit agencies following a decline in riders during the pandemic. Agencies will use about \$5 billion in funding over the next three years, in the new budget. The budget does not raise income taxes but does have new tax on managed care organizations for about \$32 billion over the next four years.

The Savings Bank of Mendocino County is working with the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco Workforce Initiative Subsidy for Homeownership. It's a matching down payment grant program aimed at helping Mendocino and Lake County residents buy a home. The Savings Bank of Mendocino County will set aside funds to help low to moderate income first-time homebuyers in the two counties with up to \$29,000 in down payment assistance this year. They have \$12.5 million in program funds to allocate. An article in the Willits News reports that WISH grant program is joining with the Savings Bank of Mendocino County for the first time this year. The funds are aimed at working people and families. Grant funds from local, state, and federal mortgage loan programs can be paired along with the program.

CHP and the California Office of Traffic Safety are discouraging drivers from speeding. The Lake County News reports the two agencies are working ahead of the 4th of July holiday to encourage safe driving through education and enforcement. CHP is implementing a statewide maximum enforcement period beginning Friday evening through midnight on the 4th. Last year, there were about 1,000 arrests for DIU in the holiday enforcement period and 44 people were killed. They are urging people to call in any suspected impaired drivers.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office posted an update on social media on illegal grow sites in the county. Last week the Sheriff's Marijuana team finished several investigations. Search warrants were served on 11 properties with teams pulling over 26,000 illegal plants. They seized over 5,500 pounds of processed marijuana and nearly \$15,000 in cash. The California Fish and Game found 81 violations that included 12 water diversions and more. The Sheriff posted he gets complaints weekly on illegal sites, armed people and environmental crimes. The post notes drug trafficking organizations and cartels bring hard drugs, human trafficking and violence and they continue to be on alert.



## Sheet1

Hate crimes in the state increased last year, according to KRON. Racism against Black people, homophobia and anti-Semitism rose last year, compared to 2021. The rate of hate crimes rose over 20 percent last year. The most widespread hate crimes targeted Black people and rose over 27 percent. Overall hate crimes are likely underreported according to state data released yesterday. Anti-Asian bias went down over 43 percent after immediate fallout during the COVID crisis. California's AG announced the numbers yesterday in a news conference. Bonta said there is still much work to be done to combat hate in California, saying an attack against one of us is an attack against all of us.

DoorDash is accepting applications for its Restaurant Disaster Relief Fund with grants of \$10,000 to restaurants impacted by natural disasters in the last year. Mendocino County is in the federally declared disaster zone.

The Mendocino County Museum announced First Saturdays Art Walk begins this weekend. This Saturday the East Commercial Street Summer Art Walk in Willits celebrates Inventors. They'll have an exhibit open called Gadgets Galore and live music. The Mendocino County Museum Inventor Takeover will also feature Grid-Beam brothers Phil and Richard Jergenson. The walks are scheduled for July, August and September on the first Saturday of each month, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.

County offices of Education in California will get an \$80 million increase in funds for juvenile court and alternative schools if the budget agreement stands. Proposition 98 would fund schools for kids facing problems like absenteeism, along with foster kids and homeless students. An EdSource report in the Record Bee points out the state's juvenile justice system is shifting to county levels in days. Some law and policy makers want more transparency to show the quality of instruction by county offices of education. The Legislature has not indicated if transparency measure will be included in the final budget. The budget increase will include artificial intelligence programs like ChapGPT and access to language classes as well as behavioral health counselors. Also included would be professional development for teachers.

The Lake County Office of Emergency Services announced that Zonehaven AWARE is now called the Genasys Protect as of yesterday. Zone information and numbers will not change. Starting in 2024, webpages will be consolidated to [pretoc.genasys.com](http://pretoc.genasys.com).

CHP announced more than \$19 million in grant funds for 71 California law enforcement agencies, crime labs, and nonprofits to address the dangers of driving under the influence. In a release in Lake County News, CHP says the grants stem from Proposition 64; the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act that tapped CHP to administer the grants. Taxes on cultivation and sales of cannabis products are funding the program. The CHP Commissioner said money will be used to help enhance traffic safety by educating the public on the dangers of impaired driving, and removing impaired drivers from the roadway through enforcement operations and advancing research. The Fort Bragg Police Department is one of the recipients of funds.

## Sheet1

The Bureau of Land Management announced fire restrictions effective today for public lands including in Ukiah, Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. In a release in MendoFever, the Bureau says the exceptionally wet winter resulted in a significant amount of vegetation growth. As temps rise and dry conditions increase it is necessary to mandate additional fire restrictions. In the release, the Bureau notes wildfires caused by humans make up 95 percent of all fires in the state. Recreational target shooting has sparked more than half the fires in BLM managed public lands. Restrictions include no campfires, no smoking outside, no welding, no motorized vehicles or tools and no target shooting in the public lands.

Lake County is hosting a micro business owner training event in Middletown tonight Community Development Services will host the event focused on Business Start-up and Expansion in 2023. Its part of the County of Lake Small and Micro Business Assistance program, funded through the state's Community Development Block Grant program. Attendees will get help with developing a business plan, knowing the customer, revenue and cost forecasting, funding businesses and workforce development. The event is free but space is limited, check out lakecountyca.gov for more. Call the Community Development Services for questions or to reserve a space.

06/29/2023

A Cloverdale resident is suing PG&E for trespassing and cutting down scores of trees. The Press Democrat reports the woman says PG&E went on her mother's property and took down trees worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the complaint Arlene Kock says the utility removed 48 mature oak trees along her mom's property on Dutcher Creek Road. Kock says an arborist valued the trees at over \$200,000. Her mother passed away last year. She filed a lawsuit against PG&E, her lawyer says crews worked beyond the public right of way to remove trees, far from utility lines. PG&E is required to keep lines clear of hazards including trees. Kock says six trucks parked along her mother's property and left damage. She says crews put logs into a nearby creek bed and damaged a dam as well.

Representative Jared Huffman and other lawmakers will discuss tribal criminal justice over Tribal lands and protections for missing or murdered Indigenous people. In a release in KymKemp, legislators report the concerns Tribes have about cross-jurisdictional cooperation and lack of data on missing and murdered Indigenous cases. Public safety has been affected on tribal lands due to lack of funding in tribes from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The group is asking for the Government Accountability Office to study the impact of Public Law 280 enacted 70 years ago. The law cedes criminal jurisdiction from the federal government to the state. A Yurok Chief Justice says there are less federal resources for tribal courts, law enforcement and public safety systems.

A Ukiah man was sentenced to 12 years in prison for stabbing someone to death. Leslie Adelman was convicted of voluntary manslaughter for killing a man with a knife after he allegedly stole spices from the back of his truck. In a release in MendoFever, both homeless men were in the parking lot of Social Services on South State Street in March of last year when Adelman reacted by knifing the other man. He pled guilty last month and was sentenced this week.

Lakeport officials are urging people to be safe and sane with their fireworks. A safe firework area will be set up at the end of Fourth Street near Clear Lake, according to Lake County News. In all other parts of the county fireworks are illegal to use. Codes are in place that prohibits fireworks within 10 feet of a home residence. Lakeport is within the only area of the county that allows safe and sane fireworks from the 1st to the 4th of July. You can text FIREWORKS to 888777 for information for the city of Lakeport's fireworks area.

## Sheet1

In Sonoma County only Cloverdale will allow limited use of fireworks on the 4th. All fireworks must be sealed Safe and Sane, all others are illegal. The use of safe and sane fireworks will be allowed in Cloverdale from 11am to midnight on Independence Day, according to the Press Democrat. All fireworks must be lit at least 10 feet from residences. Cal Fire says people should light fireworks away from people, buildings and flammable spaces. They say fireworks should be soaked in water after they've gone off.

There will be a special joint meeting for the City Council and the Planning Commission of Clearlake for a cultural resources training event. Tomorrow morning at 9am the meeting will be held at the council chambers in Clearlake City Hall. There will be a tribal consultation on projects regarding AB 52. The council will discuss approval for a temporary street closure for the 4th of July parade, according to Lake County News.

There was a two car crash in Ukiah yesterday afternoon at Airport Park Boulevard. Around 3:45pm a Subaru hit a Ford Fiesta near the Quick Stop gas station, according to MendoFever. Two people were taken to area hospitals by ambulance. Authorities are investigating.

A heat wave is headed to the area just in time for the holiday weekend. The National Weather Service forecasts high temperatures across NorCal of over 100 degrees. An excessive heat watch is in place for northeastern Mendocino County and Lake County. MendoVoice reports the weather alert is in place from tomorrow through Sunday. Some may get dangerously hot conditions including in Covelo. There's a heat advisory in Ukiah and Hopland through Saturday. There aren't any PG&E public safety power shut-offs as of yet. Fort Bragg, meanwhile, will be sunny and cool. Officials say people shouldn't be strenuously active during the heat watch and those with health issues should stay cool indoors or near the shade.

News state laws go into effect July 1st. The Firearm Industry Responsibility Act, AB 1594 goes into effect and mandates a code of conduct to prohibit false advertising and requires that sellers closely monitor who they sell to. SB 731 automatically seals criminal records after 4 years, if there are no further offences. SB 301 requires online re-sellers to keep track of information on high volume third party sellers in an effort to stop the sale of stolen goods. And the Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act with the Middle Class Housing Act allow construction of multi-family housing on commercially zoned properties. The laws also increase health benefits and pay for construction workers, according to the Press Democrat.

The EPA is granting about \$52 million for projects in the Bay Area for climate resiliency works. The department made the announcement yesterday aiming the funds at projects to protect and restore wetlands and water quality and create climate change resilience on underserved regions in the Bay Area, including in Sonoma County. It's part of the Infrastructure Law and Justice40 Initiative that promises disadvantaged communities, according to the announcement in Lake County News. The California State Coastal Conservancy will get \$5.5 million to restore ponds, marshes and levees and will be provided guidance on shoreline adaptation.

## Sheet 1

The Fort Bragg City Council met this week and discussed the Street Sales Tax that is set to expire at the end of next year. They are considering including the tax in the next election in November. According to the Advocate News the tax makes Fort Bragg a "Self-Help City", making it eligible for money from the California Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account to go to street projects. The council also clarified policy for future zoning changes to allow outdoor dining. The council intends to update the Inland and Coastal Land Use and Development code to let restaurants keep their outdoor spaces. The council also approved a salary increase for the City Clerk and Public Works Operations Manager to be more competitive.

The National Weather Service is warning of hot temperatures this weekend in the region. Through Sunday interior valleys of Northwest California will be under a Major Heat Risk. The organization posted an update on social media saying if you're on a job site to take breaks and drink water regularly. Never leave kids or pets in parked cars. Check on those without air conditioning and limit strenuous outdoor activities. Signs of heat exhaustion include dizziness, thirst, heavy sweating, weakness and nausea. Those experiences those symptoms should sip cool water, more to a cooler area and loosen clothing. The more intense heat stroke happens and causes confusion, dizziness and can make people pass out; in that case, you should call

06/30/2023 911.

The Lake County Libraries and County-operated Peer Support Centers will be open today and part of this weekend. The Big Oak Peer Support Center in Clearlake Oaks will be open Sunday and on the 4th of July, Tuesday if residents need a cool place to be in. Libraries will be open Saturday through 5pm, but will be closed on Independence Day.

The Upstate California Creative Corps announced a grant of over \$33,000 to the Deep Valley Collective in a new pilot program for the state's underrepresented communities. The Deep Valley Arts Collective is one of 81 groups chosen among 300 applicants. The Collective plans to develop a project called "Pieced Together: Recovery Through Art Therapy" to help those recovering from drug abuse via art therapy workshops. A series of collage workshops will end with an art exhibition, a book and a multimedia art presentation. The non-profit in Ukiah has a mission to nurture artists' development and contribute to the community.

A bill is working through the Legislature that could give firefighters a raise in pay. The bill would require California to increase salaries automatically. CalMatters reports Cal Fire has had problems with retention due to below market pay and have lost 10 percent of their workforce last year. Lawmakers have advanced the bill to compel the state human resources department to detail salary increases for approximately 8,000 firefighters annually based on what other fire departments pay. Cal Fire employees salaries would increase to be within 15 percent of the top 20 highest paying departments in the state. If passed the union representing fire fighters would join CHP's new wage guarantee. The bill is on its way to the Senate appropriations committee with no opposition.

The Russian River Water Forum held a Technical Briefing on Water Supply and Fisheries in the Eel and Russian Rivers last week. Topics included declining fish populations, indigenous water rights and more. MendoFever reports alternatives for fish passage at Cape Horn Dam were studied, including a new fish ladder, a pump station, a roughened channel and upstream diversion. The forum is applying for another grant from the California Department of Water resources for continued funding. The forum included an engineer who discussed Lakes Mendocino and Sonoma. Also at the briefing were representatives for the Round Valley Indian Tribe.

## Sheet1

It's been a good year to grow mosquitoes with all the rain we received. The California Department of Public Health is reminding residents to protect themselves from mosquito-borne diseases. The department is urging people to practice the three "Ds" Use repellent with DEET for everyone 2 months and older. At Dawn and Dusk mosquitoes are the most active, so avoid being outside, or wear long sleeves and repellent. Drain any puddles or pools of water so mosquitoes aren't able to lay their eggs in the standing water. Malaria and West Nile Virus have been detected out east. No reports of the illnesses have been made in the state, but people should be mindful of those diseases.

California resources are gearing up for what could be a serious wildfire season. The Governor announced yesterday that the state has the largest aerial firefighting fleet in the world ready. In addition to those resources new tools including satellites, cameras, drones and even AI will help fight fires more quickly and with more intelligence. Newsom said "In just five years, California's wildfire response has seen a tech revolution." California is working with Lockheed Martin to potentially develop Department of Defense technology to fight wildfires, according to MendoFever. Cal Fire has a drone based system that includes AI tools and analytics to give fire information more rapidly. Infrared camera on aircraft is helping build the operating picture for near real time fire modeling. LiDar, low-orbit satellites and increased staffing at Cal Fire are also helping in the wildfire mitigation efforts.

CHP and the California Office of Traffic Safety are discouraging drivers from speeding. The Lake County News reports the two agencies are working ahead of the 4th of July holiday to encourage safe driving through education and enforcement. CHP is implementing a statewide maximum enforcement period beginning Friday evening through midnight on the 4th. Last year, there were about 1,000 arrests for DIU in the holiday enforcement period and 44 people were killed. They are urging people to call in any suspected impaired drivers.

There are plans for a new movie theatre in Healdsburg next year. The Healdsburg Planning Commission approved a conditional-use application from AVFilm for a theatre called the Plaza Cinema Center downtown. The company that founded the Alexander Valley Film Festival raised \$1.5 million in less than a year in their efforts of development. The Press Democrat reports the city hasn't had a theater since the Raven Film Center closed in 2020. Plans for the theatre include three auditoriums, a classroom, offices and meeting spaces. They plan to open the cinema in the middle of the 300 block of Healdsburg Avenue, with the Healdsburg Farmers market behind it.

A challenge to Prop 22 that classified gig drivers as independent contractors is being heard by the California Supreme Court. The case was brought by a group of union-supported drivers hoping the court will strike down an appeals ruling that upheld Proposition 22 as state law. Council for the drivers have argued the California Constitution requires the Legislature to enforce a complete workers' compensation program, with independent contractors status violating that law. The Press Democrat reports supporters of the proposition should change employment benefits laws via a constitutional amendment. The court has not yet set a date for oral arguments.

The 61st Annual Black Bart Day Parade is set for tomorrow in downtown Redwood Valley. The parade begins at 1pm and is themed "All American Pie" this year. There will be an awards ceremony, food and music at the riding arena, according to the Ukiah Daily Journal.

## Sheet1

In Fort Bragg any child can get a free breakfast and lunch at Dana Gray Elementary School through July 13th. Breakfast is served from 8-8:30am, with lunch at 11-11:45am on weekdays. The Advocate News reports groups of kids can come in, and are asking parents to call ahead so the kitchen can accommodate them. Additional Summer Feeding Sites can be found by calling 1-866-3-HUNGRY.

Representative Mike Thompson announced applications are open for the \$7 Billion Solar For All grant competition. The Record Bee reports the funding is aimed at investments in residential solar projects, lowering costs for municipalities and environmental justice efforts. The money is coming from the Inflation Reduction Act. This morning, Thompson announced "All communities deserve to participate in America's growing clean energy economy..." saying this competitive grant process brings more communities together. Up to 60 grants will be available to nonprofits, Tribal governments, municipalities and more to expand low-income solar programs. Applicants are directed to submit a Notice of Intent with a July 31st deadline for states, August 14th for municipalities and nonprofits, and August 28th for Tribal governments.

Project restoration is planned along the Big River Haul Road in Mendocino Headlands State Park this summer. The Mendocino Beacon reports the projects will reduce sediments and improve fish passage. Work is scheduled to begin July 10th and will continue through the end of October. There will not be public access at several spots along the Big River Haul Road on weekdays during the work. Weekend access will be available on a limited basis. Dry Dock Trail is closing on August 1st. The M9 or High Chute Road are alternative trail routes. Officials are asking people to obey signs that will change as the project needs. California State Parks, Trout Unlimited, Mendocino Conservation District and more are helping to restore the Big River Unit of Mendocino Headlands.

A couple of workshops will be held by Lake County Economic Development supporting entrepreneurs. The first workshop is planned for July 10th at the Lake Center of Mendocino College at 5pm. The class "Borrowing for Business" will be a hybrid workshop on the basics of borrowing money to grow your business as well as tips on how to apply for different funding. Panelists from local banks and economic development specialists will be on hand, according to Lake County News. The second workshop will be on July 17th at the A+H General Store in Kelseyville at 5pm. It will focus on a "Marketing and Photography for Small Business" class. Topics will include communications, social media strategy and trends as well as basic graphic design.

Fort Bragg will have their Independence Day Fireworks tomorrow, on the 1st of July at 9:30pm. People can watch from the South Coastal Trail at Noyo Headlands, Pomo Bluffs Park, and the Todd Point Parking Area. The city is reminding people that they will enforce a zero-tolerance approach to illegal fireworks as well as open containers of alcohol. There will be the Point Arena Fireworks Extravaganza at Arena Cove tomorrow as well.

Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall announced the launch of the Citizen Connect platform. The program allows people to see incidents and events throughout the community and interact with the software. The Sheriff says they will also have alerts and other public information posted there. Users can see a map with filters for date, locations and more. With different map views and data points, Kendall hopes the platform will help people better protect their home and families throughout the county. You can get to the program by going to the Sheriff website, click on publications, and choose Citizen Connect.